

POLI 718 Agenda Setting, Baumgartner, Spring 2017

Questions for week 9, Green Pedersen and Walgrave, eds, Agenda-Setting, Policies, and Political Systems

Consider the following questions for discussion and for potential paper topics.

1. Name an interesting question that cannot be studied through the US Agendas Project but which can be interesting in comparative perspective. Explore it in some detail. What would a full article-length research project look like? Sketch it out.
2. Generally speaking, American political scientists like to think that the US is special, or at least that our complicated system of separation of powers, federalism, and weak parties makes our system unique. But we find a lot of comparability when we look at bounded rationality and agenda-setting across countries. Read the book with an eye toward identifying institutional factors that generate powerful differences from what would be expected in the US.
3. Pick a chapter and present it to the class. Pay attention to the value of exploring this outside the US. (This can be repeated for the various chapters of the book.)

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- 1 Political Agenda Setting: An Approach to Studying Political Systems
- 2 Party Politics and the Policy Agenda: The Case of the United Kingdom
- 3 Lawmaking and Agenda Setting in the United States, 1948–2010 36
- 4 The Evolution of the French Political Space Revisited: Issue Priorities and Party Competition
- 5 Party-System Development in Denmark: Agenda-Setting Dynamics and Political Change
- 6 The Policy Agenda in Multiparty Government: Coalition Agreements and Legislative Activity in the Netherlands
- 7 Agenda Setting and Direct Democracy: The Rise of the Swiss People's Party
- 8 Content and Dynamics of Legislative Agendas in Germany
- 9 Strong Devolution but No Increasing Issue Divergence: Evolving Issue Priorities of the Belgian Political Parties, 1987–2010
- 10 The Impact of Party Policy Priorities on Italian Lawmaking from the First to the Second Republic, 1983–2006
- 11 Policy Promises and Governmental Activities in Spain
- 12 Diffusion of Policy Attention in Canada: Evidence from Speeches from the Throne, 1960–2008
- 13 Conclusion: What It Takes to Turn Agenda Setting from an Approach into a Theory