

## ABSTRACT SOCCULT DUBLIN

### The institutional embeddedness of social capital

#### A multilevel investigation across 15 advanced welfare states

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This study contributes to earlier studies examining the relationship between the welfare state and social capital by investigating whether the welfare state affects the value of social capital. Two contrasting hypotheses are developed: welfare state decreases the value of social capital because it makes people more equal or it increases the value of social capital because people use their social capital to distinguish themselves. Multilevel analyses based on *International Social Survey Programme (ISSP)* and *International Monetary Fund (IMF)* data, including 18,769 persons from 15 countries, shows that Hypothesis 1 should be rejected and that Hypothesis 2 is partly supported.