Abstracts

Van Oorschot

Since World War II onwards the Dutch social security system has been constructed according to the model of the solidary collectivity. Over the last decade the system is gradually restructured towards a selective, market-orientated model of social protection. Firstly, in this article the two models are explained by an elaboration of the concepts of solidarity and collectivity. Secondly, the shift in models is illustrated with reference to some major changes in social protection schemes which occured in the last decade. Finally, the question is put forward whether and to what extent the shift, is legitimated in public opinion. Data from a number of national surveys lead to the conclusion that de model of the solidary collectivity still has a broad legitimation in Dutch society, and that there is an obvious gap between the direction of actual policy measures and the preferences of the public.

Boin and 't Hart

Leadership has become an increasingly popular topic in the field of public administration and policy research. Public managers, policy entrepreneurs and implementation fixers are now familiar appearances in the literature. The complexity of leadership, however, has been under appreciated by Dutch students of public administration. This is not surprising, as Dutch scholars have systematically neglected leadership as a topic of study. The rise of the New Public Management has increased the existing confusion among public administration students. In this article, we argue that contemporary debates on public management are founded on simplified and ill-informed assumptions with regard to the functions of leadership and the tasks of leaders. We propose an alternative approach in the second part of this article.