Villa Vigoni 2017

VILLA VIGONI

Centro Italo-Tedesco per l'Eccellenza Europea

Deutsch-Italienisches Zentrum für Europäische Exzellenz

German-Italian Cooperation in Social Sciences and Liberal Arts

"Behavioural sciences and the politics of simplification"

Abstract

In recent years, we are observing novel modes of policy-making and regulation based on insights from behavioural economics, psychology and the behavioural sciences more generally. These insights are applied across an increasing number of policy areas - from health policy and consumer protection to tax and pension law. More often than not, the aim of these behavioural approaches is to simplify government and to change – in some cases: to nudge - the behaviour of citizens towards better individual and collective decisions. While there is already a sizable literature across multiple disciplines on behaviourally informed policies, there are few comparative studies systematically analysing the application of behavioural insights in public policy across countries and policy areas.

Based on a transdisciplinary and comparative approach, the conference aims at understanding the conditions and consequences, the mechanisms and modes of behavioural public policy in Europe. While Britain and the US have been forerunners, Germany and Italy are currently more hesitant. In a collaborative effort between scientists and policy makers we hope to identify both the enabling and constraining factors in the emerging varieties of behavioural public policies across countries.

The conference will be based on workshop discussions, brief inputs on selected topics and keynotes addressing central questions. We are also preparing a survey before the conference. Discussions will most likely be focused on four key questions:

(1) Behavioural insights applied to policy across countries and sectors - how can we describe the emerging landscape of behavioural public policy?

(2) Forerunners, laggards - what are the enabling and constraining factors of applying behavioural insights to public policy?

(3) Behavioural teams and networks: What are the modes and mechanisms of expertise between science and policy?

(4) Varieties of Behavioural Public Policy - what are the implications for future research and practice?

Chairs and Participants

Chairs

- Dr. Robert Lepenies, Freie Universität Berlin
- Dr. Kathrin Loer, Fernuniversität in Hagen
- Dr. Holger Straßheim, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin & Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung
- Prof. Dr. Paolo Moderato, Libera Università di Lingue e Comunicazione IULM, Milano
- Dr. Francesco Pozzi, Libera Università di Lingue e Comunicazione IULM, Milano

Participants

- Prof. Dr. Alberto Alemanno, Jean Monnet Professor of EU Law & Risk Regulation
- Prof. Dr. Frank Beckenbach, Universität Kassel
- Juliane Böhme, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB)
- Prof. Dr. Christian Berndt, Universität Zürich
- Prof. Dr. Massimo Cesareo, Libera Università di Lingue e Comunicazione IULM, Milano
- Emanuele Ciriolo, European Commission
- Dr. Maria Daskalakis, Universität Kassel
- Fabrizio Esposito, European University Institut (EUI), Firenze
- Dr. Benedikt Herrmann
- Florian Irgmaier, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB)
- Rebecca-Lea Korinek, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB)
- Dr. Magdalena Malecka, University of Helsinki
- Christine Polzin, Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung, Leipzig
- Prof. Dr. Giovambattista Presti, Università Kore, Enna
- Dr. Jessica Pykett, University of Birmingham
- Prof. Dr. Vincenzo Russo, Libera Università di Lingue e Comunicazione IULM, Milano
- Prof. Dr. Ingunn Sandaker, Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences
- Dr. Christian Schubert, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena
- Prof. Dr. Anne-Lise Sibony, Université catholique de Louvain
- Zhi Soon, Behavioural Insights Team, UK
- Prof. Dr. Indra Spiecker gen. Döhmann, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main
- Francoise Waintrop, Mission au Sécrétariat Général pour la Modernisation de l'Action Publique

Program

Monday, March 27, 2017   **Arrival in the afternoon**

19.00   Welcome Drinks

Day 1: Tuesday, March 28, 2017

09.30-10.15   **Introduction**

                                       Robert Lepenies, Kathrin Loer, Francesco Pozzi, Holger Straßheim

10.15-11.15   **Keynote: Varieties of behavioural sciences in public policy – the European landscape: Emanuele Ciriolo**

11.15-11.45   Coffee break

11.45-12.50   **Keynote: Varieties of behavioural sciences in public policy – Nudging Europe**

13.00-14.30   Lunch break

14.30-16.30   **Parallel working groups**

                                       Behavioural insights applied to policy across countries and sectors - how can we describe the emerging and changing landscape of behavioural public policy?

16.30-17.00   Coffee break

17.00-18.00   **Wrapping up discussion**

19.30   Dinner

Day 2: Wednesday, March 29, 2017

10.00- 11.15	**Keynote: Behavioural Public Policy in Germany – recent developments: Frank Beckenbach, Maria Daskalakis**
11.15-11.45	Coffee break
11.45-12.55	**Keynote: Behavioural Public Policy in Italy – recent developments: Paolo Moderato**
13.00-14.30	Lunch break
14.30-16.30	**Parallel Working Groups**
	Forerunners, laggards? What are the enabling and constraining factors of applying behavioural insights to public policy?
16.30-17.00	Coffee break
17.00-18.00	**Wrapping up discussion**
19.30	Dinner

Day 3: Thursday, March 30, 2017

10.00-11.15	**Keynote: Analysing and applying behavioural public policy – the BIT's experience: Zhi Soon**
11.15-11.45	Coffee break
11.45-12.55	**Keynote: Analysing and applying behavioural public policy – the SGMAP's experience: Francoise Waintrop**
13.00-14.30	Lunch break
14.30-16.30	**Parallel working groups**
	Behavioural teams and networks: modes and mechanisms of expertise between science and policy
16.30-17.00	Coffee break
17-00-18.00	**Wrapping up discussion**
19.30	Dinner

Day 4: Friday, March 31, 2017

10.00-11.15	**Keynote: The rise of the psychological state: Jessica Pykett**
11.15-11.45	Coffee break
11.45-12.55	**Keynote: Behavioural economics and regulatory policy: Christian Berndt**
13.00-14.30	Lunch break
14.30-16.00	**Parallel working groups**
	Future challenges, possibilities and limits of applying behavioural insights to public policy
16.00-16.30	Coffee break
16.30-18.00	**Conclusions**
19.30	Dinner

Saturday, April 1, 2017 **Breakfast and departure**