WENNBERG INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE SPRING POLICY MEETING 2018

HEALTH POLICY AND POLITICS A short introduction Valérie Paris, OECD

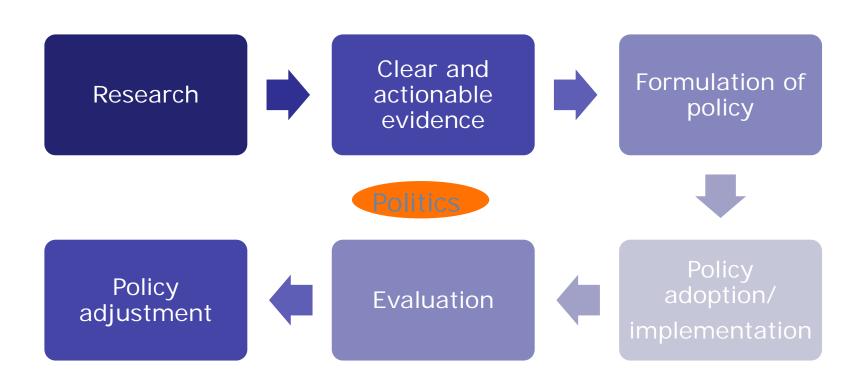




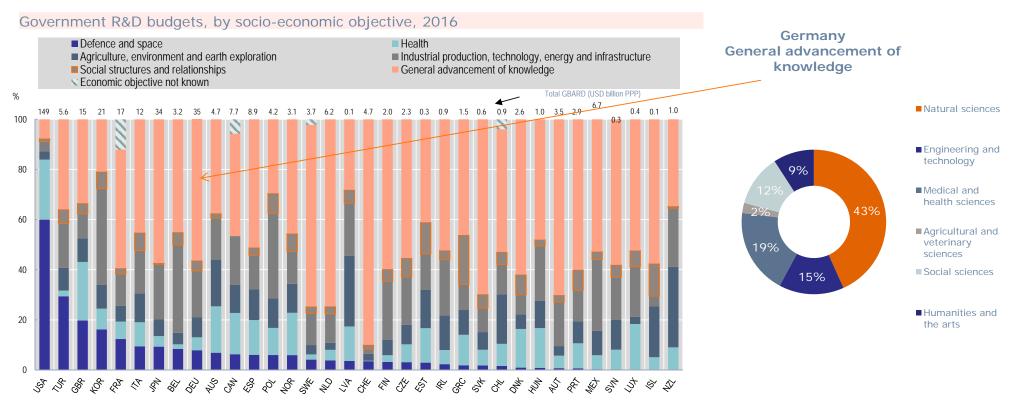




From research to policy implementation: politics is everywhere



Politics influences the focus of (public) research



These statistics are based upon OECD R&D databases including the R&D Statistics (http://oe.cd/rds) and Main Science and Technology Indicators Databases (http://oe.cd/msti). For more information on these data, including on data issues such as breaks in series, please see those sources. For Australia, Austria, Canada, Iceland, Japan, Korea and the United States, only Central or Federal government budget allocations for R&D are included.

Politics (and advances in science and information) also influences topics addressed by researchers



Note: The starting point was our database of 33,000 publications in EconLit with a health JEL code. The relative sizes of the title words reflect the frequency of their occurrence. The words "health", "care", "economic" and "analysis" have been removed, as have common words such as "the", "and", etc.

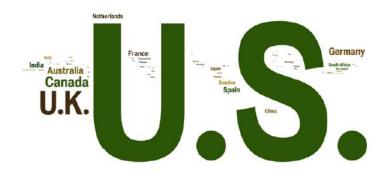
Fig. 4. Top-150 title words in health economics articles in the 1980s.



Note: The starting point was our database of 33,000 publications in Econ.Lit with a health JEL code. The relative sizes of the title words reflect the frequency of their occurrence. The words "health", "care", "economic" and "analysis" have been removed, as have common words such as "the", "and", etc.

Fig. 5. Top-150 title words in health economics articles in the 2000s.

Still very influenced by the US policy agenda

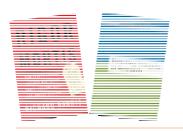


Note: The starting point was our database of 33,000 publications in Econ.Lt with a health JEL code. Each listed institution was given full credit for a publication in the case of a co-authored publication, but only the first institution was credited where an author itself multiple institutions. Institutions below the institution level were aggregated up to the level of the institutions, so that for example publications originating from the Harvard School of Public Health were allocated to Harvard University along with publications originating from the Department of Economics at Harvard University. As explained in the text, only addresses with five or more articles to their name were retained for cleaning and aggregating. Institutions were then assigned a country. The size of the country's name reflects the frequency of its appearance in the author's country list.

Fig. 6. Country focus of health economics articles 1969–2009.

Source: Wagstaff A. and A.J. Culyer (2012), Four decades of health economics through a bibliometric lens, Journal of Health Economics, Volume 31, Issue 2, pp. 406-439.

From evidence to policy change



Evidence needs to be reliable, relevant, timely

- Accurate diagnosis of the (health system) performance shortcomings Requires access to data
- Actionable policy recommendations,
- Reach out to policy makers



Constraints for/from policy makers

- Available resources (financial, administration support)
- Short political cycles vs « long term policies »
- Personal beliefs and experience of policy makers



Political context, social values

- Alignment with (changing) social values) e.g. tobacco
- Role of media and other stakeholders in framing the problem



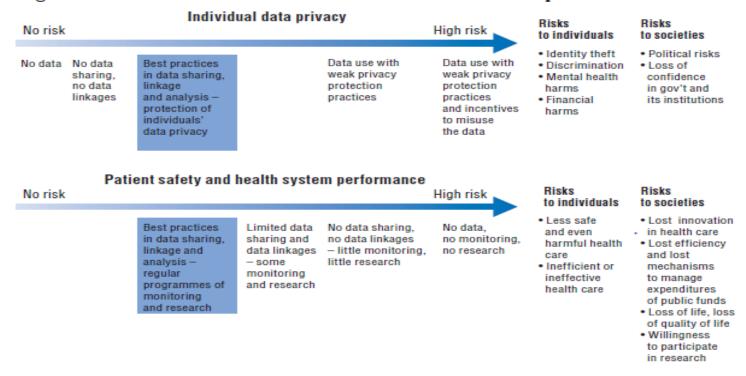
Lobbying, vested interest and veto players

- Active lobbying in the health sector
- Existence of veto players (physicians)
- Opponents more likely to mobilise than (diffuse) winners



Framing the issue - access to health data

Figure 6.2. Risks associated with the collection and use of personal health data



Source: Adapted from OECD (2013), Strengthening Health Information Infrastructure for Health Care Quality Governance: Good Practices, New Opportunities and Data Privacy Protection Challenges, OECD Publishing, Paris, www.oecd.org/publications/strengthening-health-information-infrastructure-for-health-care-quality-governance-9789264193505-en.htm.

Source: OECD (2017) "New health technologies: Managing access, value and sustainability"

Evaluation and policy adjustments

- Evaluation is not neutral (dimensions considered, short vs long term consequences –distributional consequences ,etc.)
- Evaluation requires appropriate data to be available and accessible to evaluators
- 3 Evalution should be independent and all results published

4 Evaluation should lead to adjustment where needed

Thank you for your attention!





Email me

Valerie.paris@oecd.org



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