

Presentation

For the past two decades, Latin America and the Caribbean have experienced dramatic political changes. After the so-called “lost decade” from mid-1980s to mid-1990s several of the region’s countries have turned back to nationalist State-oriented policies. This region is also one of high contrasts between big countries (as Brazil or Mexico), middle-range emerging nations (such as Colombia and Chile) and a myriad of smaller ones (such as Ecuador and Central American countries). These contrasts make this area particularly suitable for comparative policy analysis, both for theory-building and theory-testing – policy change being one of the more prominent public policy domains of investigation.

Policy-change studies, which are of focal importance for policy analysis and policy design, offer a diversity of frameworks-behaviorist, cognitivist and neo-institutional, as well as explanations of policy change. The latter are mainly derived from incrementalism, which has been challenged by punctuated equilibrium theory, the advocacy coalition framework, etc.

The 13rd ICPA-Forum and JCPA Workshop seeks to address and confront these theoretical frameworks through a number of empirical comparative studies between most similar or most different cases in Latin America.

Convenors



Guillaume Fontaine,
Head of the Department of Public Affairs,
FLACSO Ecuador



José Luis Méndez,
Professor and Researcher
International Studies Center,
El Colegio de México

Editors Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis



Iris Geva-May
President of ICPA-Forum,
Founding Editor of JCPA,
Baruch College, School of Public Affairs,
City University of New York



Leslie Pal
Special Issues Co-Editor of JCPA
Carleton University, Ottawa

Program

Monday, August 24

First Session (afternoon)

14h00-15h00 Opening conference

Policy Over-reaction and Under-Reaction: Examining Policy Change Comparatively

Guy Peters, Co-Editor of JCPA, Department of
Political Science, University of Pittsburgh (USA)
Maurice Falk, Professor of American
Government, University of Pittsburgh

Comments: Iris Geva-May, José Luis Méndez
and Guillaume Fontaine



This paper examines the logic of responses and attempt to on-proportional re-sponses are so common. It argues that there are at least three reasons for non-proportional responses on the part of governments, and their partners in governance: the nature of the institutional structure involved in making and implementing public policies, the nature of the political parties and political leaders responsible for making policy, and the nature of the policy problems themselves.

15h00-16h30 Conference paper #1

Explaining paradigm shifts: the case of gas policy in Bolivia and Peru

Guillaume Fontaine and
Susan Velasco, Department
of Public Affairs, FLACSO
(Ecuador)

Comments: José Luis Méndez
and Joseph Berechman



This paper offers an explanation of the current implementation style of gas policies in Perú and Bolivia through their instruments using a method of differences. A State resource-based typology including information, organization, treasure and authority at substantive and procedural levels allows us to distinguish between the dependent variables at normative, strategic and operational

levels, so as to identify possible causal mechanisms of policy change. Next, we proceed to a process tracing backward to 2000, comparing the role of ideas, institutions, interests and individuals. We conclude that ideas ought to be interpreted as INUS (insufficient but necessary parts of an unnecessary but sufficient) condition of policy change.

17h00-18h30 Conference paper #2

Explaining Policy Continuity and Policy Change in the Neoliberal Era: Mexico and Chile

Judith Teichman, University
of Toronto (Canada)

Comments: Nadia Rubaii and Leslie Pal



Through the 1990s and into the early 2000s, slow or stagnant growth rates, punctuated by economic crises, and persisting high levels of inequality, triggered a rising chorus of objections to Washington consensus policies in Latin America. This paper argues for an eclectic approach for understanding rapid policy change and resistances to policy change, one that takes as its starting point the state of the international policy paradigm and the distribution of political power in the societies concerned. These factors have shaped, and continue to shape, institutional realities and policy outcomes.

18h00 Special meeting (night)

Editorial Board and Friends of JCPA Meeting

Tuesday, August 25

Second Session (morning)

8h30-10h30 Conference paper #3

Oil policy reforms during the presidencies of Felipe Calderon (2006-2012) and Enrique Peña (2012-present) in Mexico and Fernando Cardoso in Brazil (1994-1998)

José Luis Méndez,
El Colegio de México (México)

Comments: Judith Teichman
and Guy Peters



This paper compares the oil policy reforms achieved by two Mexican presidents, Felipe Calderon and Enrique Peña, and a Brazilian one, Fernando Cardoso. It argues that while Calderon’s reform (2008) was incremental, both Peña’s (2013) and Cardoso’s (1995) were paradigmatic. Secondly, the paper also tries to contribute to the agency/structure debate on how to explain policy change. It carries out a content analysis and process tracing for each of the studied reforms, based on semi-structured elite interviews and primary and secondary bibliographic sources.

10h30-12h00 Conference paper #4

Explaining Social Policy Change: evidence from Chile and Uruguay

Rossana Castiglioni,
Universidad Diego Portales (Chile)

Comments: Judith Teichman and Guillaume
Fontaine



In the study of comparative social policy of Latin America, Chile and Uruguay are probably among the most widely studied cases. Taking insights from historical institutionalism, ideational approaches, power resources theory and comparative historical analysis, this paper shows that social policy change can be explained by a combination of factors: the distribution of governmental authority, the ideological positions of policy makers, and the ability of nongovernmental actors’ to influence social policy.

Third Session (afternoon)

14h00-15h30 Conference paper #5

Varieties of education privatization and the politics of education reform

Claudia Milena Díaz Ríos, Department of
Political Science, McMaster University
(Canada)

Comments: Fatima de Oliveira and Leslie Pal



Privatization is arguably one of the most significant changes in Latin American education since 1980s. This paper argues that the explanation lies on understanding the politics of the educa-

tion reforms and particularly the interaction between foreign ideas and domestic policymaking. Using a comparative historical analysis, it identifies the mechanisms by which privatization was embraced in Argentina, Chile, and Colombia. It suggests global ideas as the driver of the shift to privatization and a complex domestic agency towards these ideas as the explanatory factor of the variation of liberalization.

16h00-17h30 Conference paper #6

Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Graduate Education in Ecuador and Colombia: Understanding Policy Change and Stability

Nadia Rubaii, Binghamton University, State University of New York (USA) and Mariana Lima Bandeira, Área de Gestión, Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar (Ecuador)



Comments: Rossana Castiglioni and Pául Cisneros

This paper compares recent higher education policy reforms in Colombia and Ecuador with an emphasis on the institutions and the corresponding regulations for quality assurance and/or accreditation of graduate programs. Using discourse analysis and Stone's notion that different values, priorities and ideas about the role of government are reflected in language used to describe policy goals, problems and solutions, it explores how we can explain policy change (or stability).

Special meeting (night)
18h00-19h00

Roundtable:
Enhancing Comparative Policy Analysis in Latin America

Participants: Iris Geva-May, Leslie Pal, José Luis Méndez and Guillaume Fontaine

Wednesday, August 26

Fourth Session (morning)

8h00-10h00 Conference paper #7

Management Councils of Public Policy: a comparative analysis

Agatha Justen and Fatima de Oliveira, Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration (Brazil)



Comments: Claudia Díaz and Rossana Castiglioni

Management Councils of Public Policy were created to be conducted by several sectors of society, including popular sectors. This paper argues that, despite the advances brought by constitutional and institutional changes in many countries from Latin America, practical changes are still necessary to ensure that the spaces of public policy management are really democratic and connected with the social demands.

10h30-12h00 Conference paper #8

Nationalistic reforms in the mining sectors in Argentina, Bolivia and Ecuador; how opportunity structures affect coalition behavior.

Pául Cisneros, Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy, University of California (USA)



Comments: Agatha Justen and José Luis Méndez

This paper compares how advocacy coalitions that promote or reject large-scale mining in Argentina, Bolivia and Ecuador have reacted to the emergence of nationalistic-State oriented political systems to advance their agenda on mi-ning policy. Preliminary findings suggest that coalitions promoting a continuation of policy have primarily resorted to public opinion and financial resources to steer the change in policy, while coalitions critic to large-scale mining have only deepened their dependence on mobilizable troops after formal legal authority and attempts to sway public opi-nion failed to produce the desired changes.

Editorial Board and Friends of JCPA Meeting:
FLACSO, La Pradera N7-174 y Diego de Almagro, Quito
Monday, August 24, 2015

Special Event:
JCPA Annual Award for the Best Comparative Paper Ceremony
Restaurante Lo Nuestro,
Isabel La Católica 537 y Luis Cordero, Quito
Tuesday, August 25, 2015

Workshop Fees, including individual membership to ICPA-Forum and JCPA Free subscription www.jcpa.ca/jcpaf

Comparative
Theory Testing and Theory Building:



The Case of Policy Change in Latin America



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