

RETHINKING VALUE IN CONTEMPORARY POLICYMAKING

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Abstract:

Attempts to rethink what 'value' is or should be across various domains of contemporary policymaking has gained increasing currency. The conversation around more socially responsible valuography was already ongoing before the pandemic where calls had been made to pay more attention to less-easily measurable or monetizable value(s) previously ignored in policy. The urgency of this conversation has gained momentum in the last few years, as systemic fragilities of existing 'valuation' methodologies largely reliant on economic dimensions have become increasingly visible across diverse sectors such as energy, healthcare and transport.

In this panel, we welcome both conceptual and empirical papers on the issues of value and encourage speakers to reflect on the impact of their research on policy and practice. Suggested questions (but not limited to the below) are:

- How are practices, 'things', and processes made valuable in policy? What social practices and technologies are involved in these practices?
- Who gets to define value in contemporary democracies (policy, publics, science, industry) and by what means (e.g. quantitative measurements, qualitative best practices, policy agenda setting)?
- What criteria and value repertoires become salient in different spaces (organizational settings, policy contexts, movements etc)?
- How are ethical, moral, and political economic norms involved and what controversies can we identify? How have old or new controversies emphasised the fragilities/strengths of existing valuation systems since the pandemic?
- What methods can policy analysts use to address these controversies?

Key words:

Rethinking value construction; socially responsible value making; contemporary policymaking;