P135 / European integration meets public policy: Applying policy analysis approaches to post-pandemic socioeconomic breakthroughs

Topic : Crises, Risks and Wicked Problems

Chair : DAVID NATALI (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna)

Second Chair : Igor Guardiancich (SPGI - Università di Padova)

Third Chair : Andrea Terlizzi (Università degli Studi di Firenze)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

This panel invites papers that engage with the theoretical intersection between European integration and public policy studies, with a particular focus on the application of policy analysis concepts (related to governance, crises management, policy cycles, policy design and other analytical tools) and policy process theories to the post-pandemic socioeconomic regulation, coordination and redistribution breakthroughts.

While the last years have seen policy studies that focus on the EU, the synergy between the different strands of the literature is still partial and need of more dialogue. Policy studies are increasingly involved in the analysis of the European integration, but such involvement could be more coordinated and supportive of the accumulation of knowledge in this area. The panel aims at contributing to such advancement through a typical multi-disciplinary and methodologically eclectic perspective.

Key research questions at the cross road of policy and EU studies are often related to:

- the question of stability and change (both in institutional and policy terms) of the EU;

- the capacity of the latter to progress through crises (with the usual reference to polycrisis and permacrisis and the room for integration/disintegration);

- the evolution of the EU administrative and institutional capacity in the context of a compound polity (with reference to regulation, redistribution, and coordination;

- and to the role of single level of governance, e.g. supra-national, national, regional, local).

Some policy studies have also proved the potential to contribute to the theoretical debate on the role of functionalism, post-functionalism, intergovernmentalism, neo-institutionalism, and the governance approach. The latter are used to shed light on the EU as a compound polity: a decentralized, multi-level political system - where sovereignty and authority are shared between a central or supranational framework and distinct constituent units - that sees persistent (if not growing) challenges to address crises and complex policy problems in a changing political context.

CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite students, early-career researchers, and experienced scholars to submit manuscripts on the theme of EU integration and public policy studies. We welcome papers employing diverse methodologies—quantitative analyses, case studies, process tracing, analytic narratives, and comparative designs—as well as contributions from various disciplinary perspectives applied to European Integration, including political science, sociology, economics, and law, provided they explicitly apply the theoretical, analytical, and/or conceptual toolkit of policy analysis. Comparative studies involving non-European cases are also encouraged.

Papers should be based on strong theoretical and/or analytical and/or conceptual frameworks to contribute to solid and rigorous research on the EU and its capacity to address crises and policy problems.

We particularly welcome contributions that:

- Investigate the European Semester and its evolving role after Next Generation EU;

- Examine the influence of path-dependent and path-breaking elements of NGEU onteh future of EU governance;

- Analyse the innovative elements of the recast Stability and Growth Pact;

- Explore the implications of the ongoing negotiations for the new Multiannual Financial Framework;

- Analyse the new instruments and developments of a nascent EU industrial policy;

- Take stock of the progresses and limitations in the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR);

- Investigate the institutional and socioeconomic consequences of the war in Ukraine on EMU and its governance instruments;

- Explore the EU’s adaptation to external pressures, particularly those arising from the Trump administration’s trade and security agenda;

- Analyse the implications of rising transatlantic tensions for EU fiscal integration and policy coordination;

- Consider how the EU navigates the balance between strategic autonomy and economic interdependence in a fragmented global order;

- Reflect on the future prospects of the EU and its input, throughput and output legitimacy.

Contributions could be included in future collective publications that aim at supporting research at the intersection between policy studies and European integration studies.