

Innovative public decision making assisted by design theory: is it possible?

I. Pluchinotta¹ A. Kazakçi² A. Tsoukiàs¹

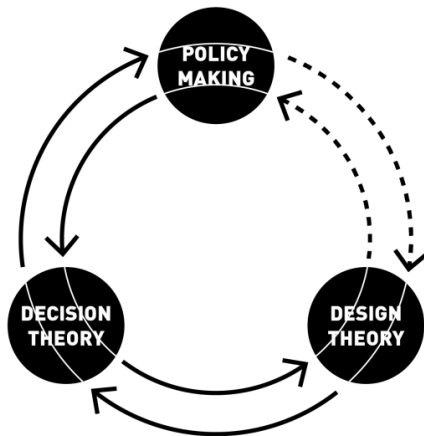
¹LAMSADE-CNRS Paris Dauphine University (France)

²MINES ParisTech (France)

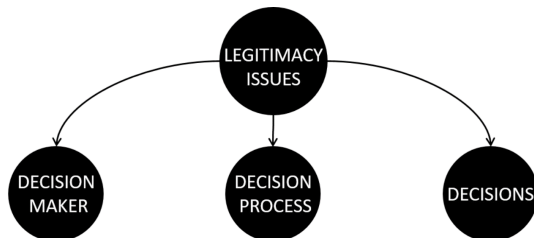
irene.pluchinotta@dauphine.fr

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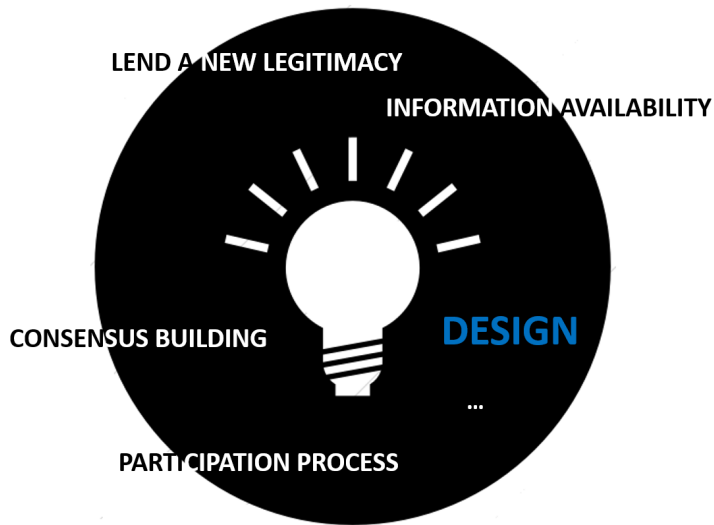


We are interested in using design theory for policy-making. We aim at formalising the policy design process



Complexities inherent to public decision making:

- Use of public resources
- Participation of multiple stakeholders (different values, interests...)
- Long-time horizon
- Accountability



Why innovative design is important?

- We lack a methodology aiding to generate sets of policy design alternatives
- The traditional policy-making methodologies are mainly concerned by:
 - i) economic evaluation of given alternatives (ex-post, ex-ante);
 - ii) consensus building through participatory processes by best practices analysis.

What could be innovative in using design?

- create unforeseen alternatives
- create unforeseen scenarios
- imagine unforeseen participation (values, opinions....)

Design theory:

- aims at assisting any process of creating 'objects'. These 'objects' do not exist within our knowledge but can be designed out of it
- describes the design activity as a specific form of reasoning
- uses a formal language (mathematical, computer oriented, taxonomic)

C-K theory:

- Hatchuel and Weil (1999) suggest a distinction between concepts (propositions about new objects) and their interaction with the knowledge (propositions about known objects) of the designer
- The interaction and co-evolution of concepts and knowledge is the main engine through which design progresses

An example of design of alternatives

A Municipality plans to build a bridge in the near future.
Beforehand, the Municipality needs to decide whether or no to buy the land to host the bridge

| | |
|---|----------|
| b | $\neg b$ |
|---|----------|

A common practice to design alternatives is to expand the set of variables

| | |
|------------|-----------------|
| ob | $\neg o \neg b$ |
| $o \neg b$ | $\neg ob$ |

Conclusions

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Conclusions

We have a formal language for expanding variables

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We have a formal language for expanding variables

We have a formal support for designing policies

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We explore how design theory can be matched with constructive decision analysis in order to assist the innovative public policy design

Thank you.

irene.pluchinotta@dauphine.fr