



Department of Public and Social Policy ISS FSS CU is honored to invite you to the open part of
the **Workshop on Multiple Streams Framework**,
held in **Jinonice, room J1031, on Thursday, April 27, 2017, 14:00-16.50.**

The aim of the event is to present the Multiple Streams Framework (MSF) from theoretical and practical perspectives to all, who are interested in this rapidly developing framework of policy process research.

Block 1 Multiple Streams Framework in Theoretical Perspective (14.00 - 15.20)

Chair: Vilém Novotný (Charles University, CR)

Co-chair: Reimut Zohlnhöfer (University of Heidelberg, Germany)

Nikolaos Zahariadis (Rhodes College, Memphis TN, USA): *Ambiguity in Public Policy and the Multiple Streams Framework*

Prof. Zahariadis will present the general outline of the Multiple Streams Framework. The website of the text from which much of the material is drawn is [Nikolaos Zahariadis \(ed.\), *Handbook of Public Policy Agenda Setting*, Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, VT: Edward Elgar, 2016.](#)

Rob A. DeLeo (Bentley University, USA): *Indicators and the Multiple Stream Framework: Missed Opportunity or Emerging Research Agenda?*

Indicators, which refer to measures or metrics of a policy problem, are an integral component of the multiple streams framework (MSF) and, more specifically, its “problem stream.” From disease cases to average annual temperatures, unemployment rates to the number of traffic accidents, indicators play a vital role in drawing policymaker, media, and public attention to existing and emerging problems. Indicators constitute one of the most widely referenced elements of the problem stream, appearing in nearly 69 percent of all peer-reviewed articles on MSF published between the years 2000 and 2013. The following presentation explores indicators and MSF. It begins by considering the rich, but fairly diffuse, intellectual history of indicators, a concept that is central to every major theory of agenda setting as well as the broader literatures on policy implementation and evaluation. While indicators are readily referenced by scholars applying MSF, very few studies empirically investigate the relationship between indicator change and agenda setting. In light of this omission, this presentation offers a number of potential strategies for filling this important void in the MSF literature.

Break (15.20-15.30)

Block 2 Applying Multiple Streams Framework in Practice (15.30 - 16.50)

Chair: Vilém Novotný (Charles University, CR)

Co-chair: Reimut Zohlnhöfer (University of Heidelberg, Germany)

Nicole Herweg (University of Heidelberg, Germany): *Use and Applications of the Multiple Streams Framework*

Building on a content analysis of Multiple Streams Framework (MSF) research published from 2000 through 2013 in English, peer-reviewed articles (n=311), the presentation summarizes the scope of MSF applications, examining the consistency, and coherence with which the framework's concepts are applied. Among other findings, the analysis reveals that MSF is applied to study 65 different countries, at multiple levels of governance, across 22 different policy areas, and by researchers spanning the globe. The findings suggest that MSF is prolific, but lacks consistency across applications in terms of operationalization of its core concepts.



Harald Saetren (University of Bergen, Norway): *Towards a Contingency Theory of Policy Entrepreneurship in the Multiple Streams Frameworks*

Given the prominent and crucial role Kingdom attributed to policy entrepreneurs (PE) in his multiple streams framework (MSF) it is somewhat surprising that he had so little to say about them except for some personal and ideosyncratic characteristics. Fortunately, this weakness related to the MSF has been rectified to some extent through later research applying it in wider contexts than Kingdom's by scholars on both continents divided by the Atlantic Ocean. This fairly short presentation will focus on and discuss some of the amendments made to draw a more complete of who PE's are, their position relative the policy-making system, what their strategies and actions are as well the criteria that should be applied to assess their degree of success. The presentation will end by pointing out some directions for future research on PE that might contribute towards further improvement of the MSF.

Kristin O'Donovan (Wayne State University, USA): *An Assessment of Aggregate Focusing Events, Disaster Experience, and Policy Change*

To what extent is the rarity of a focusing event important opening the window for policy change? This paper contributes to the Multiple Streams Framework (MSF) by refining the concept of focusing event rarity as an important predictor of the opportunity for policy change. The central contention of this paper is that event rarity is less important than an aggregation of focusing events over time. The theoretical rationale is that aggregate focusing events serve to make the ambiguity of policy problems and solutions more easily manageable. Using data on flood mitigation policy in the United States, this paper examines the effect of aggregate focusing events on state adoption policies buy out flood-prone land. It develops and tests indices of aggregate focusing events at for ten years prior to state policy change. The findings support classic definition of focusing events as a trigger for potential policy chance. In addition, exploratory findings suggest that focusing events in the aggregate, of three years leading up to policy change are also important for triggering policy change

Contact: vnovotny@fsv.cuni.cz



Chairs and Speakers (alphabetically)

Rob A. DeLeo is an Assistant Professor and coordinator of the Public Policy program at Bentley University. His research explores the dynamics of agenda setting, policy change, and the governance of public risks. His 2015 book, *Anticipatory Policymaking: When Government Acts to Prevent Problems and Why It Is So Difficult*, examines policy change in anticipation of emergent hazards and potentially catastrophic events. His work has also appeared in various peer-reviewed journals, including *Risk, Hazards, & Crisis in Public Policy*, *Critical Policy Studies*, *Polity*, and others.

Nicole Herweg is a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Political Science at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, from where she received her Ph.D. in political science in 2015. Dr. Herweg's research interests are in comparative public policy. Her research focuses in particular on policy processes, energy policy, and European Union politics. She is the author of *European Union Policy-Making. The Regulatory Shift in Natural Gas Market Policy* (2017) and has published in academic journals, including the *European Journal of Political Research*, *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis*, *Policy Sciences*, and *Policy Studies Journal*.

Vilém Novotný is Senior Lecturer and Senior Researcher at the Department of Public and Social Policy ISS FSS Charles University, Czech Republic. His research interests focus on political parties - policy relations, policy process research, and history of policy studies. He is publishing in various peer-reviewed journals including the *Politologická revue* [Czech Political Science Review], *Acta Politologica*, *Central European Journal of Public Policy* and *Policy Sciences*. He is the author of *Vývoj českého studia veřejných politik v evropském kontextu* [Development of Czech Public Policy Studies in the European context] (2012) and the co-author of *Mezi masovou a kartelovou stranou : Možnosti teorie při výkladu vývoje ČSSD a KSČM v letech 2000-2001* [Mass and Cartel Parties: Sources of Theory for Interpreting the Development of ČSSD and KSČM in 2000–2010] (2012).

Kristin O'Donovan is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI, USA. Her research investigates on policy the process, focusing events, policy failure and learning, policy narratives and the politics of hazards and disasters. Dr. O'Donovan's current research explores the extent to which different sources of information influence how local governments make decisions. Her work has been published in *Administration & Society*, *Review of Policy Research*, and *Risk, Hazard & Crisis in Public Policy*.

Harald Sætren is professor emeritus in Administration and Organization Theory in the department with the same name at the University of Bergen, Norway. His research focus in later years has been on the dynamic interplay between policy formulation/design and implementation in various policy areas like administrative reform, regional and social policy. This includes two state-of-the-art reviews of the policy implementation research literature in 2005 and 2014 respectively. *Administration & Society*, *Policy Sciences*, *Policy Studies Journal*, *Public Policy & Administration* and the *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis* are some of the related publication outlets.

Nikolaos Zahariadis is Mertie Buckman Professor of International Studies at Rhodes College, Memphis TN, USA. A native of Greece, he has published extensively on issues of comparative public policy and European political economy. He has been a Fulbright Scholar, an ESRC-SSRC Visiting Fellow, a Policy Studies Organization Fellow, an Adjunct Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and a National Bank of Greece Senior Research Fellow. He currently serves as the co-chair of the public policy section of the European Union Studies Association and was president of the International Studies Association-South. Numerous agencies have invited him to speak on aspects of his work including the US State Department, the governments of Romania and Greece, and many universities around the world, including Harvard University, New York University, the London School of Economics, University of Hamburg, the Wissenschaftszentrum-Berlin, University of East Anglia, and others. For more info see: <https://www.rhodes.edu/bio/zahariadisn>



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FAKULTA SOCIÁLNÍCH VĚD

Institut sociologických studií
Katedra veřejné a sociální politiky



Reimut Zohlnhöfer is a professor at the Institute of Political Science at Heidelberg University, Germany. Previously, he worked at Bremen University's Center for Social Policy Research, was a John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellow at the Center for European Studies at Harvard University and a professor of Comparative Public Policy at the University of Bamberg. He has published articles in various academic journals including the *British Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, the *European Journal of Political Research*, the *Journal of European Public Policy*, the *Policy Studies Journal* and has recently co-edited a book on the state of the art of the Multiple Streams Framework, *Decision-Making under Ambiguity and Time Constraints. Assessing the Multiple-Streams Framework* (with Friedbert W. Rüb).