

The simple model of a compassionate citizen presented in this paper is just an exercise on poverty assistance based on the deservingness principle. The model is well managed, none the less the model prediction (i.e. that the influence of stereotypes on welfare preferences tends to diminish as the status of a potential recipient approaches middle-class standards) lays on the hypotheses made by the authors and is therefore tautological so that its analytical treatment finds its formal confirmation. What happens in different contexts may be utterly different though. Different hypotheses, for example a widespread feeling of human brotherhood independent of the socioeconomic status and the ethnic stereotypes, while tied to the material needs, would lead to different conclusions vis à vis a meritocratic anthropology which tends to maintain the existing distributive conditions.