Contributors

**Miroslav Beblavý** is the Senior Lecturer in Public Policy in the Department of Public Policy of the Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, as well as the Chairman of the Slovak Governance Institute. Between 2002 and 2006, he was the State Secretary of the Slovak Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. He received his PhD in Economics from the University of St Andrews in Scotland. His research interests include social policy, public finance and public administration.

**Maarten Berg** studied econometrics and social psychology at the University of Amsterdam and produced a doctoral dissertation on happiness and social policy at Erasmus University Rotterdam. He is currently working as an economic policy advisor at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment.

**Alfio Cerami** is a Research Associate at the Centre d'études européennes of Sciences Po, Paris. He received his PhD degree in social science from the University of Erfurt (Germany). He has been a visiting lecturer at the University of Erfurt (Germany), at Sciences Po Paris, at the Centre for German and European Studies of the State University of St. Petersburg (Russia) and Assistant Professor at the American Graduate School of International Relations and Diplomacy (AGSIRD). His most recent publications include *Post-Communist Welfare Pathways. Theorizing Social Policy Transformations in Central and Eastern Europe* (together with P. Vanhuysse, 2009, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan), *Promoting Human Security: Ethical, Normative and Educational Frameworks in Western Europe* (together with P. Burgess, et al., 2007, Paris: UNESCO) and *Social Policy in Central and Eastern Europe. The Emergence of a New European Welfare Regime* (2006, Berlin: LIT Verlag). His work has also appeared in various international peer-reviewed journals.

**Filip Fors** has been a doctoral student at the department of Sociology, Umeå University, Sweden since September 2007. His main interest is in the field of happiness studies. In his upcoming dissertation Filip will study the relation between happiness and country level factors, such as norm systems and political institutions. The dissertation will also deal with how values and ideals affect happiness. The specific research questions Filip will investigate
are the relation between individual freedom and happiness, happiness in Sweden, perceived justice and happiness and the paradox of hedonism.

**Bent Greve** is Professor in Welfare State Analysis. He holds a master in economics from the University of Copenhagen, and a PhD and a Doctoral degree in Public Administration from the Roskilde University. His research on the welfare state covers areas such as social security, the labour market, financing and tax-expenditures. He has been the Danish expert to several European studies, including reports on the free movement of workers, active labour market polices, and Danish expert in the network on gender equality, social inclusion, health and long-term care. He has published many books and articles, and is currently regional and special issues editor of *Social Policy & Administration*. He is currently also member of the Danish Tax Board.

**Bill Jordan** is Professor of Social Policy at the University of Plymouth. He graduated in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford, and has been a Visiting Professor at universities in Amsterdam, Aalborg, Bremen, Bratislava, Budapest, Prague and Cologne, and in Australia. He worked for 20 years in the UK social services, and taught social work at English universities. He is the author of more than 25 books on social policy, social work, social and political theory, political economy and migration.

**Carlo Klein**, Docteur ès sciences économiques from the University of Bourgogne, works as a part-time researcher at the Centre d'Etudes de Populations, de Pauvreté et de Politiques Socio-Economiques (CEPS/INSTEAD) and as a teacher of economics and social sciences at the Athénée de Luxembourg. His fields of interest are the economics of education and human capital theory in general. He currently participates in the CEPS/INSTEAD’s research project “Valcos” which is an interdisciplinary project on values. His research questions consider the relationships between values, social cohesion and economic outcomes in a context of happiness economics.

**Heinz-Herbert Noll** is head of the “Social Indicators Research Centre” of GESIS, the Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences at Mannheim. He graduated in sociology, economics and statistics at the University of Frankfurt a.M. and has received his doctorate at the University of Mannheim. He has taught sociology at the universities of Heidelberg and Mannheim and courses on social indicators and quality of life at various European universities. He has published widely on social indicators, quality of life, social inequality and trends of social change in international comparison. He is currently president of the RC “Social Indicators” of the International Sociological Association and president-elect of the International Society for Quality of Life Studies.
Tomáš Sirovátka is Professor of Social Policy at the Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University in Brno. He has carried a number of national as well as international research projects on social policy and employment policy, has published numerous books in the Czech Republic and contributed to several comparative books on employment and social policies — recently in A. Cerami and P. Vanhuysse (eds) Post-Communist Welfare Pathways. Theorizing Social Policy Transformations in Central and Eastern Europe, Palgrave, 2009, in R. van Berkel, and B. Valkenburg, (eds) Making it Personal. Individualising Activation Services in the EU, The Policy Press, 2007 or in S. Pascual and P. Magnusson (eds) Reshaping Welfare States and Activation Regimes in Europe, Brussels: Peter Lang, 2007. He has published regularly in peer-reviewed international journals.

Steven Saxonberg is Professor of Sociology at the Department of Social Policy and Social Work at the Masaryk University in Brno. He has written several books on the collapse of communism and the post-communist transformation, including The Fall: A Comparative Study of the End of Communism in Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary and Poland; and The Czech Republic Before the New Millennium and is currently completing a book on non-transitions from communism. He has also published articles on related topics in such journals as the Journal of Democracy, European Societies, East European Politics and Society and Problems of Postcommunism.

Ruut Veenhoven is a sociologist and emeritus professor of social conditions for human happiness at Erasmus University Rotterdam. He is currently Director of the World Database of Happiness and editor of the Journal of Happiness Studies.

Stefan Weick is Senior Researcher in the “Social Indicators Research Centre” of GESIS, the Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences at Mannheim. He graduated in sociology at the University of Mannheim and has received his doctorate at the University of Gießen. He has taught sociology at the universities of Mannheim, Heidelberg, Gießen and Marburg. His research topics are social indicators, quality of life, family, poverty and social inequality. He is a member of the European Network of Excellence on "Economic Change, Quality of Life and Social Cohesion”.

Marco Zupi is Scientific Director at the Centre for Studies in International Politics (Centro Studi di Politica Internazionale — CeSPI, Rome) and part-time Associate Professor of Development Political Economy currently on leave from Roskilde University. He is also a member of both the Executive Committee and the Management Board of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI). He has published
many articles and books on international development co-operation and development economics.