

Wetenschappelijke expertise en beleid onderzocht


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Political Information Frames Policy Information!

- **Political information.**
 - Information about public opinion, party competition, coalition strategy, consequences of alternative decisions on these; "Whether or not it is true, how many people believe it to be true? Who are they? How strong is their belief?"
- **Policy information.**
 - Technical, focused, systematic analysis of policy inputs and outputs of government and its effects on society.



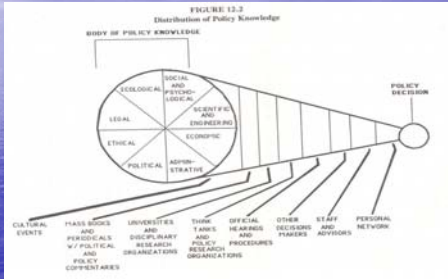
Complexity of Policy Knowledge

Source: Webber, 1992:390



Distribution of Policy Knowledge

Source: Webber, 1992:407



Measuring Utilization: Climbing the Ladder of Utilization (1)

Adapted from Knott & Wildavsky, 1980

- **Step 1. Transmission.**
 - PTA inputs transmitted to policymakers and relevant social stakeholders/citizens.
- **Step 2. Cognition.**
 - PTA inputs read, seen, and understood.
- **Step 3. Reference.**
 - PTA inputs cited or referred to in public debate and policy deliberations.



Measuring Utilization: Climbing the Ladder of Utilization (2)

Adapted from Knott & Wildavsky, 1980

- **Step 4. Effort.**
 - Policymakers have made an effort to adopt a TA's recommendations.
- **Step 5. Adoption.**
 - TA results have somehow influenced authoritative policy choice and decision.
- **Step 6. Application.**
 - TA results gave rise to implementation and/or elaboration in policy practice.



Explaining Utilization

- **Science Push (or Technological) Model.**
 - Advancement of knowledge, product types, sources of funding, publication assets.
- **Demand Pull (or Economic) Model.**
 - Focus on users' needs, receptivity of users to research.
- **Institutional or Dissemination Model.**
 - Adaptation of products, amount of dissemination efforts.
- **Social Interaction Model.**
 - Sustained and intense interaction of producers and users, linkage mechanisms.
- **Transaction costs or barriers to entry** in attempts to climb the ladder of utilization.
 - Public policy barriers, absolute cost advantages, economies of scale, product customization.

Some Findings on Climbing the Ladder of Utilization

Source: Landry, Amara & Lamri, 1999

- Variables in *technological model* are not supported at all.
- Focus on *users' needs* totally fails to explain a climb in the ladder of utilization.
- Institutional *dissemination efforts* (adaptation of products, dissemination strategy) successfully predicts only transmission; but not climbing to higher echelons.
- *Linkage mechanisms* successfully predict transmission and cognition; but fail to predict climbing higher.
- *Users' context* (users consider research pertinent, research coincides with users' needs, users' attitude gives credibility to research, results reach users in time) is clearly the best predictor for climbing to higher echelons.
- Overall, theory successfully explains the step to transmission, but rather *indeterminate on climbing the higher, more relevant echelons.*

Dilemma of Knowledge Utilization

- A scientific/expert institute keen on significant utilization, will have to invest heavily in skills, expertise, and know-how, and bear substantial costs for customization tailored to one or a few users.
- As the specificity of scientific/expert knowledge increases, the number of potential users decreases.
- Linkage mechanisms for knowledge mandating/mobilization as important as, or even more important than for utilization: capacity to take advantage of window of opportunity.

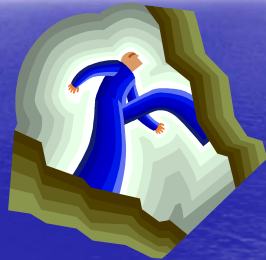


Van kennisgebruik naar grenzenwerk!

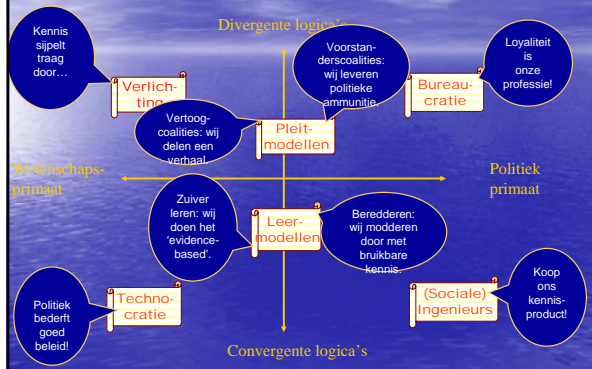
- Onderzoek/expertise is geen supermarkt voor beleidsmakers.
- Een beleidsbeslissing is geen eenmalige gebeurtenis, maar uitkomst van een proces.
- Dialoog onderzoek/expertise met beleid/politiek vergt investering in langdurige, blijvende interactie: GRENZENWERK:

Grenzenwerk (Shapin, 1992; Halfman, 2002)

- Boundary work defines a practice in contrast with other practices, protects it from unwanted participants and interference, while attempting to prescribe proper ways of behaviour for participants and non participants (**demarcation**);
- at the same time, boundary work defines proper ways for interaction between these practices and makes such interaction possible and conceivable (**coordination**). (Shapin 1992; Halfman 2002)



Modellen van arrangementen van grenzenwerk



Principes in omgang met beleidskennis
(AWT, 2005)

- Openheid voor meerdere perspectieven
- Gevalideerde kennis van bewezen kwaliteit
- Openbaarheid
- Onafhankelijkheid
- Bewust omgaan met onzekerheid
