

T01W07 / Policy Implementation in the Global South

Topic : T01 / Policy Process, Policy Making, Policy Implementation

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CALL FOR PAPERS

This call for papers covers the broad field of contextualised policy implementation. First, we seek papers that have developed new policy making and implementation theories and methods in “decentralized” contexts in terms of institutions, stakeholders configurations, central and local power relations and implementation gaps. Our interests are on papers that approach this analysis from a regional perspective, studying public policy woven from the particularities, dynamics and contexts of geographic areas such as Africa, Latin America or Asia, regions more traditionally approached from a “western-centric” framework.

Second, we seek papers on policy making and implementation process in the context of the development projects, its impact on stakeholders configuration (public/private sector, multi-level decision making,...), international policy circulation, power relations and shorter cycles that may set aside public authorities to the benefit of NGOs, local civil society ...etc.

We welcome works including analysis “of contexts” as well as works discussing methodological approaches for the study of policy making from an implementation policy perspective. We expect proposals from the disciplines of political science, anthropology, sociology, public management, public administration, sociology, but we are open to other disciplinary approaches. Our ambition is to pierce the hermeticism between the different disciplines from which we believe the contribution strengthens and widens the debate.

ABSTRACT

The present workshop proposal aims to open a debate on the way policy implementation studies have evolved in recent years by integrating the context of countries in the Global South. We will structure our workshop in two parts. On one hand, we will focus on the way the decentralization of public policy analysis that many scholars (Darbon & Provini, 2018 ; Barrault-Stella, Maillet, Vommaro, 2019 ; de Sardan, 2017, 2021) call forth allows the production of new analytical frameworks to better understand policy implementation in the Global South, here to designate emerging and developing countries. On the other hand, we will take an interest in the study of development projects from a policy analysis perspective (Lavigne Delville, 2017). Development projects present some specificities in terms of stakeholders configuration (public/private sector, multi-level decision making,...), international policy circulation, power relations and shorter cycles that may set aside public authorities to the benefit of NGOs, local civil society, etc.

Within this framework, we set out the following hypotheses: 1) Solving public problems presents a paradox between the flexibility and thoroughness of policy-making. Any planned intervention, any public policy, any development program is subjected to a test when it arrives on the concrete ground of its implementation (de Sardan, 2021); 2) In the development aid field, the organisation by project leads to new power configurations. Moreover, policy cycles are also shortened as they are often confused or directly assimilated to projects. There is

then a disjunction between projects and policies as systems and operational logics dominate the implementation process; 3) Evidence has demonstrated that the “policy-implementation gap” has been enriched in recent years by complex frameworks of analysis through concepts of unpredictability and nonlinearity. There are overarching influences contributing towards implementation gaps within policy making across the different countries of the Global South.

This workshop represents an opportunity to contribute to empirical, methodological and theoretical knowledge about the policy implementation process in the Global South, and to assess the usefulness of approaches and debates to explain political changes in the region.

Key words: Policy Implementation, Context, Development Projects, Global South.