

# INTERPRETIVE POLICY ANALYSIS CONFERENCE 2021

## Panel Title

*P12 - Then and There, Here and Now, Everywhere and Always, Nowhere and Never? Spatial and Temporal Puzzles in the Study of Politics and Policy*

## Panel Convenors:

Prof. John Clarke, Emeritus Professor, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, (The Open University)

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This panel explores some of the challenges of understanding the intersections of time and space in the study of politics and policy. Our concerns range from grasping the multiple temporalities through which 'policy' is formed, mobilised and enacted to how policies act to make up spaces and places. Time and space, separately and together, are central to the complex becoming and modification of policy. An interpretivist understanding of the spatio-temporal seeks to move away from linear notions of 'legacy effects' and 'path dependency' in policy and its movement. At the same time, more materialist understandings seek to link the spatio-temporal with logics of power and domination.

How are time and space mobilized and co-produced as policy travels? To what extent are policy discourses always recombinations of time and space, involving complex contestations of the 'where' and 'when' of policy? Are we dealing with singular times and spaces or with multiple speeds and scales: heterotemporalities and heterospatialities, perhaps? How may time and space be mobilized as forms of power and resistance? In what ways does it matter that different policy actors may be differently situated in terms of spatio-temporal reach?

Additionally, we are seeking to address some of the differences between politics and policies in terms of their epistemic underpinnings, and their relation to political programmes and projects. How do forms of politics and policies, and distinctions between them, relate to epistemic values such as truth, objectivity or efficiency? Do policies stand for the spatial extension of politics or do they operate on an entirely different level? Moreover, if the distinction between politics and policy holds, how are this distinction addressed in different intellectual traditions and in different governmental regimes? These are questions that appear to be pertinent in relation to contemporary forms of liberal governmentality and authoritarian impulses that are mobilized across multiple spaces and temporalities.

We welcome papers that will contribute to problematising *both* time and space – and the way in which they intersect and interact in specific policy processes. Papers that address the worlding of policy, in terms of transfer and translation to and from the majority world/Global South are particularly welcome. We welcome work that draws on a range of critical geographies (from relational to topological orientations) and approaches to multiple spatialities and temporalities in policy making and policy mobility and exchange. We invite contributions that explore some of these dimensions and dynamics in conceptual and empirical/ethnographic terms.