

Institute for Policy Research (IPR) Professional Doctorate in Policy Research and Practice (DPRP) webinar series

Join us for a special webinar series from the Institute for Policy Research (IPR) Professional Doctorate in Policy Research and Practice (DPRP). Hosted by Professor James Copestake, meet our DPRP students and learn about their current research projects.

Registration

To register, please e-mail Sophie O'Brien via sw977@bath.ac.uk and outline which session you would like to attend. The webinars will take place via Zoom, and joining instructions will be sent via e-mail in advance.

Schedule

Date and time (GMT)	Session
Mon 11 Jan, 12:00-12:50	<p><u>Session 1</u></p> <p>Rethinking smart urbanism in India Caroline Fazli</p> <p>Research policy actors as agents of transformation or managers of the status-quo. The case of Punjab's educational reforms, 2009-18 Javed Malik</p>
Mon 11 Jan, 13:00-13:50	<p><u>Session 2</u></p> <p>Multinational investment in primary health and education services in Kenya and Uganda: At what public policy price? Sue Godt</p> <p>Mainstreaming quality standards for evaluation of global technical cooperation programmes Andrew Fyfe</p>
Tue 12 Jan, 12:00-12:50	<p><u>Session 3</u></p> <p>How balanced is the BBC reporting on COVID-19? James Georgalakis</p>

	Towards a complex systems perspective on public procurement: Purchasing PPE in response to the COVID-19 pandemic Margaret Rose
Tue 12 Jan, 13:00-13:50	<u>Session 4</u> Can the criminal justice system in Kenya be strengthened using blockchain (distributed ledger) technology? An analysis through the lens of new institutional economics Njahira Karanja Analysing judicial quality and performance management in the Caribbean Shaun Finnetty
Wed 13 Jan, 12:00-12:50	<u>Session 5</u> Work family balance policies and human wellbeing in the GCC: Why are better policies so hard to attain? Ahmed Aref Accounting to the UK Parliament on value for money of university research funding Heidi Peterson
Wed 13 Jan, 13:00-13:50	<u>Session 6</u> Researching devolution of nutrition policy to county level in Kenya Cathy Kamau A retrospective analysis of national ownership and sovereign debt reduction under the highly indebted poor countries initiative Suren Tripathi

Abstracts

Session 1

Rethinking smart urbanism in India, Caroline Fazli (Cohort 5)

The Smart Cities Mission, introduced by the Government of India in 2015, marked a significant change in discourse on urban development in India. The notion of a Smart City implies certain ideas and beliefs about knowledge and who and what make a city smart. The presentation will explore the history of some of these ideas about knowledge by tracing the evolution of urban development policies in India from the perspective of historical institutionalism, focusing on changes in policy paradigms in relation to institutional change. The impact these changes had on the city of Indore will be described.

The presentation will then examine, through the lens of interpretive policy analysis, policy artifacts associated with the Smart Cities Mission in two informal settlements in Indore's old city based on research carried out by the presenter. Findings suggest that despite the discourse around citizen participation and inclusion in the Smart Cities Mission, in practice only wealthier citizens have been able to participate in the forums created for the most part, even as 'enclavization' has led to the physical displacement of the working class from urban spaces. In response, people-centered

approaches to smart urbanism have been proposed that advocate empowering collectives of 'alternative smart citizens' in urban informal settlements.

Research policy actors as agents of transformation or managers of the status-quo. The case of Punjab's educational reforms, 2009-18, Javed Malik (Cohort 5)

The presentation will report on ongoing research into the role played by different policy actors – myself included – within a nine-year programme to achieve radical reform in the governance of 54,000 schools, affecting 11 million children, in the Pakistan's largest province. Opponents of institutional change confronted an active Chief Minister supporting convergent thinking within an international policy elite backed by a one-billion-dollar aid commitment.

This presentation will focus on how best to frame future research into the causal drivers of resulting policy outcomes. This will draw upon both historical institutionalism and rational choice theory in order to recognise both structural constraints to reform and the potential agency of individual policy actors. I aim to link these theoretical approaches with Bhasker's critical realism (thereby rejected a grounded theoretical approach) in order to unravel the generative mechanisms underlying observed outcomes.

Session 2

Multinational investment in primary health and education services in Kenya and Uganda: At what public policy price? Sue Godt (Cohort 1)

An emerging political economy of development is reflected in increasing provision by global corporations of basic health and education services in low- and middle-income countries through 'low-cost' private services and/or providing public services on behalf of governments. Despite suggestions that market penetration and profit motives alone drive these activities, the private sector is actively establishing partnerships to achieve both social and business goals, framed around the concept of creating shared value (Porter and Kramer, 2011, Creating shared value. Harvard Business Review, 89).

This 'model of development' is supported through Sustainable Development Goal financing and multi-stakeholder partnership mechanisms, with financial and convening role support from bilateral and philanthropic donors, international financial institutions, and multilateral organisations. There appears, however, to be limited alignment with host government processes, policies and regulatory frameworks, thus potentially weakening overall governance of essential service provision.

This research aims to deepen understanding about these evolving development models and the effects on the public policy space. The specific objective is to analyse emerging strategies by global corporations, national governments, development funding organisations and civil society to influence the policy space around provision of these basic services. Insights from Kenya and Uganda will be explored given the current basic services investments by global corporations in the two countries. Case studies will examine the health sector (Philips Corporation as an indicative example) and the education sector (Bridge International Academies as an indicative example). The research results could contribute to discourse nationally and globally about the policy, practice and financing of basic service provision and about how to effectively hold private corporations accountable so that their investments benefit host country societies and advance national and global priorities.

Mainstreaming quality standards for evaluation of global technical cooperation programmes, Andrew Fyfe (Cohort 1)

Much is expected of the private sector – both international and domestic – to finance infrastructure and the delivery of social services in developing countries by 2030 to help meet the SDGs. This raises concerns about how far monitoring and evaluation systems are fit for purpose to assess the effectiveness of this use of public money.

The presentation reports on research into the role of international norm setting in strengthening evaluation and evaluability assessment for international cooperation and development, drawing partly on a combination of key informant interviews and reflections on my role as head of evaluation for the UN Capital Development Fund.

Session 3

How balanced is the BBC reporting on COVID-19? James Georgalakis (Cohort 4)

This paper compares discourse analysis of Western media coverage of SARS in 2003-4 with the BBC's representation of COVID-19, prior to the World Health Organisation's (WHO) declaration of a global pandemic in March 2020.

It investigates the geopolitical and socio-cultural factors which may have contributed to the differences and similarities between these two periods of uncertainty.

A combination of corpus linguistics and critical discourse analysis identifies traces of the underlying assumptions that shaped the media's approach. Many aspects of the BBC's coverage of COVID-19 conform closely with the Western media's treatment of SARS. This includes China's alleged culpability and Western countries' priority to protect themselves from a foreign virus. Journalists unconsciously othered the virus itself, linguistically and rhetorically, assuming it was for them and not us. Articles invariably drew on evidence that supported this narrative, albeit from reputable sources such as the WHO, and largely ignored perspectives that challenged it. This remained the case even as the epicentre of the crisis shifted from China to Continental Europe.

Towards a complex systems perspective on public procurement: Purchasing PPE in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Margaret Rose (Cohort 2)

The dominant logic in emergency procurement modes and practice is to suspend ex ante regulatory obligations and allow procurement officers discretion to make direct awards and to prioritize urgent acquisition over value for money considerations. Across the UK during the first six months of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were a proliferation of reports of extreme shortages of Personal and Protective Equipment ("PPE"), and allegations of fraud, waste and mismanagement in the procurement process.

Reviewing COVID-19 PPE procurement in the UK, this presentation interrogates the dominant logic underpinning the lack of ex ante emergency procurement regulation and considers whether a more appropriate response to procurement decision-making during times of crisis can be informed by aspects of decision theory and complexity science.

Session 4

Can the criminal justice system in Kenya be strengthened using blockchain (distributed ledger) technology? An analysis through the lens of new institutional economics, Njahira Karanja (Cohort 1)

This thesis interrogates the claim that the blockchain, which simply defined is a cryptographically secured distributed ledger or database, is the new institutional technology of governance that competes with traditional institutions such as the firm, markets, networks, and even government.

While this thesis does not argue that governments or criminal justice sector institutions should be replaced by technology, it does foresee a context in which many of the “trust” and coordination functions vested in the state, can be transferred to computational functions spread across a permissioned network.

The research is motivated by the systemic failures experienced in Kenya’s justice sector, which largely result from the dangers of entrusting largely opaque centralized entities, as the singular custodians of all the levers of justice. As a result, inefficiency and corruption are rife, as data which can serve as useful indicators of the performance of the sector’s individual entities, and as a whole, is either skewed or absent. The outcome of such inefficiency and corruption is experienced by everyday court users as a failure in access to, and the delivery of justice.

The thesis is however also inspired by the express goal of criminal justice actors within the sector to ‘harness technology as an enabler of justice’. Blockchain is examined as a viable ‘trustless, or trust-by-computation’ solution for ‘opening’ Kenya’s justice sector, grounded on a framework of constitutional values, while remaining cognizant of the operational realities of the sector. This inquiry is undertaken through the lens of New Institutional Economics, which is the dominant theory on governance, and institutions. Caution is also taken to refrain from presenting any technology, least of all cutting edge or emerging technology such as blockchain, as a panacea to all problems in any industry, or as a substitute replacement for the state. However the nuanced potential of the technology in accelerating institutional, sectoral and therefore societal change in Kenya, is firmly explored.

Analysing judicial quality and performance management in the Caribbean, Shaun Finnetty (Cohort 4)

Legal scholars and judicial practitioners mostly agree that performance management within national judiciaries can contribute to realising desired rule-of-law outcomes. Judicial reform has also attracted substantial flows of development cooperation resources over the past two decades that aim to improve performance management practices in the Global South. However, there is a dearth of analysis on the underlying principles, dynamics and impacts of these activities, particularly in relation to smaller countries with limited state capabilities.

This presentation sets out initial theoretical, methodological and policy contours of planned doctoral research indicatively titled “*Nudging, judging, or is it fudging? An enquiry into the origin, evolution and effectiveness of judicial performance management systems in small developing democratic states, based on the case of the JURIST project in the Anglophone Caribbean*”. The proposed framework is to use comparative country case studies to research judicial performance management and reform as a multi-layered and contested international governance construct.

Session 5

Work family balance policies and human wellbeing in the GCC: Why are better policies so hard to attain? Ahmed Aref (Cohort 4)

Establishment of a satisfactory policy regime for achieving work-family balance (WFB) to promote human wellbeing across the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) remains elusive. This

is not for lack of research and policy debate, and the persistence of this policy deficit is particularly surprising in the context of the relatively generous social welfare policies within the same countries.

This presentation will set out a framework for doctoral research into this conundrum called the 'imbalanced complex model' which emphasises the consequences of these countries' skewed demographic and labour market structure.

Accounting to the UK Parliament on value for money of university research funding, Heidi Peterson (Cohort 5)

Research for development (R4D) funding is on the rise globally, including in the UK, with £2.2 billion recently invested in the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and the Newton Fund. R4D, and public spending more broadly, is increasingly expected to demonstrate and evaluate value for money (VfM). However, the dominance of positivist approaches to evaluating VfM, such as Cost-Benefit Analysis, do not fully account for the complexity of R4D funds and risk undermining efforts to contribute to transformational development.

This presentation posits an alternative approach to evaluating VfM, using GCRF and Newton as case studies based on a constructivist approach to valuing outcomes, and reports on efforts to secure its adoption into the UK policy process.

Session 6

Researching devolution of nutrition policy to county level in Kenya, Cathy Kamau (Cohort 3)

This presentation sets out proposals for a research thesis that will use the case of nutrition policy implementation to examine the evolution of devolved governance in Kenya within an institutionalist political economy framework.

The research aims to combine analysis of variation in policy implementation across Kenya's 37 counties with in-depth causal analysis of positive and negative deviant cases. It is intended to highlight key challenges to improving the architecture of public administration, including (a) the complexity of multi-stakeholder interactions, both vertical and horizontal, (b) tensions between policy coordination and encouragement of local problem solving capacity, (c) tensions arising from divergent stakeholder perceptions, including rising expectations of government in delivering public goods and services, as well as 'good' governance, (d) the effect of diversified funding of public services on performance reporting and accountability.

A retrospective analysis of national ownership and sovereign debt reduction under the highly indebted poor countries initiative, Suren Tripathi (Cohort 4)

The Paris and Accra Declarations and the HIPC Initiative emphasise country ownership – that countries through broad-based public participation should ultimately set their development agenda.

On the other hand, the global agendas set in the Millennium and Sustainable Development Goals suggest a shift towards a common, globalised understanding of international development policy priorities across countries.

Skeptical of local ownership rhetoric based on the neo-Gramscian challenge of the centrality of the State and the author's own experience working in Somalia – the newest HIPC – this paper seeks to assess the extent to which development priorities in HIPCs' Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) and National Development Plans (NDP) are locally owned. Findings suggest that local

ownership is limited in the full sample, but increases following completion of the HIPC process; after the Paris and Accra Declarations; and in post-2015 plans.