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International Journal of Housing Policy > Volume 11, 2011 - Issue 3

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Offset Mirrors: Institutional Paths in Canadian and Australian Social Housing

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Pages 255-283 | Published online: 29 Sep 2011

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▶ https://doi.org/10.1080/14616718.2011.599131

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Abstract

Paired comparisons of liberal-welfare regimes are underrepresented in housing policy

literature. This paper adopts historical institutionalist theory in comparing two such

cases: C

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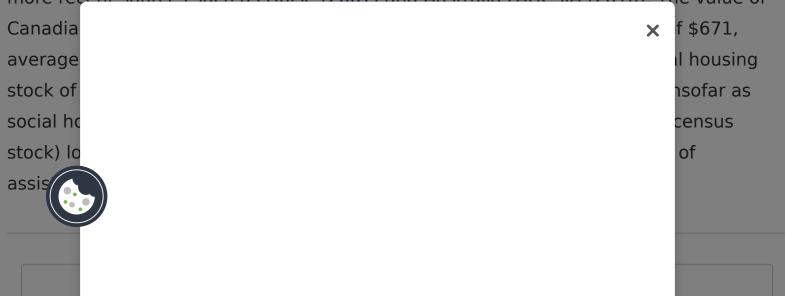
engagement than canada. These two cases mustrate the importance or institutional

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.

Q 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 reengagement 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



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