

The 'Fourth New Institutionalism': Theoretical Foundations and Application in Empirical Political Research

For the section: The Meaning of Politics

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Abstract

This Panel examines the prospects and limitations of the 'fourth new institutionalism' taking as a starting point the three established new institutionalisms, as summarized by, for example, Hall and Taylor (1996). It invites submissions that (1) critically examine this approach and its variations, its main claims and explanatory potential, (2) argue for or against the distinctiveness of this approach through comparing it with other strands of institutionalist theorizing, (3) apply one or more variations of the 'fourth new institutionalism' to an empirical research puzzle/question and show its prospects and limitations with the help of various research methods. Overall, the Panel aims to bring in empirical analyses and critical theoretical reviews to contribute to the debate on (1) whether and how the fourth new institutionalism offers a distinctive and coherent set of premises that help explain political phenomena (for existing debates, see Bell 2011; Hay 2008; Rayner 2015; Schmidt 2008), (2) whether there is a specific sets of research puzzles/questions that can be tackled by applying fourth new institutionalism, and (3) whether some research methods, such as discourse analysis, are a core or even necessary component of a research project based on the premises of the 'fourth new institutionalism'.

Please send your abstract of maximum 250 words, as well as your contact details and institutional affiliation to academic@iapss.org no later than 13 February 2017. You can also volunteer as a Discussant by sending an e-mail to the same address.

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