

Governance and Generalized Exchange

Self-Organizing Policy Networks in Action

edited by Bernd Marin

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How is societal self-regulation and governance through complex policy networks possible at all? What explains success or failure of joint macro-economic management in areas such as employment, industrial, technological development, monetary and fiscal policy? What makes associational interest intermediation in labour relations or environmental protection through chemicals control policy viable or ineffective?

These books are an attempt to use network thinking in policy field analysis and in grounded, middle-range social science theory. They focus on key notions such as antagonistic cooperation, transaction-chains, self-organizing policy networks and, above all, generalized political exchange. A number of prominent social scientists and policy analysts - among them leading scholars in sociology, political science, law, economics, and organization - critically respond to this preliminary conceptual proposition and offer alternative theoretical views.

The two volumes complement each other. Generalized Political Exchange develops the base by presenting competing as well as converging theoretical perspectives. Governance and Generalized Exchange confronts various analytical models with a diversity of empirical evidence, ranging from historical documents and case-study material to cross-national comparative statistical data

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