

CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

Policy-Making in Hard Times: Southern European Countries in a Comparative Perspective

20-21 November 2014, Madrid

Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI) &
Instituto Carlos III-Juan March de Ciencias Sociales (IC3JM)

The IBEI (Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals) and IC3JM (Instituto Carlos III-Juan March de Ciencias Sociales) are pleased to announce the celebration of an international workshop that will take place at the campus of Carlos III University in Madrid on 20-21 November 2014.

MOTIVATION

The goal of this workshop is to advance the analysis of policy-making processes in Southern European countries, in particular during the recent economic crisis. Our aim is to put Southern European countries on the map regarding the comparative study of public policy in Europe and beyond. To this purpose, this call welcomes paper proposals focusing on empirical and comparative analysis, grounded on the state-of-the-art major theories focused on the study of public policy and their democratic basis.

TOPICS FOR THE WORKSHOP

The workshop focuses on three main topics, one for each of the basic components of the policy-making process: (i) policy preferences, (ii) institutions, and (iii) information, ideas and policy paradigms. Papers combining theory and empirics (quantitative and/or qualitative) are most welcome. The workshop is

mainly aimed at the examination of policy processes rather than at the analysis of substantive policy outputs in different policy sectors.

A brief description of each of the three topics follows:

- **Policy preferences:** Policy priorities have changed dramatically during the economic crisis. The goal is to discuss how policy priorities of the actors involved in the policy making process—from citizens, social movements, interest organizations, political parties, policy makers, and political elites— have changed along the last decade; how we can assess these preferences across time, using quantitative and qualitative methods; how and why policy actors choose different policy venues – Governmental and parliamentary arenas, the media, or supranational, national and regional arenas— to foster new ideas and proposals; to what extent the economic crisis generates increasing political confrontation; and what are the mechanisms of public deliberation that may lead to a transformation of preferences.
- **Political and policy institutions:** How the goals and strategies of policy actors are constrained by institutional factors; how the functioning of

formal institutions –Parliaments, Government, public administration—, and the consolidation of multilevel systems of governance generate new opportunities and/or limits to foster policy change; to what extent political and administrative institutions meet high standards of good governance in terms of lack of corruption, definition of property rights, accountability and transparency; and what the implications of existing institutional settings upon policy outcomes are.

- **Information, paradigms and ideas:** Where ideas on policy change come from; imitation and learning among policy makers; the role of information and data analysis in the improvement of policy-making in the country; the conditions under which public policy is based on evidence; the capacity of research institutes and think tanks to generate new ideas, and to promote policy change; the role of epistemic communities and experts in policy-making; how the media inform about policy decisions.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Paper proposals of no more than 500 words should be submitted to Magdalena Nebreda, secretary of the IC3JM (secretaria@march.uc3m.es) before **April 28st, 2014**. We request proposals for high-quality, theory-driven research papers. Both conceptual and empirical studies are welcome. Comparative studies across countries are most welcome. Each proposal should include the following information: (1) author(s) name, title, institutional affiliation and address; and (2) paper title, research question, relevant theories, research design and methods, data and potential findings.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance for participants will be available upon request.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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