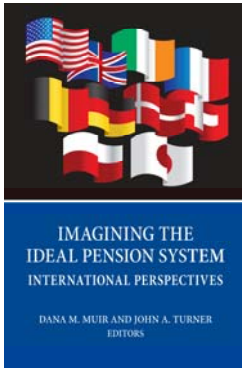




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## Imagining the Ideal Pension System International Perspectives

Dana M. Muir, *University of Michigan*  
John A. Turner, *Pension Policy Center*  
Editors

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KALAMAZOO, Mich.—The burgeoning of populations at or near retirement is causing a reconsideration of existing pension system policies in many countries around the world. Systems that once ably served to protect the economic security of the elderly are now at risk, due in large part to the global economic crisis, but also to changing demographics. Broad differences among countries in cultures and attitudes toward the roles of government and of capital markets in affecting citizens' retirement income make a "one-size-fits-all" approach infeasible.

Recognizing that pension systems need to be examined on a country-by-country basis, pension experts from 10 countries gathered in September 2010 to propose what they view as the ideal pension systems for their countries. The papers they presented are gathered in a new volume from the Upjohn Institute Press, *Imagining the Ideal Pension System: International Perspectives*, Dana M. Muir and John A. Turner, editors. The authors reveal how and why the image of an ideal pension system differs across countries and recognize the various long-term goals that different actors have for pension systems.

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They also address the age at which retirement benefits should be made available, levels of coverage that should be provided, risk sharing, benefit adequacy, and issues related to increased longevity.

Included are the following chapters:

- **Constructing the Ideal Pension System: The Visions of Ten Country Experts**, Dana M. Muir and John A. Turner
- **Imagining the Ideal U.S. Pension System**, John A. Turner and Dana M. Muir
- **Imagining the Ideal UK Pension System**, Bryn Davies
- **Public and Private Provision of Pensions and the Ideal Pension System for Ireland**, Gerard Hughes and Jim Stewart
- **The Optimal Pension System: Is Denmark Best?**, Finn Østrup
- **German Private Pension Law: Current State and Future Directions**, Markus Roth
- **The Ideal Pension System for Belgium**, Kim De Witte
- **Toward the Ideal Pension System for France**, Lucy apRoberts and Pierre Concialdi
- **Aging in the Shadow of the Three Pillars: A Generation of Pension Debates in Switzerland (1972–2010)**, Matthieu Leimgruber
- **The Role of Occupational Pension Plans in an Optimal Polish Pension System**, Marek Szczepański
- **How to Establish a Better Corporate Pension System in Japan**, Noriyasu Watanabe

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