“TESTING THEORIES ABOUT ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC POLICY”

“Testing Theories about Advocacy and Public Policy.” Perspectives on Politics (2020) First View
doi:10.1017/S1537592719004663

This paper focuses on tests of theories that attempt to explain why and how non-party organizations and activities—interest groups and social movement organizations (SMOs), lobbying and protest, etc.—affect policy. It analyzes all articles testing such theories published in 25 major journals in political science and sociology between 2000 and 2018.

There are 19 such theories. For the most part, there are different theories for each type of organization—interest groups, SMOs, non-governmental organizations, and the like. All the theories usually predict that organizations and activities will directly influence policies, but sometimes the theories hypothesize that the influence will be conditional, occurring under some circumstances but not others, and sometimes that there will be no influence at all. Theories are tested against one another very rarely.

Predictions made by the theories are consistent with the data just over half the time. Authors seldom attempt to generalize, but the articles do make a number of suggestions for future work that could help the study of policy change move forward. https://doi-org.offcampus.lib.washington.edu/10.1017/S1537592719004663

Status of Research: Completed/published
Research Type: Publications Articles
Related Fields: Political Sociology Public Policy Social Movements Sociological Theory

Department of Sociology · University of Washington · 211 Savery Hall, Box 353340 · Seattle, WA 98195-3340
Main Office: (206) 543-5882 · Student Services: (206) 543-5396 · Fax (206) 543-2516 · Email: uwsoc@uw.edu

Copyright © 2015-2020 University of Washington · Privacy · Terms · Site Map · Contact Us

Source URL: https://soc.washington.edu/research/publications/testing-theories-about-advocacy-and-public-policy