

WORKSHOP 19

19. Studying the Political through Frame Analysis

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Frame analysis has a long history in the political sciences. It looks at the way framing processes enable meaning-making by highlighting particular views of political and other social realities, while simultaneously occluding or downplaying other views. Frame analysis means looking for patterns in the way political actors collectively put forward particular views of the specific issues they are dealing with and the way(s) that contending frames can impede communication between or among policy-relevant groups.

This Workshop intends to bring together a group of scholars working on policy frames and framing from various perspectives (including public policy, IR, and social movement studies) to elucidate their entailments from a theoretical perspective grounded in empirical research. The workshop will be a platform for discussion and debate concerning the strengths and weaknesses of current approaches and will help advance the methodology of frame analysis.

Papers can theorize a range of topics, from the understanding of frames and framing processes themselves, to “re-framing,” to the similarities and differences among frames, stories, narratives, metaphors, and the like. For example, frame analysis often involves a study of the uses of political language, specifically, and political symbolism, more widely. Moreover, frame analysis overlaps in important ways with work on metaphor analysis, narrative research, and discourse analysis. As the literature suggests, framing holds great promise as an analytic concept and approach or method, and the Workshop potentially draws together political scientists from a wide range of fields and subject areas.