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Background: In sociology and political science there is a growing recognition of the dynamic nature of networks as social and political determinants of the options communities and their representatives have for developing health policy.

Objectives: This presentation will review two key theoretical domains in (health) political science with a view to develop and present an on-line dynamic network mapping tool that enables key stakeholders in health policy and community development processes to see and appreciate their role and position in relevant networks.

Underlying values and principles: Policy network theory (Börzel, 1998) and Multiple Streams theory (Kingdon, 2002).

Knowledge base/ Evidence base: Policy network theory (Börzel, 1998) and Multiple Streams theory (Kingdon, 2002).

Context of intervention/project/work: In a project undertaken in The Netherlands it was discovered that the assumption that there is only one policy network around a certain issue (an assertion made, for instance, by Laumann & Knoke in their influential policy domains work, 1987) can be challenged. In applying Kingdon's (2002) Multiple Streams Theory for policy development it was found that networks around each of the streams (policies; politics; problems) have a different configuration. Assuming that network configuration determines the shape of policy as an outcome, it seems critical to understand these different configurations. This would be particularly valuable because the 'policy entrepreneur' may be better enabled to intervene and re-shape 'problem networks' than 'political networks'.

Methods: Software was developed, using Macromedia tools, to show multiple streams network dynamics over a two-year period.

Results and Conclusions: The 'dummy' version suggests that dynamic network mapping in an on-line environment is feasible.

References:

Disclosure of Interest: None declared