



Deposited via The University of Sheffield.

White Rose Research Online URL for this paper:

<https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/id/eprint/130906/>

Version: Accepted Version

Article:

Holmes, J. (2018) Introduction to a new series on case studies on the addiction policy process. *Addiction*, 113 (8). p. 1381.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/add.14213>

This is the peer reviewed version of the following article: Holmes, J. (2018) Introduction to a new series on case studies on the addiction policy process. *Addiction*, which has been published in final form at <https://doi.org/10.1111/add.14213>. This article may be used for non-commercial purposes in accordance with Wiley Terms and Conditions for Self-Archiving.

Reuse

Items deposited in White Rose Research Online are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved unless indicated otherwise. They may be downloaded and/or printed for private study, or other acts as permitted by national copyright laws. The publisher or other rights holders may allow further reproduction and re-use of the full text version. This is indicated by the licence information on the White Rose Research Online record for the item.

Takedown

If you consider content in White Rose Research Online to be in breach of UK law, please notify us by emailing eprints@whiterose.ac.uk including the URL of the record and the reason for the withdrawal request.

Introduction to a new series on case studies on the addiction policy process

John Holmes

That addiction research should inform public policy is a routine expectation of researchers, our funders and practitioners in the field. However, realising this expectation is not straightforward as the process of policy-making is complex: many actors and institutions are involved, priorities can change rapidly, and there is rarely a science-friendly policy cycle where problems are defined, solutions developed, evaluations conducted and interventions rolled out [1]. Given the above, the genesis of addiction policies and the role played by evidence is often opaque.

This issue of *Addiction* launches a new series which seeks to combine insights from theories of the policy process, case studies of addiction policy-making, and a focus on multiple levels of governance to answer key questions about how addiction policy is made and the role that researchers and their evidence can play in that process.

We seek submissions which go beyond descriptive accounts of the chosen case study to draw explicitly on theories of the policy process and increase the exposure of *Addiction's* readership to a more complex but rigorous analysis of policy-making. There is a large theoretical literature which offers competing and complementary perspectives on the policy process [see the following for introductory texts 1, 2]. This variously emphasises, among other things, the varying roles of individual policy makers, the beliefs of coalitions within policy networks [3], transfer of policies from other jurisdictions (whether voluntary or coerced) [4, 5], and the creation of short-term windows of opportunity when politics, problems and solutions align [6]. In doing so, this literature brings to the fore the importance of ideas, power, institutions, socioeconomic factors and networks of policy actors and we encourage authors to do the same [1].

In this issue, Alison Ritter and colleagues begin the series by analysing the use of drug detection dogs in Australia using the Advocacy Coalition Framework [3] and Multiple Streams [6] approaches with a view to explicating the relationship between evidence and policy. In a rapidly changing policy environment, further opportunities for learning emerge on a regular basis. These include on-going development of regulatory structures for e-cigarettes and online gambling, relaxation of prohibitions around cannabis, the expansion of licit addiction industries into new markets, efforts to combat new psychoactive substances, and responses to the opioid crisis. In addition to contemporary case studies, there are a wide range of addiction policies which have been developed, adopted and implemented over recent decades with little scrutiny of what took place.

Although analyses of national-level policy are welcome, we particularly encourage submissions which recognise that policy emerges and is implemented within both supra- and sub-national jurisdictions. At the supra-national level, bodies including both the European Union and its courts as well as the World Health Organisation require scrutiny while, at the sub-national level, policy processes within local, regional, provincial and state government and governance all merit greater attention than they have been given to date.

1. Cairney P. *Understanding public policy: Theories and issues* London: Palgrave Macmillan; 2012.

2. Hudson J., Lowe S. *Understanding the Policy Process* Bristol: The Policy Press; 2004.
3. Sabatier P., Weible C. *The Advocacy Coalition Framework: Innovations and Clarifications*. In: Sabatier P., editor. *Theories of the Policy Process*, Boulder, CO: Westview Press; 2007.
4. Dolowitz D. P., Marsh D. Learning from abroad: The role of policy transfer in contemporary policy-making, *Governance: An International Journal of Policy and Administration* 2000: 13: 5-24.
5. Dolowitz D., Marsh D. Who learns what from whom: A review of the policy transfer literature, *Political Studies* 1996: 44: 343-357.
6. Kingdon J. *Agendas, Alternatives and Public Policies* New York, NY: Harper Collins; 1995.