From the Ballot to the Blackboard

*From the Ballot to the Blackboard* provides the first comprehensive account of the political economy of education spending across the developed and developing world. The book demonstrates how political forces such as democracy and political partisanship and economic factors such as globalization deeply impact the choices made by voters, parties, and leaders in financing education. The argument is developed through three stories that track the historical development of education: first, its original expansion from the elite to the masses; second, the partisan politics of education in industrialized states; and third, the politics of higher education. The book uses a variety of complementary methods to demonstrate the importance of redistributive political motivations in explaining education policy, including formal modeling, statistical analysis of survey data and both subnational and cross-national data, and historical case analyses of countries, including the Philippines, India, Malaysia, England, Sweden, and Germany.

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From the Ballot to the Blackboard

THE REDISTRIBUTIVE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF EDUCATION

BEN W. ANSELL

University of Minnesota
To Jane
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5.12 Government Ideology and Per-Student Spending in the U.S. States 215
The prospect of an academic writing a book about the politics of education, indeed one with a chapter on higher education, might appear rather solipsistic. While the reader will be the best judge of the book’s merits, I hope that I have avoided most of the perils of navel gazing. To the degree that I have achieved this ambition, thanks must go to the many people, both inside and outside academia, who have provided support and comfort along the way.

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