W01 / The utilization of public policy knowledge and advice

Topic : Other

Chair : Arco Timmermans (Leiden University)

Second Chair : José Real-Dato (Universidad de Almería)

Third Chair : Marleen Brans (KU Leuven)

CALL FOR PAPERS

The papers we like to invite for this workshop can have one or more of the following focal points:

Ø Perceptions and utilization of scientific public policy knowledge by practitioners working in policy-making institutions such as the different branches of government and political parties.

Ø Perceptions and utilization of scientific public policy knowledge by practitioners in organizations or groups trying to influence the policy process, such as interest groups, civil society organizations, and lobbying and public affairs consultants.

Ø Types and formats of scientific public policy knowledge preferred and used by practitioners, choice for commissioned research and advice or for ‘shopping’ for knowledge.

Ø Ways in which scientific knowledge in the field of public policy is incorporated in policy learning by organizations, the degree to which this happens and the heuristics or systems used for this.

Ø Established and ongoing relationships between organizations in practice and providers of scientific public policy knowledge, patterns that emerge.

Ø Effects of organizational structure and culture such as mission and goals, size, information capacity, hierarchy, and public or private status on the utilization of public policy knowledge and advice.

Ø Standards, relevant competencies or larger competency frameworks existing or emerging for specific occupational or professional groups that provide incentives (and enforcement) for utilizing scientific knowledge in their work, recruitment criteria or strategies for staff, such as educational background and scientific skills obtained.

Ø Effects of polarization and politicization of issues on the use of public policy knowledge and advice.

Ø Ways in which organizations or groups in practice in the policy process deal with the increasingly blurred boundary line between validated scientific knowledge and disinformation and alternative facts.

ABSTRACT

This workshop focuses on how and under which conditions scientific knowledge produced in the field of public policy is incorporated and used by practitioners involved in the policy process. These practitioners comprise two categories of information professions: on the one hand all government branches and agencies with formal responsibilities in the policy process; on the other all those actors trying to influence the policy process, such as stakeholders engaging in lobbying or advocacy and think tanks. How do these types of information professions recognize and utilize scientific knowledge on public policy, and what are the conditions for it? In what way do these categories of practitioners obtain, demand, select and utilize or deliberately discard this knowledge? The workshop specifies knowledge utilization to scientific knowledge produced in the field of public policy. The demarcation of scientific public public policy knowledge is not limited to political and administrative structures, players and processes, but includes also more substantive policy domain knowledge as for example on international and EU affairs, social policy, economic policy, environment, civil rights, and immigration. This underexplored territory includes the sources and providers of public policy knowledge, types of knowledge producing institutions such as universities, research centres, advisory bodies, think tanks, etc.. It also includes types of knowledge and the features of these types, such as fundamental or applied research, theory-driven or problem-driven, and commissioned or non-commissioned research. The workshops invites contributions on the utilization of various kinds of scientific public policy knowledge and advice by information professions within and outside government. It explores the perceptions and behavior towards knowledge and advice and the cultural and organizations conditions for this.

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Session 1

Wednesday, June 26th 10:15 to 12:00 (AULA 9)

From ‘Speaking Truth to Power’ to ‘Evidence Free(d) Policymaking? The New Faces of the Science-Policy Nexus

Marleen Brans (KU Leuven)

Sonja Blum (Universität Bielefeld)

The Role of Scientists in Public Policy: Case Study of the Hydrobiologist in the Introduction of Yangtze River Ten Year Fishing Ban

Peng Gao (LKY School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore)

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Session 2

Wednesday, June 26th 14:00 to 17:15 (AULA 9)

The impact of knowledge brokering organisations: The case of the UK What Works Centres

Paul Vallance (Cardiff University)

Eleanor MacKillop (Cardiff University)

James Downe (Cardiff University)

‘Politically palatable, actionable insights’: Place-based public health knowledge mobilisation in Australia and the UK

Alison Clarke (University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne)

Peter McCue (University of New South Wales)

Evidence-based Human Resource Management: our one-way ticket to reduce the gap between academics and practitioners?

Lisa Maertens (KU Leuven)

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Session 3

Thursday, June 27th 09:00 to 12:15 (AULA 9)

During and after fieldwork: utilization of scientific public policy knowledge as a process
Vanille LABORDE (Mesopolhis (AMU, Sciences Po Aix, CNRS))
Charles Reveillere (Aix-Marseille Université)

The Evidence Basis of Lobbying: Perspectives and Experiences
Arco Timmermans (Leiden University)

Advocate against free public transport with public policy knowledge
Félicien Boiron (ENTPE - Ecole de l'aménagement durable des territoires)

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Session 4

Thursday, June 27th 14:00 to 17:15 (AULA 9)

Knowledge and evidence utilization in Mexico: a study of the public policy sphere

Pedro Canales-Hernández (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana - Xochimilco)

Maria Vega (UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA)

(Virtual) Policy Knowledge and Policy Change in Higher Education Accreditation in Europe and in the United States

Cecilia Bibbo (State University of New York at Albany, NY)

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Session 5

Friday, June 28th 09:00 to 12:15 (AULA 9)

The influence of organizational and contextual factors on the use of policy evaluation in policymaking: Evidence from Spain’s central and regional governments

José Real-Dato (Universidad de Almería)

Sources and uses of policy knowledge in contexts with limited institutionalization of policy advice

Natalia Koga (National School of Public Administration (ENAP))

Miguel Loureiro (University of Sussex)

Pedro Palotti (National School of Public Administration - ENAP)

Virginia Rocha (European University Institute)