

Review of: "From International to Subnational: A Contribution to the Insertion of Subnational Governments in Northeastern Brazil in the Internationalization of Public Policies."

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The best sections of the paper are those that question the lineal approaches typical of IR (realism, etc.). The centrality of the idea of the State as the Public Institution with capital P and I dominates the conceptual framework in a deterministic way, hence there are foreign states and pressure groups → they exert an influence on single nation-states → this in turn produces local (national) public policies. Many branches of the social sciences, first of all the anthropology of the state, science and technology studies and political ethnography have subverted this rather naive view of things. All states and all public policies are a matter of harsh illegal and morally dubious confrontation! The Wolkswagengate involving Germany, one of the "the great" examples of multi-level governance, the United States, supposedly the bastion of world democracy but also the place where the sub-prime got kick-started and more than one political election was decided by foreign illegal hackers well orchestrated by Israeli illegal groups... no need to "awake" the supposedly corrupted countries of the global south to illustrate how weak is the idea of the existence of public policy working according to what goes on or can be described when analyzing the functioning of institutions.. I would like to encourage the authors to question even further whether one can do academic research in Latin America and Brazil assuming separate realities, on the one hand institutions and public policy, on the other, the real world with the "garimpos" destroying the Amazon fueled by the very presidency of the country!

In this very sense, when the authors somehow criticise the presence of local institutional dynamics in the literature on PP in Brazil as a limitation they have the results under their very eyes but are not seeing them!

The conclusions of the paper are very much centred in the methodological and relational aspects of the course to which the authors participated. On the whole, these are not considerations for conclusions or final reflections and would better fit into an introduction or a methodological section. Indeed the paper it is not about the course but on public policy and its presence/role in a specific Brazilian context. It would be better to present final reflections on public policy in the context studied. For instance, a rather big void in the text is the way it deals with informal politics, the capture of the public policy and decision-making apparatuses in Northeastern Brazil and the illegal economy of wood, gold, minerals, plants and animal species. The words "illegal" and "informal" score 0 in the paper!