UP 594-MD: Policy Mobilities

Meets: Thursdays, 2-4:50, 19 Temple Buell Hall

Instructor: Prof. Marc Doussard, mdouss1@illinois.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday, 12:30-2

COURSE DESCRIPTION

We live in a world of policy experiments. They range from front-line news stories – participatory budgeting, the $15 minimum wage, soda taxes – to obscure financial regulations that quietly rework city budgets and the state's relationship to its citizens. In the U.S. in particular, cities have always relied on policies developed somewhere else, often because they lack the resources or expertise to develop their own. Scholars have long conceptualized this intuitive process of scanning for best practices as the act of *policy transfer*. By contrast, the politically charged and theoretically rich academic field of *policy mobilities* examines the institution-building, the expertise, the politics and current-day governance challenges that make mobile policy so important and so contested. This course will immerse you in the origins, mechanics, politics and possibilities of policy mobilities. In the process, it will make you a better-informed citizen, a sharper thinker and a more capable practitioner.

The idea of policy mobilities emerged from the political science idea of policy transfer. Accordingly, we'll start with the classics from that field. To ground the course in cities, we'll also learn about their limited powers and resources – in short, we'll develop a picture of why cities rely on ideas developed somewhere else. The course then turns to the critical idea of policy mobilities. We'll read manifestos, methodological primers, policy ethnographies and multi-site studies of policy on the move. Finally, the course will turn to current-day political issues and the question of political scale. We'll use the ideas built into policy mobilities to look at how and why different policies travel, and to make sense of major changes to several contemporary issues. In particular, we'll focus on work and employment, welfare and social assistance, participatory budgeting, and climate change policy. Each of these issues is developing through particular agendas, institutions and regulatory dilemmas, all of which will shape possibility and practice in the near future.

We will ground all of this in your own research. At the beginning of the course, you will choose a policy that is currently making its way across different legislative forums. Over the course of the semester, you will conduct intensive, original research on this policy: Where did it start? How quickly is spreading, and to where? Which networks advocate for and against its adoption? How is the policy changing as it moves? How is it working? These basic questions have direct answers, if one takes the time and effort to look. This course provides the opportunity to undertake that effort.

COURSE GOALS

Students should take several different things away from this course:
- An understanding of why cities in the U.S., and governments everywhere, search for model policies to adopt
- An appreciation of the links between policy mobility and the increasing instability of local economies and political economies

- The course should make you comfortable linking specific places to political and economic change writ large. You will gain a lot of knowledge about the influence of national and international networks on city and state policies that many practitioners (and scholars) consider in isolation
- Methodological training – the course will provide you the opportunity to do primary research
- Deep knowledge about a topic that interests you. Studies of policy mobility have proliferated because following a policy around the world provides surprising insights into societies, networks, politics and economies

COURSE ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENTS

Class sessions: The course is built around reading. We'll read a lot. Like you, I'll be reading most of this material for the first time. The most basic classroom goals is to talk, and talk a lot. At the beginning of the semester, you will sign up to claim one (and maybe two) dates on which you'll lead classroom discussion. My only stipulation is to postpone praxis discussions – the question of what we can do in the world with this information – until the end of a session. It's more important to read deeply and understand the readings on their own terms.

Assignments: At the beginning of the semester, you will choose a policy that interests you. The assignments will help you develop a policy-mobilities analysis of the policy. In February, you will write a short paper on the origins of the policy you choose. That paper will focus on the real-world problem the policy was tasked with addressing, and the political considerations that went into the policy's formation. The March assignment will ask you to develop a map of the policy's advocates and opponents, and the networks through which it spreads. The final assignment will ask you to look critically at policy outcomes.

Readings: Expect some of the readings to change, especially in the last month, as we grow fatigued in some areas and eager to learn more about others.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Student performance and grades are based on the following:

1) Class Participation: 20%
> This includes attendance (on-time), participation in discussion, and the degree to which students come to the course prepared to engage the material, their classmates, and the subject at hand.

2) Research Assignments: 80%
- Policy origins (20%)
- Policy networks (30%)

- Policy outcomes (30%)

REQUIRED TEXTS

Most course readings will be either journal articles or brief book excerpts. You will need to purchase four full texts. Most of you will find yourselves consulting these works again and again as you work through your dissertation proposal and research.

Peck, Jamie and Nik Theodore. 2015. *Fast Policy.* Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

McCann, Eugene and Kevin Ward, eds. 2011. *Mobile Urbanism: Cities and Policymaking in the Global Age.* Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Shore, C. N., Wright, S., & Però, D. (Eds.). (2011). Policy worlds: anthropology and the analysis of contemporary power. Berghahn Books.

Kingdon, John. 1984. *Agendas, Alternatives and Public Policies:* Boston: Longman

HONOR CODE AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The Illinois Student Code states: "It is the responsibility of the student to refrain from infractions of academic integrity, from conduct that may lead to suspicion of such infractions, and from conduct that aids others in such infractions." Note that you are subject to the Honor Code, as well as procedures for addressing violations to the Code, regardless of whether you have read it and understand it. According to the Code, "ignorance is no excuse."

For your written work in this course, all ideas (as well as data or other information) that are not your own must be cited. Note that ideas that require citation may not have been published or written down anywhere. While you are free—and indeed encouraged—to discuss the assignments with your peers, all of your writing, data collection, and analysis should be your own.

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP) is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is rooted in the goals and responsibilities of professional planners. By enrolling in a class offered by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, students agree to be responsible for maintaining an atmosphere of mutual respect in all DURP activities, including lectures, discussions, labs, projects, and extracurricular programs. See Student Code Article 1- Student Rights and Responsibilities, Part 1. Student Rights: §1-102.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week One (1/17): Introduction

Week Two (1/24): Foundations

- Dolowitz, D., & Marsh, D. (1996). Who learns what from whom: a review of the policy transfer literature. *Political studies*, 44(2), 343-357. [Hunter]

- Evans, M., & Davies, J. (1999). Understanding policy transfer: A Multi-level, multi-disciplinary perspective. *Public administration*, 77(2), 361-385. [Ming]
- Dolowitz, D. P., & Marsh, D. (2000). Learning from abroad: The role of policy transfer in contemporary policy-making. *Governance*, 13(1), 5-23. [Tessa]
- Radaelli, C. M. (2000). Policy transfer in the European Union: institutional isomorphism as a source of legitimacy. *Governance*, 13(1), 25-43. [Ozge]
- Stone, D. (2000). Non-governmental policy transfer: the strategies of independent policy institutes. *Governance*, 13(1), 45-70. [Ariam]
- Peck, J., & Theodore, N. (2001). Exporting workfare/importing welfare-to-work: exploring the   politics of Third Way policy transfer. *Political geography*, 20(4), 427-460. [Adrienne]

Week Three (1/31): Policy Transfer in Political Science

- ***Please note that several of these readings are short (<10 Pages)***
- Benson, D., & Jordan, A. 2011. What have we learned from policy transfer research? Dolowitz and Marsh revisited. *Political studies review*, 9(3), 366-378. [Faizaan]
- Dussauge-Laguna, M. I. 2012. On the past and future of policy transfer research: Benson and Jordan revisited. *Political studies review*, 10(3), 313-324. [Ozge]
- Benson, D., & Jordan, A. 2012. Policy transfer research: still evolving, not yet through?. *Political studies review*, 10(3), 333-338. [David]
- Dolowitz, D. P., & Marsh, D. (2012). The future of policy transfer research. *Political studies review*, 10(3), 339-345. [Ming]
- McCann, E., & Ward, K. (2013). A multi-disciplinary approach to policy transfer research: geographies, assemblages, mobilities and mutations. *Policy Studies*, 34(1), 2-18. [Adrienne]
- Marsh, D., & Evans, M. (2012). Policy transfer: coming of age and learning from the experience. Policy Studies, 33(6), 477-481. [Ximin]
- Stone, D. (2012). Transfer and translation of policy. *Policy studies*, 33(6), 483-499. [Ariam]

Week Four (2/7): From Policy Transfer to Policy Mobility

- Peck, J. & Theodore N. 2010. "Mobilizing policy: Models, methods, and mutations." *Geoforum*, 41(2), 169-174. [David]
- McCann, E. & Ward, K., eds. 2011. *Mobile urbanism: cities and policymaking in the global age*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press (selections TBD).
- **Policy Origins Assignment Due**

Week Five (2/14): Policy Worlds

- Shore, Chris, Wright, Steven., Danilo Pero. (Eds.). 2011. *Policy worlds: anthropology and the analysis of contemporary power*. Berghahn Books.

Week Six (2/21): Fast Policy

Peck, J. & N. Theodore. 2015. *Fast Policy.* Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Week Seven (2/28): Methods

- Peck, J. & Theodore, N. 2012. Follow the policy: a distended case approach. *Environment and Planning-Part A*, 44(1), 21.
- Larner, W. & Laurie, N. 2010. Travelling technocrats, embodied knowledges: Globalising privatisation in telecoms and water. *Geoforum*, 41(2), 218-226.
- Roy, A. 2012. Ethnographic circulations: space–time relations in the worlds of poverty management. *Environment and Planning A*, 44(1), 31.
- Cook, Ian and Kevin Ward. 2012. Conferences, informational infrastructures and mobile policies: the process of getting Sweden 'BID ready'. *European Urban and Regional Studies*, 19(2), 137- 152.

Week Eight (3/7): Policy Mobilities under U.S. Federalism

- Kingdon, J. 1984. *Agendas, Alternatives and Public Policies:* Boston: Longman
- Doussard, M. & Lesniewski, J. 2017. "Fortune Favors the Organized: How Chicago Activists won Equity Gains under Austerity. *Journal of Urban Affairs.*
- Doussard, M. & Schrock, G. n.d.. *Justice at Work (*Excerpts).

Week Nine (3/14): Welfare Policy Mobilities

- Peck, J. 1998. *Workfare States.* New York: Guilford Press. (Excerpts)
- Kingfisher, C. 2013. *A Policy Travelogue: Tracing Welfare Reform in Aotearoa/New Zealand and Canada.* Berghahn Books. (Excerpts)
- **Policy Networks Assignment Due**

Week Ten (3/28): Third-Sector Policy Mobilities:

- Milkman, R., et al. 2013. *Working for Justice: The L.A. Model of Organizing and Advocacy.* Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Doussard, M. 2016. "Organizing the Ordinary City: How Labor Reform Strategies Travel to the U.S. Heartland." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 40 (5): 918-935.
- Doussard, M. & Schrock, G. n.d.. *Justice at Work (*excerpts)

Week Eleven (4/4): No Class

Week Twelve (4/11): Green Policy and Emerging Issues

- McCann, Eugene. 2017. "Mobilities, politics, and the future: Critical geographies of green urbanism." *Environment and Planning A* 49 (8): 1816-1823.
- Wood, Astrid. 2014. "Learning through Policy Tourism: Circulating Bus Rapid Transit from South America to South Africa." *Environment and Planning A* 46: 2654-2669.
- Gulson, et al. 2017. "Policy mobilities and methodology: a proposition for inventive methods in education policy studies." *Critical Studies in Education* 58: 224-241.
- Weller, Sally. "Fast Parallels? Contesting Mobile Policy Technologies." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 41 (5): 821-837.

Week Thirteen (4/18): Critiques and Challenges

- Jacobs, J. M. (2012). Urban geographies I: Still thinking cities relationally. *Progress in Human Geography*, 36(3), 412-422.
- Robinson, J. (2011). The Travels of Urban Neoliberalism: Taking Stock of the Internationalization of Urban Theory. *Urban Geography*, 32(8), 1087-1109.
- Clarke, N. (2012). Urban policy mobility, anti-politics, and histories of the transnational municipal movement. *Progress in Human Geography*, 36(1), 25-43.

- Prince, R. (2012). Metaphors of policy mobility: Fluid spaces of "creativity" policy. *Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography*, 94(4), 317-331.
- Smith, M. P. (2013). The Global Diffusion of Public Policy: Power Structures and Democratic Accountability. *Territory, Politics, Governance*, (ahead-of-print), 1-14.
- Williams, C., & Pendras, M. (2013). Urban Stasis and Politics of Alternative Development in the United States. *Urban Geography*, (ahead-of-print), 1-16.

Week Fourteen (4/25): New Directions

- Various authors. 2015. "Symposium on Policy Mobilities." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 39 (4): 824-843.
- Lovell, Heather. 2017. "Policy Failure Mobilities." *Progress in Human Geography*. Ahead-of-print: v DOI: 10.1177/0309132517734074.
- Bok, Rachel and Neil Coe. 2017. "Geographies of Policy Knowledge: The State and Corporate Dimensions of Contemporary Policy Mobilities. *Geoforum:* March, p. 51-57.
- Stein, Christian and others. 2015. "Learning from *failed* policy mobilities: Contradictions, resistances and unintended outcomes in the transfer of "Business Improvement Districts" to Germany." *European Urban and Regional Studies* 24 (1): 35-49.
- Kennedy, Sean. 2016. "Urban Policy Mobilities, Argumentation and the Case of the Model City." *Urban Geography* 37 (1): 96-116.

May 3
- **Policy Outcomes Assignment Due**