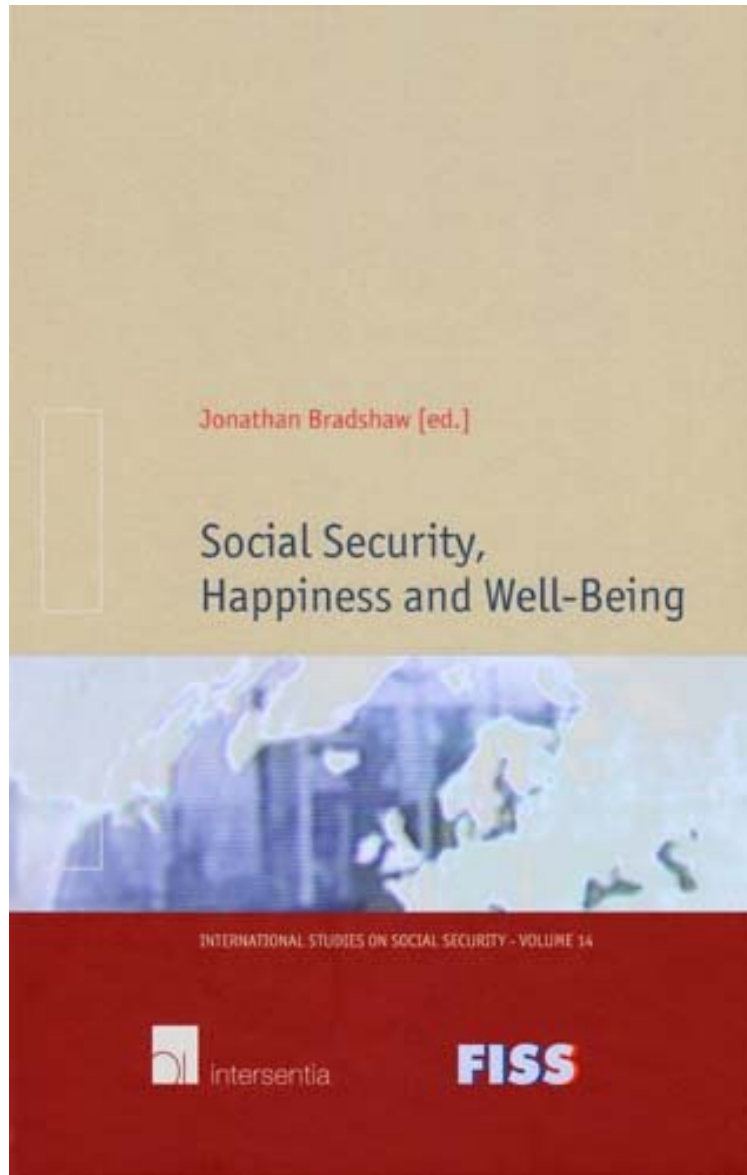


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Among the many explicit objectives of social security systems, there is the general aspiration to improve welfare, well-being, or even the happiness of populations. Such grandiose objectives are rarely made explicit. With evidence that more economic growth does not necessarily equate with higher levels of well-being in society, there has developed an interest in the contribution to welfare that might be made by distribution and redistribution. Social security is the major vehicle for redistributing financial resources in society. This volume brings together essays which reflect, both theoretically and empirically, on the relationship between happiness and social security. This book addresses the following questions: Does welfare state effort enhance happiness? . Why might social security enhance happiness? . How might it be reformed to make more impact on well-being? . How does income and health impact on well-being? . How does income improve the well-being of widows? . Does well-being influence employment probabilities? . How is the well-being of children related to other factors in society?

About the Author Jonathan Bradshaw CBE, FBA, is professor of social policy at the University of York.