

Reading Tips and Study Questions: For Session Three

Agendas and the Policy Process

Required reading:

1. John Kingdon, *Agendas, Alternatives and Public Policies* (New York: HarperCollins, 1984), pp.1-19, 48-74, 205-215.
2. Harold Wilensky, "Can social science shape the public agenda?" *Contexts* (Spring 2005), pp.41-47.
3. Mark Moore, "What sort of ideas become public ideas?" In *The Power of Public Ideas*, edited by Robert Reich (Cambridge, MA: Harvard, 1990), pp.55-83.

Recommended:

4. Paul Sabatier, "Fostering the Development of Policy Theory," In *Theories of the Policy Process*, edited by Paul A. Sabatier (Boulder: Westview, 1999), pp.261-275. (**Offers a critique of the Kingdon model and a research agenda.**)

Tips and questions

This week, we want to learn how to think more systematically about the public policy process, including the shaping of agendas or "agenda setting" dynamics and outcomes.

1. The classic: What are the core concepts in **Kingdon**, what part of the policy process does he focus on (that is, what stage or stages), and what does he argue about *when* and *why* academic experts can influence that process? Think about policymaking in some context (place) and policy area you care about: Which of Kingdon's ideas apply most effectively, and which least so, in that context?
2. According to **Wilensky**, what factors make Europe so different from the U.S. as an environment in which social research influences agenda-setting?
3. How does **Moore's** concept of "stories" add to Kingdon's model? Why is the capability of implementing organizations relevant, according to Moore?