

Appendix 5 – The Bridging Research and Policy Project so far

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MENA Issues

- Many involved in policy processes
- Researchers and policymakers have different incentives – there are tensions for researchers.
- Success is possible (Lebanon).
- Governance matters (e.g. Sudan).
- The way bureaucrats think (e.g. Jordan).

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Existing theory

1. Linear model	18. Linear model of communication, Shames
2. Percolation model, Weiss	19. Interactive model,
3. Tipping point model, Gladwell	20. Simple and surprising stories,
4. 'Context, evidence, links' framework, ODI	Communication Theory
5. Policy narratives, Roe	21. Provide solutions, Marketing Theory I
6. Systems model (NSI)	22. Find the right packaging, Marketing II
7. External forces, Lindquist	23. Elicit a response, Kotler
8. 'Room for manoeuvre', Clay & Schaffer	24. Translation of technology, Yellow
9. 'Street level bureaucrats', Lipsky	25. Epistemic communities
10. Policy as social experiments, Rondene	26. Policy commandos
11. Policy Streams & Windows, Kingdon	27. Advocacy coalitions etc, Press
12. Disjointed incrementalism, Lindquist	28. Negotiation through networks, Seabster
13. The 'Sproingpoint', Gladwell	29. Shadow networks, Kliciert
14. Crisis model, Kahn	30. Claims of accountability, Fine
15. 'Framework of possible thought', Chernsky	31. Communication for social change, Rockefeller
16. Variables for Credibility, Beach	32. Wheels and webs, Chapman & Fisher
17. The source is as important as content, Gladwell	

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Existing theory – a short list

- Policy narratives, Roe
- Systems of Innovation Model, (NSI)
- 'Room for manoeuvre', Clay & Schaffer
- 'Street level bureaucrats', Lipsky
- Policy as social experiments, Rondene
- Policy streams and policy windows, Kingdon
- Disjointed Incrementalism, Lindquist
- Social Epidemics, Gladwell

ODI working paper 174, 2010, Houtard, de Vibe and Young
Bridging Research and Policy: An Annotated Bibliography.

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Reality

- Linear logical → dynamic, complex, two-way.
- *"The whole life of policy is a chaos of purposes and accidents. It is not at all a matter of the rational implementation of the so-called decisions through selected strategies"*
- *"Most policy research on African agriculture is irrelevant to agricultural and overall economic policy in Africa"*

1. Clay & Schaffer (1984), Room for Manoeuvre: An Expansion of Public Policy in Agriculture and Rural Development, Heinemann Educational Books, London
2. Chama (2000), Policy Research on African Agriculture: Trends, Gaps, and Challenges, International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR) Research Report No 21

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The Analytical Framework

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Political Context: Key Areas

- The macro political context (democracy, governance, media freedom; academic freedom)
- The sector / issue process (Policy uptake = demand – contestation) [NB Demand: political and societal]
- How policymakers think (narratives & policy streams)
- Policy implementation and practice (bureaucracies, incentives, street level, room for manoeuvre, participatory approaches)
- Decisive moments in the policy process (policy processes, votes, policy windows and crises)
- Context is crucial, but you can maximize your chances

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Evidence: Relevance and credibility

- Key factor – did it provide a solution to a problem?
- Relevance:
 - Topical relevance – What to do?
 - Operational usefulness – How to do it? :
- Credibility:
 - Research approach
 - Of researcher > of evidence itself
- Strenuous advocacy efforts are often needed
- Communication

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Links: Feedback and Networks

- Feedback processes often prominent in successful cases.
- Trust & legitimacy
- Networks:
 - Epistemic communities
 - Policy networks
 - Advocacy coalitions
- The role of individuals: connectors, mavens and salesmen

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External Influence

- Big "incentives" can spur evidence-based policy – e.g. EU accession, PRSP processes
- And some interesting examples of donors trying new things re. supporting research
- But, we really don't know whether and how donors can best promote use of evidence in policymaking (credibility vs backlash)

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