

T20P02 / Legitimate crisis governance in multi-level settings

Topic : T20 / GOVERNING CRISIS

Chair : Dimiter Toshkov (Leiden University)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

Legitimate crisis governance in multi-level settings

When a crisis hits, governments need to rapidly enact responses that are effective and legitimate. Yet, the legitimacy of these policies is not easy to acquire, as the measures often entail restrictions on the personal freedoms and liberties of citizens. Legitimacy is a crucial asset for governments to possess during crises (Boin, 't Hart and McConnell 2021), but it is one that is increasingly difficult to retain as a crisis progresses.

The challenges of legitimate crisis responses are only compounded when governments have to deal with transboundary crises that have differential impact throughout their territory. A transboundary crisis (Blondin & Boin, 2020; Boin, 2019; Wolbers et al., 2021) is not restricted to one single and clearly defined geographical location, but transcends jurisdictional boundaries and impacts different towns, regions, and communities in diverging ways (Ansell et al., 2010).

A transboundary crisis with territorially-differentiated impact, such as the recent COVID-19 pandemic, presents governments with difficult trade-offs between security and liberty, but also between tailored policy responses and equality. Such crises also raise important questions as to the proper level of government that should lead the response. Countries around the world differ markedly in the territorial organization of power, and the multi-level governance arrangements can have significant consequences for how states deal with crises, and how their citizens perceive the legitimacy of different measures enacted by different levels of government. Most complex crises involve interactions between local, regional, national, supranational and global levels of governance. But we know relatively little about the effects of multi-level governance arrangements and the interactions between governance levels on crisis management and the legitimacy of crisis policies in particular.

The purpose of this panel is to collect contributions to the study of crisis management with a focus on legitimacy, as an outcome of interest, and multi-level governance, broadly construed as the arrangements related to the territorial and functional distribution of power in states (Marks et al. 2008), as a set of potential explanatory factors. The panel will increase our understanding of the factors that can produce effective and legitimate crisis responses. It will shed light on how institutions shape crisis responses, what citizens expect from different governments in crisis situations, and what measures can ensure compliance and acceptance. In this way, the panel will advance the academic literatures on crisis management, on multi-level governance and on legitimacy (Schoon 2022, Brummel & de Blok, 2024, De Fine Licht et al., 2022). In addition, it has the potential to deliver actionable insights that can improve the practice of crisis management.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Legitimate crisis governance in multi-level settings

When a crisis hits, governments need to rapidly enact responses that are effective and legitimate. Yet, the legitimacy of these policies is not easy to acquire, as the measures often entail restrictions on the personal freedoms and liberties of citizens. This is even more the case for transboundary crises with territorially-differentiated impact, such as the recent COVID-19 pandemic, which present governments with difficult trade-offs between security and liberty, but also between tailored policy responses and equality.

The way governments deal with these trade-offs, and transboundary crises more generally, is shaped by the way power is distributed territorially and functionally within states. These multi-level governance arrangements differ markedly between countries around the world. Moreover, complex crises involve interactions between local, regional, national, supranational and global levels of governance.

The purpose of this panel is to collect contributions to the study of crisis management with a focus on legitimacy, as an outcome of interest, and multi-level governance, broadly construed as the arrangements related to the territorial and functional distribution of power in states, as a set of potential explanatory

factors.

We invite conceptual, theoretical and empirical papers that study the legitimacy of crises responses in general and in the context of specific crises, such as pandemics, natural disasters, and others. We are interested in comparative analyses, as well as in in-depth case studies of particular cities, provinces, countries or regions. We are open to various methodologies, from survey experiments of legitimacy perceptions to institutional analysis to process-tracing case studies of particular government policies. Contributions should reflect on how multi-level arrangements, such as federalism, decentralization, coordination mechanisms, etc. affect (or not) the way government deal with crises and what impact this has (or not) on legitimacy.

T20P02 / Legitimate crisis governance in multi-level settings

Chair : Dimitar Toshkov (Leiden University)

Session 1 The role of the state and its organizations

Thursday, July 3rd 08:00 to 10:00 (C5)

Restructuring Government in Crisis: Evidence from European Ministerial Changes, 1980-2025

Brendan Carroll (Leiden University)

Kutsal Yesilkagit (Leiden University)

(Virtual) Navigating a 'Crisis': Evolving Role of State in Governing Dam Safety in India

Ayushi Jain (Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay)

Non-Member, Active Player: Norway's Role in NATO-EU Crisis Management during the Ukraine Conflict

Sjoerd de Winter (University of Bergen)

Missing voices in the eradication of invasive alien pests: A crisis of legitimacy or a necessity?

Lain Dare (University of Canberra)

T20P02 / Legitimate crisis governance in multi-level settings

Chair : Dimiter Toshkov (Leiden University)

Session 2 COVID-19 responses

Thursday, July 3rd 10:15 to 12:15 (C5)

Stronger Conditionality for Stronger Compliance? Analyzing the NGEU's Effect on the Implementation of European Semester Recommendations

Igor Guardiancich (SPGI - Università di Padova)

Enrico Borghetto (Università degli Studi di Firenze)

From Crisis Management to Legitimate Crisis Governance in Multi-level Systems of Governance

Dimiter Toshkov (Leiden University)

Kutsal Yesilkagit (Leiden University)

COVID-19 and Political Trust: A Study of Government Performance and Information Dissemination

Yuen Vera (University of Hong Kong)

EU crises management during pandemics: a systemic intermediation approach

Thomas Lange (IU - International University of Applied Sciences)

T20P02 / Legitimate crisis governance in multi-level settings

Chair : Dimitar Toshkov (Leiden University)

Session 3 Other issues

Thursday, July 3rd 16:00 to 18:00 (C5)

Crisis Management and Emergency Powers: Understanding the Migrant Crisis in New York City

Edwin Grimsley (Baruch College)

A Big Bang: The Impact of the 2015 Tianjin Explosion on Public Support

Qingqing Shi (Tsinghua University)

Xufeng Zhu (Tsinghua University)

UK Trade Policy Vacuum: The Rise of Devolved Trade Policies following the Brexit Shock

Lindsey Garner-Knapp (University of Sussex)

Climate Change in Uttarakhand: Analysing Crisis Response Through Post-disaster Governance Mechanism

Tulika Bourai (Birla Institute of Technology and Science Pilani, Pilani Campus)

SAILAJA NANDIGAMA (Birla Institute of Technology and Science)

Aviram Sharma (Universidad de Vigo)