P08 / Uncertainty - a Certainty in Policy Implementation?

Topic : POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Chair : Tobias Eule (University of Bern)

Second Chair : Federica Infantino (IRD, URMIS)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

If the only thing that is certain is that nothing is certain - what does that mean for public administration?

This panel seeks to further our understanding of the role of uncertainty in public administration, with a particular focus on policy implementation. Many studies point to the existence of vague rules, ambiguous political messages, ever-changing structures and responsibilities as well as precarious funding. Uncertainty affects all levels, from policy making to organisations and individuals throughout government. Furthermore, we know that bureaucrats on all levels of public administration retain their autonomy through ambivalences created in the interstices between policy and practice. Finally, uncertainty is of particular relevance as it poses a significant challenge to more rational models of public policy in general and policy implementation in particular.In this panel, we invite contributions that seek to unpack this further.

We are particularly interested in *uncertainty as an organizing principle*, in the sense that it leads to organization and structuring. If uncertainty is a relatively stable given in organizations, then it should not only have disruptive, but also stabilising and transformative effects. Delving further into this seems particularly relevant during times of seemingly continuous crises, austerity measures, and policy innovation. Understanding uncertainty as an organizing principle might help us in understanding logics beyond certain events and cross-sectional perspectives.

CALL FOR PAPERS

What do bureaucrats do when they don't know what to do?

Scholars might have encountered situations in which uncertainty was particularly graspable during times of external or internal crisis (the 'European migration crisis', political upheavals, austerity measures, etc), in particular innovative, fast-changing or risk-prone policy areas, or indeed as a constant part of more 'routine' forms of bureaucracy.

We are particularly interested in uncertainty as an organizing principle, in the sense that it leads to organization and structuring. If uncertainty is a relatively stable given in organizations, then it should not only have disruptive, but also stabilising and transformative effects. Delving further into this seems particularly relevant during times of seemingly continuous crises, austerity measures, and policy innovation. Understanding uncertainty as an organizing principle might help us in understanding logics beyond certain events and cross-sectional perspectives.

We invite submissions that address different policy areas. Papers should include original empirical material and demonstrate an intention to contribute to furthering our theoretical understanding of street-level or front-line bureaucracy. Works in progress are welcome, as is a willingness to contribute to a Special Issue on this topic.

P08 / Uncertainty - a Certainty in Policy Implementation?

Chair : Tobias Eule (University of Bern)

Second Chair : Federica Infantino (IRD, URMIS)

Session 1Uncertainty, Implementation and Asylum

Friday, June 28th 10:30 to 12:30 (MB S1.430)

Discussants

Federica Infantino (IRD, URMIS)

The (un)deserving migrant? Differential administrative inclusion into the German welfare state

Nora Ratzmann (Institute of Advanced Sustainability Studies)

Three shades of strategic expertise: the role of lawyers in asylum procedures

Sule Tomkinson (Université Laval)

The institutionalization of the Israeli asylum system: bureaucratization through “bricolage” of a non-asylum policy

shira havkin (Sciences-Po Paris)

P08 / Uncertainty - a Certainty in Policy Implementation?

Chair : Tobias Eule (University of Bern)

Second Chair : Federica Infantino (IRD, URMIS)

Session 2

Friday, June 28th 14:00 to 16:00 (MB S1.430)

Discussants

Tobias Eule (University of Bern)

The Public Management Trilemma and the Case of Saskatchewan's Lean Management System: Adapting to Uncertainty Under Conditions of Crisis and Change

Giustino Garcea (Johnson Shoyama Graduated School of Public Policy (JSGS))

The Transformative Practices of Urban Intermediaries

Mark van Ostaijen (Tilburg University)

Coping with uncertainty at the frontline: the moderating role of trustworthiness assessments

Mathias Sabbe (Université de Liège)

Stéphane Moyson (Université Catholique de Louvain)

Nathalie Schiffino-Leclercq (Université catholique de Louvain)

Steven Van de Walle (Public Governance Institute, KU Leuven)

Experimentation, uncertainty, and policy learning in Canadian cultural policy

Kate Mattocks (Dalhousie University)