

The Young Old in Europe - *Burdens on or Resource to the Welfare State?*

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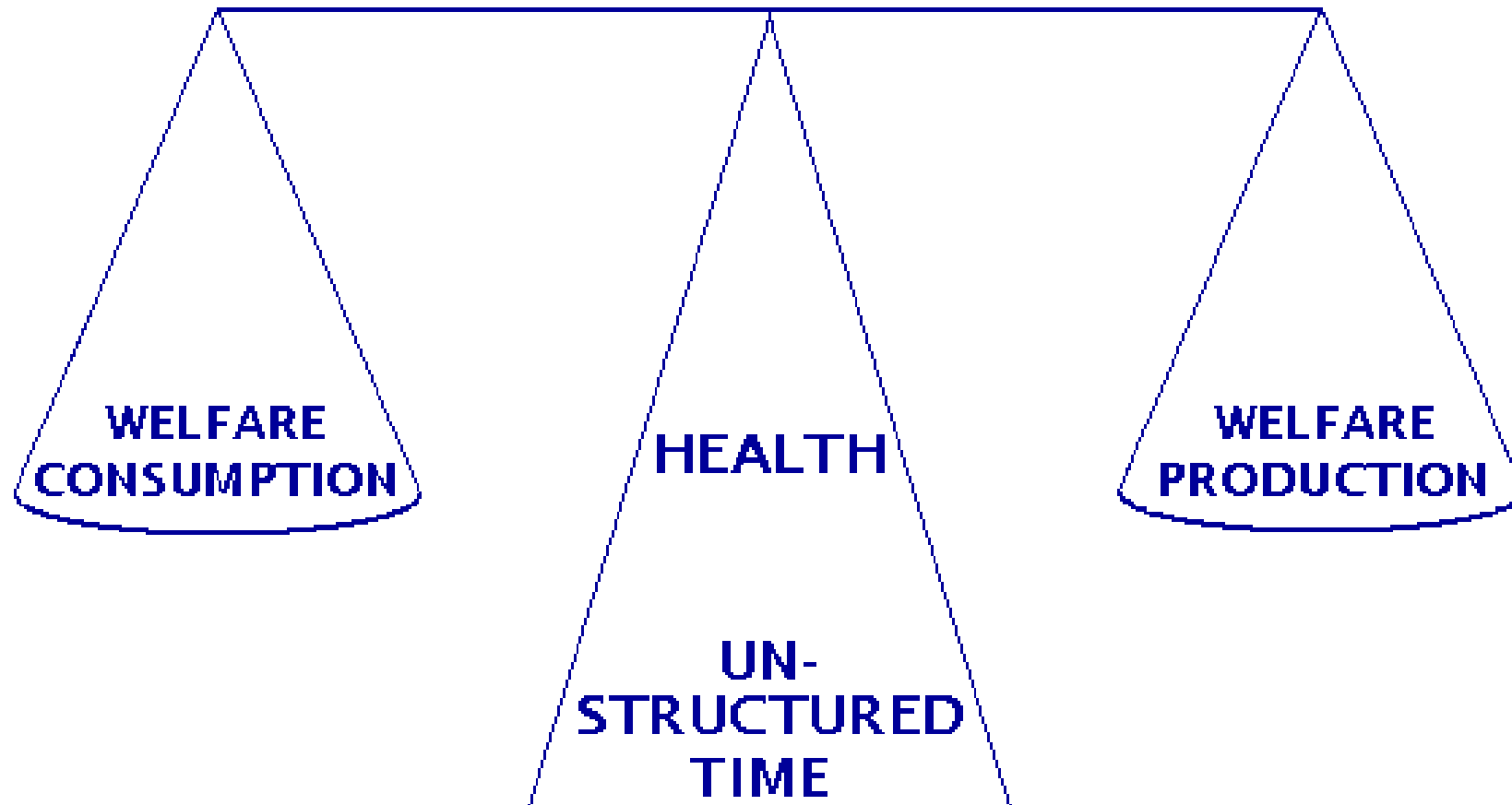
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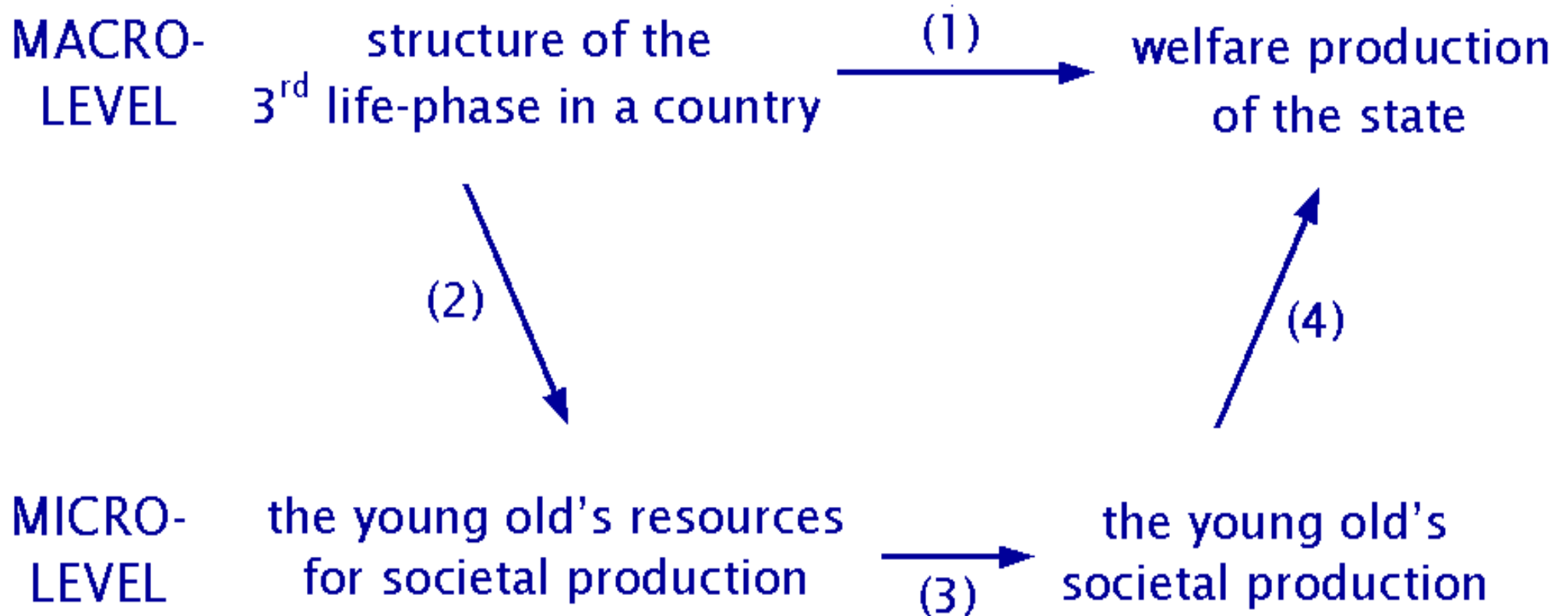
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The Young Old in the Welfare State

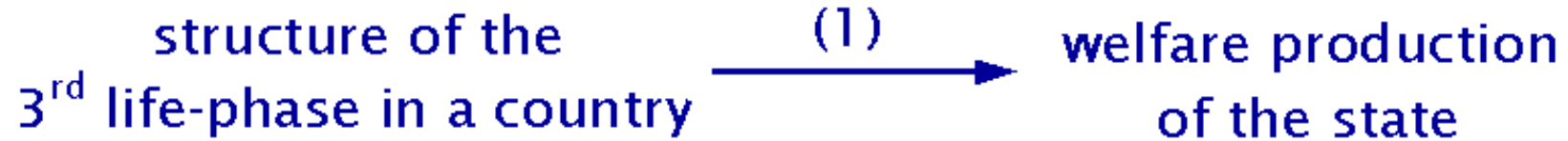


Model: The Young Old in the Welfare State



(based on Coleman 1990)





Theory

- Traditional perspective: centred on the labour market
- Old age = not working = drain on resources

Findings

Country	Effective retirement age (2000)	Age moderate health (2002)	Pension expenditures (% of GDP, 2002)
I	59	70	14,9
A	59	69	14,6
NL	59	68	13,1
S	62	73	12,0
UK	61	- (70)	11,7

(EUROSTAT 2005; ESAW 2003; OECD 2004)





structure of the
3rd life-phase in a country

(2)

the young old's resources
for societal production

Theory

- 3rd life-phase as an institution
- Resources for societal production: economic and cultural capital (socio-economic status, SES) & social capital
- Situation in a country influences the individuals' resources directly & indirectly
- Variation within and between countries





Theory

- 3rd life-phase = opportunity for activities

Findings

- Involvement in volunteering and informal care (Wahrendorf et al. 2006)
- gender: women care-oriented, men management-oriented (Kohli and Kühnemund 1996)
- SES + social capital: positive correlation income/social network/education level and volunteering/informal care (Erlinghagen and Hank 2006; Wiggers 2003)

the young old's resources
for societal production



the young old's
societal production

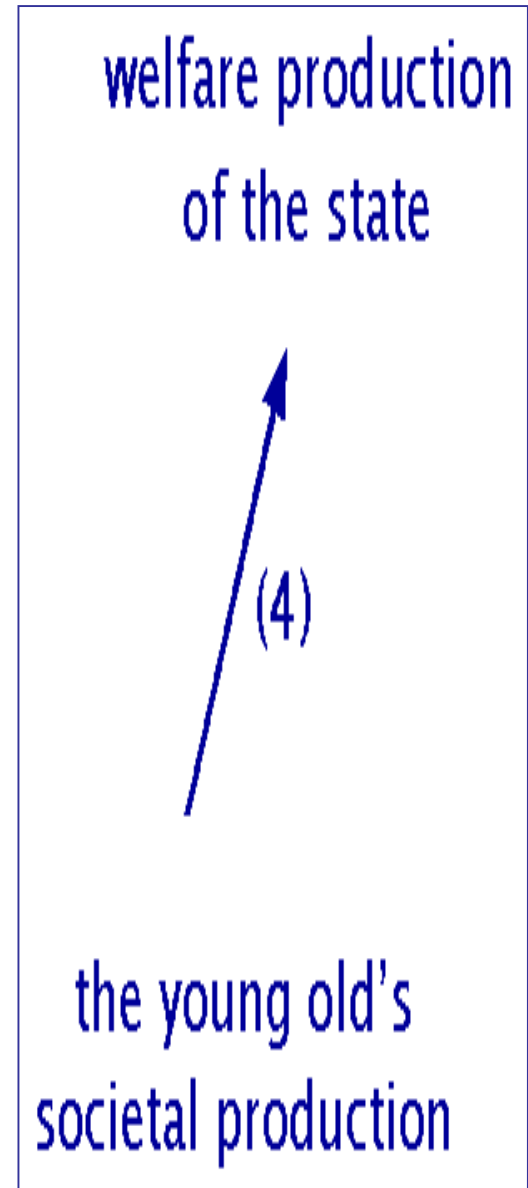


Theory

- state reacts to the young old's societal production: path dependency; some efforts e.g. in the US, NL, D

Findings

- Volunteering of older people and welfare regime independent from each other (Kohli and Kühnemund 1996)
- Informal care received by older people explained by personal and household attributes (Motel-Klingebiel et al. 2005)





Conclusions

- Role of the young old in the welfare state depends on the aspects and level considered & the design of the welfare state
 - Micro-level: involvement in volunteering and informal care, socio-demographic variables decisive
⇒ question of gender, SES, social capital
 - Macro-level: welfare states just started exploring the field
⇒ targeted politics still missing
- ⇒ young old: play a role in the welfare production, but the state has not yet consciously tapped this resource

