(Virtual) T07P22 / Institutions and Politics of Expert Advice and Policy Learning

Topic : T07 / POLICY DESIGN, POLICY ANALYSIS, EXPERTISE AND EVALUATION
Chair : Wei Li (Huazhong University of Science and Technology)
Second Chair : Hongmei Lu (Michigan Technological University)
Third Chair : Claire Dunlop (University of Exeter)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

The quality and public accountability of expert advice is important for effective government response to complex problems, as was already shown in recent pandemics. Smart institutional designs of producing and utilizing expert advice that can balance the public needs for transparent, inclusive and professionally independent advice are called for. The rhetoric of 'evidence-based policymaking' shall first and foremost be grounded on the understanding that 'evidence' is not norm-free nor politics-free. Instead, the scientific evidence itself has underlying beliefs and paradigms, which are shaped by the slowly evolving political, social and economic institutions. Similarly, policy learning of different actors in different contexts is also affected by institutional settings for evidence and expert advice, which may range from hierarchical learning to epidemic learning, from political learning to social learning.

This panel welcomes papers that investigates the following questions theoretically and/or empirically:

1. How to design the policy advisory institutions that can manage the tensions between scientific knowledge and value/interests?

2. How to design the policy advisory institutions that can cope with the potential clash between scientific knowledge and layperson's knowledge?

3. How to design the policy advisory institutions that will take into account the different preferences of policymakers, citizens and experts?

4. What are effective political strategies (e.g. inside and outside advocacy) for expert advisors from various organizations (e.g. think tanks, NGOs, government departments) to persuade policymakers to use the evidence?

5. What regime/country contexts account for variation in effective institutional design for producing and utilizing high quality expert advice and evidence?

References:

Soss, Joe. 1999. Lessons of Welfare: Policy Design, Political Learning and Political Action. American Political Science Review, 93(2):363-380.

Li, Wei. 2019. A Comparative Analysis of Expert Advisors' Role Perceptions in Policymaking: The Case of Hong Kong, China.

Li, Wei. 2019. Setting the Stage for Expert Advice? An Analysis of National Expert and Advisory Committees in China. China Policy Journal 1(2): 81-112.

Dunlop, Claire A. 2017. The irony of epistemic learning: epistemic communities, policy learning and the case of Europe's hormones saga. Policy and Society, May: 1-18.

CALL FOR PAPERS

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Session 1 MORNING SESSION, VIRTUAL;

Monday, July 5th 10:00 to 12:00 (Virtual 09)

(Virtual) AN ANALYSIS OF THE POLICY ALTERNATIVES TO CLOSE THE FISCAL GAP BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOURCES AND EXPENDITURES

CLAUDYN MARIE CAPARON (University of the Philippines Diliman)

(Virtual) Design and Learning Effects of China's Expert Advisory Committees

Wei Li (Huazhong University of Science and Technology)

(Virtual) Financialisation-induced economic inequality: synthesising heterodox traditions to inform policy formulation

Kuat Akizhanov (Academy of Public Administration)

(Virtual) Thinking inside the box: Is there potential for causality between a venue-shift and policy change?

Inke Torfs (Universiteit Gent)

Ellen Wayenberg (Universiteit Gent)

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Session 2AFTERNOON SESSION

Tuesday, July 6th 16:30 to 18:30 (Virtual 09)

(Virtual) Whither Policy Innovation? Lessons from Public Sector Innovation

Kidjie Saguin (University of Melbourne)

Mehmet Akif Demircioglu (National University of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy)

(Virtual) Learning from the people: Policy feedback, behaviors, preferences and policy alternatives

Lihi Lahat (Sapir Academic College, Israel/ Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies, Department of Political Science,Concordia University, Montreal.)

(Virtual) The effects of tourism flows in the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona

Montserrat Crespi-Vallbona (Universitat de Barcelona)

(Virtual) The Policy Learning Stream: Learning from experts during crises in multilevel governance settings

Bishoy Zaki (Universiteit Gent)

Ellen Wayenberg (Universiteit Gent)

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Session 3MORNING SESSION

Wednesday, July 7th 10:00 to 12:00 (Virtual 09)

(Virtual) Developing a new pluralism in participatory policy-making

Liz Richardson (University of Manchester)

Francesca Gains (University of Manchester)

(Virtual) The interplay of vertical and horizontal dimensions of the European transnational think tank field as the way to gain influence upon EU policy-making

Tatyana Bajenova (European University Institute)

(Virtual) What explains the diffusion of unpopular policies among Brazilian municipalities? An approach about the adoption of Special Zones of Social Interest (ZEIS) and the Public Concession of Building Rights (OODC).

LETICIA KLUG (UNIVERSITY OF BRASILIA - BRAZIL)

DENILSON BANDEIRA COELHO (University of Brasília)

(Virtual) How to design foresight to achieve policy learning? Evidence from two Belgian cases

Rafaël Ritondo (Université Catholique de Louvain)