

A Symposium on
Research Frontiers in Comparative Public Policy

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Guest Editors

The JPAM symposium on Research Frontiers in Comparative Public Policy will survey important policy areas from a comparative perspective. Symposium articles will focus on important policy debates, identify crucial findings and lessons gleaned from cross-national policy analyses, and lay out an agenda for future research.

Comparative public policy examines how variation in actors, institutions, and processes influence policy outputs and outcomes across countries. We are interested in understanding which policies works, which do not, and why. Our aim is to provide a forward looking perspective on analytical themes and empirical puzzles that scholars should incorporate in future research. We see the symposium articles as authoritative “go to” surveys, accessible to scholars across social sciences.

While the scope of this symposium is ambitious, we have to accomplish these tasks in a limited number of pages allocated by the journal. We are inviting leading scholars to write 5,000-6,000 word articles (including references) on a given policy subject organized around four core questions:

1. What key debates and questions drive the research in this policy domain?
2. How and why do policy approaches, instruments, and/or institutions vary across countries?
3. How do policy consequences (outputs and outcomes) relate to variations in approaches, instruments, and institutions? What works, what does not, and why?
4. What unanswered puzzles and unresolved debates remain in this domain? What key issues, both theoretical and empirical, should scholars of comparative public policy focus on?

In addressing these questions, the authors should focus on the most analytically interesting cases, exploiting variations along policy outcomes, institutions, actors, and processes. Given JPAM’s global audience, we strongly encourage authors to include countries beyond North America and Western Europe. The writing style should be broadly accessible to the scholars across social science disciplines who read this journal.