T01P01 / Policy Transfer: Innovations in Theory and Practice

Topic : T01 / Policy Process Theories
Chair : Leslie Pal (Hamad Bin Khalifa University)
Second Chair : Christopher Walker (Australia and New Zealand School of Government)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

Policy transfer among states continues to attract scholarly attention, and the literature now has grown exponentially in at least six broad streams (see (Hadjiisky, Pal, & Walker, forthcoming 2017): (1) diffusion/learning/policy transfer focused on public policy dynamics (players, processes, and institutions) and transfer as largely a process of choice (D. Dolowitz & Marsh, 1996, 2000; D. P. Dolowitz & Marsh, 2012; Rose, 1993, 2005; Wolman, 1992); (2) development and transfer of governance models (Andrews, 2012, 2013; Rodrik, 1996, 2006; Williamson, 1993); (3) international relations/international governmental organizations and their independent role in transfer (Abbott, Genschel, Snidal, & Zangl, 2015; Barnett & Finnemore, 1999; Finnemore & Sikkink, 1998); (4) global public policy networks (Haas, 1992; Stone, 2013); (5) Europeanization (Leuffen, Rittberger, & Schimmelfennig, 2013); and (6) policy mobilities (Peck & Theodore, 2015: 5; Temenos & McCann, 2013; Ward, 2011).

Despite this development in research, the field remains undertheorized (Benson & Jordan, 2011, 2012), and heavily focused on conventional dynamics: state-to-state transfers; North-South; the main international organizations. Very little work has examined non-state transfers through, for example, the role of the consultants or industry associations, or the growing number of South-South, and even in some cases, South-North transfers. There is almost nothing on the transfer of policy-enabling technologies such as GPS monitoring and surveillance in trans-border shipments, operating systems, or management software. The transfer of policy models through training, education, study tours, or exchanges is largely ignored. This suggests that within the policy transfer field more needs to be done to examine the nature of policy tools being transferred and how such tools fare in the transfer process.

The panel will invite papers that will extend and deepen work in the field in two ways. The first is to focus on theory building, to innovate and renovate our thinking about policy transfer by widening the lens to include more players, wider dynamics, and better empirical data. The second is to encourage submissions of research on innovative practices in transfer that go beyond the tired metaphor of the "toolkit" or, at best, "policy models." We know that practitioners have a strong appetite for innovation and for what they see as "lessons". We also know that transfer agents can face resistance when "selling" their products, as well as competition from other agents working the field (e.g., consultants or other international organizations). As a result, they look for innovative ways to transfer. Scholarly work needs to be alive to this dynamic, to be more critical of the transferability of specific policy tools, and to reflect this better in a more developed theoretical framework.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The policy transfer literature has grown in depth and scope, but still tends to focus on state-to-state transfers of conventional policy models, tools, and legislation. This panel invites papers that consider innovations in policy transfer, and the policy transfer of innovations. In particular, we invite papers that consider (1) unconventional actors in policy transfer (e.g., consultants, private sector, non-governmental organizations, etc.), (2) non-traditional geographical diffusion patterns (e.g., South-South, South-North; across Muslim states; across Southeast Asian states); (3) multiple levels of transfer (e.g., from national to local, or local to national), (4) unusual techniques of transfer (e.g., training; exchanges; conferences; etc.), (5) examples of transfer considered "innovations" or "lessons", and (6) the transfer of technologies of policy management or implementation – the micro-tools for compliance. Through this broad analysis of practice we hope to see a range of cases that may reveal state to market, market to state, as well as state to state transfers. The organizers also encourage authors to consider how their work contributes to innovation in theory building, critiques the mobility of particular policy tools, and specifically how their insights can shape a fresh approach to understanding policy transfer dynamics.

Subject to the quality of the papers, the convenors propose to prepare submission of a special issue of leading journal or publish an edited collection.

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Session 1Actors in Transfer

Wednesday, June 28th 14:00 to 16:00 (Manasseh Meyer MM 3 - 1)

Discussants

Leslie Pal (Hamad Bin Khalifa University)

The unusual suspects. The role of non-state actors in the transfer of health technology assessment in Romania

Alexandru Rusu (Utrecht University, WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Policy and Regulation)

Alin Preda (University of Medicine and Pharmacy „Carol Davila")

Governance and "slum" upgrading in cities in the global South: best practice knowledge transfer, knowledge generation and community organisation, and Google

Richard Tomlinson (University of Melbourne)

Academic Administrative Entrepreneurs (AAEs) and Policy Transfer: The Indonesian Experience and Its Theoretical Discussion

Ario Wicaksono (Universitas Gadjah Mada)

NEW PHILANTHROPIC AID AND SOCIAL POLICY TRANSFER. A Case study on the Gates Foundation in Tanzania

Roosa Jolkkonen (University of Oxford)

Change in Policy Transfer Institutions and Agents: International Institutions to International Consulting Firms

Lhawang Ugyel (Australian National University)

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Session 2Geo-political Transfer Theatres

Wednesday, June 28th 16:15 to 18:15 (Manasseh Meyer MM 3 - 1)

Discussants

Baker Tom (University of Auckland)

Building Knowledge on Policy Transfer through cases of South-South Cooperation

Michelle Morais de Sa e Silva (The University of Oklahoma)

The Transfer and Utilization of Low Impact Development Techniques in the US and UK

David Dolowitz (University of Liverpool)

The Double Policy Transfer. Austerity Measures from Global Inputs to Local Outcomes across Mediterranean Countries.

Andrea Lippi (Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Florence)

Policy transfer through actor's policy-change strategies: the making of management for results policies in Chile and Mexico

Mauricio Dussauge (CIDE)

From local to Global: Brazil exporting social policies

Osmany Porto de Oliveira (Universidade Federal de São Paulo)

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Session 3New Approaches in Theory and Practice - I

Thursday, June 29th 08:15 to 10:15 (Manasseh Meyer MM 3 - 1)

Discussants

Christopher Walker (Australia and New Zealand School of Government)

Policy tourism and the aura of authenticity

Baker Tom (University of Auckland)

The Environmental Policy Transfer in the GCC: Setting the Agenda for Climate Change and Energy Security

Evren Tok (Hamad Bin Khalifa University)

S.Duygu Sever-Mehmetoglu (Carnegie Mellon University Qatar)

Policy transfer in 140 characters: Mapping the Arctic policy network of the Twitterverse

Jennifer Spence (Carleton University)

Cities learning from cities: How local governments adopt public innovations from their peers in the context of decentralization

Mulya Amri (Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore)

Policy Transfer and Resistance: Proposals for a New Research Agenda

Leslie Pal (Hamad Bin Khalifa University)

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Session 4New Approaches in Theory and Practice - II

Thursday, June 29th 10:30 to 12:30 (Manasseh Meyer MM 3 - 1)

Discussants

Mulya Amri (Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore)

Bureaucratic Entrepreneurship and Transferable Laboratory of Governance Paradigm

Xufeng Zhu (Tsinghua University)

Case Study Research on Public Programs and Organizations: Lessons v. Design Precedents as Rival Ideals

Michael Barzelay (London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London)

A comparative analysis of policy transfer cases in the road transport sector. The role of markets, technology and insights for policy practice.

Christopher Walker (Australia and New Zealand School of Government)

Do Policy Narratives Shape Policy Transfer Mechanisms?

Titilayo Soremi (University of Toronto Scarborough)