

Day 14: Agenda Setting

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Today's Objectives

- 1 Mid-semester feedback
- 2 Identify how issues move from the systemic agenda to the decision agenda

Mid-Semester Feedback



Figure: "Performance Evaluation Process" by Rizkyharis, CC BY-SA 4.0

Starter Question

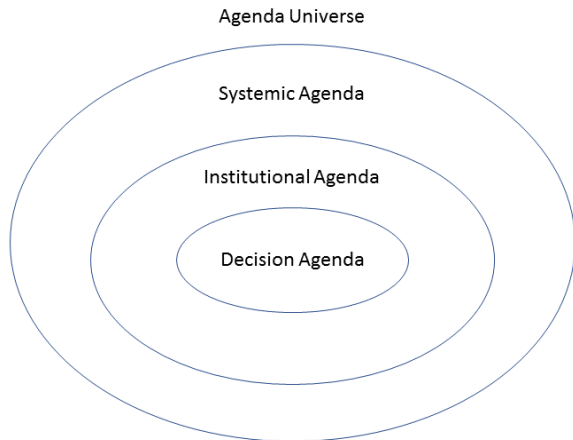
What are the major ways in which groups and society as a whole learn about problems? Which of these ways will lead to the most rapid increase of attention to a problem?

Agenda Setting

“The definitions of alternatives is the supreme instrument of power.” - E.E. Schattschneider (1975)

What does this mean?

What is “The Agenda”?



Important point: Issues cross these boundaries and the boundaries also move over time

Two Faces of Political Power

Bachrach and Baratz 1962



Coercive and Blocking Power

Agenda Setting Power

“The definitions of alternatives is the supreme instrument of power.” - E.E. Schattschneider (1975)

Those who are able to set the agenda have great political power. Who are they? How do they do it?

How Do Issues Get on the Decision Agenda?

John Kingdon's Multiple Streams Framework

Problem Stream

How problems are identified and framed

Political Stream

Political actors (formal and informal)

Solution Stream

Solutions looking for problems

Kingdon's Theory

Streams must couple for items to move to the government's decision agenda

“Windows of Opportunity”



Figure: Public Domain

Ripening the Streams

Problem Stream

Changing indicators (multiple interpretations), re-framing the problem, focusing events

Political Stream

Changes in government, institutions

Solution Stream

Development of new or “new” policies

Venue Shopping and Expanding Scope of Conflict

Venue Shopping

We've discussed this

Scope of Conflict

Try to engage additional groups (minority group). Media can be useful, also detrimental.

Application Homework

Climate Change

Write 1-2 pages on the following:

- Why has climate change not been a major feature of the government's decision agenda?
- Who has power to control the agenda?
- How has their use of this power affected climate change's ability to get on the agenda?
- What tactics could help get this issue get on the government's decision agenda?