Actor Interaction for Policy Change - Redux

POSC 315 - Introduction to Public Policy

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Slide 2: Lecture Overview

Topics:

- Understanding Policy Actors
- Advocacy Coalition Framework (ACF)
- Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) Framework
- Rational Choice Theory
- Lindblom's Incrementalism
- Punctuated Equilibrium Theory (PET)
- Kingdon's Three Streams and Policy Windows

Slide 3: Understanding Policy Actors

- Who are Policy Actors?
 - Individuals and groups involved in the policymaking process
- Types of Actors:
 - Government officials
 - Interest groups
 - Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
 - Citizens and stakeholders
- Importance:
 - Their interactions shape policy outcomes

Slide 4: Advocacy Coalition Framework (ACF)

Key Concepts:

- Focuses on the interaction of actors within policy subsystems
- Actors form coalitions based on shared beliefs and interests
- Coalitions compete to influence policy over time

Components:

- Deep Core Beliefs: Fundamental worldviews
- Policy Core Beliefs: Domain-specific policy preferences
- Secondary Aspects: Specific policy positions and strategies

Slide 5: ACF Example - Climate Change Policy

Economic Prioritization Coalition
- Fossil fuel industry
- Some labor unions
- Certain policymakers

Core Belief

- Urgent action needed to address climate change (Pro-mitigation)
- Economic growth should not be sacrificed for climate action (Economic Prioritization)

Outcome: Policies reflect the balance of power between coalitions (e.g., Paris Agreement implementation)

Slide 6: Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) Framework

Key Concepts:

- Developed by Elinor Ostrom
- Focuses on how institutions shape actor behavior
- Institutions provide rules and norms influencing actions

Components:

- Action Arena: Where actors interact
- Rules-in-Use: Formal and informal guidelines
- Outcomes: Results of interactions within the action arena

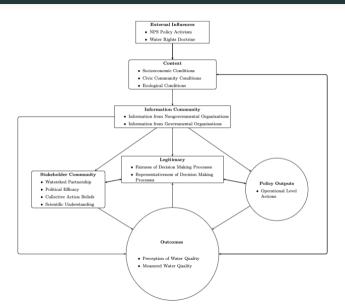
Slide 7: IAD Example

- Community-Based Resource Management:
 - Situation:
 - Local fishers managing a common fishing area
 - Institutions:
 - Agreed-upon rules for sustainable fishing practices
 - Action Arena:
 - Meetings to decide on quotas and enforcement
 - Outcome:
 - Sustainable use of the resource benefiting the community

Slide 8: IAD Example from My Research

- Title: "Does Collaboration Matter?"
- Context:
 - Examined watershed management collaborations
- Findings:
 - Collaborative institutions lead to better environmental outcomes
 - Stakeholder engagement enhances policy effectiveness

IAD Example from My Research



Slide 9: Rational Choice Theory

Key Concepts:

- Focuses on the behavior of individual actors
- Assumes actors are rational and self-interested
- Actors seek to maximize their utility (benefits)

Implications:

Policies can be designed to align individual incentives with social goals

Slide 10: Rational Choice Example

Voting Behavior:

- Assumption:
 - Individuals will vote if the benefits outweigh the costs
- Factors:
 - Perceived impact of their vote
 - Personal time and effort required
- Policy Application:
 - Making voting easier increases turnout (e.g., mail-in ballots)

Slide 11: Lindblom's Incrementalism

Key Concepts:

- Proposed by Charles Lindblom
- Policy changes occur gradually through small adjustments
- Decision-makers "muddle through" rather than make radical changes

Characteristics:

- Limited analysis of alternatives
- Focus on practical solutions over ideal ones

Slide 12: Incrementalism Example - Minimum Wage Policy

Initial State:

Federal minimum wage at \$7.25/hour

Incremental Changes:

- 1. **Year 1:** Increase to \$8.00/hour
- 2. **Year 3:** Increase to \$9.00/hour
- 3. **Year 5:** Increase to \$10.00/hour

Rationale:

- Allows businesses to adapt gradually
- Reduces political opposition
- Provides opportunities for assessment and adjustment

Slide 13: Punctuated Equilibrium Theory (PET)

Key Concepts:

- Policy change occurs in significant leaps after periods of stability
- Long periods of incremental change are interrupted by sudden shifts

Mechanisms:

- Policy Monopolies: Established interests maintaining status quo
- Triggering Events: Crises or shifts in public opinion disrupting equilibrium

Slide 14: PET Example

- Financial Regulation:
 - Stability Period:
 - Minimal regulatory changes before 2008
 - Triggering Event:
 - Global financial crisis of 2008
 - Policy Shift:
 - Rapid enactment of new regulations like the Dodd-Frank Act

Slide 15: Kingdon's Three Streams and Policy Windows

Key Concepts:

- Policy change occurs when three streams converge:
 - Problem Stream: Recognition of issues needing attention
 - Policy Stream: Potential solutions available
 - Politics Stream: Political climate and public mood
- Policy Window:
 - Opportunity for change when streams align
- Role of Policy Entrepreneurs:
 - Individuals who promote policy changes by coupling streams

Slide 16: Kingdon's Model Example - Telehealth Policy

Problem Stream:

- Rural healthcare access issues
- Rising healthcare costs

Policy Stream:

- Advances in telemedicine technology
- Proposals for insurance coverage of telehealth services

Politics Stream:

- COVID-19 pandemic highlighting healthcare access issues
- Bipartisan support for telehealth expansion

Policy Window:

- Rapid adoption of telehealth policies during pandemic
- Permanent expansion of Medicare telehealth coverage
- Policy Entrepreneurs: Advocates for telehealth expansion

Slide 17: Conclusion

Summary of Theories:

- ACF: Coalitions based on shared beliefs influence policy
- IAD: Institutions shape interactions and outcomes
- Rational Choice: Individuals act to maximize personal benefit
- Incrementalism: Policy evolves through small, manageable steps
- PET: Significant changes follow long periods of stability
- Kingdon's Model: Policy change when problem, policy, and politics align

Importance:

Understanding these theories aids in analyzing and influencing policy processes

Slide 18: Questions and Discussion

Open Discussion:

- How do these theories apply to current policy debates?
- Can you identify examples from recent news?

• Questions:

- What connections did you make between the theories?
- Which theory do you find most applicable to real-world policy changes or changes in you term paper topic?