

Abstract für DVPW Sektionstagung Policyanalyse und Verwaltungswissenschaft „Wissen und Expertise in Politik und Verwaltung“, 10. bis 11. November 2011 am Deutschen Forschungsinstitut für Öffentliche Verwaltung (FÖV) Speyer/ Deutsche Hochschule für Verwaltungswissenschaften (DHV) Speyer

The making of policy instruments

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Globally circulating templates for policy design are referred to as “instruments”. As such they guide and legitimate policy-making. This entails a delegation of agency from situated processes of policy making to the making of instruments in transnational spaces of knowledge production. I present a research perspective and analytical framework to study these processes and the processes of knowledge generation that take place within them. This allows a view on processes of “policy design at a distance”, the gradual articulation and stabilization of design templates which are purported to be universally applicable. Based on case studies of emissions trading and citizen panels I trace the emergence, development and expansion of policy instruments across different issue areas and jurisdictions and over several decades. I highlight the institutionalization of specific transnational socio-cognitive fields in the course of this process, the formation of “instrument constituencies” with dedicated organisations and infrastructures catering for the development of a particular instrument. At the core of the paper is a discussion of specific dynamics which drive the development of those fields, based on a promise to produce objectified know-how of governing, and resembling technoscientific dynamics as observed in other fields such as bio- or nanotechnology. An important implication for understanding dynamics of the policy process and of policy change is the identification of a forceful element of “supply push” linked to the development and spread of policy instruments. I claim that this must complement more demand oriented explanations which, for example, underlie the concept of “policy choice” and models of ideational shifts where policy goals and problem perceptions are seen as primary sources of change and instruments expected to follow suit (e.g. Haas, Hall, Sabatier). In conclusion we may thus discuss, with a view to a certain form of power that instruments may attain over policy-making, a displacement of politics to transnational spaces of knowledge production where scientists, consultants and service providers struggle over the establishment of universal templates for policy design.

Bezug auf folgende Themen aus dem Call for Papers:

Policyorientierte Politikberatung

Wandeln sich mit der zunehmenden „Angewiesenheit“ von Politik und Verwaltung auf externes Wissen auch die Interaktions- und Beziehungsmuster zum gesellschaftlichen Umfeld?