W11 / The Politics of Governing Crises: Understanding the Complex Linkage between Crises and Policy Processes

Topic : Policy Process, Policy Making

Chair : Giliberto Capano (Università di Bologna)

Second Chair : Philippe Zittoun (ENTPE - LAET - University of Lyon)

CALL FOR PAPERS

We would like to discuss different types of dynamics of ‘governing crises’ and how the definition of crises is not separable from the political definition of how to govern. Thus, we would like to focus on the political and policy dynamics dialectic as follows:

1. How policy-makers govern in a crisis. Ship captains navigate through a storm and have to decide if the storm will incur either dramatic or insignificant damage to their ship, and thus they have to interpret the storm and decide how to govern the ship. Captains must factor in the weather and eventually make the decision to either wait for the storm to pass or adopt a more proactive strategy. The same applies to policy-makers when they perceive a crisis as a temporary event. In this case, they will govern the crisis according to two strategies:

- If they think that the crisis effects will be not relevant, they adopt the usual frameworks of understanding and thus interpret the crisis as a normal event that can be dealt with without having to make any new decisions or policy instruments in particular. They wait until the storm passes, relying on the usual public policies to absorb the shock of the crisis.

- If they think that the crisis will result in serious socio-political and policy damage, they will define the crisis according to a new cognitive framework and will thus design new measures to combat it.

2. How policy-makers govern by crisis. This occurs when the crisis is defined as a more structural phenomenon and a test of legitimacy issue that structures responses in the form of reforms and projects shaping a new future. The crisis becomes an opportunity for those in power. As Rham Emanuel, a former mayor of Chicago, said, ‘You never want a serious crisis to go to waste. And what I mean by that is an opportunity to do things you could not do before’. Thus, the crisis becomes an event that can accelerate existing but still undeveloped or minoritarian policy frameworks or allow the introduction of new policy solutions.

We welcome papers on both the theoretical and empirical sides of the discussion.

From the theoretical side, we would like to receive papers’ proposals that focus on the following:

1. Defining crises in terms of related political and policy dynamics.

2. Clarifying the different dimensions between crises and policy makers’ reactions in terms of framing and goals.

3. Reviewing the literature in social sciences and crisis management to find possible common definitions and concepts for analysing the government of crises.

From the empirical side, we would like to receive papers’ proposals that focus on the following:

3. Analyses of the political and policy dynamics of specific crises.

4. The ways in which policy makers choose to frame crises and accordingly design policies.

5. The ideational and contextual drivers of the politics of governing crises.

6. The processes through which crises activates critical junctures and the subsequent political and policy outcomes.

ABSTRACT

In this workshop, instead of exploring crisis and policy processes separately, we would like to shed light on new perspectives through the complex dialectic between crises and political/policy dynamics by focusing on the way in which crises are defined or re-defined by policy-makers as they formulate their proposal, define their role, claim their legitimacy and prove the effectiveness of their policy.

Thus, we would like to deepen the link between how policy-makers try to shape the meaning of crises and

how they design their policies as responses to these crises. We hold that policy-makers can either govern the crisis in different ways and according to different frames, or they can govern by the crisis, by using critical events as opportunities for innovating not only policies but also the political dynamics. Therefore, this workshop calls for the contributions of not only policy scholars but also of political scientists, and experts in crisis management to bridge these scientific fields and increase our comprehension of the political and policy sides of crises in the contemporary world.

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Session 1Theories and Concepts on Crisis

Wednesday, June 26th 10:15 to 12:00 (AULA 22)

Discussants

Lydie Cabane (Leiden University)

Introduction

Philippe Zittoun (ENTPE - LAET - University of Lyon)
Giliberto Capano (Università di Bologna)

The many faces of crises: a response-oriented classification proposal

Stefania Profeti (Università di Bologna)

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Session 2Crisis as an opportunity to structural reform

Wednesday, June 26th 14:00 to 17:15 (AULA 22)

Discussants

H. Tolga Bolukbasi (Bilkent University)

Arya Pillai (Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati)

Conceptualising the crisis state: what does the normalisation of crisis do to governance and the policy process?

Lydie Cabane (Leiden University)

How do crises affect policy processes and change? A systematic literature review

Laura Mastroianni (Università di Bologna)

A comparative analysis of the formulation of National Recovery and Resilience Plans: Domestic 'usages' of Europe

Igor Guardiancich (SPGI - Università di Padova)

Enrico Borghetto (Università degli Studi di Firenze)

(Virtual) Crisis as a Juncture: An Analysis of the Policy Landscape of Dam Safety in India

Ayushi Jain (Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay)

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Session 3Crisis as change of relationship between Policymakers

Thursday, June 27th 09:00 to 12:15 (AULA 22)

Discussants

Igor Guardiancich (SPGI - Università di Padova)

Ayushi Jain (Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay)

POLITICS OF GOVERNING BY CRISES: CO-CONSTRUCTING IMF CONDITIONALITY IN CENTRAL BANKING REFORM IN TURKEY

H. Tolga Bolukbasi (Bilkent University)

Assessing the Impact of Crisis on Policy Change : Examination of the Advocacy coalition framework f

Arya Pillai (Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati)

Sanchayan Nath (XLRI, Delhi NCR Campus, India)

City hall under pressure – how crises impact politico-administrative relations on the local level of government

Nicolai De Wulf (Universiteit Gent)

How governments cope with crisis in cooperative multilevel governance systems: Polarizing and stabilizing forms of blame avoidance

Céline Honegger (University of Bern)

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Session 4Crisis as an opportunity for Policy Innovation

Thursday, June 27th 14:00 to 17:15 (AULA 22)

Discussants

Catarina Segatto (Universidade de São Paulo)

Camila Nastari Fernandes (Federal University of São Paulo)

Conceptualizing Interorganizational Crisis Networks: Climate-Related Emergencies as Illustrations

Carlos Bravo-Laguna (Leiden University)

Data, frames, and decision-making in Brazil’s subnational context

Catarina Segatto (Universidade de São Paulo)

Fernanda Lima-Silva (Universidade de São Paulo)

Navigating crisis: innovations, resilience, and governance in Brazil's social policies during the COVID-19 pandemic

Camila Nastari Fernandes (Federal University of São Paulo)

Rogerio Schlegel (Federal University of São Paulo)

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Session 5Crisis as an opportunity for Policy Innovation

Friday, June 28th 09:00 to 12:15 (AULA 22)

Discussants

Nicolai De Wulf (Universiteit Gent)

Rogerio Schlegel (Federal University of São Paulo)

Governing crisis in Latin America during COVID-19 pandemic: State capacities, leadership, and policy-making

Nelson Cardozo (Universidad Argentina de la Empresa)

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Session 6

Friday, June 28th 14:00 to 16:00 (AULA 22)

Conclusions and Prospective

Giliberto Capano (Università di Bologna)

Philippe Zittoun (ENTPE - LAET - University of Lyon)