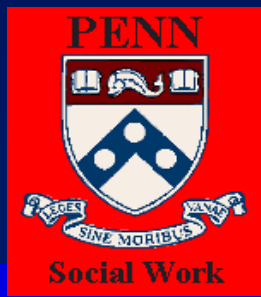




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COMPARATIVE SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH



Formal Definition of Comparative Social Research

Like all other social science research,
comparative research is:

- a systematic study
- into the similarities and differences
- that exist in the nature, structure, and causes of some phenomenon
- across societies, time, and geographic space



Concerns of Comparative Social Researchers

Concerns of comparative researchers have been 4-fold:

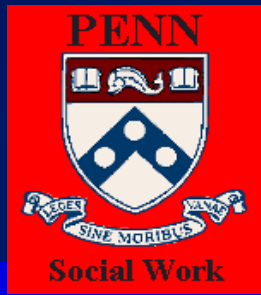
- To better understand phenomena that cannot be fully understood by studying situations or events that already have, or are, occurring in one place, or time, or under other more or less homogenous conditions
- To identify commonalties and differences that exist across social systems and structures at various points in time and geographic space
- To formulate transnational theories and to test transnational hypothesis
- Fun



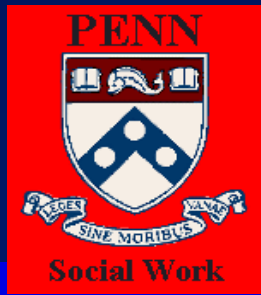
Functions of Comparative Research

Best way to understanding comparative research in the international context is to review the four functions of research:

- *Describe* phenomenon that are of particular interest to us
- *Explain* the relationship(s) that exist in the key variables in the phenomenon of interest to us
- *Predict* the circumstances under which the phenomenon will/will not occur--e.g., using hypothesis to guide the search effort
- *Control*--especially to intervene in a situation to produce a more positive outcome

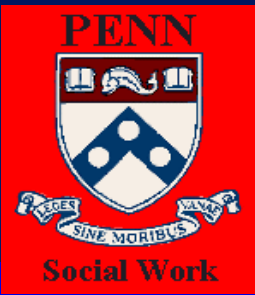


**Selected
Methodological
Issues in Conducting
Comparative
Social Research**



Issue #1: Unit of Analysis

- **What level of social organization, problem or social need is of greatest interest to you?**
- **Units of analysis in comparative research are quite variable and include:**
 - » individual
 - » families
 - » natural and formed groups
 - » communities
 - » larger geo-political collectivities including:
 - cities
 - provinces/states
 - countries
 - subregions
 - regions
 - world-as-a-whole



Issue #2: Theoretical Orientation

- **A wide range of theoretical traditions exist for informing your investigations:**
- **Two major paradigms:**
 - **Capitalist Paradigm**
 - » **Free Market, Anti-Collectivist**
 - » **Social Darwinism, Neo-Malthusian**
 - » **Liberal Interventionists**
 - **Radical Paradigm**
 - » **Dependency Analysts**
 - » **Marxists**
 - **Social Fabianism/Social Democracy—the bridging paradigm?**



Issue #3: Analytical Methods

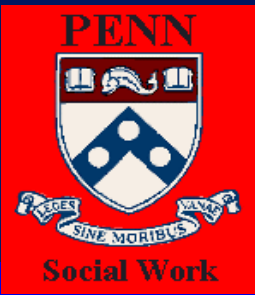
- **Quantitative**
 - Social indicators
 - Model building
- **Qualitative**
 - Ethnography
 - Historiography
- **Policy analysis**
- **Evaluation/Impact**
- **A mix of the above**



Models of Comparative Social Welfare Analysis

Comprehensive comparative models developed by:

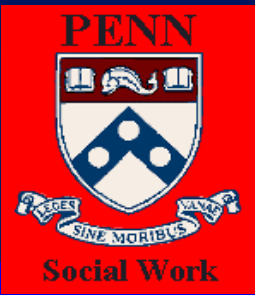
- **Estes (1990) and Gastil (1987)**
- **Dubey (1980)**
- **Tracy (1992)**
- **Evers and Wintersberger (1988)**
- **Stuart (1985)**
- **Hoeffler (1996)**



Model 1: Estes' Outcomes-Based Model

Estes utilized the Index of Social Progress and Gastil's taxonomy of political and economic systems to explore:

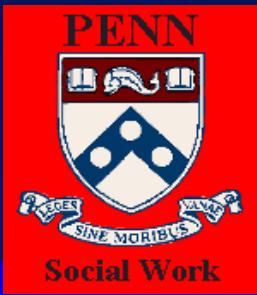
- the relationship b/w development outcomes over time and an existing typology of political and economic systems
- the contribution of alternative economic and political systems to development for nations that share similar ideologies
- the extent to which different political and economic systems contribute to development



Estes (continued)

Estes' Index of Social Progress:

- **Divided into 10 sub-indexes: Education (school enrolment, literacy, expenditures on education); Health Status (infant mortality, physicians per 1000, male life expectancy); Women's Status (girls in primary school, female illiteracy, women suffrage); Defense effort (expenditures on defense in % GNP); Economic (growth, income p/c, inflation, rise food production); Demography (population size, birth rate, death rate, population growth, % below age 15); Geography (arable land, natural disasters, lives lost in disasters); Political Participation (violation of political and civil rights); Cultural diversity (same language, same religion, ethnic fractionalization); Welfare effort (system seniority, years since welfare laws).**



Estes (continued)

Gastil's taxonomy of political systems:

- **Multi-party (Centralized, Decentralized)**
- **Dominant party**
- **One-party (Socialist, Communist, Nationalist)**
- **Non-party (Military dominated, Nonmilitary)**

Gastil's taxonomy of economic systems:

- **Capitalist (Inclusive, Non-inclusive)**
- **Capitalist-Statist**
- **Mixed Capitalist**
- **Mixed Socialist**
- **Socialist**



Model 2: Dubey's Theoretically-Based model

Dubey developed a typology of social policies which divided policies into:

- **Developmental Policies (Elitist, Populist, Anticyclical, Collectivist)**
- **Social Welfare Policies (Residual, Achievement performance, Institutional-redistributive)**
- **Social Reform Policies (Incremental, Positive Discriminative, Revolutionary)**



Model 3: Tracy's Programmatic Model

Tracy's framework provides a guideline for determining why a specific policy/program has certain goals, objectives, strategies, and procedures by analyzing:

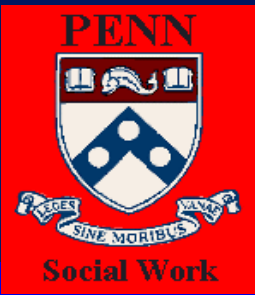
- the role of govt. in terms of legal or constitutional authority
- Govt.'s conceptual orientations to social welfare (social insurance/assistance, preventive/remedial, comprehensive/categorical, integrated/divided, public/private)
- Obstacles and constraints to governmental intervention



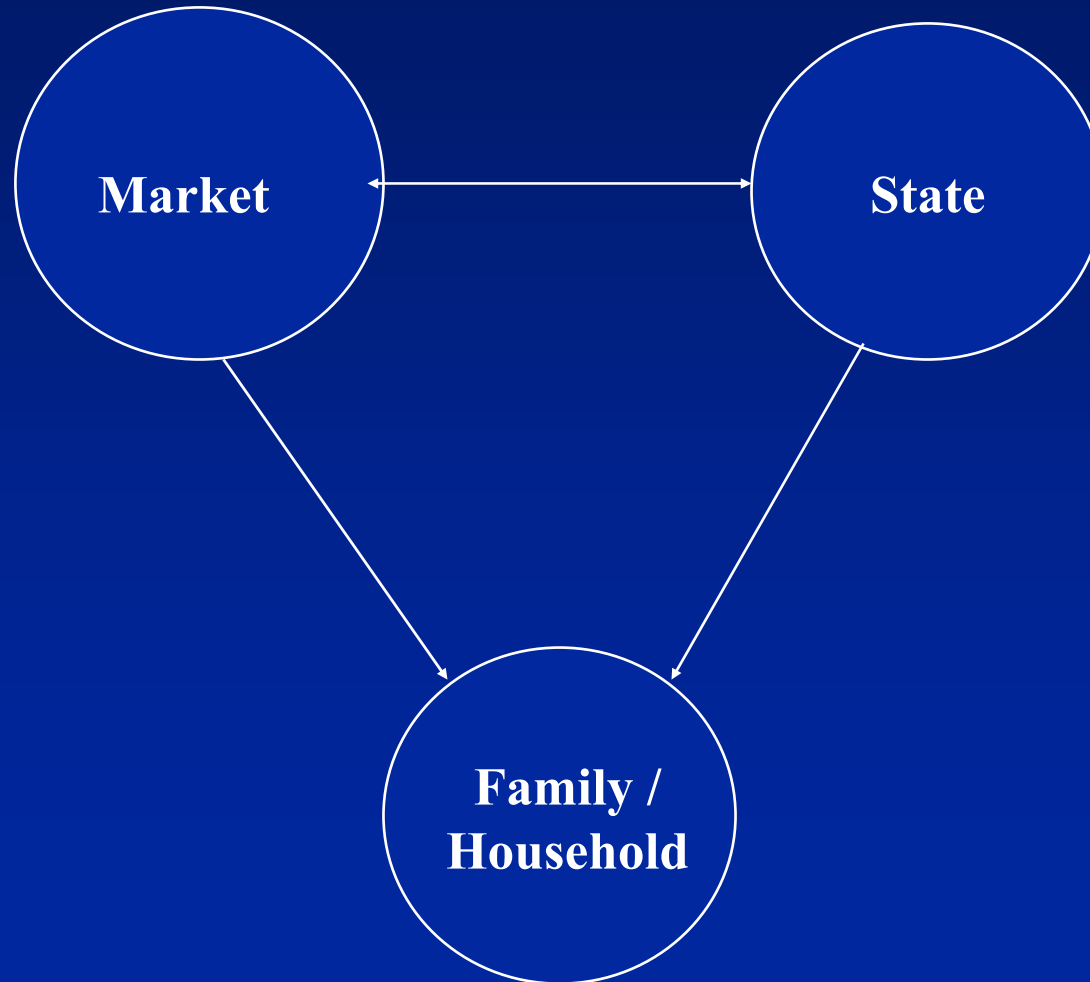
Tracy (continued)

- **Catalysts for governmental intervention**
- **Specific needs**
- **Goals and Strategies**
- **Program description**
- **Evaluation**

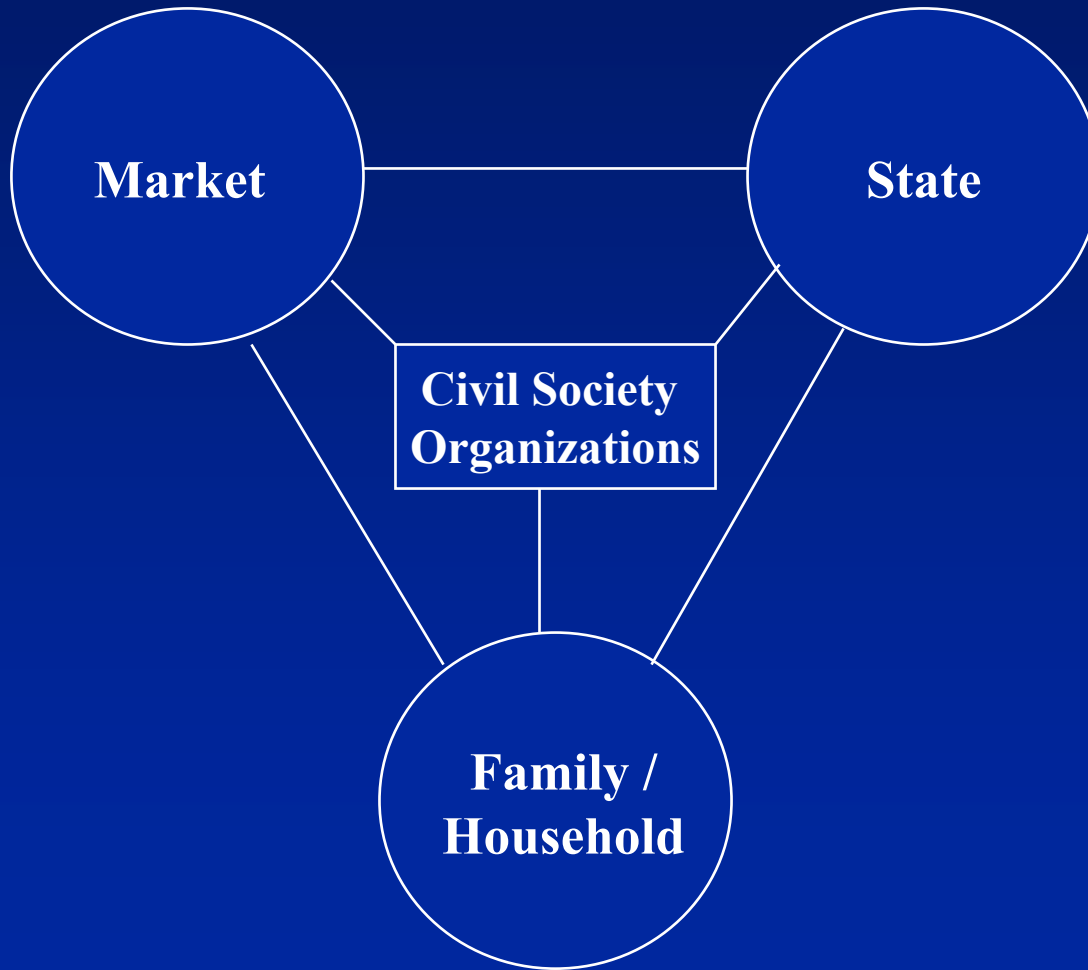
**Final Analysis: Synthesis of the information
obtained from first 8 steps**



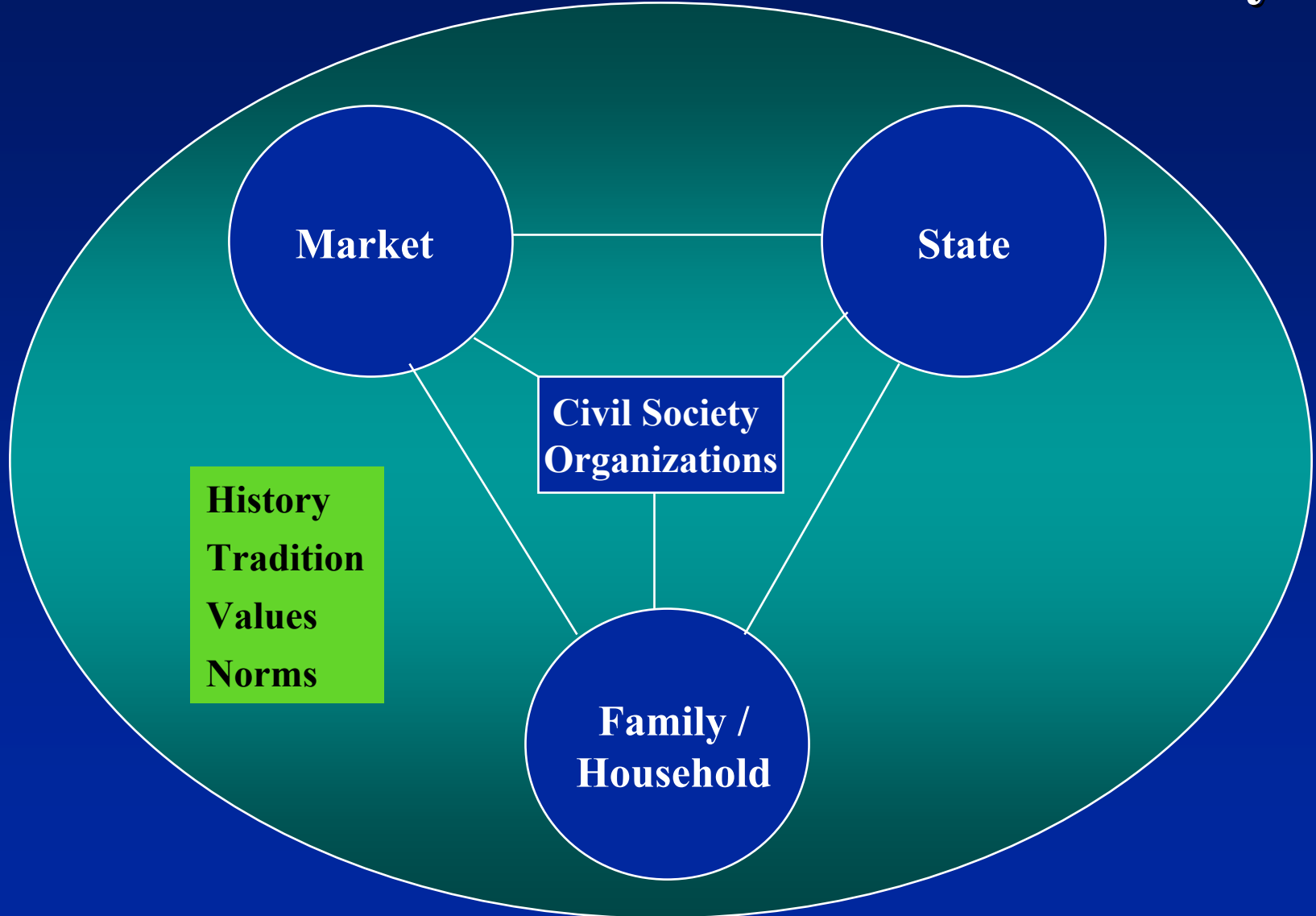
Model 4: Evers & Wintersberger: “The Welfare Mix” Model



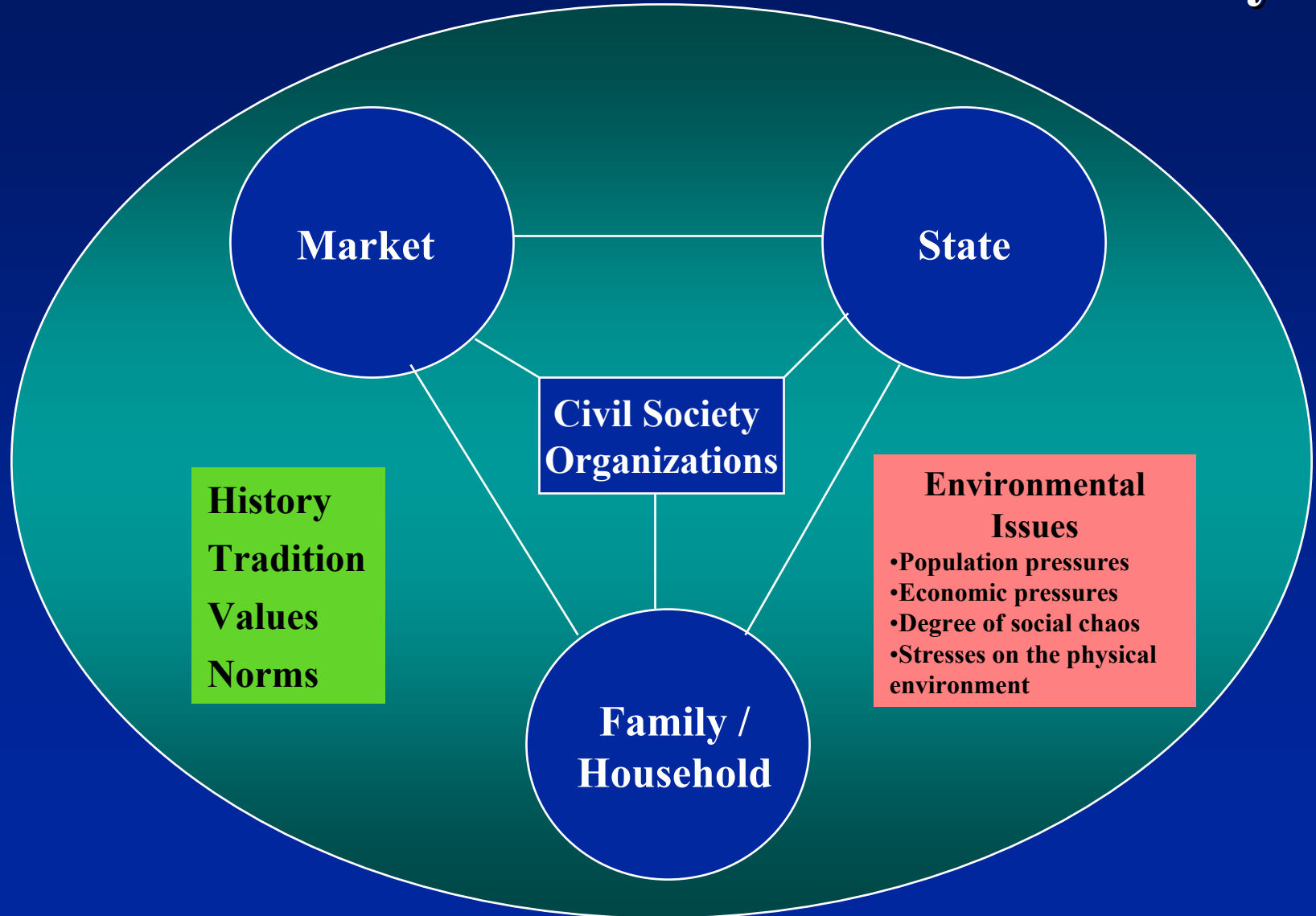
The “Welfare Mix”: Core Institutions + Civil Society



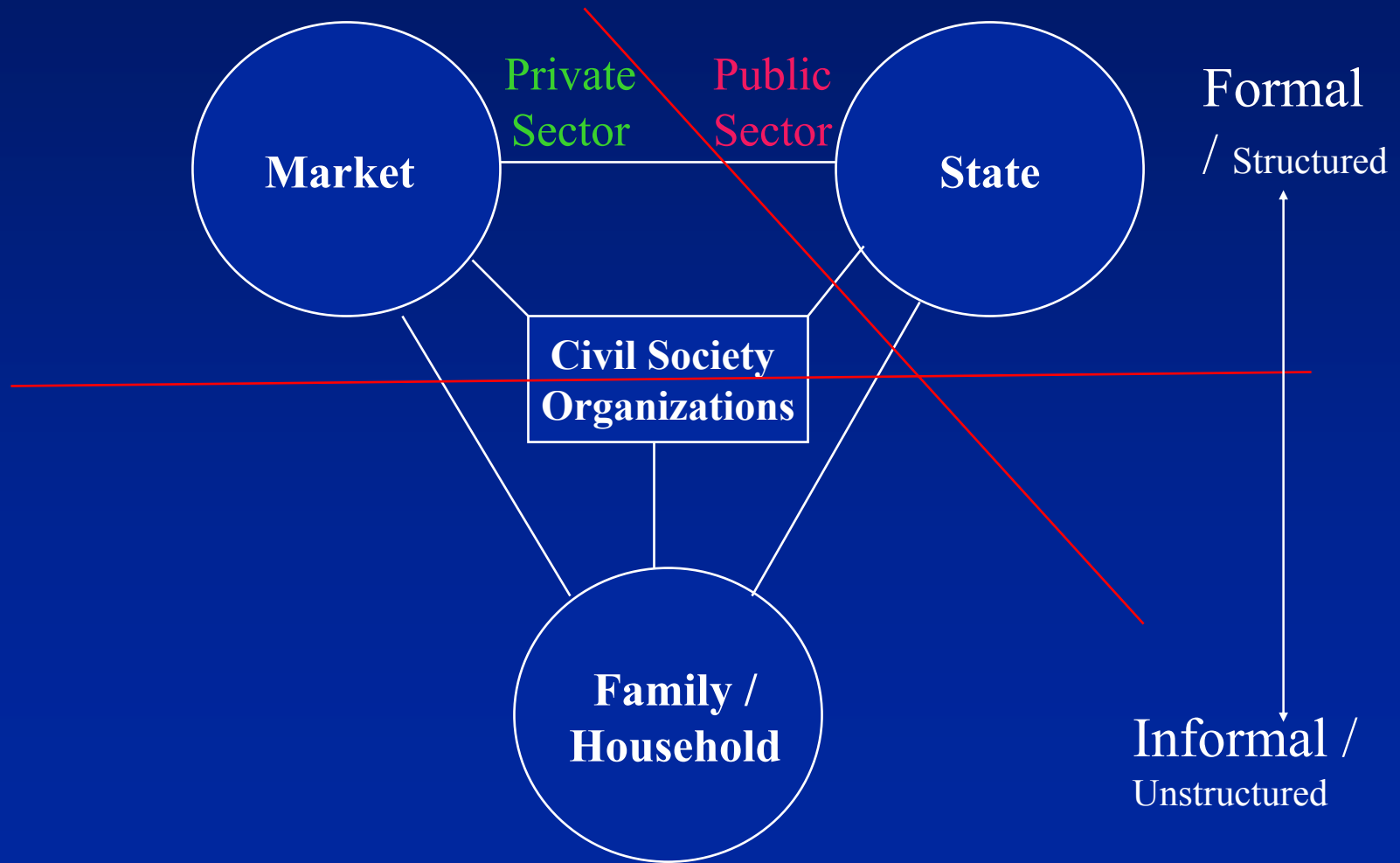
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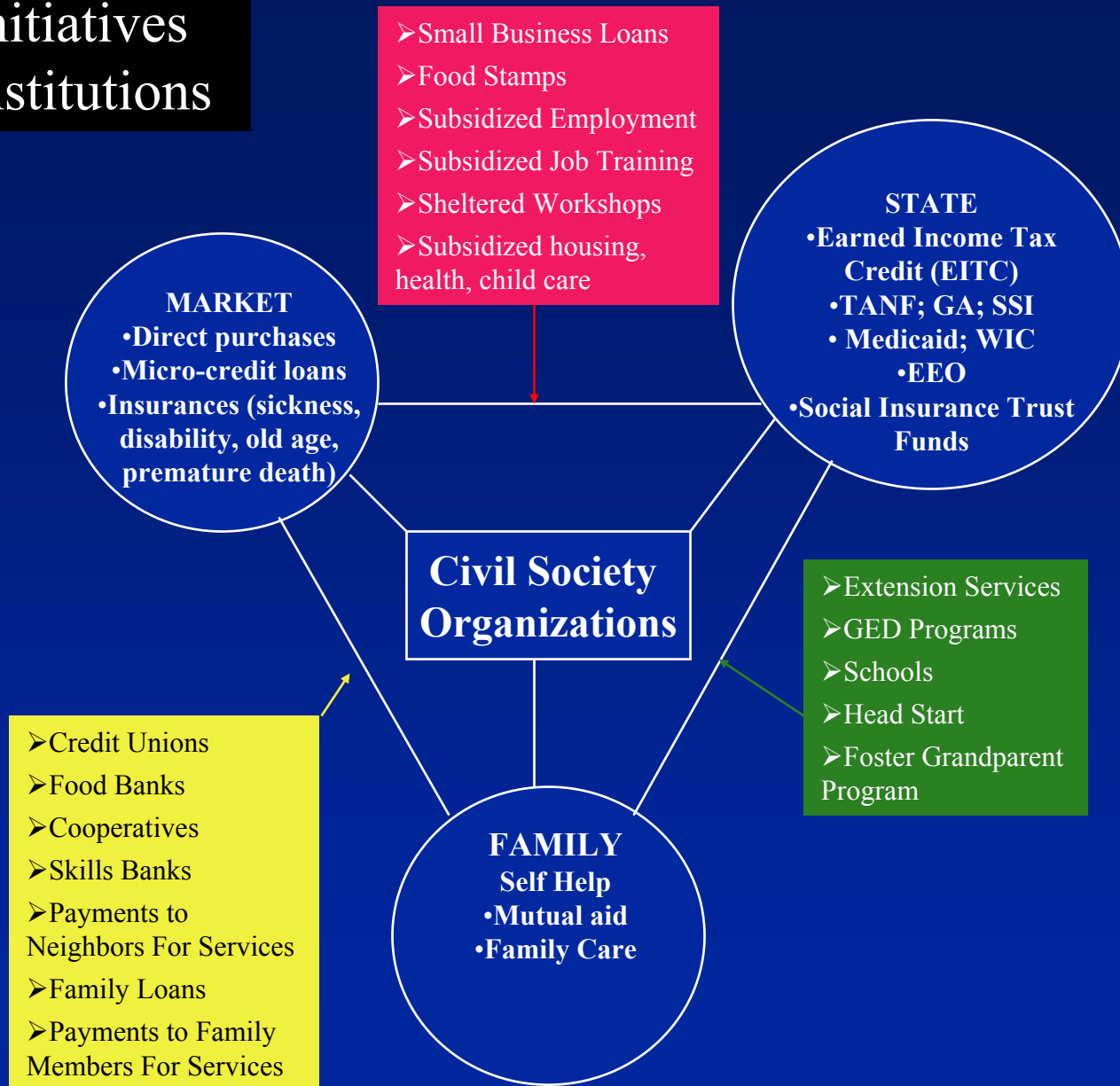
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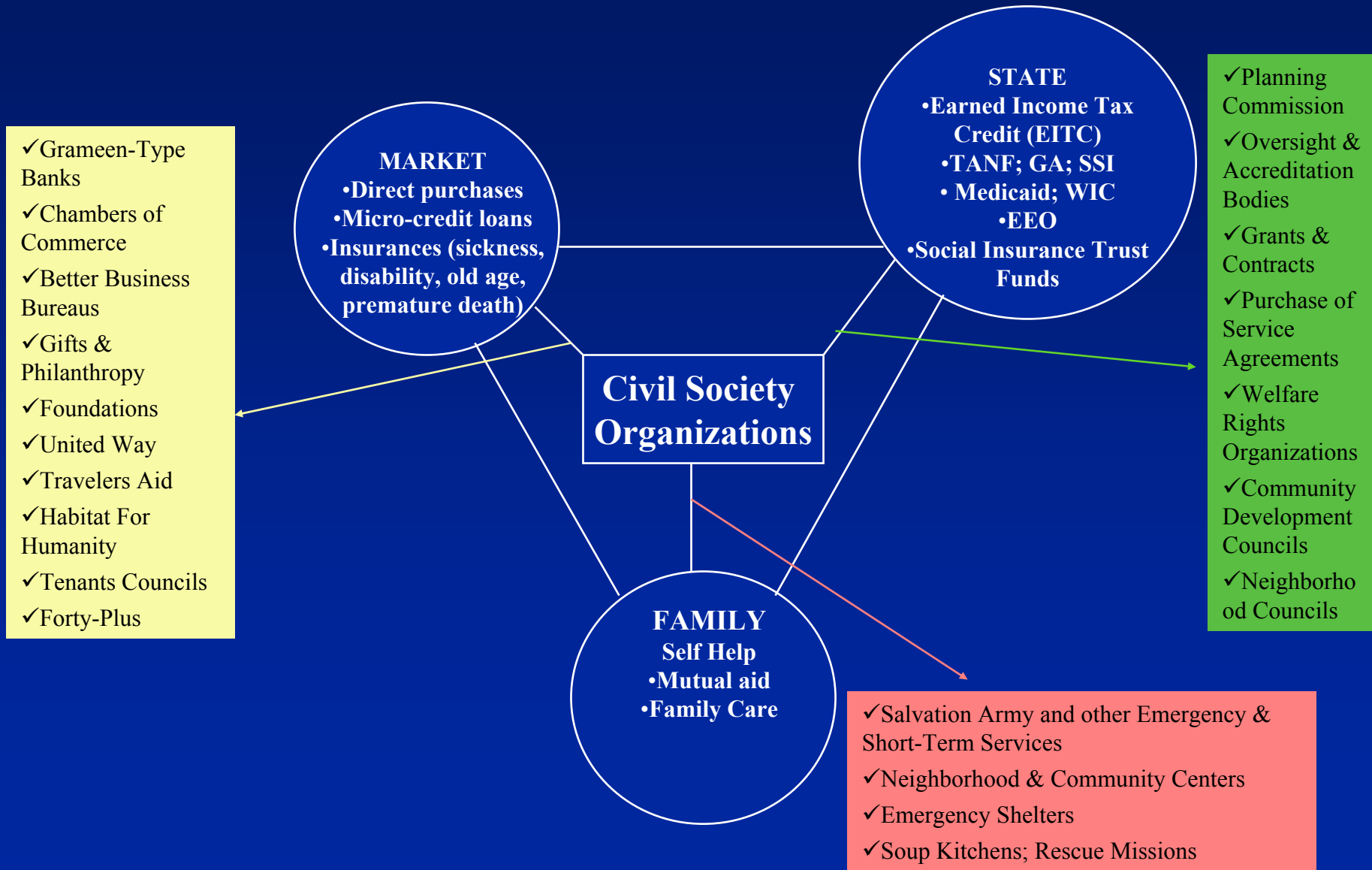
The “Welfare Mix”: Core Institutions + Civil Society



Poverty Initiatives of Core Institutions



Civil Society Poverty Initiatives



Core Institutions & Civil Society Poverty Initiatives

- ✓ Grameen-Type Banks
- ✓ Chambers of Commerce
- ✓ Better Business Bureaus
- ✓ Gifts & Philanthropy
- ✓ Foundations
- ✓ United Way
- ✓ Travelers Aid
- ✓ Habitat For Humanity
- ✓ Tenants Councils
- ✓ Forty-Plus



- Small Business Loans
- Food Stamps
- Subsidized Employment
- Subsidized Job Training
- Sheltered Workshops
- Subsidized housing, health, child care



- ✓ Planning Commission
- ✓ Oversight & Accreditation Bodies
- ✓ Grants & Contracts
- ✓ Purchase of Service Agreements
- ✓ Welfare Rights Organizations
- ✓ Community Development Councils
- ✓ Neighborhood Councils



- Extension Services
- GED Programs
- Schools
- Head Start
- Foster Grandparent Program



- Credit Unions
- Food Banks
- Cooperatives
- Skills Banks
- Payments to Neighbors For Services
- Family Loans
- Payments to Family Members For Services

- ✓ Salvation Army and other Emergency & Short-Term Services
- ✓ Neighborhood & Community Centers
- ✓ Emergency Shelters
- ✓ Soup Kitchens; Rescue Missions



Model 5: Stuart's Cross-National Framework

Stuart's framework included:

- **National Variables: Culture, Political Structure, Economic System, Population Characteristics**
- **Policies about Policy: Recent History, Megapolicy, Meta-policy**
- **Interest Groups, Needs, and Resources:**
- **The Social Welfare System: Goals, Means, Outcomes**



Model 6: Hoeffler's Institutional Process Model

- **Hoeffler demonstrated his model through a comparison of the dissimilar social welfare systems of Sweden and the U.S.**
- **The principal elements of the model include:**
 - **Societal values: American Individualism Vs. Swedish Solidarity**
 - **Governmental institutions (Role of interest groups in politics: Swedish Official Corporatism Vs. American Informal Pluralism)**
 - **Main goal of social welfare system (Swedish Equality of Outcome Vs. American Equality of Opportunity)**
 - **Type of welfare system (Swedish Institutional Universalism Vs. American Residual Selectivity)**