

T03W18 / The Construction of Public Problems: When Emotions Transform Territorial Policy

Topic : T03 / Wicked Problem and Agenda Setting

Chair : Nathalie Burlone (University of Ottawa)

Second Chair : Anne Mevellec (University of Ottawa)

CALL FOR PAPERS

The workshop focuses on the role of emotions as an agent of policy change. More specifically, it will explore the function of emotional intensity in the construction and transformation of public problems and their treatment by public authorities. While studies on the role of emotions are rather abundant when it comes to studying political behavior, little research can be found from a policy perspective. Nonetheless, a new literature that seeks to shed light on public policy through emotional inputs is emerging, also known as the “affective turn” present in several social science disciplines such as geography (Anderson and Smith, 2001; Bondi, Davidson and Smith, 2005), political science (Brader, 2011; Marcus, 2002) or sociology of collective action (Aminzade and McAdam, 2001; Latté, 2015; Groenendyk, 2011). The workshop theme is guided by the general research question of **how do emotions participate in the construction and transformation of territorial public problems?** The role of emotions in public policy can be seen as central to the problematization process because of its association with values and beliefs. These generate reactions, either underreaction or overreaction (Maor, 2016), which in turn contribute to the transformation of public problems. Through the contributors’ work, we intend to explore how citizens’ emotional reactions to specific events transform certain public issues into public problems, both in nature and scope.

The workshop has three objectives: 1) examining how the emotional dimensions in the public policy process fit into current theoretical discussions in political science and public administration; 2) generating knowledge on the emotional construction of public problems with an important territorial dimension. This will fill gaps in urban and regional public policy literature, while at the same time creating more explicit links between public policy analysis and urban and regional studies; 3) working toward submitting a special issue for publication in *Policy and Society*.

Papers submitted are expected to explore the contribution of emotional input in the construction and transformation of public problems through case studies or theoretical reflections on existing approaches to public problems. Papers focusing on methodological considerations linked to the study of emotions in public policy are also welcome. Although open to other levels of analysis, the workshop will prioritize contributions at the territorial scale as a relevant, accessible and relatively underexplored laboratory for observation and analysis. Indeed, although it would make it possible to better understand the narration of local and regional policy issues, very few studies focus their analysis on the emotional dimensions that shape local and regional public policies. The territorial angle helps to delineate an otherwise very broad topic. This workshop will provide an opportunity to engage in a discussion with both public policy analysis and urban and territorial studies to document the inescapable link between public problems, emotions, and territory. It is meant to be a place for international and multisectoral exchanges.

ABSTRACT

The workshop focuses on the role of emotions as an agent of policy change. More specifically, it will explore the function of emotional intensity in the construction and transformation of public problems and their treatment by public authorities. While studies on the role of emotions are rather abundant when it comes to studying political behavior, little research can be found from a policy perspective. Nonetheless, also known as the “affective turn” present in several social science disciplines, a new literature that seeks to shed light on public policy through emotional inputs is emerging. The workshop theme is guided by the general research question of **how do emotions participate in the construction and transformation of territorial public problems?** Through the contributors’ work, we intend to explore how citizens’ emotional reactions to specific events transform certain public issues into public problems, both in nature and scope. Although open to other levels of analysis, the workshop will prioritize contributions at the territorial scale as a relevant, accessible and relatively underexplored laboratory for observation and analysis. Indeed, although it would make it possible to better understand the narration of local and regional policy issues, very few studies focus their analysis on the emotional dimensions that shape local and regional public policies. The territorial angle

helps to delineate an otherwise very broad topic. This workshop will provide an opportunity to engage in a discussion with both public policy analysis and urban and territorial studies to document the inescapable link between public problems, emotions, and territory.

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Session 1

Tuesday, June 26th 10:15 to 12:15 (Posvar Hall - 4600A)

Discussants

Camille Collin (SciencesPo Paris, doctoral school)

Trauma, Emotion and Policy: A Meta-ethnography

Bethany Waterhouse-Bradley (Ulster University)

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Session 2

Tuesday, June 26th 13:45 to 17:00 (Posvar Hall - 4600A)

Discussants

Anne Mevellec (University of Ottawa)

Renaud Hourcade (CNRS)

Empathy, Anger and Identity: Constructing Citizenship Through Health Care Policy

Vandna Bhatia (Carleton University)

The Fear of Losing Control: Belonging, Regulatory Populism, and Local Policies of Social Inclusion in the Czech Republic

Karel Cada (University of Economics Prague)

Lucie Trlifajova

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Session 3

Wednesday, June 27th 09:00 to 12:15 (Posvar Hall - 4600A)

Discussants

Bethany Waterhouse-Bradley (Ulster University)

Karel Cada (University of Economics Prague)

Citizen activism, conservative views & mega planning in a digital era

Karen Trapenberg Frick (UC Berkeley, Department of City and Regional Planning)

When the past becomes a problem: Nantes' memory of slavery and the local politics of emotions

Renaud Hourcade (CNRS)

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Session 4

Wednesday, June 27th 13:45 to 17:00 (Posvar Hall - 4600A)

Discussants

Karen Trapenberg Frick (UC Berkeley, Department of City and Regional Planning)

Vandna Bhatia (Carleton University)

Flushing, Bottling, Skiing: Bringing Emotions Back in Local Problems

Nathalie Burlone (University of Ottawa)

Anne Mevellec (University of Ottawa)

A land for the grieving

Camille Collin (SciencesPo Paris, doctoral school)

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Session 5 Conclusion and planning of a special issue for publication (9h30-11h30)

Thursday, June 28th 09:00 to 12:15 (Posvar Hall - 4600A)

Discussants

Nathalie Burlone (University of Ottawa)

Anne Mevellec (University of Ottawa)

Conclusion and planning of a special issue for publication (9h30-11h30)

Nathalie Burlone (University of Ottawa)

Anne Mevellec (University of Ottawa)