and collaborators examining the inter-relationship of qualities of democracy across a selection of East European cases and a range of democracies in Europe and Latin American. The key finding to emerge from these is that while trade-offs between different qualities such as accountability, participation, competition or the rule of law may exist, 'good democracies' tend to exhibit a 'mutual convergence of qualities'. Distinct regional patterns of democracy—expressible in terms of weaknesses of different qualities or obstacles to their development—do, however, emerge: East European democracies lack participation, Latin American democracies lack social equality needed for broad civic empowerment and West European democracies, while scoring well in most respects, still suffer the common lack of responsiveness, 'the Achilles heel of every democracy' (p. 254).

Taken overall, *Changes for Democracy* is a rich, complex work with both marked strengths and weaknesses. In structure and style the book sits uneasily and rather unsatisfactorily between literature review, empirical analysis and theoretical discussion. Long sections reviewing the literature are sometimes abruptly cut short and there are some surprising lacunae: comparative-historical approaches to democratisation, for example, go largely unmentioned. The presentation of empirical findings and data—perhaps unnecessary given that most appear to have been previously published—is often dogged by a lack clarity and full explanation. It is, for example, unclear in what sense the 'manipulative' institutions of Lithuania, Hungary, Poland and Romania 'shape[d] in an open and strong way the preferences of citizens, influenced by political parties, existing groups, or other networks' (p. 139), while those of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Latvia and Estonia did not. The conceptual discussion, while systematic, can seem often laboured and shifts frustratingly between recapitulation and revision of conventional approaches and some more novel insights.

Although the book's breadth is sometimes to its disadvantage, the theoretical linkages Morlino makes between different phases of democratisation—and in particular between democratic consolidation and processes of crisis and change within 'normal' democracy—are among its most valuable contributions. His suggestion, for example, that a 'transition' perspective might be developed to analyse shifts *within* democracies from one model of democracy to another (for example, from majoritarian to consensus-based) is an arresting, if undeveloped, insight. The concept of 'anchoring', although perhaps too metaphorical, also represents an innovative rethinking of approaches to democratic consolidation.

Changes for Democracy is thus broadly successful in its goal of picking out key shared mechanisms of democratisation. However, the relative sparsity of those identified (learning, anchoring, convergence of quality)—especially when set against the complexity and diversity of democratisation processes which the book itself amply illustrates—suggests that, while not unproductive, Morlino's project of distilling for a theoretically unified approach democratisation may not be one of the main highways of future research.

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Robbyn R. Wacker and Karen A. Roberto:
Aging Social Policies: An International Perspective
Thousand Oaks, CA, 2011: Sage Publications, Inc., 304 pp.

Population ageing is a global phenomenon which affects developed countries in particular, placing increased pressure on social systems. A widely expressed view is that

population ageing will have negative consequences for society—for example, fiscal consequences through increased health costs and social consequences through the burden of additional familial care responsibilities. Another set of challenges faced by social policy relates to the changing social, economic and cultural context. The increased labour market participation of women and changes in patterns of living arrangements, for instance, have had profound impacts on the needs of older people and on how these could be met. Social policy itself has been changing, but then again it is a perpetually moving subject [Dean 2012].

Wacker and Roberto take social policy or rather many social policies as the subject of their accessible introductory textbook, with a particular focus on those social policies that are directed towards older people (hence the title 'ageing social policies'). As the authors state in the foreword, the purpose of the book is to provide a description of current ageing social policies in the United States and in a selected sample of other, mostly European, countries. The authors adopt two different, but complementary approaches that jointly serve as the book's framework: (1) the comparative perspective allows students to contrast, discuss and analyse the different ways countries construct and implement their policies, while (2) the 'policy-person link' draws attention to the link between policies (macro--level) and persons (micro-level). Information on the latter is derived from qualitative interviews with older persons and is presented in a textbox at the end of every chapter. The macro-micro connection, which according to the authors has been missing from previous textbooks on the topic, acts as an important reminder of the impact policies have on the everyday lives of older people. The interviews also highlight the diverse set of experiences, interests, abilities and needs that represent old age and testify to the need to find ways of continu-

ing to include older people in the process of designing and delivering services that can improve the quality of life in old age.

The book is well structured, with Chapters 1 and 2 providing the reader with an introduction to key factors associated with population ageing and to the US policy context. Chapter 1 presents a demographic summary of the US's ageing population in an international comparison. Key indicators on fertility, mortality, and the scope and speed of population ageing are explored, with the analysis weighted towards the provision of data. While the information could also serve as a good basis to elaborate on the social and economic policy implications and challenges arising from the demographic patterns described, it is somewhat disappointing that the authors provide a discussion on these only in the very last chapter. This leaves the reader with a desire to understand more at this point. Chapter 2 provides a very readable and concise introduction to the policy-making process in the US using Social Security as one of the examples, as well as a discussion about key ageing-related social policy initiatives in the US and elsewhere, such as the Older Americans Act) and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. Building on the information in the two introductory chapters, Chapters 3–9 explore specific social policy areas such as retirement income, employment, housing, health care, mental health, community support policies, and family caregiving. The linkage between demographic change and policy is clearly explained at the beginning of each thematic chapter; measures implemented in the US and selected countries in the given policy field are described, in some cases in less (mental health) and in others in more detail (health care). The chapter on housing, a key element in the well-being of older people, provides an overview of policies related to ageing in place. As Wacker and Roberto point out, this is a preferred alternative for many

older people. While the range of policy measures presented by the authors that support this type of living arrangement is limited, their short discussion on policy implications and current directions suggests a degree of optimism that government is responding to societal needs. A critical discussion of the role of assistive and adaptive technologies that help to facilitate ageing in place and available policy initiatives that support this goal are, however, neglected. Only in the chapter investigating family caregiving are these issues briefly considered. The chapter on community support policies covers a wide range of programmes (i.e. food and nutrition, transportation, legal assistance) that promote independent living and social engagement of older adults and complements the previous chapter on housing. It was pleasing to see that the increasingly important subject of civic participation and volunteering has been included here; perhaps this topic even deserved a chapter of its own. The penultimate chapter offers a very detailed and informative examination of the financing and availability of elderly care and access to support for family carers in the US, the UK, Italy and Sweden. These countries, the authors assert, represent four distinctive ways in which home care and family care needs are addressed and dealt with. Considering the authors' background in gerontology it is perhaps no coincidence that the most rewarding discussions are to be found in the chapters on health care, mental health, community support and family care policies. By contrast, the description of retirement, employment and housing policies are less elaborate and they lack the range of the other chapters.

Throughout the book, there is slightly more focus on the US policy context. Readers are provided with detailed discussion and analysis of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, housing initiatives, the Older Americans Act and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, just to name a few. Information on similar legislative and policy instruments in the other reviewed countries, however, sometimes lacks the same depth. For example, we learn very little of housing policies and ageing in place in Norway, Switzerland and Spain, and it is surprising to find that only half a page is devoted to describing age discrimination and employment and training policies in Finland. These latter cases seem simply to serve as illustrations of 'difference from the US case'. While this is in line with the stated purpose of the authors in using a comparative perspective, it is questionable whether such asymmetrical information allows readers to draw useful country comparisons.

An additional drawback concerning the selection of non-US countries is that not every country is covered in each policy chapter. For instance, the chapter on retirement income policies provides a good summary of the pension system design, eligibility and types of old age pension benefits as well as on the retirement age in the US, comparing it with Canada, Sweden and the Netherlands. Covering the same set of countries in the related chapter on employment policies for older workers would arguably have contributed to a more comprehensive understanding of the countries' policy approach to these issues. Instead, the case of the US is examined now along with that of Brazil, Japan, France, Finland and Italy. Had the authors taken a different approach and aimed to capture cross-national variations in institutional arrangements building, for instance, on the large body of literature on the different welfare regime typologies (e.g. Esping-Andersen [1990] and Tepe and Vanhuysse [2010]) readers might have ended up with a better understanding of the 'big picture', but perhaps at a cost of gaining less detailed information on the specific features of various social policies. Other conceptual lenses on ageing and social policies that would have merited closer attention in this

volume include the gender dimension (e.g. Marin and Zolyomi [2010]), the political sociology approach (e.g. Vanhuysse [2004]) and the comparative-institutional approach (e.g. Vanhuysse and Goerres [2012]).

In the concluding chapter, Wacker and Roberto briefly look at the politics of ageing in the US, identifying important shifts in social policy focus along with the changing public perception of older people since the 1980s. The authors certainly refrain from stoking the fire of current debates on the population ageing crisis. The reader will find no provocative statements here, which can even be considered as one of the book's strengths. Yet I would have liked the authors to expand a bit more on the overarching policy issues and to include some reference to the recent literature on inter-generational justice (e.g. Smeeding and Sullivan [1998] and Sabbagh and Vanhuysse [2010]).

All in all, the book delivers what it promises, but readers should not expect a deep analysis in specialised areas of research; rather it will serve to assist students of social and public policy who will find the book helpful as an introduction to social policy issues associated with an ageing population.

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Guglielmo Meardi: *Social Failures of EU Enlargement: A Case of Workers Voting with Their Feet*
New York 2011: Routledge, 230 pp.

Over the 1990s, Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries underwent painful reforms with wide-ranging consequences for their economies and societies. These changes following the fall of state socialism fuelled various debates and research ideas on viable transition paths and development trajectories for these countries. Although particular national trajectories differed from each other, in general all CEE countries strived for foreign direct investment and integration into European and world networks of advanced capitalist societies. Joining the European Union (EU) represented the tip of the iceberg in such efforts. Great economic performance, quality of life and high social and labour standards in Western EU member states, combined with the EU's claimed effort to diffuse the European social model and foster convergence towards high-quality social standards across its member states, served as a driving force of CEE countries' integration efforts. Social progress through enlargement, promoted by European institutions, national governments and the media, represented