

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
- Organizations in Political Action: Representing Interests in National Policy Making by Edward O. Laumann and John P. Heinz with Robert Nelson and Robert Salisbury
- 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
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