

Contents

<i>List of Boxes, Figures and Tables</i>	xi
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xiii
<i>Preface and Acknowledgements</i>	xiv
1 Introduction: Theories and Issues	1
Why do we study public policy?	1
The general approach	4
Theories of public policy: from the old to the new?	5
Power, agenda setting and public policy	7
Governance and the power of the centre	8
Individuals, institutions and environments	9
Bureaucratic politics, policy networks and group-government relations	11
The role of ideas	15
Stability and instability; continuity and change.	17
The structure of the book	18
Conclusion	20
2 What is Public Policy? How Should We Study It?	22
What is public policy?	23
Measuring public policy	26
Narratives of public policy	28
Theories, models and heuristics	30
What is the policy cycle?	32
Implementation	34
Top-down and bottom-up implementation	37
Evaluation	39
Policy maintenance, succession and termination	40
Beyond the policy cycle	41
Conclusion	43
3 Power and Public Policy	46
Definitions of power	48
From community power to thought control: traditional approaches to power and politics	50
From empirical to normative: the right to exercise power	59

Anglophone versus continental European discussions of power?	60
Contemporary approaches to power and policymaking	62
Conclusion	66
4 Institutions and 'New Institutionalism'	69
Identifying formal and informal institutions	70
But what exactly is an institution? What is institutionalism?	73
Key variants: historical institutionalism	76
Key variants: rational choice institutionalism	79
Key variants: normative and sociological institutionalism	81
Key variants: constructivist (discursive) institutionalism	83
The new institutionalisms: is there more to unite than divide them?	84
Conclusion	91
5 Rationality and Incrementalism	94
What is comprehensive rationality?	96
Bounded rationality	97
Incrementalism	98
The normative debate: how should we make policy?	100
The normative debate: should power be concentrated in the 'centre'	103
Incrementalism: is it a universal phenomenon?	104
How do modern theories conceptualize bounded rationality?	
Is incrementalism inevitable?	106
Conclusion	108
6 Structural Explanations	111
Do structural factors determine politics?	113
The economic context: Marxism and globalization	117
The government context: inheritance before choice and policy succession	120
The policy process as a complex system	124
Conclusion	129
7 Rational Choice Theory	132
What does rational mean? What is rational choice? What is rational choice theory?	136
The role of game theory and its relevance to public policy	137
The relevance of rational choice theory to public policy	141
The main debates between rational choice advocates and critics	147
Conclusion	151

8 Multi-Level Governance	154
What is governance?	156
The governance problem	157
Multi-level governance and the Westminster model	160
Multi-level governance, policy networks and the European Union	162
Multi-level governance, federalism and beyond	165
Conclusion	173
9 Punctuated Equilibrium	175
Why 'punctuated equilibrium'?	177
Policy communities and policy monopolies	178
'Issue networks and the executive establishment'	180
Agenda setting	182
Problem definition	185
Problem definition and venue shopping	189
Case studies of punctuated equilibrium: 'some issues catch fire'	190
The generalizability of punctuated equilibrium: (1) from case studies to theory	192
The generalizability of punctuated equilibrium: (2) other political systems	196
Conclusion	197
10 The Advocacy Coalition Framework	200
A picture of the advocacy coalition framework	202
Belief systems and power	204
The dynamics of 'policy-oriented learning'	206
Stability and instability, continuity and change	208
Applications and revisions	210
Applications outside the US	213
The ACF and the public policy literature	215
Conclusion	218
11 The Role of Ideas	220
Defining ideas	223
Ideas as the primary source of explanation: viruses and norms	224
Coalitions, punctuations and paradigms	228
Policy windows, multiple streams and garbage cans	232
Conclusion	242
12 Policy Transfer	244
Lesson-drawing, diffusion, convergence and policy transfer: what do they mean?	245
Who does it and from where are lessons drawn?	250

Why transfer? Is transfer voluntary?	253
What is transferred? How much is transferred?	257
What determines the likelihood and success of policy transfer?	258
Links to the wider literature: is the transfer process 'rational'?	260
Conclusion	263
13 Conclusion	265
Synthesis	266
Combined literatures, but different meanings?	271
Combining theories: commonalities and contradictions	274
Multiple theories, multiple perspectives	282
Conclusion	287
<i>References</i>	290
<i>Index</i>	320