

# Day 12: Formal and Informal Actors

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# Road map

- Discuss the roles and motivations of formal actors (legislature, executive, courts) in policymaking
- Informal Actors and the Policy Process

# Official vs. Unofficial Actors

I like terms formal and informal

## Formal (Official)

Have a specific legal authority, have legal power and responsibility in policymaking process.

## Informal (Unofficial)

Not legally required to engage, but have a right to be involved. Just as important.

# Understanding Formal Actors

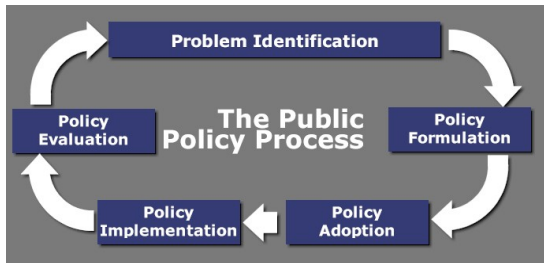
## Objective

Understand how formal actors fit into our systems thinking about policymaking. Further, knowing their preferences, motivations, and resource needs helps us understand how policy analysis fits into the process.

# Today's Task

Break into three groups. Each will discuss the following:

- Motivations of actors
- Resource needs of their actors (inputs)
- Outputs of their branch
- How they fit into the policy process



# Individuals in a Political System

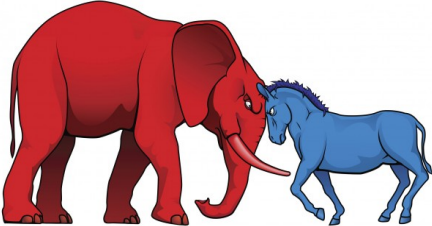


# Informal Actors: Roles and Inputs

## Interest Aggregators



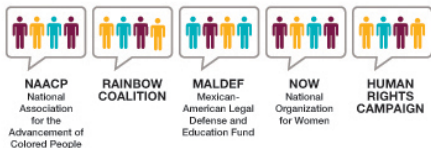
Interest Groups



Political Parties

# Types of Interest Groups

- Professional
- Social Movement
- Advocacy



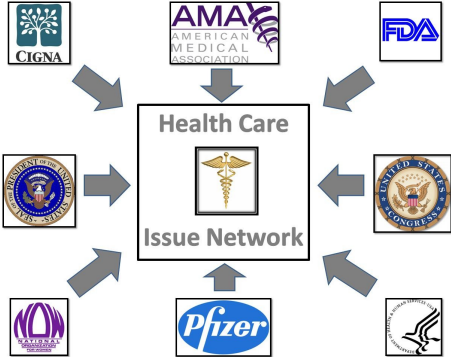
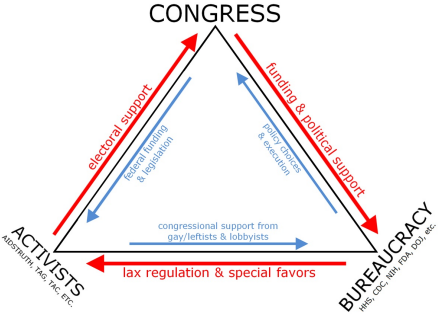


# Interest Group Activities

- Lobbying
- Campaign Contributions (Access)
- Venue Shopping
- Litigation
- Protest
- Mass Mobilization
- Astroturfing

Tactics often depend on size and type of group

# Iron Triangles or Issue Networks?

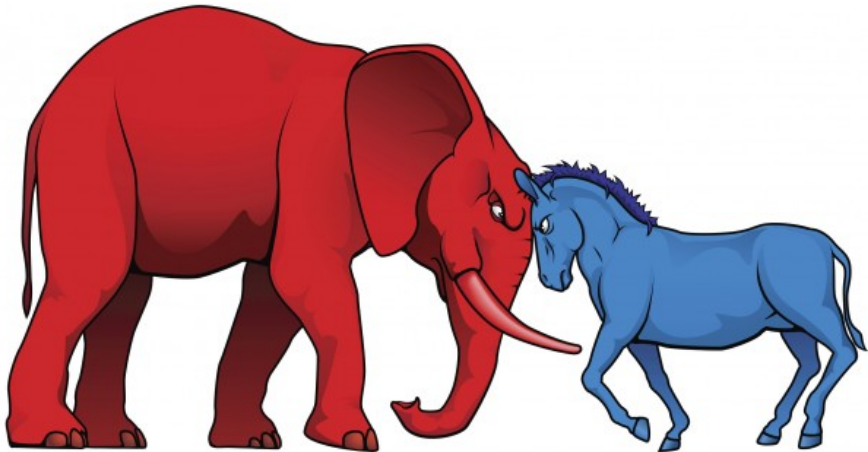


# Issue Networks

How to figure out the appropriate issue network for your policy research project? Ask actors!

# Political Parties

What role do they play in the policy process? What inputs do they provide?



# Think Tanks

What do they do? What do they provide?

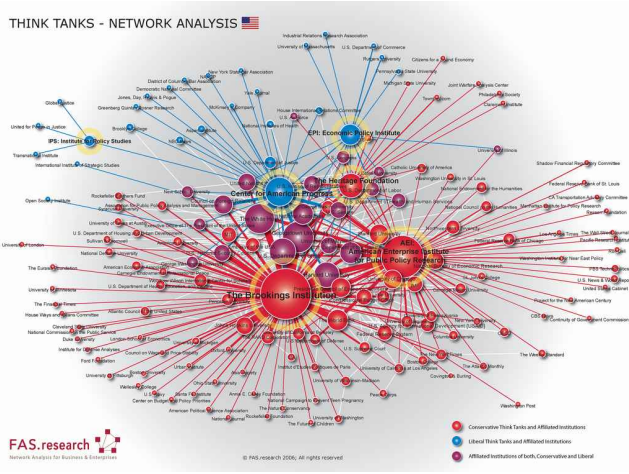


Figure: Think Tank Watch 2012

# Intersections - The Triumvirate



Policy

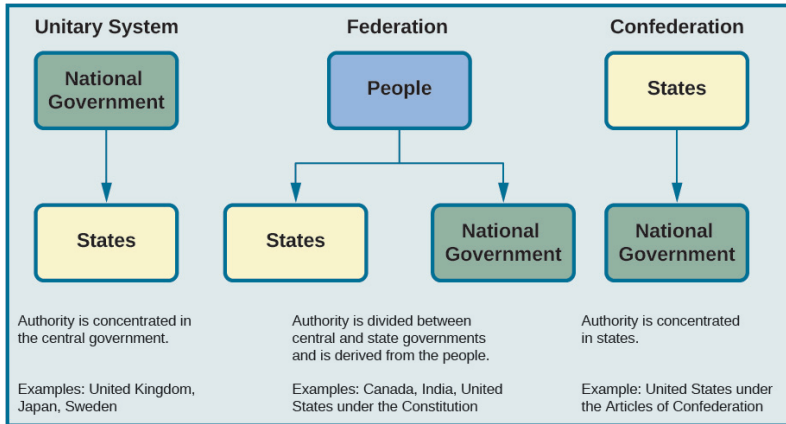


Research



Money

# Exploiting the Decentralized State



# Homework Assignment

See Canvas