

30. The Politics of Policy Appraisal

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Policy appraisal systems have emerged in recent decades to fulfil a variety of purposes, including, at the very broadest scale, attempting to deliver cross-cutting goals like more sustainable development, and address emerging large-scale global change challenges such as climate change. But policy appraisal systems have encountered some well-known difficulties in these aims, such as how well they truly offer representative stakeholder consultation, and how far they increase the influence of 'evidence' within the policy process. There are clear higher-level political considerations in play than there being simply too few resources available for appraisals. This workshop particularly examines sustainable development as a major cross-cutting issue, and hence takes an interdisciplinary approach to better understanding policy appraisal's role in delivering cross-cutting goals. The aims are 1) to better *define* appraisal, including different aims, concepts and terminology; 2) to better *explain* appraisal: how the political, institutional, cultural and organisational context shapes appraisal's goals and design; 3) to better *evaluate* appraisal: what counts as 'successful' and why - and are appraisals successful?; 4) to better engage with non-academic audiences: what processes and contexts promote usable knowledge?