

CALL FOR PAPERS

Policy Analysis at Times of Crises: Windows of Opportunity for Policy Learning?

Annual Research Symposium Fall 2012
and Double Special Issue

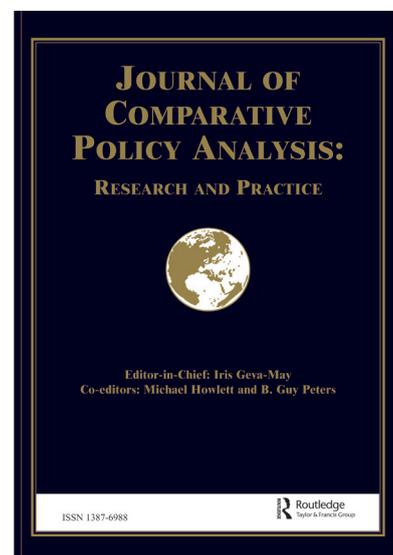
Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis

Introduction

Policy analysis has played a central role in the rise of modern government. Throughout Europe and beyond, policy analysis has been a key factor in the development of policies and has contributed to the type of modern government being driven not only by power or the normative and political struggle on policies but also by puzzling or the rational and informed question for what policies work best (Hecklo 1974). This key role of policy analysis has also contributed to the evolution of policy analysis as a research field as well as a research industry. As a research field, policy analysis has matured into a theoretically rich and increasingly diverse field, including beyond the traditional rationalistic model, new schools of thought such as (historical-) institutionalism, constructivism and more pluralist approaches. As a research industry, policy analysis has not only become a key area of activity at universities, but increasingly also in advisory bodies, think tanks and also within government organizations itself.

This role of policy analysis is challenged by what is sometimes considered as crises in various facets of modern government. The current financial crisis challenges the financial institutions worldwide, the welfare state crisis is testing how societies organize solidarity and cope with so-called new social risks associated with individualization and post-industrialization, the migration crisis is challenging how we cope with diversity and perhaps even the very perception of bounded nation states, and the security crisis is challenging the way we think of risks and defense at times of globalization. These multifaceted crises put the role that policy analysis can play to the test.

The main questions that this Call for Papers seeks to address are: What contribution can policy analysis make to government (or 'governance') while the current crises are rapidly transforming or even undermining many of the institutions at which policy analysis was traditionally orientated? How can policy analysis accommodate the rapid and often unpredictable transformations that are currently taking place, as well as accommodate the uncertainty of knowledge that is generally associated with these transformations? How can policy analysis provide expert efficient answers in states of crisis? Is it really the case that, at times of rapid change and uncertainty, institutionalist and rationalist perspectives fail to provide explanations for policy learning? Do we experience that crises bring about a primacy for power instead of puzzling, and for narrative construction rather than knowledge and information and how can this be addressed? A critical confrontation of the evidence from the various contributions will enable us to rethink the role of policy analysis at times of crisis. Each of the contributions will analyze how in a specific facet of the crisis chances for policy learning have and can be created.



Guest Editors:

Frans K.M. van Nispen
Peter W.A. Scholten
*Both at Erasmus
University Rotterdam*

***The Journal of
Comparative
Policy Analysis:
Research and Practice***
aims to stimulate the further
intellectual development of
comparative policy studies
and the growth of an
international community
of scholars in the field.

Time Frame:

March 1, 2012

Abstracts (max 250 words) and
outline of all contributions to be sent
to the Editors at vannispen@fsw.eur.nl
Articles acceptance or rejection,
feedback from editors

November 23, 2012

Workshop at Erasmus University
of Rotterdam
Submission of special issue for
double-blind review