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Editorial

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EDITORIAL

This issue represents the journal's first special issue coordinated by an individual invited guest editor and the first in which we include an invited translation of an article that we consider important to share with our readers. In recognition of the challenge of persistent inequalities throughout the region, we asked Professor Carlos Andrés Olaya of Universidad EAFIT to play a lead role in coordinating an issue focused on social policies in Latin America.

The first article by Wood and Gogh is a translation of their work previously prepared in English as part of a project at the University of Bath. In it, they propose a three-category typology of social welfare regimes, and then map and evaluate their applicability across regions of the world. The following five articles that comprise this issue represent scholars and perspectives from Colombia and Argentina, and they evaluate social policies and policy frameworks at national, state and local levels.

Otálvaro Marín helps us appreciate how the social welfare system in Colombia has developed over time applying their own three-category typology. The next two articles zoom in closer to analyze the social policies in particular locations at specific times, all prior to the start of the global pandemic. Carmona López examine the social welfare practices in the city of Medellín, Colombia, within a three-year period preceding the pandemic, and López provides insights into regulatory policies governing home utilities in the greater metropolitan area of Buenos Aires, Argentina under the period spanning the presidencies of Nestor Kirchner and Cristina Fernández de Kirchner. The last two articles provide case studies from the same two countries with a closer look at the subnational application of poverty reduction policies. First, Ghio, Giusti, Duhalde and Aranda analyze how the Argentinian state of Tucumán has implemented the Universal Child Allowance for Social Protection (AUH) program.

Together these articles illustrate both progress and challenges, and provide insights relevant to scholars of social policy as well as the public officials who develop, implement and evaluate them. We thank Professor Olaya for his stewardship of this special issue.

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