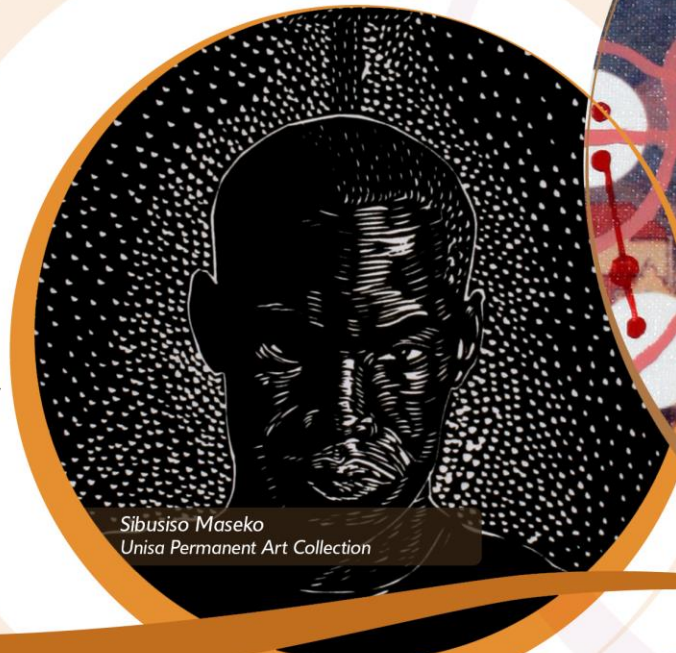


DVA3703

Policy-framing, agenda-setting and the specification of objectives for policy

Video
Conference
Notes
First semester
2018



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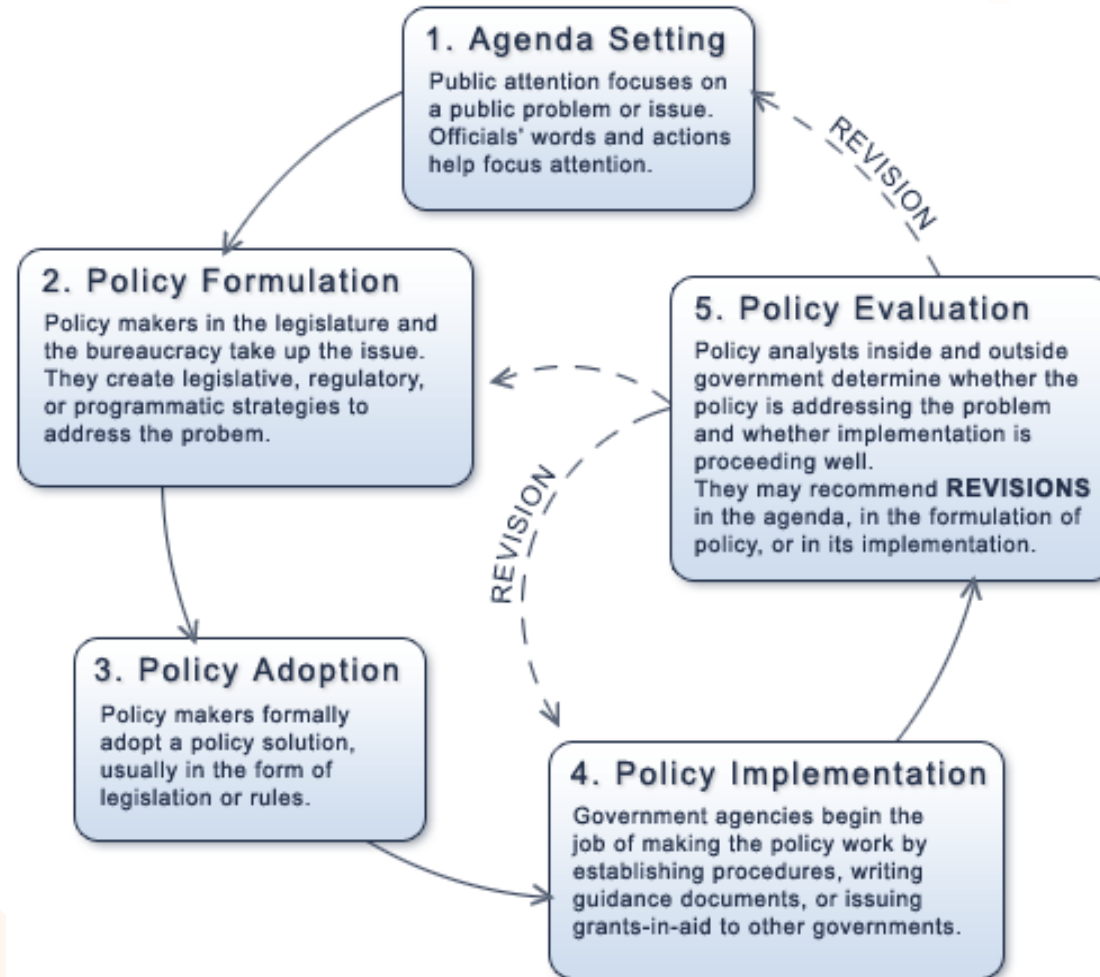
BEFORE WE START...

- PowerPoint slides are usually in bullet point, but for your essay assessments (in assignments and the exams), write full sentences. We want to see an argument that flows logically.
- These slides contain additional background information to clarify concepts and ideas – they are not memoranda (draft answers)
- Keep the policy cycle in mind when you write about the sub-parts of policy (see next slide for an example of the policy cycle)
- For the examination, you do not include a reference list



POLICY CYCLE (EXAMPLE)

Source: <https://www.quora.com/What-is-public-policy-making-process>



POLICY PROBLEM FRAMING

- The policy-making process begins when a problem or issue is identified by one or more stakeholders. Defining a problem is not solving it. From the perspective of communication, however, both defining problems and analyzing solutions rely on persuasion.
- To 'frame' a problem worthy of public policy-making means that it is represented in a particular way that warrants such attention
- Who says this is a problem? How big is this problem? Who is affected? Who should address the problem?
- Policy issues can come to the fore because of
 1. research – evidence-based policy making (rational; (for example, where children with disabilities are found to drop out of school more than able-bodied children in a nation-wide study),
 2. demand – through political processes that bring issues to the agenda (to counteract the idea that research can still produce/reproduce bias, silence, marginalization and may not be as 'rational' as we think; for example, members of a particular political party in a particular residential area organise around issues of poor service delivery)
- See Gertson's factors that shape framing on page 45 of the Study Guide. Discuss these with suitable examples

AGENDA-SETTING

- Agenda setting is when the problem as framed above is adopted as a policy problem for the state to address. Policy agenda-setting is the recognition of a problem by government often influenced by domestic and international actors or identified by government itself. Also, note that some agendas are discussion items only, whilst others can be decision items that will be debated (see Du Plessis & Kotzé 2016: 45-46).
- Link this to the idea of bringing a problem to the attention of policy-makers
- Differentiate between the discussion and the decision agenda
- Can you see that the way in which the problem is framed will also influence agenda-setting?
- See Cloete & Meyer's discussion of the factors that shape agenda-setting on page 46 of the Study Guide. Discuss these with examples
- The prescribed readings for this study unit brings home the idea that framing of problems, the tensions in the research-policy nexus and consultation about which issues need to gain priority for policy attention when and where are creative tensions. Due to the conflicts and negotiations that this enables, policies can attract attention.

APPLICATION TO THE ARTICLES IN THE READER

- Agenda-setting is influenced by different role players who might be in conflict with one another depending on their interests; examples include elected officials, civil society, mass media, national interest groups, research and international organisations.
- Ocampo (2015:13) shows how the different local histories and characteristics should play a role as well and how development policy agenda setting post 2015 should consider North-South, South-South and non-governmental cooperation.
- He seems to favour global partnerships for development that operates on two principles of accountability in policy framing and agenda-setting:
- Global cooperative partnerships that offer technical, financial and capacity-building assistance
- Analysing how aid, finance, investment, migration, technological transfer, trade and taxation impact development
- Enns, Bersaglio and Kepe (2014) suggest that participation of indigenous people in development policies is often minimal or limited. Attempts to include such marginalised indigenous groups into policy problem framing, agenda-setting and the formulation of objectives often results in instrumental changes rather than truly inclusive, transformative changes.

Specification of objectives

- See page 49 of the Study Guide
- What are policy objectives?
- See factors shaping this on page 50 of the Study Guide
- Again, please see these different phases in the policy as informing (shaping) one another

ENNS ET AL

- This article talks about participation in framing, agenda-setting and the specification of objectives by the people targeted by the policy interventions
- The authors conclude that marginal groups remained marginal, because of insufficient consultation and the assumed frameworks of the policy-makers
- See what they say about indigenous people's views on
 - The nature and focus of education
 - Land, natural resources and the environment versus fears of displacement
 - Economic versus cultural development
- They suggest that true nature of marginalised groups' concerns for inclusion in the development policy debate can be diluted because of (i) pressures to present overarching consensus reports (ii) the hegemonic power of the UN's own vision for development. This can render participatory development into a mere rhetorical idea with little actual transformation in the framing of problems, the setting of the development agenda or the specification of objectives in favour of change.

Ocampo

- Further views on the importance of participation in the post 2015 development agenda
- Note the importance of:
 - Bottom-up processes
 - Monitoring and accountability
 - Robust information systems
 - Governments being held accountable/answerable
 - International horizontal partnerships in development
 - Cooperation within the development field

Thank you

Define tomorrow.

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