Policy Networks.
Empirical Evidence and Theoretical Considerations

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The network approach provides not only new instruments for analysing decision-making structures and processes in complex societies, it is also considered to be a theoretical concept of decentralized or centreless societies.

Networks can be understood as stabilizing structures for communication and interaction between a variety of actors. They are found not only in public policy arenas, but in other sectors, such as business or research, as well. Extending beyond formally institutionalized decision-makers, they include many interconnected actors, each of which draws on particular resources to influence the way public and private policies are formulated and implemented.

The contributors to the reader Policy Networks examine such actor networks and analyse how they are structured and how they work. A wide variety of theoretical and empirical approaches to network analysis are provided by the authors who also use their empirical case-studies to demonstrate innovative methods of structural analysis.

Contents:

- Introduction: Studying Policy Networks by Bernd Marin
- Policy Networks and Policy Analysis: Scrutinizing a New Analytical Toolbox by Patrick Kenis and Volker Schneider
- Policy Networks in the German Telecommunications Domain by Volker Schneider and Raymund Werle
- Policy Networks and Change: The Case of High-Tc Superconductors by Dorothea Jansen
- Political Exchange in the German and American Labor Policy Domain by Franz Urban Pappi and David Knoke
- Fencing Off: Central Banks and Networks in Canada and the United States by William D. Coleman
- Policy Networks, Opportunity Structures and Neo-Conservative Reform Strategies in Health Policy by Marian Döhler
- The Preconditions for Policy Networks: Some Findings from a Three-Country Study on Industrial Restructuring by Patrick Kenis