

THINK TANKS AND CIVIL SOCIETIES PROGRAM:

Think Tank Network Publications

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

A Capitol Idea: Think Tanks and US Foreign Policy

By Donald E. Abelson

Description:

Explores the extent to which a select group of Washington-based think tanks have sought to influence the controversial debates over National Missile Defense and the War on Terror. In the process of uncovering how some of the nation's most prominent think tanks have established themselves as key players in the political arena, Abelson challenges traditional approaches to assessing policy influence and suggests alternative models

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Comparative Think Tanks, Politics and Public Policy

By James G. McGann and Erik C. Johnson

Description

Independent institutes conducting policy research, analysis and public dialogue, or 'think tanks' as they are more commonly known, are one of the leading catalysts for ideas and action in civil societies around the world. Examining the role of think tanks in the policy formulation process, this groundbreaking study provides the first systematically comparative and methodologically rigorous map of such organizations and the social, political, legal and economic conditions that shape their work. Once found only in advanced industrial democracies, think tanks now provide information and advice for policymakers in countries as diverse as India, Lebanon, Chile, Bulgaria, Germany, Senegal and Thailand. Using case studies of 20 countries across five regions of the world (Africa, the Middle East, the Americas, Europe and Asia), James McGann and Erik Johnson explore how the environments in which think tanks operate serve to expand or constrict their autonomy and influence. They also suggest ways in which donors, policymakers and international organizations can ensure the viability and sustainability of these important institutions. With incisive analysis and cogent recommendations for how to seed and sustain independent think tanks around the world, this volume will be of great interest to those involved with think tanks themselves, as well as public policy and political science scholars, international development agencies and policymakers worldwide. The comparative dimensions of the book will have considerable appeal among students of comparative politics, public policy and international affairs.

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Think Tanks and Policy Making in the U.S.: Academics, Advisors and Advocates

By James G McGann

Description:

This volume chronicles and analyzes the development of think tanks and public policy research organizations, while exploring the impact think tanks have on politics, public policies and governance in the US. Since the early twentieth century, think tanks have played a major role in framing policy issues and providing analysis, but in the last twenty years, there has been a veritable think tank proliferation. The book examines a range of environmental forces: partisan politics; growth of liberal and conservative advocacy groups; restrictive funding policies of donors; growth of specialized think tanks; narrow and short-term orientation of Congress and the White House; tyranny of myopic academic disciplines; and the 24/7 cable news networks, which have impacted the ability of think tanks to provide independent analysis and advice. After providing an overview of the American think tank landscape and discussing the current challenges to the industry, the contributors suggest several ways to help think tanks ensure their usefulness and maintain their privileged position in policy debate. The organizational, financial and political analysis of these institutions is complimented by fifteen essays by think tank executives that will examine the role, value and impact of these organizations. Twenty essays by the Presidents of some of the leading think tanks in the US are featured in this work by McGann, including: Strobe Talbott, President of The Brookings Institution; Richard N. Haass, President of the Council on Foreign Relations; Edwin Feulner, President of the Heritage Foundation; C. Fred Bergsten, Director of the Institute for International Economics; and James Thomson, President of the Rand Corporation.

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Iran's Nuclear Ambitions

By Shahram Chubin

Description:

Iran alarms the world as it seeks nuclear energy technology that could be used for weapons. The concern stems in part from Iran's uncertain intentions and recent history. Does it remain a revolutionary power determined to subvert its Sunni Arab neighbors, destroy Israel, and spread theocratic government to other lands; or would an Iran with nuclear weapons merely defend its territory from foreign aggression and live in peace with its neighbors? Are Iranian leaders and society willing to negotiate limits on nuclear capability and normalize relations with the West, or will they resist accommodation? Iran's Nuclear Ambitions provides a rare look into the motivations, perceptions, and domestic politics swirling around Iran. Shahram Chubin, an Iranian-born security expert, narrates the recent history of Iran's nuclear program and diplomacy and argues that the central problem is not nuclear technology but rather Iran's behavior as a revolutionary state with ambitions that collide with the interests of its neighbors and the West.

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Confronting the Weakest Link Aiding Political Parties in New Democracies

By Thomas Carothers

Description:

Beset with persistent problems of self-interest, corruption, ideological incoherence, and narrow electoralism, political parties are the weakest link in many democratic transitions around the world. A large and ever-growing number of U.S., European, and multilateral assistance programs seek to help parties become effective pro-democratic actors. But given the depth of the problems, is success possible? *Confronting the Weakest Link* is a path-breaking study of international aid for political parties. Beginning with a penetrating analysis of party shortcomings in developing and postcommunist countries, Thomas Carothers draws on extensive field research to diagnose chronic deficiencies in party aid, assess its overall impact, and offer practical ideas for doing better. This critical analysis, which spans Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, sheds invaluable light on a major element of the contemporary challenge of democracy-building, a subject now occupying center stage in the international policy arena.

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Managing Sino-American Crises: Case Studies and Analysis

By Michael D. Swaine and Zhang Tuosheng, eds. with Danielle F.S. Cohen

Description:

The Taiwan Strait. The Korean War and Vietnam. The bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade. The Sino-U.S. aircraft collision incident. U.S.-China relations have witnessed significant tensions and conflict. Sensitivities and suspicions between Washington and Beijing have heightened as China's global power and influence have grown. Arguably, this new international order could increase the chances of a political-military crisis—or perhaps outright conflict—between the two powers. *Managing Sino-American Crises* brings together Chinese and American officials and participants in past confrontations, as well as scholars from both countries, to explore the changing features of crisis behavior and their implications for defusing future encounters. Using both conceptual analysis and historical case studies, the essays in this volume identify specific problems and opportunities that will likely confront both countries in the future and propose recommendations that will improve the effectiveness of crisis management skills between the U.S. and China.

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Beyond Nuclear Deterrence: Transforming the U.S.-Russian Equation

By Alexei Arbatov and Vladimir Dvorkin (Foreword by John D. Steinbruner)

Description:

For nearly fifty years—and the decade and a half since the end of the Cold War—deterrence has remained the central nuclear arms control policy between the United States, Russia, and other principal nuclear powers. The question today is: Has it outlived its usefulness? In *Beyond Nuclear Deterrence*, two of Russia's top nonproliferation and international security experts, Alexei Arbatov and Vladimir Dvorkin, critically assess the history of deterrence as it emerged between the Soviet Union and the U.S. and evolved through the Cold War to include an expanding nuclear club. The authors argue that while deterrence as a concept has always been paradoxical, it is poorly equipped to handle today's most significant nuclear challenges: proliferation and terrorism. Nuclear arms control must move beyond the deadlock of deterrence. The U.S. and Russia need to take the first bilateral steps to remove mutual nuclear deterrence as the foundation of their strategic relationship and implement changes that can be exported internationally.

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Globalisation, Policy Transfer and Policy Research Institutes

By Stella Ladi

Description:

This significant new book presents a comparative study of the role of policy research institutes within policy transfer, and the subsequent impact policy transfer has upon the processes of Europeanisation and globalisation. In an era of globalisation, it is generally assumed that processes of policy transfer have increased. At the same time, however, there has been a recognition that understanding governance purely through state centred institutional approaches is no longer tenable. In this book, Stella Ladi argues that in order to fully understand domestic governance we must examine the impact of non-governmental organisations such as policy research institutes. Using a sophisticated, multi-level framework of analysis, the author concentrates on three particular case studies with which to evaluate the transfer of ideas, the transfer of policy programmes and the transfer of institutions, within the European Union. She concludes that the analysis of policy transfer is crucial in identifying international policy entrepreneurs, as well as important policy developments in domestic and world politics. The multi-disciplinary approach of this book will appeal to students and scholars of the social sciences, particularly those specialising in public policy and administration, international relations and comparative politics. It will also be of interest to policymakers and practitioners within international organisations.

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Nonprofit Governance and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act

By Francie Ostrower and Marla J. Bobowick

Description:

This brief presents the first wave of findings from the Urban Institute's National Survey of nonprofit governance. The study--the first national representative survey of nonprofit governance--probed a variety of governance issues and includes responses from over 5,100 nonprofits. This brief explores a subset of findings related to the potential impact of extending some Sarbanes-Oxley provisions to nonprofits. It confirms the importance of acknowledging the potentially different impact, cost, and value of applying provisions to nonprofits of different size.

Order:

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/311363_nonprofit_governance.pdf

Twenty Two Years of ASEAN ISIS: Origin, Evolution and Challenges of Track Two Diplomacy

Edited by Hadi Soesastro, Clara Joewono, Caroline G. Hernandez

Description:

“Track 2” diplomacy in Southeast Asia is synonymous with ASEAN ISIS and has become a key component of the networking efforts. ASEAN ISIS was founded in 1984 when a group of strategic studies institutions in Southeast Asia met in Bali. Counted from that first meetings in Bali, by 2006 ASEAN ISIS has been in existence for twenty two years. ASEAN ISIS is deeply involved in developing ideas for the future of ASEAN. The publication of this book will help readers understand about this regional network of think tanks that has practiced and shaped the so called “track two” diplomacy. This is a book about ASEAN ISIS written by individuals that have been involved in establishing this regional network, scholars from ASEAN ISIS members institutions as well as those from other institutions, but who have been actively involved in various ASEAN ISIS meeting. Some articles in this volume have been written on ASEAN ISIS.

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Beyond the Borders

Edited by Simon Moore

Description:

On a continent that has come to be so dominated politically by the EU, it is easy to forget that there are almost as many countries beyond its borders as there are within. Yet in these oft-overlooked nations, some of the most profound and meaningful reform in Europe is occurring. Following the success of The State of the Union, the Stockholm Network presents the second half of its pan-European study of the progress of reform. Beyond the Borders examines the progress of reform in the eighteen European countries that currently lie outside the borders of the European Union.

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Visit: www.stockholm-network.org or Email Simon Moore: simon@stockholm-network.org

ODI CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

Policy Engagement: How civil society can be more effective

By Julius Court, Enrique Mendizabal, David Osborne and John Young

Description:

Civil society organisations (CSOs) could have a greater impact on policy processes in developing countries. This report shows why and how better use of evidence by CSOs is part of the solution to increasing the policy influence and pro-poor impact of their work. The report includes strategic guidance and practical approaches regarding how CSOs can ensure their policy engagement is more effective, influential and sustained.

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Policy Engagement for Poverty Reduction-How Civil Society Can be More Effective

By Julius Court

Description:

This ODI Briefing Paper focuses on why and how CSOs can engage more effectively in policy processes in international development. Section 1 sets the scene and highlights the opportunities and challenges facing CSOs policy work. Section 2 focuses on why evidence matters for CSOs' work in international development. Section 3 provides a framework that matches the engagement mechanisms and evidence needs to the critical stages of policy processes. Section 4 summarises strategic and practical advice on how CSOs can ensure their policy engagement is more effective, influential and sustained.

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CSO Capacity for Policy Engagement: Lessons Learned from the CSPP Consultations in Africa, Asia and Latin America

By Naved Chowdhury, Chelsie Finlay-Notman and Ingie Hovland

Description:

The nature of CSOs in development work is changing, but how successfully - and leading where? While there is still a strong demand for CSOs to 'sustain the good work' in terms of direct service delivery, there is also a growing need for civil society to participate in policy processes, in order to bring about sustained long-term change. Surprisingly, there is very little systematic research on how CSOs all over the world are influencing policy processes, especially from the point of view of those actually involved in the policymaking process in the South. This paper aims to compare and contrast the lessons that emerged from the CSPP Southern consultations regarding the use of evidence-based policy-engagement, and for ODI to learn what role it may take in aiding CSO involvement in policy processes in the future, especially through the CSPP.

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Understanding Networks: The Functions of Research Policy Networks

By Enrique Mendizabal

Description:

Banks use their networks to offer global services to customers; airlines fly passengers all over the world via their networks of partners; news agencies use media networks to keep us informed every minute of the day; and terrorist networks threaten citizens around the world. The importance of networks extends to the development sector: they organise civil society to advocate for and implement change; they link the local with the global, the private with the public; and they provide spaces for the creation, sharing and dissemination of knowledge. In a way, networks seem to make anything and everything happen. But we have yet to understand what they are and what they can and cannot do. In the development literature, a huge variety of policy and social network concepts and applications exists. This paper attempts to set out a framework to help clarify what research policy networks do.

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Capacity Development for Policy Advocacy: Current thinking and approaches among agencies supporting Civil Society Organisations

By Monica Blagescu and John Young

Description:

Capacity building is likely to become increasingly important throughout the life of the Civil Society Partnerships Programme. The team recognises that it is important, early on, to develop a clear understanding of current principles and practice in capacity building for Southern organisations involved in using research-based evidence in policy processes, and establish a common position and vocabulary as a starting point for engagement with potential partners. This Working Paper is meant to facilitate this process. It presents a summary of current thinking on issues of capacity building for Northern and Southern organisations involved in using research-based evidence in policy processes, and provides some examples of current practice among organizations involved in work similar to that of the CSPP.

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Partnerships and Accountability: Current thinking and approaches among agencies supporting Civil Society Organisations

By Monica Blagescu and John Young

Description:

CSOs are increasingly involved in development policy, and recognise the need to use evidence and engage with policy processes more effectively. ODI's Civil Society Partnerships Programme is designed to help them to do this. While seeking to capitalise on ODI's 40 years of development research and policy work, the programme recognises the need to learn much more about how Southern organisations do it. To facilitate this the CSPP will need to develop long term equitable relationships with a wide range of Southern partner organisations. This working paper presents a summary of current thinking on issues of accountability, partnership and capacity-building between Northern and Southern organisations, and provides some examples of current practice among organisations involved in similar work.

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Networks and Policy Processes in International Development

Literature Review by Emily Perkin and Julius Court

Description:

We know networks matter. However, beyond the hype, there still remains limited systematic understanding of when, why and how they function best for policy impact in international development. The objective of this paper is to review and synthesise existing literature in an effort to start to answer these questions. The paper draws together over 100 diverse texts, hoping to provide a systematic overview of this recent work from the general literature as well as from that focusing on international development. An accompanying annotated bibliography provides more information on each of the sources reviewed.

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Civil Society Participation in Health Research and Policy: A review of models, mechanisms and measures

By Shyama Kuruvilla

Description:

Civil society organisations can participate in health research and policy in a variety of ways. As with other complex socio-political interventions, replicating participation methods across contexts, in the same way and to the same effect, is clearly impracticable, if not impossible. However, an overarching understanding of participation processes, effects and explanatory principles is required to inform policy, strategic action and further research. This paper reviews organising frameworks and explanatory principles in the literature which could inform the design and evaluation of CSO participation with health research and policy and in wider social development contexts. This paper is structured using broad thematic categories.

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How Civil Society Organisations Use Evidence to Influence Policy Processes

Literature Review by Amy Pollard and Julius Court

Description:

If CSOs are to use evidence to bring about pro-poor policy they have three main objectives: to inspire, inform and improve. All of this is much more easily said than done; reality is, of course, much more complex. This paper is based on an annotated bibliography of over 100 documents on how civil society organisations use evidence to influence policy. It summarises key debates, findings and conclusions from the literature, and points both to gaps and to new directions for future work.

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Corporate Foresight: Integrating the Future Business Environment into Innovation and Strategy

By Frank Ruff

Description:

This paper focuses on the practice of corporate foresight within a multinational automotive company. It portrays how the early detection of medium- to long-term developments in the broader business environment, including social and market developments, is integrated into innovation and strategy processes. The objective of the paper is to portray the genesis of corporate foresight, major working areas and benefits for the company. The initial section highlights the driving forces that promoted the establishment of corporate foresight, namely the convergence of strategic policy intelligence with strategic early recognition and futures research. The core section highlights five major fields of foresight practice which encompass strategic issues on different levels: long-term market developments, future customer needs, prospective evaluation of innovations, business processes and organisational change, and scanning and monitoring. The paper concludes with characterising the organisational architecture of a mature corporate foresight group.

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PASOS Public Policy Centres: A Directory of Think-Tanks in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia

By Jeff Lovitt (Editor); Petr Jan Pajas and Vera M. Budway-Strobach (Co-Editors)

Description:

An overview of the projects and initiatives of 24 independent, non-governmental policy centres, and contact details to the main expertise of these and many other policy centers. PASOS Public Policy Centres - A Directory of Think-Tanks in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia highlights the mission and main areas of expertise of the PASOS members - 24 policy centres from 16 countries in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. It also outlines the main projects undertaken by the PASOS members in 2004-5. The publication also features an overview of a further 36 policy centres who were not PASOS members at the time of publication, but many of which have co-operated on projects with PASOS members.

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The World Bank and Governance: A Decade of Reform and Reaction

Edited by Diane Stone and Christopher Wright

Description:

This timely book offers the first critical retrospective of World Bank policy reforms and initiatives during the past decade. The World Bank Group is viewed as one of the most powerful international organisations of our time. The authors critically analyse the influence of World Bank policy and engagement during the past decade in a variety of issue areas, including human rights, domestic reform, and the environment. This book delves into the bowels of the World Bank, by exploring its organizational structure, professional culture and bureaucratic procedures, and illustrates how these shape its engagement with an increasingly complex, diverse and challenging operational environment. The book includes chapters on two under-researched divisions of the World Bank Group; the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency. Several illuminating country studies are also included, analysing the World Bank's activities in Argentina, Bolivia, Lebanon and Vietnam. The collected authors seek to widen our understanding of the changing role and influence of the World Bank in the age of globalization. Students and scholars of International Relations, Development, Politics and Economics will find this volume to be of strong interest.

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Managing Think Tanks, 2nd Expanded Edition

By Raymond Struyk

Description:

One often hears statements about the importance of a think tank being well-managed. But what does it mean? Attributes of a strong think tank certainly include: The production of research and analysis that meets international standards; The implementation of an effective quality control system; The effective communication of findings to each relevant audience through a variety of tools and media; The motivation of staff to consistently produce high quality and innovative work. Staff's performance is explicitly evaluated and they have the opportunity to enhance their skills; Inventiveness – the institution's agenda shifts with the country's policy priorities but it also independently identifies latent policy issues, addresses them and moves them into the policy dialogue; Financial well-being – the institution is managed well; its overhead rate is rationally constructed, defensible, and adequate; its project costs are appropriately controlled; its discretionary funds are wisely invested. Results of its financial annual audit are readily shared with clients; The entrepreneurial instincts of the institution's leadership and how well the institution competes for work; and The effective employment of the institution's board to broaden its policy reach and stimulate thinking about possible new directions. This is a demanding list—one that few think tanks even in advanced countries fulfill. *Managing Think Tanks* presents realistic, actionable advice on each of these topics, save the production of research. Already relied upon by dozens of think tanks worldwide, the new 2nd edition offers advice on an expanded menu of topics, ranging from quality control of research products to setting overhead rates to winning government contracts.

The Political Quarterly:

Thinking in Tanks: The Changing Ecology of Political Ideas

By Geoff Mulgan

What Works? British Think Tanks and the 'End of Ideology

By Andrew Denham, Mark Garnett

The IPPR and Demos: Think Tanks of the New Social Democracy

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Directory of Non-Governmental Organisations of Tbilisi Working on Public Policy

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