Fundamental Rights and Proportionality: A Broken Marriage?

Fundamental rights review seems inextricably linked to proportionality, that is, to the question whether acts or omissions by the State were proportional in relation to fundamental individual interests. The principle of proportionality has allowed the proliferation of fundamental rights, for example in the direction of social policy. It is exactly in fields like these, however, that proportionality fails to resolve fundamental rights conflicts. With the help of examples from social rights jurisprudence as well as the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, it will be shown that alternatives to proportionality are necessary and promising at the same time.