INTERNATIONAL POLICY-MAKING

Seminar course by Charlotte HALPERN

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Title: Dr

Organisation/Affiliation: Centre d’Etudes Européennes de Sciences Po

Short biography: Dr. Charlotte Halpern holds a PhD in political science and is FNSP Associate Research Professor at the Centre d’Etudes Européennes de Sciences Po in Paris. Her main research interest is State restructuring and policy change in Europe. She has done extensive research on various infrastructure (airport and light rail) and environmental policies (waste, urban utilities) in European member states and the EU. She has published on comparative European policies and EU governance in leading political science journals such as West European Politics, Environment and Planning C and the Revue Française de Science Politique. She teaches comparative public policies at Sciences Po and at the Institut d’Etudes Politiques in Grenoble. She is the scientific Director of the Sciences Po Urban and Regional Management Master Programme.

COURSE OUTLINE

* Session 1 – Sept 3rd: International policy-making: an introduction

Drawing on two case studies (civil aviation and risk management), this session briefly explains why the focus on international policy-making contributes to the understanding of current dynamics at international level.


* Session 2, Sept 10th: From government to governance: understanding international policy-making

This session explores the shift from government to governance in the context of globalization, and the extent to which this process shapes international public policy-making.

Required readings:


Recommended readings:


Assignment for this session:

- Select a topic for your case study presentation by registering via doodle link.

* Session 3, Sept 17th: International public policies as a major integration tool: Learning from regional integration

Explaining the role of public policies as a major driver for political integration. Regional integration dynamics compared, with examples taken from the EU & the ASEAN.

Required readings:


Recommended readings:


Assignment for this session:

Case study 1: European policies as a driver for European integration.

Case study 2: Competing ascendants over Mekong regionalization designs
* Session 4, Sept 24th: From problem-setting to agenda-setting: an actor-centered perspective

This session explores the issue of fragmentation and heterogeneity in policy-making at international level. It examines the way through which collective action can be fostered, by focusing on problem framing and agenda setting dynamics.


**Recommended readings:**


**Assignment for this session:**

Case study 3: *Is the desecration of the seas a source of global concern?*

Case study 4: *Climate refugees, a challenge for international cooperation?*

* Session 5, Oct 1st: From “the South” to the BRICS: development vs. trade.

This session examines recent transformations in world politics, and more specifically the way in which emerging countries increasingly shape international policies. This will be an opportunity to explain why and how major socio-economic and demographic trends in the global south directly impacts policy-making at international level.

**Mandatory reading:** TBC

No assignment for this session: Guest speaker

* Session 6, Oct. 8th: Contrasted influence-seeking strategies at international level

This session examines the large variety of influence-seeking strategies at international level, and more specifically the choice and combination of action repertoires by civil society actors. This will be done by focusing on highly contrasted cases.

**Required readings:**

Recommended readings:


Assignment for this session:

*Case 5: Does the protection of endangered species require a strong stand every time? The case of sea warriors.*


* Session 7, Oct 15th: Regulating complex global societies*

This session explores patterns of policy change at international level by focusing on the structuring role of institutions. It examines why, how and through which mechanisms international public policies emerge, institutionalize and weaken.

Required readings:


Recommended readings:


- Chapter 1, - T. Büthe and W. Mattli (2012), The new global rulers: The privatization of regulation in the World economy, Princeton, PUP.

Assignment for this session:

*Case study 7: Is intellectual property an obstacle to the management of worldwide epidemics?*

*Case study 8: Is public health a commodity?*

Oct 22nd – No class
* Session 8, Oct 29th: “Ideas do not float freely”: the cognitive dimension of international policy-making

This session examines the role of ideas and discourses in shaping policy-making at international level. The role played by the World Bank will be under scrutiny.

Required readings:


Recommended readings:


Assignment for this session:

Case study 9: Friends or foes: the evolution of IMF and World Bank relations?
Case study 10: Reforming the UN system: the impact of the new public management

* Session 9, Nov 5th: The growing role of expertise in policy transfer and diffusion

This session examines the growing role of experts (academics, consultancy firms,) and international organizations (ICLEI, UN Habitat, World Bank) in framing political debates and policy-making at cities’ level.

Required readings:


Recommended readings:


Assignment for this session:

Case Study 11: Promoting Green Growth in South East Asian cities: the role of the OECD
Case study 12: Reforming the UN system: the role of new public management reform agenda.
* Session 10, Nov 19th: All tools are informational now

This session examines the critical role played by soft law, informational policy tools and new modes of governance.

**Required readings:** John, Peter (2013), All tools are informational now: how information and persuasion define the tools of government, *Policy & Politics*, 41(4), p. 605-620.

**Recommended readings:**


**Assignment for this session:**

*Case study 13: The promises and threats of Big data in International public policy-making*

*Case Study 14: The implication of international benchmarking for education reforms*

* Session 11, Nov 26th: The limits of international policy-making: a focus on policy results.

This session will examine the discrepancy between international policy objectives and policy results by focusing on implementation.

**Required readings:**


**Recommended readings:**


Assignment for this session:

Case study 15: Labour is our own: multi-national companies and voluntary labor regulation.

Case 16: Who is afraid of money laundering prevention initiatives?

* Session 12, Dec. 3rd (TBC) : Final exam

Assignment for this session: see above (course requirements).