P22 / From Risk Assessment to Protection: Data, Technology and Intersectoral Governance in Policies Addressing Violence Against Women

Topic : Equity, Gender, Inclusion and the Diversity in Public Policy

Chair : Daiane Menezes (Government of the State of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil))

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

Violence against women poses a complex public policy challenge that requires governments to identify risks, coordinate multiple institutions and provide timely and appropriate protection. Yet public responses often remain fragmented across police, justice, social services, health and other sectors. Risk assessment tools have increasingly been adopted to support professional decision-making and prioritize cases, while digital technologies and integrated information systems create new possibilities for case management, monitoring and interagency coordination. However, evidence on how these instruments translate into effective protection remains fragmented, particularly regarding the institutional and governance conditions required for their successful implementation.

The literature on violence against women has increasingly emphasized structured risk assessment, multi-agency responses and coordinated interventions. International experiences such as Spain's VioGén system and risk-management approaches developed in the United Kingdom illustrate different ways of connecting risk classification, information systems and institutional coordination. At the same time, growing use of digital platforms, data integration and artificial intelligence raises questions concerning governance, accountability, privacy, professional discretion and the adaptation of technological solutions to different institutional contexts.

Against this background, the panel asks: Under what institutional and governance conditions can risk assessment, integrated data systems and intersectoral coordination improve public responses to violence against women?

The panel will explore four complementary hypotheses. First, risk assessment is more likely to improve protection when embedded in integrated governance arrangements rather than used as an isolated screening instrument. Second, the effectiveness of risk-based approaches depends on the capacity to transform assessment data into actionable information that can support coordinated decisions across institutions. Third, risk classification is more likely to produce meaningful protection when connected to clear referral protocols, case management and intersectoral decision-making. Fourth, the effectiveness of international models depends on institutional adaptation rather than straightforward policy or technological transfer.

The panel will bring together comparative, empirical and theoretical contributions addressing these questions. It will draw, among other experiences, on the emerging case of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, where the government is developing an integrated system combining risk assessment, information management, case follow-up and coordination across the protection network, informed by international experiences including the VioGén model in Spain. The discussion will also benefit from international academic and policy collaboration, including engagement with the London School of Economics and Political Science.

The panel aims to advance the debate on how governments can move from risk identification to coordinated protection, contributing to research on evidence-based policy, digital government, policy implementation and intersectoral governance.

CALL FOR PAPERS

This panel invites theoretical, empirical and comparative papers examining how governments assess, manage and respond to risks associated with violence against women. We particularly welcome research that connects risk assessment with broader questions of policy design, implementation, governance, data, institutional capacity and intersectoral coordination. The panel is interested not only in how risks are identified, but also in how risk information is transformed into coordinated decisions, referrals, interventions and mechanisms of protection.

Papers may examine national, regional or local policies and may adopt qualitative, quantitative,

mixed-methods, comparative or theoretical approaches. Contributions addressing different institutional, administrative and policy contexts are especially encouraged, as the panel seeks to understand how models of risk management operate across countries and administrative systems, and how international experiences can be adapted to local institutional realities.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

• Risk assessment: development, validation, implementation and use of structured risk assessment tools, including questions of reliability, professional judgment, risk classification and reassessment over time;

• Comparative models: VioGén, DASH, SARA and other approaches to risk assessment and management, including their institutional design, governance arrangements, effectiveness and adaptation across different contexts;

• Intersectoral governance: coordination among police, justice, social services, health, education and other public agencies, including mechanisms for shared decision-making, referral, case management and continuity of protection;

• Data and digital government: integrated information systems, case management platforms, data sharing, interoperability and digital infrastructures designed to support prevention, protection, monitoring and coordinated responses;

• Artificial intelligence and emerging technologies: opportunities, limitations, accountability and ethical challenges associated with the use of artificial intelligence, predictive or data-driven tools in risk identification, decision support and public service delivery;

• Policy implementation: institutional capacity, professional discretion, organizational change, frontline practices, implementation gaps and the organizational conditions required for risk-based approaches to produce effective responses;

• Data governance and rights: privacy, data protection, information security, accountability, transparency, proportionality and the governance of highly sensitive personal information;

• Policy evaluation: effectiveness, outcomes, unintended consequences, equity and evaluation of risk-based interventions, including the relationship between risk classification and concrete protection outcomes;

• International policy transfer and learning: how international models, technologies and institutional arrangements are transferred, adapted and reconfigured across different political, legal, cultural and administrative contexts;

• Integrated protection systems: institutional arrangements that connect risk assessment, information management, case follow-up, referral mechanisms and coordinated action across the protection network;

• Evidence-based public policy: the use of administrative data, research evidence and monitoring systems to improve policy design, resource allocation, prioritization and decision-making in responses to violence against women.

The panel particularly encourages papers that examine the conditions under which risk assessment moves beyond the identification of risk to become part of a broader system of coordinated protection. Contributions may explore how assessment information is translated into actionable intelligence, how institutions share responsibility for high-risk cases, and how referral protocols, case management and intersectoral decision-making can strengthen continuity of care and protection.

We also welcome research critically examining the relationship between technological innovation and institutional governance. Digital systems and artificial intelligence may increase the capacity of governments to integrate information and support professional decision-making, but they also raise important questions regarding accountability, transparency, privacy, professional discretion, bias and the appropriate limits of automated decision support.

Particular attention will be given to comparative and context-sensitive contributions that question the assumption that successful international models can simply be transferred from one jurisdiction to another. Papers may therefore examine how institutional capacity, legal frameworks, organizational arrangements, professional cultures and existing protection networks shape the implementation and outcomes of risk-based approaches.

We particularly encourage papers that connect research and practice and that critically examine the conditions under which risk assessment, integrated data systems and data-driven approaches can contribute to effective, equitable, timely and coordinated protection. The panel aims to foster dialogue between academic research and public policy practice, advancing understanding of how governments can move from risk identification to integrated action and, ultimately, to more effective responses to violence against women.