

Policy Studies Yearbook Annual Review 2021

Note from the Editor

EMMA R. NORMAN

Policy Studies Organization

Welcome to the *Policy Studies Yearbook Annual Review 2021*! Pioneered by the *Policy Studies Journal* over a decade ago, the *Policy Studies Yearbook* is a unique twin-pronged project designed to: first, connect a large, international, and multi-disciplinary body of policy scholars and practitioners via the *Yearbook* directory; and second, to disseminate the best of their research in contemporary policy developments, commentaries, and reviews of the policy literature in the *Yearbook* annual publication.

The *Yearbook* Directory

As the many members of the directory know, the growing needs of the *Yearbook* directory were fulfilled by moving it in 2021 to a new, updated, and stand-alone website at psoyearbook.org. Here, policy scholars, policy practitioners, and advanced graduate students can stay current on recent research in their subfield by uploading their profile, affiliations, research areas, and lists of publications—old and new. Members use the directory to get connected and stay that way. But the directory is far more than a simple contacts list. You can use its searchable database to promote your latest research to exactly the right people, find new colleagues and research collaborators, identify experts in highly specialized areas, establish your peer reviewer niche (and link it to other sites), identify potential peer review panel members,¹ nominate preferred peer reviewers when submitting articles to journals, send the right people copies of your latest publications, shortlist potential faculty, convene integrated conference panels, contact policy practitioners in your subfield, or select compatible graduate supervisors—among many other things. If you're not already a member, it is free and easy to sign up and get connected—just follow the simple instructions on the homepage at psoyearbook.org. We send out a yearly email to remind you to update your *Yearbook* directory profile to ensure it remains current and can get you in touch quickly and easily with the policy people you need to know (and those who need to know *you*)!

1 As an editor with a couple of the PSO's other journals for many years, the multidisciplinary nature of the policy studies field has always made it somewhat challenging to find the best reviewers for highly specialized policy areas. Years ago, I discovered that the searchable international listing of policy scholars in the *Yearbook* directory is also an invaluable resource for editors to find exactly the right peer-review panel for promising submissions.

The *Yearbook* Annual Publication

For eleven years, the Yearbook Annual Review was published by Wiley as a supplemental issue of the prestigious Policy Studies Journal (PSJ). All past issues of the Yearbook can now be accessed freely in one click on the homepage of the above web address. As the new editor, I am proud to present the twelfth issue of the Policy Studies Yearbook Annual Review. It expresses admirably the growth of our twin-pronged project in its wider aims and scope, while also offering the same detailed, rigorous, and highly engaging scholarly reviews of the literature for which the Yearbook became renowned under Hank Jenkins-Smith's editorship. As you will see, this year's expanded publication also includes commentaries, original research, and multidisciplinary policy connections that I hope you will find interesting, inspiring, and useful.

***Yearbook Review* 2021 Issue Summary**

State-of-the-Policy-Art Literature Reviews

The past eleven *Yearbooks* all included review articles summarizing the most recent scholarship in specific policy subfields. In many cases, these were created and submitted by faculty members with stellar graduate students as coauthors. This year's *Yearbook Annual Review* will not disappoint readers looking for the same standard of rigorously peer-reviewed state-of-the-policy-art analytical reviews. Our first four articles comprise the most exceptional of the submissions we received in this area.

Regarding the editor's main selection criteria, *Yearbook* articles not only review the literature rigorously, widely, and underline its importance beyond the narrow subfield in question. They also draw a strong original contribution from those reviews. Our first article this year does all these things with considerable aplomb. In "A Systematic Review of Policy Learning: Tiptoeing through a Conceptual Minefield," Bishoy Louis Zaki, Ellen Wayenberg, and Bert George (2022) offer an impressive systematic study on the extant research regarding policy learning. Their findings point strongly to the continuing need for enhancing the conceptual and analytical value of policy learning, which lies at the heart of the policy process and its scholarship. Of course, the strength of exceptional review articles lies not merely in the breadth and depth of the literature reviews they contain, but in their ability to balance this by defining, justifying, and assisting future research agendas in the field. This article is particularly strong in these areas: from the breadth of its clearly elaborated coding scheme, to its problematization of areas of weak theorization and lack of clarity, to its well-considered and justified suggestions for avenues of future study. The authors emerge with a conceptual framework of policy learning designed to ameliorate what they call the 'persistent fragmentation' and conceptual clarity issues rife across this burgeoning subfield of policy studies.

Just as policy learning relates to many stages of the policy process, so too does collaboration theory—as our second article argues strongly. Madeleine W. McNamara and John C. Morris (2022) give a thorough review of the collaboration literature in “Expanding the Utility of Cross-Sectoral Collaboration in Policy Studies: Present and Future.” They contend that its reach extends far beyond the usual focus on policy implementation and well into the realms of practical policy application at different stages of the policy cycle. Like Zaki, Wayenberg, and George (2022), their strongest contribution lies in the realms of developing theory and underlining new avenues for future research, leading them to flag opportunities for a greater inclusion of cross-sectoral collaboration theories (and practices informed by them) into policy research more broadly. To aid thinking about how cross-sector collaboration may relate strongly to the practice of policy studies beyond implementation, the contemporary policy examples and contexts the authors discuss, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, are particularly illuminating.

In the third article, Saahir Shafi and Daniel J. Mallinson (2022) focus on the shifting policy landscape in research and practice concerning “A Decade in Drug Policy and Research: Evaluating Trends from 2010 to 2020 and Presenting Major Policy Developments.” This in-depth systematic review finds that research preferences have closely followed policy developments, especially in the United States in the wake of COVID-19 and the black lives movement. For example, the flow of states and countries toward more liberal drug policies is reflected in the growing body of literature on legalization and decriminalization. This article is particularly effective in showing not just a sense of how policy is changing over the years, but how well prevailing research trends match and trail, if not at times predict, such developments. Policy, as the authors underline, begets research—and research funding.

Fourth, in “Seeing the Visual: A Literature Review on Why and How Policy Scholars Would Do Well to Study Influential Visualizations,” Eduardo Rojas-Padilla, Tamara Metze, and Katrien Termeer (2022) offer a technically sophisticated review of the literature on visualizations and justify its importance to negotiating and framing policy. The authors identify exactly how (and to whom) visual elements can and should be critical to both policy making and policy scholarship, though its prominence in the discipline has to date been patchy at best. An excellent example of the widening multidisciplinary of the policy sciences, this article does much to persuade us that, despite our specialized subfield, embracing the ‘visual turn’ in future policy studies is not only beneficial to our discipline; it is fast becoming requisite in almost every area.

Policy Developments and Commentaries

Our last four pieces showcase the wider focus we hoped this year would contribute to the new format of the *Yearbook Annual Review*. Two comprise original research in, respectively, contemporary gender representation policy and de-

fense policy, though each implicates and teases out other policy strands too. Our final two contributors offer extended commentary articles. One corrects foreign policy misperceptions regarding the Ukraine's position in the global landscape that appear to have been lost in translation. The other applies cultural studies to better understand party system change and its concomitant policy ramifications.

In our fifth article, Mahbub Prodip's (2022) comparative analysis of reserved seats identifies the main hindrances impeding policies designed to promote gender equality and women's political empowerment from a developing democracy perspective. In "Women's Political Empowerment in India and Bangladesh: Gender Quotas and Socio-economic Obstructions," Prodip provides a poignant counterpoint to the Western context in which quotas are most often discussed. The author and notes the multiple problems with the institutional design of gender equality policies in both countries. He argues that the socio-economic barriers experienced by women continue to stymie the formal institutional measures designed to level the political playing field when it comes to women's real policy influence at the local level.

John Ash's (2022) excellent contribution tackles a host of policy issues (environmental/economic, defense/military, political autonomy/democracy/sovereignty, cyber questions, and security/neutrality) as they intersect with the policy concerns surrounding the unique geopolitical case for Greenlandic independence. The island stands at the forefront of climate change and has brought the prospect of increased availability of Arctic natural resources as well as concerns that these might provide focal points for conflict in the region. In "An Arctic Promised Land: Greenlandic Independence and Security," Ash focuses on the most salient defense issues, taking theory/conceptual consonance, normative considerations, and practical economic/military perspectives on board. This in-depth study emerges with five detailed policy options and advice from a military and geopolitical perspective that account for the wide range of intersecting policy issues involved.

Our seventh piece is entitled "Misrepresenting Ukraine's Democracy, Misguiding U.S. Foreign Affairs—Afterthoughts on a Recent Debate in Washington and Nuclear Non-proliferation." In this commentary, Andreas Umland (2022) highlights recent challenges to Western foreign policy toward Eastern Europe, and particularly Ukraine, that informed debates in some important policy circles in 2021. Whether due to misinformation, stereotypes, or language barriers, Umland's critical commentary examines some of the most serious claims used as reasons to call for an end to U.S. support for Ukraine and offers counter evidence in each case.

Finally, Riccardo Pelizzo and Zim Nwokora (2022) bring both political science and cultural studies back into the policy spectrum in "The Cultural Determinants of Party System Change." Through their notion of the 'rise of the fluid self' derived from an entertaining exploration into key developments in popular culture in the 1960s, the authors provide an initial foray into the cultural basis of party system change/transformation/fluidity not customarily found in the canoni-

cal literature on the subject. The authors argue that the rise of the fluid self reduced the appeal of parties (as evidenced by the decline in party-membership levels) and that political parties' vanishing appeal contributed to the destabilization of west European party systems. Both have affected the policy offers made to electorates by parties and ensuing policy developments. The wide empirical evidence concerning party system fluidity since the 1960s offered in this commentary article suggests the point may be an important one for future studies to explore. Of particular note concerns whether and to what extent the correlation between fluid self and system fluidity may have a causal basis and, if so, whether the political and policy sciences ought to take cultural contexts more fully on board in future research.

Concluding Remarks

ACTION: Please bookmark the new Yearbook website at <http://www.psoyearbook.org/directory/> and easily update your profile there.

I hope you enjoy our new *Policy Studies Yearbook* articles for 2021. The PSO and I express our sincere thanks to Hank Jenkins-Smith and the *PSJ* editors and staff for creating and running this extremely useful twin resource for policy experts for the last 12 years under the remit of the *PSJ*. Theirs are large shoes to fill! The directory is a fantastic online tool for scholars, practitioners, editors, journalists, and students to aid networking, scholarly collaboration and continued contact in the field—all the more important in today's socially distanced world.

Now our new website has been up and running for a year, it is even quicker and easier to use. I encourage you to create a profile in the *Yearbook* directory membership at [psoyearbook.org](http://www.psoyearbook.org) (just click the link "Get Listed") to receive all our updates about the directory and annual publication projects. Or click on 'directory' on the homepage to add a new profile or update an existing profile on <http://www.psoyearbook.org/directory/>. As always, it's very simple: just click on Yearbook Members > Update Information, enter the email address associated with your profile and add your latest contact details and published works. If you no longer have access to that address, no problem. Just follow the instructions to reset. Please note that, for security reasons, Yearbook staff check and approve new profiles before they go live, but updates should be instantaneous. Please also ask your colleagues to add their profiles if they have not already done so.

I very much look forward to working together with you in the future! Our call for papers for the upcoming 2022 *Yearbook Annual Review* can be found below. If you have any queries or suggestions for new features you would like to see the *Yearbook* directory fulfill, or if you wish to submit a paper for consideration in the 2022 *Yearbook Annual Review*, please email me at psyearbook@ipsonet.org.

Editor: Emma R. Norman
psyearbook@ipsonet.org

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