

Preface and acknowledgements

When one of us, Stein Kuhnle, turned 70 on 22 November 2017 and entered (formal) retirement, Per Selle, in consultation with Sven Hort, took the initiative for a book publication to mark the occasion. Instead of preparing a traditional *Festschrift* with a focus on Stein's writings, it was determined that an alternative and better way to honour him would be to lure him to co-edit a book which relates to core topics in his long career in comparative welfare research. One of his main research interests in recent years has been concerned with the topic of 'globalization of the welfare state'. The active promotion of an Asian-European dialogue on social and welfare policies is an important part of the research effort.

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Stein Kuhnle, Per Selle and Sven E.O. Hort