W01 / Defining Policy Success and Failure as Evaluation Challenges. Focusing on outcomes: Blessing or a curse for policymakers?

Topic : Policy Design, Evaluation, Policy Analysis

Chair : Erica Melloni (Universitas Mercatorum)

Second Chair : Robert Shepherd (Carleton University)

Third Chair : Giancarlo Vecchi (Politecnico di Milano)

Fourth Chair : Dominika Wojtowicz (Kozminski University)

CALL FOR PAPERS

The workshop aims to gather contributions and experiences of public policy evaluation scholars who have addressed critical issues about the relationship between programmes, the evaluation of policy success and failures and the capacity of evaluation as a field to provide relevant policy advice with useful information to citizens and stakeholder groups. In particular, the workshop would receive papers discussing the following research questions:

- How does policy coherence (or the lack thereof) affect policy implementation in complex governance structures?

- What are the risks inherent in understanding policy outcomes that focus mainly on policy aims at the expense of implementation?

- What are the consequences of evaluation-policy process dysfunctions in terms of methodological choices, evaluation policy process, and relevance of evaluation findings for citizens and other stakeholder groups?

- Are there epistemological questions, approaches and solutions to cope with these challenges?

- Are there evaluation strategies and tools, including AI-based analytical instruments, able to mitigate or strengthen these relationships and challenges?

- How do policy makers and policy advisors take into account and overcome these challenges? Are there systemic approaches being considered over episodic ones?

ABSTRACT

Outcome measures are required to assess a policy and program’s effectiveness and to improve its accountability. The focus on the ‘end’ results challenges policy makers and civil servants from the achievement of performance results to purposiveness of public action. In other words, the outcomes’ perspective entails a judgement of success or failure of action. The shift towards outcomes has been welcomed by the evaluation community. Notwithstanding, shortcomings emerge in day-to-day evaluation practice, making the role of policy advice challenging, as well as the communication with the stakeholder groups. Starting from the public policy debate on policy success and failure, the workshop underlines the need to bridge policy evaluation with the findings of policy process studies. The workshop aims to gather contributions and experiences of public policy evaluation scholars who have addressed critical issues about the relationship between programmes, the evaluation of policy success and failures, and the capacity of evaluation to provide relevant policy advice with useful information for citizens and stakeholder groups.

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Session 1Introduction and first round of debate

Wednesday, June 26th 10:15 to 12:00 (AULA 16)

Discussants

Dominika Wojtowicz (Kozminski University)

SIMONE BUSETTI (Politecnico di Milano)

Assessing Performance Management Policies: A Comparative Perspective

Robert Shepherd (Carleton University)

Nadini Persaud (University of the West Indies, Cave Hill)

The Limits of Impact Evaluation in Multi-level Governance Contexts: The Case of Justice Reform in Italy Post-Covid-19

Erica Melloni (Universitas Mercatorum)

Giancarlo Vecchi (Politecnico di Milano)

Systematic literature review of public policy evaluation and monitoring structures adopted in the Federal and States Comptrollerships

Tiago Araujo (Universidade Federal da Bahia)

LUIZA TEIXEIRA (Universidade Federal da Bahia)

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Session 2Second round of debate

Wednesday, June 26th 14:00 to 17:15 (AULA 16)

Discussants

Erica Melloni (Universitas Mercatorum)

Robert Shepherd (Carleton University)

Success of Risk Management and Reduction Policies: A Comparative Perspective between Mexico City and Quito

Jonathan Menoscal (FLACSO Ecuador)

(Virtual) Evaluation Methods and Strategies for Policy Integration: A Case Study of the Department of Planning of the Ministry of Education and Bilingual 2030 in Taiwan

Yi-Hua Lai (Soochow University)

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Session 3Third round of debate

Thursday, June 27th 09:00 to 12:15 (AULA 16)

Discussants

Giancarlo Vecchi (Politecnico di Milano)

Ana de Alba (Tecnologico de Monterrey, Mexico)

Bridging the Gap: Exploring Synergies Between Serious Games and Policy Evaluation in Food Policy

Dominika Wojtowicz (Kozminski University)

Tomasz Kupiec (University of Warsaw)

Karol Olejniczak (SWPS University)

Evaluating local food security policy: what is the impact?

Simone Busetti (University of Teramo)

Alessandra Orsini (Universitá degli Studi di Teramo)

Lorenzo Pagni (University of Teramo)

(Virtual) Who gets what? Revisiting Policy Choices and Implications in Social Benefit Distribution

Ana de Alba (Tecnologico de Monterrey, Mexico)

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Session 4Final roundtable

Thursday, June 27th 14:00 to 17:15 (AULA 16)

Discussants

Erica Melloni (Universitas Mercatorum)
Dominika Wojtowicz (Kozminski University)

Discussion and prospective projects

Erica Melloni (Universitas Mercatorum)
Dominika Wojtowicz (Kozminski University)