

Learning from Policy Experiments in Adaptation Governance

Belinda McFadgen, PhD researcher, IVM, VU University, Amsterdam

Overview

Research gap and questions

Framework for linking concepts

Delineation of Ideal Types

Application of framework to case study in the Netherlands

Conclusions so far

Research gap and questions

Knowledge for Climate- “climate proof the Netherlands”

Adaptation governance- learning
policy experiments



“learning our way out”

“develop governance arrangements that connect new ideas”

Questions: *What design features are most successful at enhancing learning effects?*

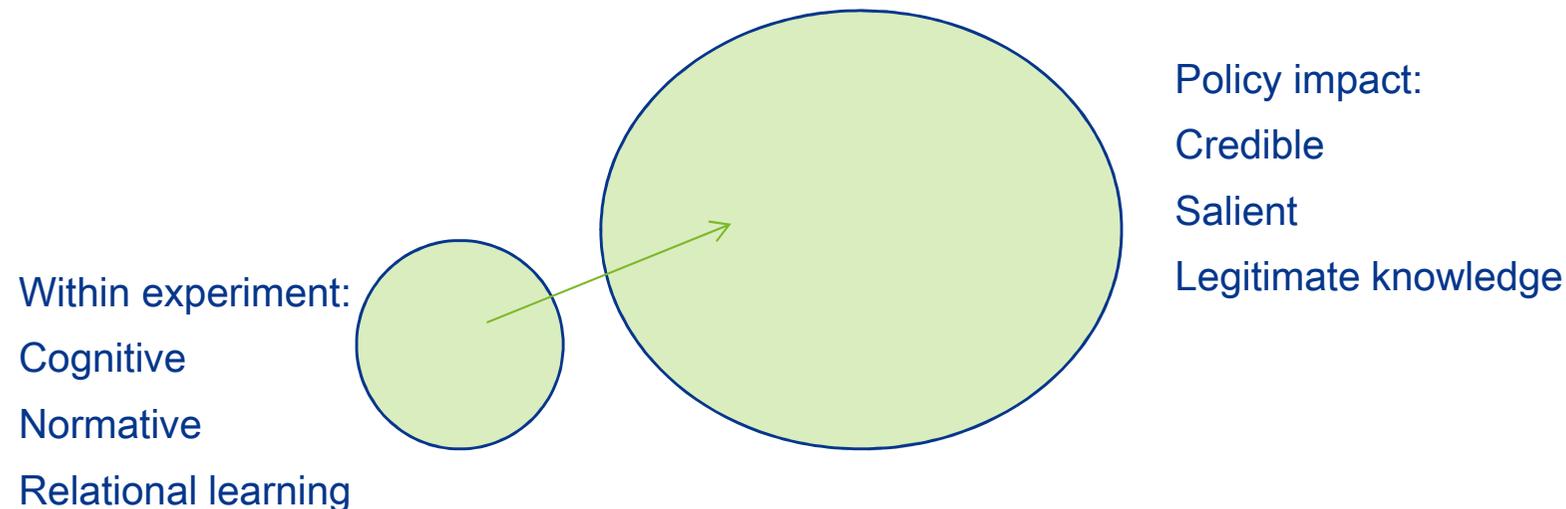
what is learning and how can it be measured?

what is a policy experiment and how can we evaluate its design features?

how does design relate to learning?

Conceptualisation

Learning: Essentially about change- the process by which knowledge, skills, and attitudes are acquired (Muro and Jeffrey, 2012).



Policy Experiment: A small-scale temporary field trial of an innovation that intends to influence the policy process.

Analysed using an institutional arrangements approach- Ostrom's rule typology.

Factors to features

LEARNING FACTORS

Diverse participation

Open access

Facilitation

Open communication

High information transmission

Share knowledge

Share perspectives

Evenly spread power

Shared decision making

RULES

boundary rule

boundary rule

position rule

information rule

information rule

information rule

information rule

choice rule

aggregation rule

DESIGN CHOICES

participant type

access

available positions

regularity of face-to-face

level of interaction

source of knowledge

type of knowledge

power distribution at decision nodes

how decisions are made

Ideal Types

Technocratic experiment:

- *Experts as participants*
- Closed invitation
- *Produce generic, scientific information*
- *Expert knowledge shared*
- Regular interaction
- Even information distribution
- The initiator maintains authority over each decision node

- Cognitive L- ***
- Normative L-
- Relational L- *
- Credible K- ***
- Salient K- *
- Legitimate K- *

Boundary experiment:

- *Broad participation*
- *Open access*
- Position includes facilitator
- *Technical and reflexive knowledge*
- *Expert and lay knowledge shared*
- Regular interaction with all participants
- Even information distribution
- All participants have full decision making powers

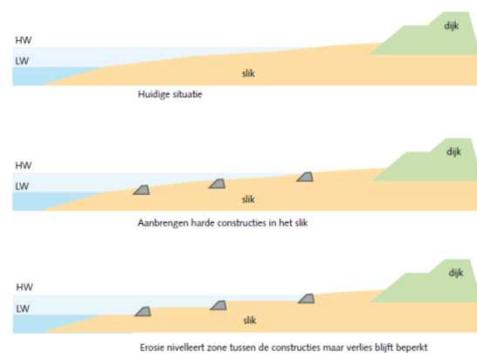
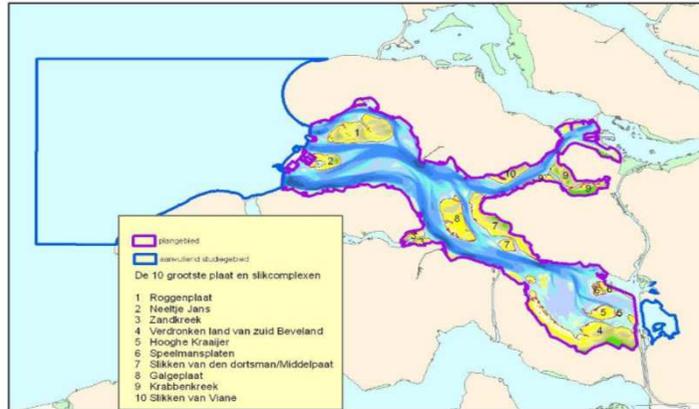
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Advocacy experiment:

- *Limited participation for those who contribute resources;*
- Facilitator or project manager
- *Limited technical knowledge*
- *Expert and lay knowledge shared if support dominant interests*
- Irregular interaction
- Selected information is distributed regularly to garner support
- Dominant interests take decisions at each decision node.

- Cognitive L- *
- Normative L- **
- Relational L-
- Credible K- *
- Salient K- ***
- Legitimate K-

Case study- Oosterschelde Oyster Reef Policy Experiment



- Location- Oosterschelde National Park, Zeeland, South-west Netherlands. Unique for its outstanding natural features, shellfish industry, and recreation opportunities (diving etc).
- Problem- Dike causing erosion of sand causing loss of inter-tidal flats in estuary.
- Effects- Nature: habitat loss for migratory birds and other mammals; Safety: dike partially vulnerable to wave impact.
- Solution- Larger project- sand nourishment; specific project- use of oyster reefs- “eco engineers”- 200m long structures that work to prevent erosion and maintain biodiversity as “living reefs.
- Intermediate Results- Erosion reduced as a result of introducing oyster reefs, monitoring ongoing.

Design features

- Participatory
 - Main stakeholder types represented;
 - Open access- as a requirement;
- Information
 - Expert and lay knowledge utilised;
 - Substantive and procedural knowledge generated;
 - Goals flexible and amendable.



Results

Open stakeholder –BE

Technical and reflexive knowledge- BE

Substantive and procedural knowledge- BE

Possibly closed information and power distribution- TE / AE

Focus of policy maker less on scientist more on civil actors- BE

Flexibility sought to build common interest- BE

Whether seeking common interest is an advantage is tested if policy adopted.

Unknown- Information flow, power distribution, learning

Conclusions

- Framework is broad and allows for a good analysis with focus on participation, information, and power;
- Next step to see if the learning data from the case study meets expectations;
- Overall project contributes useful understanding to adaptive and adaptation governance of how experimenting with policy can be useful and how it can improve our learning abilities.