

T02P35 / The Politics of Open Government in Iberoamerican Countries: A Comparative View About its Determinants and its Implementation Processes

Topic : T02 / Comparative Public Policy sponsored by Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis

Chair : Cesar Nicandro Cruz-Rubio (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid)

Second Chair : Mauricio Olavarria-Gambi (University of Santiago, Chile)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

In the Iberoamerican scenario, there are several important studies regarding a) how political and institutional determinants influence the content of public policies into different countries, b) the way public policies are actually made (policy formulation) in contrast with predominant policy process approaches, and c) about the institutional and context determinants of public policies during implementation (Medellín Torres, 2004; Stein, Tommasi, Echebarría, Lora, & Payne, 2006; Olavarria-Gambi, 2012, 2014). However, in regions such as Ibero-America (is a region in the Americas plus Spain and Portugal comprising countries or territories where Spanish or Portuguese are predominant languages), it is important to advance in the comparative analysis of experiences that would not only generate a better knowledge and understanding about public policy formulation, but also identify patterns and key elements for a better practice in policy design and implementation, in order to promote more accurate and effective policy designs and to help avoiding policy failure.

Since 2011, and with support of several international organizations such as the Open Government Partnership (OGP), the Organization of American States (OAS), and recently the Latin American Center of Administration for Development (CLAD), we have witnessed a raise (and a progressive consolidation) of open government initiatives into the national government agendas (that is, public policies and public sector reforms for strength transparency, access of information, public participation and public accountability with the intensive use of ICT). Nowadays 15 Iberoamerican countries regularly develops and implement biannual national action plans (each of them with a set of specific commitments) for the advance of open government at the national level. Since open government initiatives comprises in a high degree the most recent innovations and public sector reforms in this part of the World (this region is in fact the most prominent in the advancement of open government worldwide), we consider of a paramount scientific relevance to make a systematic effort in analyzing in a comparative fashion the advancement of open government.

Using approaches for comparative analysis regarding the diffusion or public policies (Berry & Berry, 2007; Dobbin, Simmons, & Garrett, 2007) the objective of this panel is twofold: a) the identification of the determinants of the success in the advancement of public policies for open government (that is, policies and changes in public sector programs for strength transparency, access of information, public participation and public accountability with the intensive use of ICT) into the national agendas, and b) its implementation processes and pitfalls. Studies are centered but not limited to OGP national action plans.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Led by GIGAPP research group, this panel will be delighted to receive paper proposals of case studies and comparative analysis related with the open government advance into Iberoamerican countries, as well as comparative studies in the region regarding the following research topics:

- Which are the determinants to understand the diffusion process and the progress of open government in the Iberoamerican countries?
- What are the roles of social construction, coercion, competition, collaboration or learning into those diffusion processes?
- Which are the determinants in the definition of the content of action plans of open government agendas? What are the prominent issue areas and why?
- How the politics of open government occurs at the national level, both domestic as well in comparative perspectives?
- How and why OGP national action plans and its commitments are successfully implemented (or not) in the region? Is there a learning process regarding those experiences?

- What common features and variations might identify between countries?
- Which are the institutional and context determinants regarding the implementation of open government commitments? Is it possible to identify regional patterns associated with open government policy success or failure?

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Session 1

Wednesday, June 28th 16:15 to 18:15 (Block B 3 - 3)

Discussants

Mauricio Olavarria-Gambi (University of Santiago, Chile)

Cynthia Michel (Center for Research and Teaching in Economics (CIDE))

Policy diffusion of open government in Latin American countries: Political determinants based on evidence from National Progress Reports

Cesar Nicandro Cruz-Rubio (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid)

Which are the political determinant for the advancement of open government in Latin American countries? This paper seeks to answer this single question. Nowadays 15 Iberoamerican countries regularly develops and implement biannual national action plans (each of them with a set of specific commitments) for the advance of open government at the national level. Since open government initiatives comprises in a high degree the most recent innovations and public sector reforms in this part of the World (this region is in fact the most prominent in the advancement of open government worldwide), it seems clearly relevant to understand which political determinants are involved into this processes

Using the diffusion or public policies literature (Berry & Berry, 2007 ; Dobbin, Simmons, & Garrett, 2007) and on the bases of Progress Reports made by the Independent Reporting Mechanism of the Open Government Partnership, the objective of this paper is the identification of the determinants of the success in the advancement of public policies for open government (that is, policies and changes in public sector programs for strength transparency, access of information, public participation and public accountability with the intensive use of ICT) into the national agendas, and the identification of its implementation process and pitfalls.

Conceptualizing and measuring Open Government in Mexico

Cynthia Michel (Center for Research and Teaching in Economics (CIDE))

Guillermo Cejudo (Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE))

Open government has become a goal for countries all over the world. This is evident in many political discourses or in policies that are implemented on its behalf. The increasing popularity of this concept is a result of the expected benefits that it would bring, such as efficiency, less corruption and increased government legitimacy (Meijer and Curtin 2012). Indeed, the Open Government Partnership (OGP) declaration states that the countries that become part of it will commit "to promote transparency, fight corruption, empower citizens, and harness the power of new technologies to make government more effective and accountable."

Despite the desirability of achieving an open government, it is an elusive concept. This is a problem since not only makes it difficult for countries to design public policies that would actually have an effect in promoting it, but affects the possibility of knowing the progress that governments have made towards its achievement. Accordingly, international organizations, governments, academic institutions, and other interested stakeholders had advanced innovative methodologies to assess Open government's policies,

action plans, and interventions in different countries. Mexico was not the exception. The Center for Research and Teaching on Economics (CIDE), in collaboration with the National Institute for Transparency (INAI), recently published the Open Government Metrics. Based on such study, this paper will seek to advance in the determinants (political and institutional) that enable the attainment of open government by comparing the performance achieved by different levels of government, public offices and branches.

Assessment of the open government data impact in Latin American Countries: Key factors exploratory analysis

Alberto Abella (OK Spain / desidedatum /URJC)

The idea of open government cannot be understood without considering the systematic publication of data about public administrations. Thus public open data portals become critical resources to ensure transparency and accountability. The interaction of citizens and organizations with these portals depends on organizational, economic, technical and social factors that must be analyzed to assess the use of these resources and their efficient use.

The paper presents results of sampling on these portals and the ecosystems of organizations around them. These relevant findings may help in redefining strategies for releasing public data, coordinating them, and to prioritize investment in these resources.

Open Government, Budgetary transparency and security in Brazil: advances and challenges for its implementation

Laura Silva (Fundação Getulio Vargas)

The initiatives for a more open and transparent Brazilian government or close to the citizen are numerous and it is common to come across the expression accountability linked to the notions of accountability for actions and punishment for acts. The fact is that this term has some concepts embedded within it, transparency being one of them. In addition to data access ideas, it is understood, for the purposes of this work, transparency as the state's ability to present budget, revenue and expenditure data on the execution of its public policies. Thus, this paper focuses on the understanding of the expression "budgetary transparency" as exposed by the authors Zuccolotto, Teixeira and Riccio (2015) with the focus on Brazilian public security policy. In light of the above, the question that animates this work is how the notion of "budgetary transparency" is present in Brazilian public security policy and, furthermore, how accountability can be achieved in a context of insecurity, be it Data or results of public policies in progress? The choice to understand the Brazilian public security policy through its "budgetary transparency" involves the difficulty already considered historical in relation to criminal data with dubious disclosures that involve, for example, possible underreporting, even with the advent of the Law on Access to Information (LAI) and the increase of internal and external control instances. The methodology used was the mobilization of relevant theory on the subject of transparency, accountability and open government initiatives, as well as the mobilization of secondary data on revenue and expenditure in the area of ??public security. Through this analysis it was possible to find considerations about how this concept of "transparency" is still under construction, as well as this work, which is perceived as one of the few that question the allocation of resources in the area of ??public security and the results that The same reaches. In this way, it was possible to conclude previously that although the Union tries to coordinate actions in favor of budgetary transparency, Brazil still has many challenges to reach good levels of governance.