Evidence-Based Policy (EBP): international impacts of a hegemonic discourse

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Abstract

Evidence-based policy making (EBP) has become ubiquitous as a general prescription for transparency, accountability and better governance (Strassheim and Kettunen 2014; cf. two SI from IPA2012: Pearce et al. 2014, Wesselink et al. 2015). When a discourse is as rapidly adopted by politicians, practitioners and academics, it is important to be attentive to what the new discourse is being used to do. We concur that the ‘EBP movement’, as Clarence (2002) and Head (2010) label it, ‘represents both an important set of professional practices and aspirations; and a political rhetoric seeking to legitimate certain forms decision-making over others’ (Head 2010 77). In this panel we want to explore how well this EBP discourse has travelled to other jurisdictions beyond its context of discovery in the 1990’s United Kingdom and thereby contributes to the hegemony of a certain kind of rationalisation of decision making.

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