

Politics and the Policy Process

2013/14, Autumn Semester, Blocks I & II

Instructors:

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Time and place:

See below

Overview

Policy making is the process through which social problems *appear* on the public agenda and collective decisions are being *made* and *implemented* to address these problems. The contest for political power determines the most important decision-making actors, but there is more to policy making than the competition between political parties. In addition to the impact of political preferences, policy making is driven and constrained by public opinion, by the activities of interest groups, and by the diffusion of policy innovations. The purpose of this course is to introduce the main theoretical and empirical approaches to the study of policy making. The course will provide the students with a theoretically-informed understanding of the policy process and will acquaint them with the empirical generalizations about the impact of various factors on policy change provided by existing political science and public administration literatures. As a result, the course will enhance the students' skills in translating theoretically-relevant questions into empirical research designs.

Requirements

This is a demanding course designed for the Research Master students. A limited number of students from the regular Public Administration Master programs can join but they need to be aware that this is an advanced course.

Students are expected to have basic familiarity with research methods in political science and public administration and to be able to comprehend and discuss academic articles using various methodologies including statistics. In addition, they should be prepared to complete an empirical research project on their own as examination for the course (see below): while I will offer guidance and feedback on the individual projects, I cannot teach research design and/or methods in this course.

Furthermore, the course assumes some level of awareness of the general public policy theories (some of which will be discussed during the first session). The following books can provide good introductions to the field:

- (1) Knill, Christof and Tosun, Jalle (2009) *Public Policy: A New Introduction*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- (2) Sabatier, Paul (2007) *Theories of the Policy Process*. Westview Press.
- (3) John, Peter (2011) *Making Policy Work*. Routledge.

Methods of instructions

The method of instruction will be a combination of lectures and class discussions of the assigned literature. Reading of the assigned literature before the session is compulsory.

Examination

The students will be evaluated on the basis of a 12-15 pages empirical research paper. The research paper should apply one of the approaches discussed during the course to a real-world case (or a set of cases) of policy making. The choice of topic would need to be discussed with the instructor and finalized by Session 4, and the research design of the paper and preliminary findings will be presented in the final sessions of the course.

Plan of campaign

NB: No session on September 4!

Session 1. Introduction. 11 September 2013, 9.00-11.00, 1A11

For this session get familiar with, or refresh your memories about the basic theories of policy making and the policy process using, for example, one of the books suggested above.

Session 2. Institutions and the policy process. 18 September 2013, 9.00-11.00, 1A11

(1) Hall, Peter (1993) "Policy Paradigms, Social Learning, and the State: The Case of Economic Policymaking in Britain", Comparative Politics, **25**(3): 275-96.

(2) Immergut, Ellen (1990) "Institutions, Veto Points, and Policy Results: A Comparative Analysis of Health Care", Journal of Public Policy, 10(4): 391-416.

(3) Pierson, Paul (1995) "Fragmented Welfare States: Federal Institutions and the Development of Social Policy", Governance, **8**(4): 449-78.

Session 3. Public opinion and policy change. 25 September 2013, 13.00-15.00, SA15, FSW, Leiden

(1) Lax, J. R. and J. H. Phillips (2012). "The Democratic Deficit in the States." American Journal of Political Science **56**(1): 148-166.

(2) Toshkov, D. (2011). "Public opinion and policy output in the European Union: A lost relationship." European Union Politics **12**(2): 169-191.

(3) Wlezien, C. (1995). "The Public As Thermostat - Dynamics Of Preferences For Spending." American Journal Of Political Science **39**(4): 981-1000.

Session 4. Government preferences & ideology and their impact on policy. 2 October 2013, 11.00-13.00, tba, CDH, The Hague

(1) Imbeau, L. M., F. Pétry, et al. (2001). "Left–right party ideology and government policies: A meta–analysis." European Journal of Political Research **40**(1): 1-29.

(2) Giannetti, D. and M. Laver (2005). "Policy positions and jobs in the government." European Journal of Political Research **44**(1): 91-120.

(3) Toshkov, D. (2013). "Policy Making Beyond Political Ideology: The Adoption of Smoking Bans in Europe." Public Administration **91**(2): 448-68.

Session 5. Presentation and discussion of topics for the research papers. 9 October 2013, 13.00-15.00, SA15, FSW, Leiden

Session 6. The impact of ideas and framing on policy. 16 October 2013, 13.00-15.00, SA15, FSW, Leiden

(1) Baumgartner, F., S. De Boef, et al. (2008). The Decline of the Death Penalty and the Discovery of Innocence Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. [selections] [if you cannot get the book read this chapter instead http://www.unc.edu/~fbaum/Innocence/Winning_with_words_ch9.pdf]

(2) Toshkov, D. and Wieldrijer, J. (2013). "Policy frames and the evolution of Dutch soft drugs policy", to be provided.

(3) Leifeld, P. and S. Haunss (2012). "Political discourse networks and the conflict over software patents in Europe." European Journal of Political Research **51**(3): 382-409.

Session 7. Political conflict and the policy process. 30 October 2013, 13.00-15.00, SA15, FSW, Leiden

(1) Binder, S. A. (1999). "The Dynamics of Legislative Gridlock, 1947-96." American Political Science Review **93**(3): 519-533.

(2) Coleman, J. J. (1999). "Unified Government, Divided Government, and Party Responsiveness." The American Political Science Review **93**(4): 821-835.

(3) Tsebelis, G. (1999). "Veto players and law production in parliamentary democracies: An empirical analysis." American Political Science Review **93**(3): 591-608.

Session 8. The diffusion of policy innovations: theories and evidence. 6 November 2013, 13.00-15.00, SA15, FSW, Leiden

(1) Simmons, B. and Elkins, Z. (2004). "The Globalization of Liberalization: Policy Diffusion in the International Political Economy". American Political Science Review, **98**(1):171-89.

(2) Shipan, C. and C. Volden (2008). "The mechanisms of policy diffusion." American Journal of Political Science **52**(4): 840-857.

(3) Mooney, C. and Lee, M. (2005) "The Temporal Diffusion of Morality Policy: The Case of Death Penalty Legislation in the American States", Policy Studies Journal, **4**, 766-80.

Session 9. Agenda setting, 13 November 2013, 13.00-15.00, SA07, FSW, Leiden

(1) Baumgartner, F., B. Christian, et al. (2009). "Punctuated Equilibrium in Comparative Perspective." American Journal of Political Science **53**(3): 603-620.

(2) Walgrave, S., S. Soroka, et al. (2008). "The Mass Media's Political Agenda-Setting Power: A Longitudinal Analysis of Media, Parliament, and Government in Belgium (1993 to 2000)." Comparative Political Studies **41**(6): 814-836.

(3) Green-Pedersen, C. and Mortensen, P. "Who sets the agenda and who responds to it in the Danish parliament? A new model of issue competition and agenda-setting", European Journal of Political Research, **49**(2): 257-81.

Session 10. Interest groups. 20 November 2013, 13.00-15.00, SA07, FSW, Leiden

(1) Klüver, Heike (2013) 'Lobbying as a collective enterprise: Winners and losers of policy formulation in the European Union', Journal of European Public Policy, **20**(1): 59-76.

(2) Drutman and Hopkins (2013) 'The Inside View: Using the Enron E-mail Archive to Understand Corporate Political Attention', Legislative Studies Quarterly, **38**(1): 5-30.

(3) Grossmann, Matt (2012) "Interest group influence on US policy change: An assessment based on policy history", Interest Groups and Advocacy, **1**:171-92.

Session 11. Morality policies. 27 November 2013, 13.00-15.00, SA05, FSW, Leiden

(1) Knill, Christoph (2013) "The study of morality policy: analytical implications from a public policy perspective", Journal of European Public Policy, **20**(3): 309-17.

(2) Heichel, Stephahn, Knill, Christoph & Schmitt, Sophie (2013) "Public policy meets morality: conceptual and theoretical challenges in the analysis of morality policy change", Journal of European Public Policy, **20**(3): 318-34.

(3) Engeli, Isabelle, Christoffer Green-Pedersen & Lars Thorup Larsen (2013) "The puzzle of permissiveness: understanding policy processes concerning morality issues", Journal of European Public Policy, **20**(3): 335-52.

Session 12. Globalization and policy convergence. 4 December 2013, 13.00-15.00, SA05, FSW, Leiden

(1) Murillo, V. (2002). "Political Bias in Policy Convergence: Privatization Choices in Latin America", World Politics, **54**(4): 462-93.

(2) Cao, Xun (2012). "Global Networks and Domestic Policy Convergence: A Network Explanation of Policy Changes", World Politics, **64**(3): 375-425.

(3) Toshkov, D. & De Haan, L. (2013) "The Europeanization of Asylum Policy: An assessment of the EU impact on asylum applications and recognitions rates.", Journal of European Public Policy, **20**(5): 661-83.

Session 13. Presentations I, 11 December 2013, 13.00-15.00, SA05, FSW, Leiden

Consultations about the papers (at my office)

23 December 2013, 9.00: deadline for the papers

3 February 2014, 9.00: deadline for the retakes.