

*TransAtlantic Dialogue on*  
**'The status of Inter-Governmental Relations and Multi-Level Governance  
in Europe and the US'**

The fourth TransAtlantic Dialogue (4TAD)

## Call for papers

### Overview and practical information

Conference website: [www.4TAD.org](http://www.4TAD.org)

#### Scheduling

- Deadline for presenting an **Abstract: 1 February 08**;
- Notification of acceptance by 15 February,
- **Full papers must be delivered by 31 March 2008** (all the contacts will be dealt with by the co-chairs of the individual workshops)
- **Abstracts and papers must be sent by email to the workshop's co-chairs as well as to ALL the following addresses**
  - o [mholzer@rutgers.edu](mailto:mholzer@rutgers.edu)
  - o [edoardo.ongaro@unibocconi.it](mailto:edoardo.ongaro@unibocconi.it)
  - o [ellen.wayenberg@hogent.be](mailto:ellen.wayenberg@hogent.be)
  - o [a.massey@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:a.massey@exeter.ac.uk)
  - o [ricucci@rutgers.edu](mailto:ricucci@rutgers.edu)

#### Conference workshops

##### **Workshop 1: Theories and theoretical perspectives for investigating IGR/Multi-level governance**

co-chairs: Robert Agranoff, Indiana University ([agranoff@indiana.edu](mailto:agranoff@indiana.edu)), USA and Andrew Massey, University of Exeter, UK ([a.massey@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:a.massey@exeter.ac.uk))

##### **Workshop 2: The dynamics of IGR at the national, supranational (EU) and international (UN) level**

co-chairs: Dimitri Argyriades, New York University, USA ([dimitriarg@gmail.com](mailto:dimitriarg@gmail.com), [dargyriades@nyc.rr.com](mailto:dargyriades@nyc.rr.com)), and Edoardo Ongaro, Università Bocconi, Italy ([edoardo.ongaro@unibocconi.it](mailto:edoardo.ongaro@unibocconi.it)).

##### **Workshop 3: Policy formulation processes in IGR settings: analytical models and perspectives**

co-chairs: Martin Laffin, University of Durham, UK ([martin.laffin@durham.ac.uk](mailto:martin.laffin@durham.ac.uk)) and Carol Weissert, Florida State University, USA ([carol.weissert@fsu.edu](mailto:carol.weissert@fsu.edu)).

##### **Workshop 4: Policy implementation across levels of government: models and perspectives of analysis**

co-chairs Marc Holzer, Rutgers University-Newark, New Jersey, USA ([mholzer@pipeline.com](mailto:mholzer@pipeline.com)), and Stephen Wilks, University of Exeter, UK ([S.R.M.Wilks@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:S.R.M.Wilks@exeter.ac.uk)).

##### **Workshop 5: Performance measurement and accountability in IGR-MLG**

co-chairs Beryl Radin, American University, Washington D.C. ([bradin@ix.netcom.com](mailto:bradin@ix.netcom.com)), USA, and Ellen Wayenberg, University College Ghent, Belgium ([ellen.wayenberg@hogent.be](mailto:ellen.wayenberg@hogent.be)).

##### **Workshop 6: IGR in the healthcare sector**

co-chairs Giovanni Fattore, Università Bocconi, Italy ([giovanni.fattore@unibocconi.it](mailto:giovanni.fattore@unibocconi.it)), and Norma Ricucci, Rutgers University-Newark, New Jersey, USA ([ricucci@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:ricucci@andromeda.rutgers.edu)).

## **Workshop 1: Theories and theoretical perspectives for investigating IGR/Multi-level governance**

Co-chairs: Robert Agranoff and Andrew Massey

### **Context and background**

To govern in the twenty-first century is multilevel and intergovernmental. The rise of the welfare state during the twentieth century initially bureaucratized, centralized, and managerialized social and economic programs, but in the long run programs were put in the hands of subnational governments and NGOs as co-policymakers and/or implementers. This interdependence led to an increase in intergovernmental relations (IGR), that is focus on the patterns of regularized contacts among governments and their officials. Managers and officials working between governments and NGOs then had to learn how to operate within these systems to solve routine problems and to make policies work through joined up governments. Over time the focus of IGR shifted somewhat from governments to include the nongovernmental sector on a shared basis, where a host of public-private partnerships, shared administration, marketization, privatization, and decentralization is now the norm.

### **Central theme and sub-themes**

Papers that address theoretical concerns within this broad charge are welcome, with particular concern related to the following questions/issues:

- (1) How can contemporary theory shift from government to governance, the set of processes and institutions, formal and informal, through which social action occurs?
- (2) Can the theory of intergovernmental relations be adapted to incorporate the new intersectoral mechanisms of joined government, e.g. contracting, partnerships, alliances, networks? Papers that explore policy networks and their role in the intergovernmental process are encouraged.
- (3) Since government is not just another organization and is unlikely to disappear, what are its boundaries in a governance era as it maintains its ability to set rules, establish norms, enforce regulations and guide public business?
- (4) In the era of the new IGR and governance through networks, how has the administrative role of bureaucracy shifted, (e.g. from grants/regulations/contract compliance to partner/knowledge builder/results oriented), particularly first and second tier agencies? Also, papers that examine "governance" and/or global governance in terms of transparency, accountability and ethical behavior are welcomed.
- (5) What is next in governance/IGR? Assuming that the coming decades will be as dynamic as the past few decades, that is the shift from welfare state expansion to this contracting neo-liberal state to the communitarian/social state the next wave will no doubt impact IGR. Can the field theoretically prepare for it?

## **WORKSHOP 2: The dynamics of IGR at the national, supranational (EU) and international (UN) level**

Co-chairs: Dimitri Argyriades and Edoardo Ongaro

### **Context and background**

Inter-governmental relations (IGR) are continuously shaped by different dynamics: trends to decentralization as well as (though often less recognized) to recentralization, the development of collaborative patterns as well as 'centrifugal' forces leading to fragmentation. Patterns of IGR are emerging, consolidating, disappearing. The workshop aims at investigating these dynamics in three main contexts: the national context of individual countries (European states, USA, as well as Canada); the European Union context; the international context (with reference to the role of international organizations).

#### *The dynamics of IGR at the national level*

Decentralization and devolution processes, as well as trends to recentralization, characterize intergovernmental relations in many countries. At another level of analysis, the necessarily pluralistic set of institutions intervening in relevant policy fields poses the issue of the patterns of collaboration among governments (both vertically and horizontally). Both aspects require investigation.

#### *EU multi-level governance*

Multi-Level Governance (MLG) can be defined as a theoretical perspective to the study of the European Union whereby decision-making competences are deemed to lie not only with national governments but also with institutions and actors at other levels of government, supranational and sub-national (European integration, regionalization). Questions arise about it: what is the explanatory power of this theoretical perspective? Is it limited to some policy fields (cohesion policy) or much more general?

Moreover, turning from policy formulation to policy implementation, the originality of the multi-level systems established along with the evolution of the European Union, and the implications for the implementation of EU policies, has only to a limited extent been investigated. At another level of analysis, the influence of interventions of reform of public management reform initiatives in EU institutions (particularly the EU Commission) are still under-investigated, as are the effects of reforms occurring at the national and sub-national levels on the broader MLG setting.

#### *International governance and the United Nations*

The dynamics and complexity of Inter-Governmental Relations (IGR) lie at the epicentre of the study of global governance. Addressing relevant problems calls for appropriate structures, procedures, methods, processes and, last but not least, the essential human factor for effective global governance.

The multitude, immensity and intricacy of the issues that face such organisations as the United Nations and other global agencies ( e.g. the Bretton Woods Institutions) suggest a pressing need for new division of labour among these various agencies, on the one hand ,and between global agencies and regional, sub-regional and national organisations on the other.

Manifestly, the world suffers from a scarcity of resources to address and solve the problems that call for IGR. As a major policy concern, it is often emphasized the need to avoid the costly duplication of efforts and attention, which only engenders friction in some over-subscribed but controversial areas, while leaving other fields completely unattended and dangerously neglected. Arguably, 'subsidiarity', which has been introduced with some degree of 'success' in IGR in Europe, could serve as a guideline on a much broader scale. More broadly, also other important elements in the building of the EU system, suitably translated, might be useful conceptual tools for the understanding of issues of global governance, and possibly also as normative tools for intervening on compelling issues.

### **Central theme and sub-themes**

We are seeking for papers that explore, among others, the following topics:

- IGR at the national level:
  - o What are developments in different types of IGR, and what are the causes of such developments? For example considering central government *versus* its agencies and central government *versus* local government: is a trend towards re-centralization detectable or is decentralization still the dominant note?
  - o Are there different developments in the same types of IGR? How can such differences be characterized, and what interpretations can be provided?
  - o are new types of IGR developing?

- EU multi-level governance:
  - o What is the explanatory power of the MLG theoretical perspective for explaining the functioning of the EU system? Is it limited to some policy fields (e.g.: cohesion policy) or is it much more general?
  - o What are similarities and differences between EU MLG patterns and USA IGR patterns?
  - o What theoretical perspectives can be employed for explaining the dynamics of public management/administrative reforms in MLG settings?
  - o What is the influence of national-level public management reform on 'EU public management'? How can it be explained in a MLG perspective?
  - o And what are the implications of management reforms of the EU institutions (the Commission in particular) on the evolution of MLG settings?
  - o Which reform paradigms of national public administration fit the EU MLG?
  - o What explains difference in performance in the implementation of EU policies across countries and territories?
- International governance:
  - o The present architecture for International Governance has been the subject of many criticisms. The general opinion tends to espouse the view that it no longer adequately reflects either the power dynamics or the operational needs and range of tasks encumbering the international organisations. What explains the supposed 'inadequacy' of international governance?
  - o How could the configuration of intergovernmental relations adapt to new requirements, specifically as regards the relations between sovereign states and international organisations?
  - o How could the configuration of inter-organisational relations adapt to these requirements, specifically as regards the pattern of relations among the many members of the UN system of organisations, as well as other international organisations, global and regional or sub-regional?

### **Workshop 3. Policy formulation processes in IGR settings: analytical models and perspectives**

Co-chairs: Martin Laffin and Carol Weissert

#### **Context and background**

Territorial interests are one set of interests in the contemporary nation state. They have to compete with other powerful interests, which are organised on a functional or party political basis, for influence within the policy formulation process at the different levels of government. Recent trends towards regional devolution in Europe have strengthened sub-state territorial interests. Although the influence of these interests in policy formulation at the nation-state level varies considerably across countries. In some countries regional-national parties have emerged which are able to exert a powerful influence at the nation state-level, such as Spain. In other countries, such as the UK, the regional-national parties have limited influence at the nation-state level.

The focus of this Workshop is on the role of intergovernmental relations within the wider policy formation processes at the three levels (a) the regional/provincial/state level, (b) the nation-state or federal level and (c) the supra-national or European level. The chairs would welcome studies which examine how territorial interests organise themselves to influence policy at the 'higher' levels of government, the strategic choices posed for these interests by 'multi-level governance' and how intergovernmental institutions relate to the wider policy processes of which they are part.

#### **Central theme and sub-themes**

##### *Relationship between Territorial Interests and Legislatures*

In the classic federal systems state or provincial government interests are represented at the federal level in an upper house. In more recent regionalised systems, regional interests are not formally represented in the nation-state legislatures but have to find alternative ways of expressing their interests at the national or supra-national levels.

- Does the formal representation of territorial interests in an upper house give state governments an effective or useful voice at the national level?
- In what other ways do territorial interests seek to influence nation-state or supra-national legislatures?

##### *Local-Regional/State Government Relationships*

It would be interesting to have papers on how local government interests relate to the regional or nation-state governmental structures above them.

- Does the presence of the meso-level of regional/state governments tend to 'crowd out' local government?
- In what ways do local governments organise themselves to influence the meso-level?
- Under what circumstances do local governments seek to extend the 'scope of conflict' to levels above the meso-level (Schnattschneider 1960)?

##### *Relationship between Territorial Interests and the Judiciary*

Traditionally it has been assumed that judicial intervention tends to favour the nation-state level of government, centralising power at that level.

- Does judicial intervention tend to favour a particular level of government?
- To what extent do territorial interests seek to use the courts to defend or advance their interests?

##### *Relationship between Territorial and Functional Interests*

In the modern welfare state powerful functional interests, based in the major public services, have emerged and have tended to eclipse the politics of territorial identity and interests.

- What mechanisms exist in IGR systems whereby territorial interests are represented at other levels? What role do local government associations play?
- What is the relationship between associations representing territorial interests and organised groups representing functional interests?
- What is the intra-government relationship between local government ministries or departments and service departments which traditionally have pursued service uniformity rather than local autonomy?

## **Workshop 4. Policy implementation across levels of government: models and perspectives of analysis**

Co-chairs: Marc Holzer and Stephen Wilks

### **Context and background**

Cooperation between levels of government is an increasing trend. The implementation phase of policies provides poignant examples of the repercussions of successes and failures of such cooperation. The arrest of the presumed perpetrators of the London bombings in 2005, and the rescue efforts in New Orleans the same year, illustrate the importance of cooperation between different levels of government. As social scientists, we ought to look carefully at this part of the policy process if only because of its importance in the daily agendas of front line public servants.

The aim of this workshop is to explore the impacts of multi-level governmental arrangements on policy implementation. We are specifically interested in comparative studies that could enlighten academics and practitioners on both sides of the Atlantic.

### **Central theme and sub-themes**

#### *Constitutional Structures*

- What are the impacts of the American national constitutional arrangements and the European Union (EU) multinational arrangements on macro and micro policies in the different phases of policy implementation?
- Are European Union's monetary policies felt differently in a region that is governed by a federation compared to one that is under a unitary government?
  - Do EU monetary policies influence differently the implementation of social policies in an Austrian state compared to a French "commune"?

#### *Regionalisms*

- What is the impact of regionalisms and their political bases on the negotiating and communicating phases of policy implementation when different levels of government are involved?
- To what extent do regionalisms play a role in interpreting policy directions for implementation?
  - To what extent is discretion used in the Basque region in Spain, in Corsica in France or the Walloon provinces in Belgium?
- Are the values driving discretionary powers of street-level bureaucrats the same in different regions of countries? Do they differ between American and European front line public servants?

#### *Cooperation across Borders*

- How do local and state agencies cooperate with their counterparts across the border, when they face a common problem in their day to day job? What is the role of the federal/national/EU government in assisting lower levels of government?
  - How do state and local police forces in border towns in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, and the State of Texas, U.S.A., interact with each other to fight smugglers?
  - In the implementation of environmental policies, how do agencies from the Gelderland province and the State of North Rhine-Westphalia cooperate with each other?

#### *Emulation*

- When it comes to best practices of policy implementation, at what level does emulation take place? Within geographical vicinity? Between federated entities? Between countries? Across the Atlantic Ocean?
- Where do policy implementation emulations lead to? Are there standards emerging for citizens and corporations to qualify for the delivery of subsidies, grants, emergency funds?

## **Workshop 5. Performance measurement and accountability in IGR/MLG**

Co-chairs: Beryl Radin and Ellen Wayenberg

### **Context and background**

Performance measurement and accountability are key challenges to intergovernmental systems around the world. They spring from multiple sources – from the expectations of governments that devise programs as well as pay for them, of those who actually implement these programs, and of citizens who receive services. It is clearly legitimate for all of these players to be concerned about the use of funds as well as the results of these expenditures. Past efforts to hold agencies accountable for inputs and processes have been replaced by concern about the outcomes of government action. Performance measurement is challenging to all program types but it is particularly demanding for programs that involve more than one level of government or call on others to actually deliver the services. In addition, performance measurement is difficult to establish in policy areas characterized by networks and multiple actors where accountability relationships are complex and often unclear.

### **Central theme and sub-themes**

We are seeking papers to be included in this stream that reflect a broad array of issues related to IGR and performance measurement. Our approach is not limited to experiences in formal federal systems but also would include non federal systems and a range of efforts in diverse government structures (e.g. parliamentary systems). We are open to work that highlights initiatives at both the corporate level of government as well as in specific policy domains (e.g. education, welfare, health).

We hope to include work that illustrates the need to balance accountability with flexibility. The requirement for balance takes place at both the central government level as well as in third party settings. Third parties include local, state or regional jurisdictions, NGOs, and the private sector who are involved in delivering services supported by a level of government. It is our hope that papers will reflect different perspectives from multiple actors. We want to determine whether IGR performance efforts are different from general performance measurement activities.

Among the topics that might be explored are the following:

- performance and democracy (tensions between bureaucrats and officials)
- who is responsible for performance measurement?
- how is performance measurement used?
- the one size fits all issue
- transparency
- tools/instruments that are used (e.g. performance partnerships, incentives, negotiated measures, program design, standards, waivers)
- sanctions and rewards with regard to performance
- performance and gaming: what performance games are played?
- the relationship between strategic/key objectives and indicators
- measurement and quantification
- performance and budgeting
- performance and information
- the evolution of performance

## **Workshop 6. IGR and the Health Care Sector**

Co-chairs: Giovanni Fattore and Norma Riccucci

### **Context and background**

Establishing effective intergovernmental relations is a key challenge to the development of successful social policy throughout the world. In recent years, there have been calls for more collaborative IG reforms and institutional innovations particularly in the area of health care policy and management. In the U.S., the experience with Hurricane Katrina points to the need for more effective, integrated coordination among the accountability community—federal, state and local agencies, NGOs and the for-profit sector. In Europe, the emergence of a multi-level governance system (EU, states, states/regions, and local communities) calls for innovative ways of collaboration and coordination. In other parts of the globe, the provision of government services for indigenous people, the poor, persons with HIV/AIDS, especially in regional and remote areas, illustrates many of the issues which occur when all tiers of government as well as NGOs and private entities are involved in the provision of health care services.

IGR systems face the complexity of managing programs involving numerous actors, and aim to generate the flexibility and capacity of national systems to respond to unique local needs, which in turn is challenged by long-term national and international trends.

### **Central theme and sub-themes**

This workshop welcomes proposals addressing a broad array of IG health policy and management issues, including Federal/state relationships in the US, emerging trends in distribution of powers in Canada, emerging models of cooperation/coordination in Europe, especially in those countries that are undergoing relevant decentralization in recent years. It also welcomes proposal from the rest of the world as the issues of IG is crucial almost everywhere. Proposals investigating institutional structures, governance models and the use of Information Technologies are highly appreciated.

Both theoretical and empirical proposal well be considered. Any range of methodological approaches are encouraged for inclusion in the workshop.