Life can be, as Hobbes put it in 1651, "solitary, poore, nasty, brutish, and short." To insure their citizens against these hardships of life, Western European governments have since the 19th century introduced social policies such as health insurance or pensions that constitute the core of what we now understand as the modern welfare state. The strong focus on these particular policies has served comparative welfare state research well in analyzing the reduction of life risks in advanced democracies over the last century. Yet, increasingly, this focus is too narrow. There is a strong need to discuss new policies within and outside developed democracies, as well as historical and contemporary forms of non-state welfare provision. Laura Seelkopf and Santiago López-Cariboni will provide an overview of recent joint and separate work from a project highlighting the importance of "social policy by other means" for understanding the politics of basic services in developing countries. In this research, they examine, for instance, how governments in Latin American countries use deliberate non-enforcement of laws against informal electricity consumption as a social policy tool to support low-income households. Results from survey experiments among both voters and political candidates confirm nontrivial effects of deliberate non-enforcement on electoral support.