


International Journal of Housing Policy >
Volume 11, 2011 - Issue 3814 | 9 | 0
Views CrossRef citations to date Altmetric

ARTICLES

Offset Mirrors: Institutional Paths in Canadian and Australian Social Housing






Greg Suttor


Pages 255-283 | Published online: 29 Sep 2011

Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1080/14616718.2011.599131>


Sample our
Urban Studies
Journals

>> [Sign in here](#) to start your access
to the latest two volumes for 14 days

 Full Article  Figures & data  References  Citations  Metrics

 Reprints & Permissions [Read this article](#)

Abstract

Paired comparisons of liberal-welfare regimes are underrepresented in housing policy literature. This paper adopts historical institutionalist theory in comparing two such cases: Canada and Australia. Despite these countries' many similarities, social housing policy differences have been shaped by institutional differences in federal systems, welfare states and social housing itself. Australia's earlier welfare state supported much larger postwar production, but Canada caught up once it departed from the residual US model in the 1970s.

About Cookies On This Site

We and our partners use cookies to enhance your website experience, learn how our site is used, offer personalised features, measure the effectiveness of our services, and tailor content and ads to your interests while you navigate on the web or interact with us across devices. You can choose to accept all of these cookies or only essential cookies. To learn more or manage your preferences, click "Settings". For further information about the data we collect from you, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).

Accept All 

Essential Only

Settings



differences, including “institutional design”, in creating different forces of change at key junctures, leading to divergences in policy paths. These findings suggest value in reinterpreting the existing secondary literature from the perspectives of welfare regime theory and historical institutionalism.

Key Words: [Social housing](#) [welfare state](#) [housing policy](#) [federalism](#) [Canada](#) [Australia](#)

Notes

1. Dollar values in this article are either Australian or Canadian dollars, depending on the context. Australia's dollar averaged 89 per cent of Canada's in 1998–2008 exchange value, but is virtually equal in terms of Purchasing Power Parity; by 2011 these currencies were at par with each other and with the US dollar.
2. Leone and Carroll ([2010](#)) provide an unreliable account of AHI, e.g. indicating that its projects are underrepresented in big cities and that it amounts to a federal re-engagement rather than a less-targeted reprise of meagre 1950s production levels. Their account of policy history also misses the transformative public housing ‘heyday’ described earlier.
3. Housing assistance outlays for circa 2006 are from Australia FACSIA (2007) and Pomeroy ([2007](#)). Value of Australian assistance from Wang et al. (2004), consistent with more recent sources such as Hulse ([2007](#)) and Australia FAHCSIA (2010). The value of Canadian assistance is estimated based on market rent at census median of \$671, average RGI rent of \$375, and RGI units comprising 70 per cent of the social housing stock of 680,000 to 700,000 units. The Canadian estimate is conservative insofar as social housing is skewed to higher rent cities and the RGI units (within the census stock) located in lower rent areas.

About Cookies On This Site

We and our partners use cookies to enhance your website experience, learn how our site is used, offer personalised features, measure the effectiveness of our services, and tailor content and ads to your interests while you navigate on the web or interact with us across devices. You can choose to accept all of these cookies or only essential cookies. To learn more or manage your preferences, click “Settings”. For further information about the data we collect from you, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).

Accept All

Essential Only

Settings



Related

Information for

- Authors
- R&D professionals
- Editors
- Librarians
- Societies

Opportunities

- Reprints and e-prints
- Advertising solutions
- Accelerated publication
- Corporate access solutions

Open access

- Overview
- Open journals
- Open Select
- Dove Medical Press
- F1000Research
- Help and information
- Help and contact
- Newsroom
- All journals
- Books

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email

 Sign me up



About Cookies On This Site

We and our partners use cookies to enhance your website experience, learn how our site is used, offer personalised features, measure the effectiveness of our services, and tailor content and ads to your interests while you navigate on the web or interact with us across devices. You can choose to accept all of these cookies or only essential cookies. To learn more or manage your preferences, click "Settings". For further information about the data we collect from you, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).

Accept All 

Essential Only

Settings

