

# A Global Cooperative Commonwealth?

## The Global Diffusion of the Cooperative Movement since 1800

Pioneered in its modern form in the UK, cooperative welfare spread globally, covering virtually all countries at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We find that coops, contrary to welfare state foundations, were largely children of economic necessity. However, both welfare states and cooperatives were beneficiaries of democratic development, while rather benefiting under non-left governments. It can be shown, that Common-Law countries and those with British colonial legacy were more likely to introduce consumer coops earlier, while Scandinavian and German-law jurisdictions were first for housing, banking and farming coops. Coops spilled over functionally from one branch into others rather than from neighbouring countries. Countries with more established cooperative tradition were more likely to develop welfare states.



**Prof. Dr. Sebastian Kohl**  
Professor in the Sociology of North America,  
John F. Kennedy Institute,  
Free University Berlin

**Sebastian Kohl** is professor in sociology at Berlin's Free University. His research focus is on the political economy of housing & the insurance sector in historical-comparative perspective.

**Monday, 18.11.2024, 12.00 – 14.00 at the Geschwister-Scholl-Institut, LMU**  
Oettingenstr. 67 • 80538 • Room 165