

Projekttitle	Knowledge, Deservingness and Social Policy Attitudes from a Student's Perspective
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Abstract	<p>Forming elaborate attitudes about social policy and the welfare state is a central task for today's and future citizens in light of current challenges such as demographic change, globalisation, migration and climate change. Political education plays a crucial role here, as its goal is to help build political competence. The latter is often defined through the following dimensions: political judgement, political ability to act, political knowledge and political attitudes. However, there is an urgent need for more research on possible influencing factors of the dimensions and the interrelation between those. In particular, the connection between knowledge and attitudes is largely unexplored but could reveal essential student conceptions. In turn, those are crucial for developing high-quality teaching environments through didactic reconstruction.</p> <p>This project addresses this issue and studies the relationship between students' welfare-state related knowledge and welfare attitudes via the concept of welfare deservingness. The latter could play a central role in the relation between attitudes and knowledge as deservingness assessments are made heuristically, influencing social welfare attitudes. E.g., factual misinformation about social benefits (e.g., about the share of recipients) may significantly impact students' deservingness opinions and ultimately their preferences for how social policies should be regulated. The extent to which such misinformation already occur among adolescents is unclear. Such an investigation is crucial regarding the goal of politically competent citizens and from a learning psychology perspective since existing knowledge, including misconceptions, influences the construction of new knowledge. Research exploring the aforementioned phenomena could ultimately help find information sufficient or necessary to strengthen political knowledge competencies and thus what content political education should focus on when developing learning environments.</p> <p>The studies in the project focus on unemployment as the social risk "closest" to young people. Participants are students in 8th and 9th-grade in German-speaking cantons of Switzerland. The concepts and their relations are investigated with qualitative (e.g., group discussions), and quantitative methods (online survey) in an interdisciplinary approach as the project's insights will be fruitful for research in Political Education/Didactics and Political Science (Deservingness and Welfare Attitude Research; Political Socialisation). Ultimately, the studies' results can be used to develop high-quality learning environments based on students' conceptions aiming at strengthening the students' knowledge base regarding important welfare state issues.</p>
Schlagworte	Welfare Deservingness, Welfare Attitudes, Political Knowledge, Political Education, Student Conceptions
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