Public Administration – Digitalisation & Public Policy

Bram Klievink| SAILS Kick-Off | 24 May 2019
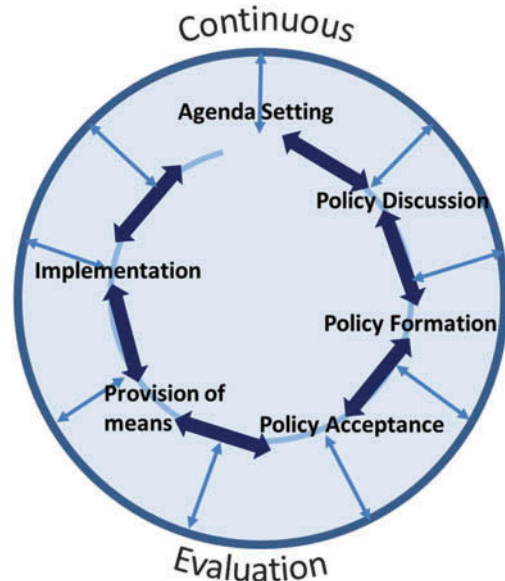
Universiteit Leiden
The Netherlands

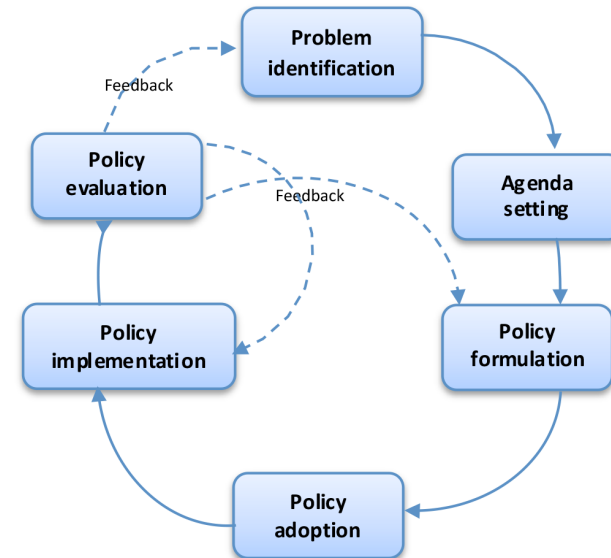# Data and policy: two worlds

- Information logic:

  - Real-time policy making & continuous evaluation

  - Identify trends that could not be found before

  - Provide 'hard' evidence for decisions (methodological choices)

  - Evidence-based policy → legitimacy

- Decision logic:

  - Bounded rationality

  - Selection of sources

  - Alignment with values, interests

  - Making choices: managing competing values

  - Decision and policy making erratic, non-lineair

Hoechtl et al. (2016) Big data in the policy cycle

Voort, H. G. Van Der, Klievink, A. J., Arnaboldi, M., & Meijer, A. J. (2019). Rationality and politics of algorithms. Will the promise of big data survive the dynamics of public decision making ? *Government Information Quarterly*, *36*(1), 27–38. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.giq.2018.10.011

Research agenda

Empirical and design-oriented research into questions and tools of governance in the digital age

- Digitalisation as challenge: digital-induced institutional voids
  - E.g. What are patterns of conflict, collaboration and institution building in institutional voids?
- Digitalisation as opportunity: collaborative value creation
  - E.g. How to balance control and generativity in a data collaborative?
- Digitalisation as change: politics of AI
  - E.g. How is the supply of insights by data analysts aligned to the demand of information by decision-makers? And how can this alignment be improved?
- Examples of current projects:
  - Politics of algorithms
  - Big data use in policy making
  - Data science for national cyber security

Approach

- Multi-disciplinary research projects

- AI as socio-technical system

- Empirical, governance-oriented research with an action component

- AI research in Public Administration:
  - Big data analysis as research instrument
  - AI applications in specific policy domains
  - Study of use/implementation of AI in government and policy

- Collaboration with new Chair Public Law & Governance of AI (with Public Law)