



This is a repository copy of *The rise of food charity across Europe*. Hannah Lambie-Mumford and Tiina Silvasti Bristol: Policy Press, 2020. ISBN: 9781447347583; £26.99 (EPub).

White Rose Research Online URL for this paper:
<https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/184986/>

Version: Published Version

Article:

Garratt, E. orcid.org/0000-0001-5974-4141 (2022) The rise of food charity across Europe. Hannah Lambie-Mumford and Tiina Silvasti Bristol: Policy Press, 2020. ISBN: 9781447347583; £26.99 (EPub). *Social Policy & Administration*, 56 (3). pp. 538-539. ISSN 0144-5596

<https://doi.org/10.1111/spol.12748>

Reuse

This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND) licence. This licence only allows you to download this work and share it with others as long as you credit the authors, but you can't change the article in any way or use it commercially. More information and the full terms of the licence here: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

Takedown

If you consider content in White Rose Research Online to be in breach of UK law, please notify us by emailing eprints@whiterose.ac.uk including the URL of the record and the reason for the withdrawal request.



eprints@whiterose.ac.uk
<https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/>

The rise of food charity across Europe

Hannah Lambie-Mumford | Tiina Silvasti

Bristol: Policy Press, 2020. ISBN: 9781447347583; £26.99 (EPub)

The rapid and dramatic growth of charitable food over the past decade in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis revealed a shocking level of poverty and material deprivation across Europe that many thought was long confined to history. But what political, social, and economic factors contribute(d) to this resurgence of destitution? Why did the third sector begin to replace statutory social security in regularly supplying the basic material needs not of those on the extreme margins, but of those living well within mainstream society? In what ways did public policies contribute to this shift in welfare, and how might these dynamics play out in future?

Through an edited collection, *The Rise of Food Charity in Europe* examines these questions and more through a detailed and insightful comparative social policy analysis of the growth of charitable food across Europe over the past decade. By taking a historical perspective, the book offers the first comparative exploration of the roots and consequences of this phenomena by showcasing clear similarities and fascinating variation from seven European countries with diverse history, economic policy, welfare regime, political regime, and public attitudes to charitable food. The authors frame the edited collection as an opportunity to 'examine the changing dynamics of poverty and social policy responses to it' (page 3) through the lens of food charity, thereby demonstrating the book's wider application beyond the topic of food insecurity to offer broader insights into poverty, social policy, and the complex yet ever-evolving interplay of responsibility between the state and third sector in contemporary Europe.

The editors are recognised experts at the forefront of research on the role of charitable responses to food insecurity in diverse European settings (Hannah Lambie-Mumford in the United Kingdom, Tiina Silvasti in Finland). Both have published valuable academic and policy-focussed research on charitable food, notably Lambie-Mumford's *Hungry Britain* (Policy Press, 2017) and Silvasti's co-edited *First World Hunger Revisited* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2014).

Following a preface by Canada-based scholar and Emeritus Professor Graham Riches, the editors outline their motivations to examine the development of charitable food in parallel with the changing political, social, and welfare policy landscape across Europe over a decade characterised by economic and political turbulence. Drawing on qualitative research from country experts across a diverse set of seven European countries (Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, and the United Kingdom), the book then takes a comparative approach, exploring three key topics: (a) The evolution of food charity, (b) The current state of food charity, and (c) The scale of food charity.

The book's key contribution arguably lies in its conclusion, which valuably classifies the complexity and diversity of European responses to charitable food into a cogent typology of food charity, before distilling the rich comparative work into a series of key common themes across the case study countries. A further novel contribution is the

This is an open access article under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs License, which permits use and distribution in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited, the use is non-commercial and no modifications or adaptations are made.

© 2021 The Author. Social Policy & Administration published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

attention the editors draw to the influence of supply-side factors—specifically the availability, promotion, and use of surplus food (part of the so-called “charity economy”)—on the establishment and escalating institutionalisation of charitable food projects across Europe.

While the breadth of poverty dynamics and responses to these valuably highlights rich diversity across Europe, despite the three key topics providing a common thread, at times a more consistent approach within the individual country chapters would enhance the book's coherence. Nonetheless, the sheer range of topics covered, from the perspectives of food aid recipients in Germany, to the balance of national and local welfare systems in Spain and its implications for charitable food, highlight interesting points of distinction between countries and safeguards against repetition.

By offering the first comparative analysis of the development growth of charitable food across Europe, this edited collection makes a seminal contribution to scholars both of food charity, and those with broader interests in poverty, comparative social policy, mixed economies of welfare, social justice, and more. The detailed, insightful, and timely analyses make *The Rise of Food Charity in Europe* an unmissable and engaging read for academics and professionals from undergraduates to seasoned scholars.

Elisabeth Garratt

Sheffield Methods Institute, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK

Correspondence

Elisabeth Garratt, Sheffield Methods Institute, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK.

Email: elisabeth.garratt@sheffield.ac.uk