Panel 2: Policy integration and coordination for governing cross-cutting policy issues

Panel Organizers:

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Many of today's most pressing societal challenges, such as climate change, food (in)security, the (in)stability of financial systems, and terrorism, cut across the boundaries of traditional jurisdictions, policy domains and governance levels. While it is recognized that these problems require some level of policy coordination and integration, severe challenges to political and administrative policymakers and their institutional surroundings exist (Candel and Biesbroek 2016). Governments and international organizations have therefore increasingly called for more holistic governance arrangements and practices. In the academic literature, these pleas for holistic governance have been reflected by emerging debates on integrative concepts such as joined-up governance, whole-of-government, boundary-spanning policy regimes, functional regulatory spaces, (environmental/ climate) policy integration, and coordination (e.g., Bouckaert et al. 2010; Jochim and May 2010; Jordan and Lenschow 2010; Peters 1998; Varone et al. 2013).

Institutions and policymakers design different arrangements to coordinate and integrate policy processes, in both the preparation and execution phase, for instance more structural (e.g. new institutions, networks, planning and monitoring instruments) or cultural (e.g. codes of conduct, power distance, performance orientation (e.g. House et al. 2004: 11-13)). Present in scholarly literature are different taxonomies and classifications of arrangements, mechanisms and instruments. However, in spite of growing scholarly attention for policy integration and coordination, both conceptualizations and empirical accounts remain largely fragmented, and fundamental questions have remained unaddressed. A few examples of these questions are: which factors determine the effectiveness of policy integration instruments, do different coordination mechanisms lead to different results? Is the choice for certain governance mechanisms dependent on policy substantive factors (e.g. salience, urgency, complexity and wickedness of the policy issue)? etc.

The aim of this panel is to bring together scholars who study policy coordination and integration to bring some convergence in these debates. We particularly welcome papers that further the debate about policy coordination and integration by:

- Providing a **systematic literature review** of existing conceptualizations or empirical evidence about policy coordination and integration.
- Proposing innovative **conceptualizations** of policy coordination and integration processes, patterns, and practices. Policy integration and coordination are often approached as a desired outcome or principle, rather than an inherently dynamic process (Candel and Biesbroek 2016).

We welcome papers that open up the 'black box' and discern relevant dimensions and mechanisms.

- Taking a more **systemic perspective** by analysing what political and administrative conditions enable or constrain policy integration and coordination processes. Scholars have, for example, suggested that some administrative cultures are more receptive than others (6 2005; Peters 2008). At the same time, such relationships remain understudied.
- Providing **empirical accounts** of existing governmental integrative and coordination efforts. Papers that apply a comparative design or that provide insights into the outcomes/success of different strategies are particularly welcome.

As explained above, papers that do not follow an explicit policy integration or coordination perspective but apply a similar approach and connect with the questions this panel seeks to address are also welcome.

Linkage with sub-themes NIG research programme

This panel connects directly with themes 1 (multi-level governance) and 2 (multi-actor governance n complex networks) of the NIG research programme. Although policy integration and coordination scholars have traditionally mainly focused on horizontal processes, there is increasing interest to similar (vertical) challenges that arise from multi-level governance. A particularly pressing question in this respect is whether strengthened horizontal policy integration and coordination is (in)compatible with strengthened vertical policy integration (Egeberg and Trondal 2015). Regarding theme 2, this panel touches upon the fundamental question of how fragmented governance (sub)systems and associated actor configurations can come to address crosscutting societal problems in coherent and consistent (which remain problematic concepts in themselves) ways (Howlett and Rayner 2006).

References

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If you want to present a paper, please submit your abstract (max. 800 words) to NIG before August 25th 2016 via de NIG website.

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