

Preface

Modern welfare states are characterized by a broad range of legal regulations, with different implications for inclusion, exclusion and the social citizenship of various groups. This book explores how social citizenship is legally constructed in different fields of the welfare state, and the legal and social implications of these constructions.

The idea of this book arose from the interdisciplinary research project 'Juridification and Social Citizenship in the Welfare State' (2011–13). This project included researchers from a variety of disciplines and fields of research but with a common interest in juridification processes and their impact on people's lives. In addition, we shared the view that we needed to work together and to learn from each other if we wished to understand more of the highly complex relations and interplay between legal instruments and social realities of various groups in various fields of the welfare state. The book is an outcome of this research collaboration. The editors and most of the contributors came from this project, which was funded by the Norwegian Research Council and coordinated by the Faculty of Law of the University of Bergen (UoB), Norway. We would like to express our thanks for the financial and administrative support that we have received from these institutions and from the other partner institutions in the project (Uni Rokkan Centre; the Chr. Michelsen Institute, Bergen University College, Departments of Sociology and Political Science at the University of Bergen and the University of Stavanger). We would also like to extend our warm thanks to Pilar Domingo (Overseas Development Institute, UK), Jackie Dugard (Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa), Varun Gauri (World Bank) and Kirsten Ketscher (Faculty of Law, Copenhagen University), who provided invaluable advice at the early stages of the project, and to Silke Bothfeld, Octavio Ferraz and Wibo Van Rossum for their contributions throughout the project. We also extend special thanks to senior consultant Randi Sæbøe at the Faculty of Law (UoB) for her always friendly and patient administrative support, and to senior adviser Henning Simonsen for effective administration related to the book workshop in May 2013.

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