

T08P02 / Postmodern Strategies for Enhanced Environmental Policymaking

Topic : T08 / Policy Discourse and Critical Policy Research

Chair : Scott Valentine (LKY School of Public Policy)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

Much of the existing literature on discursive politics centers on understanding the underlying ideologies, values and motives that impact worldviews and subsequently influence stakeholder behaviour. Far less research has extended this avenue of inquiry to the design of strategies to harness divergent views for enhanced policymaking. In environmental governance this is of applied exigence, as we collectively endeavour to realign resource usage for more sustainable results.

The objectives of this panel theme are to:

1. Encourage the extension of discursive insights to applied strategies for policymaking.
2. Encourage discussion of applied viability of discursive theory across contexts.
3. Explore the links between postmodern theory and network theory.
4. Share applied insights and consider how experiences can feed into theory development.

This type of research benefits greatly from broad thematic treatment as this panel theme represents because conflating theoretical perspectives and connecting cross-disciplinary researchers from the social sciences will help spur innovation in theory development.

CALL FOR PAPERS

In environmental policy fields, we are witnessing the emergence of amplifying polarization between factions of stakeholders. Yet, given the complexities of most public policy challenges, discourse is essential for ensuring a policy process that is inclusive, comprehensive and holistic. Failure to achieve this engenders solutions that give rise to new problems and new ideological conflicts. Postmodern narratives within this thematic area center on the challenges of engendering shared understanding and negotiated compromise through discourse. Within this context, the aim within this panel theme is to enhance understanding of postmodern principles and explore strategies for creating sustainable policy informed by multi-stakeholder input. Papers centering on the nexus between policymaking and social constructivism, discourse analysis, policy narratives, advocacy coalitions or network collaboration are sought in areas related to energy policy, water policy, collaborative environmental projects, resource conservation policy etc.

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Session 1 Shaping Minds and Public Perception

Wednesday, June 28th 14:00 to 16:00 (Manasseh Meyer MM 2 - 3)

Discussants

Frank Fischer (Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany)

Challenging the Discourse of Magical Thinking and Individual Responsibility in Environmental Policymaking

Michael Maniates (Yale-NUS College)

Shaping Perceptions, Winning Hearts: Japan's Strategic Construction of Nuclear Power Support

Scott Valentine (LKY School of Public Policy)

Is Renewable energy still a green issue? Renewable energy visions in an ecological modernisation age

Giorel Curran (Griffith University)

Climate (in)action: public attitudes and problems of persuasion in New Zealand

Skilling Peter (Auckland University of Technology)