(Virtual) P08 / Environmental Policy Styles in Developing Countries

Topic : GLOBAL WARMING, SDG, ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND POLICY

Chair : Srinivas Yerramsetti (KIMEP University, Kazakhstan)

Second Chair : Manish Anand (The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

Environmental concerns are becoming increasingly central to policymaking. They require remarkable coordination among different scientific fields, government agencies and scales of government, and government and non-government actors concerning environmental issues. The proposed online panel aims to improve understanding of environmental policy styles in Global South and from a South-North perspective, particularly in addressing collective action problems such as those with environmental challenges and sustainable development.

It may be argued that a “growth-mediated development” has led to improved human well-being with trends such as an increase in life expectancy, a reduction in the undernourished population, and an improvement in the number of people having access to basic health services and education (Sen, 2002)[1]. This, however, brings up the question of whether and how high economic growth can be reconciled to preserve natural resources for the upcoming generations. Recent times have seen several concerns about the future sustainability of economic growth, social upheavals, and environmental degradation patterns. Frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) bring to light two major challenges that highlight a normative dilemma in the trade-off between the need for high average annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth rates of 6-8% to reduce poverty and the speed of erosion of natural capital since economic growth is based on the use of natural resources. Because of the tension between economic and environmental priorities, development imperatives must integrate environmental issues with social and economic policies. In this regard, exploring environmental ‘policy style’ dynamics (Howlett & Tosun, 2021)[2] in the setting of developing countries across the institutional dimension (national policy styles, sectoral policy styles, and administrative and governance styles) and the process dimension (individual phases or stages of the policy cycle, including agenda setting, policy formulation, decision-making, implementation, and evaluation) would glean insights on how environmental issues are addressed and mainstreamed into the governance and policy-making framework.

The online panel elicits empirical research and theoretical frameworks on environmental governance to characterize styles of governance in different settings of the Global South and from a South-North perspective. The main questions supporting this aim are:

·What practices, infrastructure, and organizations shape environmental policy styles and governance in different locales?

·What historical, social, and cultural factors shape the development and environmental policy styles?

·How have global concerns about environmental equity and disparities shaped environmental policy styles in the Global South?

[1] Sen A K. (2002). Globalization, inequality and global protest, Development, 45(2): 11-16.

[2] Howlett, M., & Tosun, J. (Eds.). (2021). The Routledge handbook of policy styles. Routledge.

CALL FOR PAPERS

This panel only accepts online presentations.

This online panel invites papers that build on and extend many overlapping kinds of literature, promising a new understanding of environmental policy styles and governance in developing countries and a theoretical

framework for understanding governance and policy styles.

The online panel invites contributions delving into contemporary environmental challenges and sustainable development topics, focusing on various aspects of environmental governance, outcomes, and policy tools framed within a sectoral and multi-level intervention framework. Contributions to policy, rules, and norms that govern stakeholders' behavior and the roles of central and local government concerning environmental issues that promote and support sound science and policy advice for environmental decision-making are welcome. We invite high quality research work exploring how environmental policy styles is operationalised across a range of government levels and activities in the setting of developing countries with varying levels of capacities for dealing with environmental challenges. Contributions addressing who makes decisions, how decisions are made and carried out, the scientific information needed for decision-making, and how the public and major stakeholders can participate in the decision-making to regulate environmental challenges and sustainable development are invited. In addition, mainstreaming environmental sustainability in national development processes, more stakeholder and private sector participation in governance matters, and extensive regional cooperation allows for the sharing and scaling up. Adaptation of 'best practices and transboundary issues associated with environmental challenges and sustainability and the way forward supporting policy exchange and priority-setting for key environmental is elicited.

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Session 1

Tuesday, June 27th 13:30 to 15:30 (VIRTUAL 4)

(Virtual) Fisheries policies in Brazil: trajectories, changes, and interest groups between 1962 and 2022

Thaís Coutinho (Universidade de Brasília)

Mauro Guilherme Cappellaro (Center for Sustainable Development / University of Brasilia)

Leandra Gonçalves (Federal University of São Paulo)

Marine and inland fisheries and aquaculture have a crucial role in the food security, culture, and livelihoods of millions of people who depend on fisheries for income and essential nutrition. In Brazil, although fishing occupies an insignificant part of the national GDP, it has social, economic, and cultural importance, mainly for artisanal fishermen and vulnerable populations. Brazil has a history of negligence on fisheries management represented by institutional political instability, the poor implementation of public policies, and the lack of official data on the state of fish stocks. Assuming that the current scenario of national fishing is the result of decades of flawed public policies, we propose to conduct a historical analysis to understand how interest groups linked to industrial fishing and the instability of formal fishing institutions are related to the current scenario of the Brazilian fishing sector in which the pillars of sustainability are not present. We propose two causes that can explain the outcome: (C?) organized interest groups linked to industrial fishing and (C?) institutional instability. The C? was based on the theory of interest groups and on empirical evidence that public policies established for industrial fishing in the 60s, 70s, and 80s promoted the strengthening and organization of interest groups that began to act to influence the process of policy-making in favor of industrial fishing. The C? proposes that the instability of government fisheries institutions, observed from the second half of the 1990s, interfered with the policies necessary for its proper development. The research has a time frame between 1962 and 2022, which begins with the creation of a federal autarchy that was exclusively responsible for fisheries policies for more than two decades and ends with the last year of the far-right government elected in 2018. The concepts and theoretical models that guided the analysis in this research come from the tradition of Historical Institutionalism. We applied the congruence methodology as a case study investigation model that enabled us to make inferences about causal relationships. The initial results show evidence that interest groups linked to industrial fishing acted to influence the process of policy-making for the benefit of the industrial fishing sector throughout the period studied. These groups acted against policies aimed to restrict fishing for overexploited fish stocks, which began in the early 1990s, and to maintain subsidy policies for industrial fishing. Evidence shows that the institutional instability observed from the mid-1990s is possibly related to the action of these interest groups to reduce policies focused on the conservation and recovery of overfished stocks. The far-right government elected in 2018 initiated the dismantling of Brazilian environmental policies that included the removal of the federal environmental agencies from the fishing management and appointed a representative of industrial fishing as the head of the new department responsible for the fisheries sector. Understanding how these causes have contributed to the construction of the current scenario of Brazilian national fisheries can help plan a path for sustainable fisheries in the medium and long term.

(Virtual) Does governance shape policy process? Evidence from three environmental issues in India

Pradeep Guin (Jindal School of Government and Public Policy)

Rajeshwari Balasubramanian (niiti consulting pvt. Ltd)

Bhavayta Mahajan

Background: Good governance and policy implementation style is known to impact positively in solving

climate change-driven wicked problems. However, there is a dearth of empirical evidence from India on the role of governance in shaping the policy process related to climate change-driven environmental issues.
Introduction: Three concurrently occurring phenomenon, rural to urban migration, unplanned urban development, and climate change are posing a serious challenge to the urban population in India. The impact of climate change is not the same among all sections of this population. At the same time, the role of policy makers and implementers become essentially critical as they are tasked with proposing and implementing policy alternatives that are designed to address the challenges, both in an equitable and sustainable manner. However, India's continued dismal ranking (bottom 10 percentile) on the Environmental Performance Index (EPI), strongly indicates that the policies on environmental issues are not in sync with achieving the targets of Sustainable Development Goals. In 2022, India slipped to the bottom most position, ranked 180 in EPI, below all its neighbouring countries. One hypothesis for such poor performance on policies and related outcomes of environmental issues in the country could be due to poor level of governance.
This study aims to fill the existing lacunae in our understanding from the Indian context by investigating why governance of some environmental issues are relatively more effective in their policy process thereby producing desired outcomes. Equally significant to ask is: How do various indicators of governance shape and impact the course of policies on environmental issues? We investigate this through a systematic examination of three climate change-driven environmental issues from three Indian metropolises – extreme heat (Ahmedabad), air pollution (Delhi), and a vector-borne disease, dengue (Kolkata). Our analysis involves adaptation and application of seven governance indicators drawn from the United Nations (transparency, accountability, participation, responsiveness, rule of law, effectiveness, equity, and consensus oriented).
Data and method: Our method entails a two-pronged approach: one, based on data collected through extensive interviews of stakeholders, and second through the analyses of policy and process documents. We conducted 33 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) from various stakeholders within and outside of the government on all three environmental issues. Upon coding the interview data, we formulate a colour-coded matrix to analyse governance parameters and link its impact on the three environmental issues.
Results: Our study suggests that a difference in governance response often because of diversity in governance structures across three cities, in terms of levels of transparency, accountability, and involvement of diverse stakeholders result in variation in the overall policy process, including related outcome. Our analysis also highlights the importance of informality and gender-inclusivity as two important governance indicators that shape policies on environmental issues. The level of integrating multiple layers of diverse voices in decision-making is relatively linear in Ahmedabad and Kolkata, as against Delhi due to the complex nature of governance. Overall, better performance of governance indicators in Ahmedabad has created a sustainable and effective policy process, which both Kolkata and Delhi could emulate.

(Virtual) Window Dressing in China's Environmental Protection: Does Political Leaders' Inspection Tour Alleviate Local Air Pollution?

Liuyang He (LKY School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore)

The paper examines whether and how top political leaders' inspection tours influenced the local air quality by examining the political ties – either direct or indirect – between central political elites and the prefecture-level leading cadres. In the face of increasing evidence of the adverse effects of pollution on human health and mounting public demand for cleaner air, the Chinese central government has declared a "War on Pollution." Since 2013, the government has rolled out a series of measures to address air pollution through stronger enforcement, tightened technical standards, and industrial restructuring. The highest political leadership showed an unprecedentedly strong political will against environmental pollution. Against this background, I generated the hypothesis that the tighter the local leaders' personal connection with President Xi, the better the air quality would be improved during the inspection tours. This is because "ecological civilization" was one highlighted plank raised by President Xi, who treated environmental protection, especially air pollution control, as one of the most urgent policy issues to be addressed in his administration. Local leaders are expected to seriously treat pollution control as a sign of political loyalty to the top leader to get the chance of promotion. Therefore, I raised the following research questions: Do President Xi Jinping and other top leaders' inspection tours improve the local air quality? Do tighter political ties between political elites and the prefecture-level leading cadres lead to better air quality improvements during the president's inspection tours? What are the implications of political loyalty on policy implementation and political loyalty? By answering these questions, I aim to reveal a hidden rationale behind China's local environmental policy implementation and shed light on similar cases in other developing countries.

The unit of analysis of this paper is the city in China. Panel data from 385 cities from 2014 to 2020 have been collected. The data on inspection tours are obtained from people.cn "Report on Leaders' Activities." Air Quality Index (AQI) and air pollutants data are aggregated from the base station. The bio of local cadres is collected from publicly available resumes. The independent variables are the dates Xi Jinping (and other

politburo members) visited certain cities and the degree of political connection between the prefecture party and executive heads with Xi, which is measured by mutual birthplace, education, working, and overseas experience and membership of specific organizations, i.e., the faction (Li, 2005; Li, 2007). Propensity score matching and DID are used as empirical strategies.