

European Policy Analysis is a double blind peer-reviewed journal on policy research in Europe. It focuses on policy research with an emphasis on European countries, issues and studies and follows a comparative approach, which contributes to the theoretical understanding of policy research.



Call for Papers **EPA Special Issue** (Autumn 2017)

“Infrastructure policy-making: between regional interests and societal goals?”

Peter Biegelbauer/Kirstin Lindloff/Fritz Sager (eds.)

Today, more than ever, infrastructure policies are at the centre of political debate. The double transformation of the energy and transport sectors towards renewable energy sources and sustainable mobility places high demands on policy-makers, enterprises and citizens. Usually, infrastructure projects are constructed and built within a specific region, location or place. Their scope and benefits, however, are often of a trans-regional nature. A diffuse public acceptance for more general societal goals exists, but the planning and realisation of specific projects often faces societal and local citizen resistance.

We invite papers broadly addressing infrastructure policies. Possible topics for the special issue include, but are not limited to the following issues:

1) Sectoral perspectives on infrastructure policy-making in the fields of transport and energy

We are interested in papers related to the fields of e.g. transport and energy. In what way have national policies aligned to address the challenge of infrastructure transformation towards climate-friendly means and modes of transport and renewable sources of energy? Which are the major obstacles to sectoral coupling? How do infrastructure policies in these two sectors vary across countries? What is the role of the EU and how has it changed over time?

2) Exploration of effects and impacts of infrastructure conflicts in multi-level and unitary systems of government

Papers may discuss how multi-level structures impact in the field of infrastructure projects. Do for instance federal political systems facilitate an effective implementation of the principles of subsidiarity and democratic accountability? Do processes of solidarity between constituent states or regions evolve? Conversely, how do unitary systems of government perform? Do processes of regional mobilisation transcend boundaries of constitutional units or statutory bodies?

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3) *NIMBYism as an explanation for infrastructure conflicts?*

Existing research has often followed cost-benefit assumptions of political economy approaches which amongst others subscribe to the “NIMBY” (not in my backyard) principle in political processes on infrastructure projects. Do systematic differences in positions occur, e.g. between regions benefitting disproportionately from cross-cutting national projects and those facing comparatively high costs? How do locally concerned citizens and groups (re-) act? Besides, are regional and societal reactions and interactions mediated by ideological conflict, for instance regarding technologies or accepted levels of environmental and social risks? Which role do cultural landscapes play in infrastructure conflicts?

4) *Effective and legitimate procedures of participation*

Analysis of regional and national policies and strategies of communication, interest representation and conflict accommodation: submissions may refer to policies and programmes of participation and conflict resolution in the field of infrastructure projects. How do political systems account for increased citizen protest and decreasing levels of public acceptance? In what way do participatory and deliberative instruments influence decisions and decision-making in arenas of representative democracy? How can new public instruments be integrated into existing institutional structures?

5) *Cross-cutting: digitalisation, computerisation, automation*

In what way have infrastructure policies undergone a transformation in view of the increasing degree of computerisation and data grids? Has political and technical steering capacity increased? Do political actors address challenges of systemic risks such as data protection or resilience?

Deadlines:

- Submissions: July, 31st 2017
- Publication: Autumn 2017

Submission Guidelines can be found on <http://politikfeldanalyse.de/european-policy-analysis.html>.

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