P01 / Policy Change: Revisiting the Past, Analyzing Contemporary Processes and Stimulating Inter-Temporal Comparisons

Topic : PUBLIC PROBLEM AND AGENDA SETTING

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

Second Chair : Verónica Figueroa Huencho (University of Chile)

Third Chair : Maria Velasco (UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

The panel is aimed to analyze the characteristics or conditions leading to policy changes, considering the institutional context in which it develops. The panel is open to accept proposals of analysis of policy changes occurred in the past, contemporary policy changes and/or inter-temporal comparisons of policy changes. In doing this, the panel seeks to set links to the emerging field of work of “History and Public Policies”.

The panel will address questions on whether the way in which problems have been addressed in the past determine how they are faced later, and the role of institutions in policy changes. The analysis focuses on how institutions – formal and/or informal – influence the policy process, on whether types of interchanges among policy actors persist over time and on whether informal institutions shape the way in which formal institutions operate or whether it is the other way around how the policy process develops.

According to Capano (2009) the dynamic of policy change may be intrinsically evolutionary or revolutionary, meaning the former a process of continuous adaptation, incremental and gradual nature. Revolutionary policy changes involve breaking with the past and introduction of new solutions to policy problems. Thus, a natural question in this context is how formal and informal institutions relate to evolutionary and revolutionary policy changes.

According to the path dependence perspective, history matters because current decisions are dependent of past decisions. Page (2006) points out that the dependence of past decision patterns are the consequence of a perception of higher benefits because of the learning, getting used to it and the cost of change; of self enforcement to maintain a given decision pattern; of a positive feedback gotten from a certain decision; and of the lock in of alternatives way of decision or action. Peters et al. (2005), in turn, argues that formal and informal institutional patterns also change over time and that ideas are very important in explaining institutional changes. This would mean that path dependence perspective would have limited validity in explaining policy changes, especially when these are generated after (formal and/or informal) institutional changes.

Given that “historical institutionalism of the polity focuses on analyzing what happened, when and how” (Skocpol 1995: 104), following Peters et al. (2005) the panel will focus on the relationship among institutions, ideas, policy brokers and agencies to analyze the path development of policy changes. Then, the panel seeks to contribute to the understanding of the relationship between institutions and policy change.

The panel is aimed at discussing empirical evidence provided by case studies on policy change in different contexts. Although the panel is open to any case, the presentation of case studies from Latin America, East Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania is highly encouraged.

REFERENCES:

Capano, Giliberto. 2009. “Understandign Policy Change as an Epistemological and Theoretical Problem.” Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis, Vol.11, Nº1, pp. 7 – 31.

Page, Scott. 2005. “An essay on the existence and casuses of path dependence”. Santa Fe Institute of Economics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Peters, Guy; Jon Pierre y Desmond S. King. 2005. “The Politics of Path Dependency: Political Conflict in

Historical Institutionalism". The Journal of Politics, Vol. 67, Nº4, pp. 1257 – 1300. Chicago, USA: The University of Chicago Press.

Skocpol, Theda. 1995. "Why I am an Historical Institutionalist". Polity, Vol. 28, Nº1, pp. 103 – 106. London, UK: Palgrave Macmillan.

CALL FOR PAPERS

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The analysis focuses on how institutions – formal and/or informal – influence the policy process, on whether types of interchanges among policy actors persist over time and on whether informal institutions shape the way in which formal institutions operate or whether it is the other way around how the policy process develops.
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Session 1

Wednesday, June 26th 16:30 to 18:30 (MB 5.265)

Discussants

Mauricio Olavarria-Gambi (University of Santiago, Chile)

How Many Hurdles Must Programmatic Groups Overcome? A Comparative Study on the Opportunities and Constraints of Collective Action in France and Germany

Johanna Hornung (University of Lausanne)

Patrick Hassenteufel (Université Paris-Saclay)

Nils Bandelow (Technische Universität Carolo-Wilhelmina Braunschweig)

Copyright and the United States Constitution: the case of the Sony Betamax

Cartwright Madison (University of Sydney)

Applying Multiple Streams Framework in Analyzing the Observed Change of Policy Priority Assigned to Innovation and Technology Policies as Mr. Tsang was the Chief Executive of Hong Kong between 2006 and 2012

Lei Shi (Macao University of Science and Technology)

Continuity or break with the past? A case study of Brexit

John Fossum (ARENA, University of Oslo)

Russell Solomon (RMIT University)

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Session 2Social Policy in the long term

Thursday, June 27th 08:00 to 10:00 (MB 5.265)

Discussants

Mauricio Olavarria-Gambi (University of Santiago, Chile)

Maria Velasco (UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID)

The Origins of Welfare Regime in Uruguay and Its Legacy during Leftist Governments (2005-2019)

Guillermo Fuentes (Universidad de la República)

Fabricio Carneiro (Instituto de Ciencia Política, Universidad de la República)

Challenges of long-term care of the elderly in XXI century: policy changes required

Virginija Poskute (ISM University of Management and Economics)

The End of Policy “Drift”? Policy making and Pension Reform in Canada, 2008-2016

Benjamin Christensen (Douglas College)

Physicians dissatisfaction with health reforms in Chile and the interpretation of their causes

Gustavo Rayo (Universidad de Talca)

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Session 3Policy Change in long term perspective

Thursday, June 27th 10:30 to 12:30 (MB 5.265)

Discussants

Mauricio Olavarria-Gambi (University of Santiago, Chile)

Gustavo Rayo (Universidad de Talca)

The incidence of history in policy-making: evolutionary and invisible change in early education policies in Uruguay (2014-2018)

María Mancebo (Universidad de la República)

Problem definition in time: historical perspective to observe problem formulation. Spanish tourism policy (1952-2015).

Maria Velasco (UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID)

The weaknesses of the Spanish institutional system under the light of the path dependence theory

José M. Ruano (Complutense University of Madrid)

The policy formulation process in the old Chilean Democracy

Mauricio Olavarria-Gambi (University of Santiago, Chile)