

***Policy Analysis in Argentina.* Nelson Cardozo
& Pablo Bulcourn (Editors) (2023) Bristol:
Policy Press & Bristol University Press, ISBN
9781447364900, pp. 370.**

***Análisis de políticas en Argentina.* Nelson Cardozo & Pablo
Bulcourn (Editores) (2023) Bristol: Policy Press & Bristol
University Press, ISBN 9781447364900, pp. 370.**

This book provides an overview of the state of research on the state, administration and public policies in Argentina, taking into account what is produced in different institutional spaces (Bourdieu, 2008). Universities, research centers, the different spheres of the state itself and the different civil society organizations that are oriented towards it are taken as axes. This allows for a broad map of the complexity of the issue to be shown. At the same time, the book offers a comparative perspective, since it is part of a much larger collection of twenty volumes to date.

In 2013, *Policy Analysis in Brazil* was published, the first of the books that will integrate the collection of the International Library of Policy Analysis under the general direction of Iris Geva-May and Michel Howlett, outstanding Canadian specialists in the field. After the first volume, further volumes were published for Germany, the Netherlands, Japan, Taiwan, Australia, Israel, Czech Republic, Mexico, Belgium, France, Canada, USA, Turkey, Colombia, Ireland, Spain, South Korea and Thailand.

Ten years later, *Policy Analysis in Argentina* appears in a very special context. In a broad sense, the country celebrated forty years of democracy. Secondly, fifty years had passed since the creation of the National Institute of Public Administration (INAP). As for political science, the 27th World Congress of Political Science of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) was held in Buenos Aires, where *Policy Analysis in Argentina* was presented for the first time, with the special participation of Iris Geva-May herself.

In the last decade, a space rich in reflections on the development of the social sciences has been built, and within these studies, political science has been occupying a prominent place. Although administration and public policies are a field of confluence of different fields of knowledge such as economics, management sciences, administrative law, psychology and sociology of organizations, among others, it is true that political science has been the discipline

that has been monopolizing these spaces, as can be seen by analyzing the different books in the collection. At the international level, part of this process has had the IPSA's RC30 Comparative Public Policy, as well as the creation of the International Public Policy Association (IPPA) as the main nodes of articulation. In Ibero-America, the Latin American Center for Development (CLAD) and the research groups of the Latin American Association of Political Science (ALACIP), as well as the Inter-American Network of Public Administration Education (INPAE) are important. In Argentina we can mention the Argentine Association of Public Administration Studies (AAEAP) and the Argentine Society of Political Analysis (SAAP). The different National Institutes of Public Administration or their equivalents also constitute a fundamental network that articulates with governmental spheres (Bulcourn, 2003).

This has allowed building a complex cartography of the field from numerous specific research and publications (Geva-May *et al.*, 2018; Cardozo *et al.*, 2021; Bentancur *et al.*, 2021; Cardozo, 2023). The density of works gives rise to some critical and reflective visions that in addition to describing the main actors, institutions, networks and academic production also attempts to establish the different models and professional profiles, as well as the power relations and the forms of construction of prestige and the granting of resources not only concerning administration and public policies but in a broader aspect of the social sciences (Ravecca, 2019; Capano & Verzichelli, 2023). In some of the Latin American cases, these disciplinary studies were guided by the *Manifiesto de Popayán*, mainly the book we are commenting on (Manifiesto de Popayán, 2017).

The structure of the book has five sections that also allow a diachronic comparative work between the different countries that are incorporated into the collection. We begin with "The theories, styles, and methods of policy analysis", focusing on the conceptual debates and existing theoretical traditions. We continue with "Policy analysis by governments", analyzing the different levels (national, subnational and communal). "Internal policy advisory councils, consultants, and committees" is the third area of inquiry, which deals with the production of policy analysis by government advisory bodies and special committees. The fourth level "Parties, private research centers, and interest group-based policy analysis" is introduced in the different NGOs and associations of the third sector. Finally, we find "Academics, teaching and policy analysis in universities" where the educational level and the teaching of public policy analysis are addressed.

We must also understand the book in particular and the entire collection within a process of specialization and deepening of knowledge, in which a networked construction of the field of knowledge is increasingly present, partly due to technological development and computer and communication sciences. This process accelerated under the conditions of the COVID19 pandemic and *Policy Analysis in Argentina* is a notorious example of this. The book in question has 21 chapters and 35 authors. It is worth noting the geographical

and institutional breadth as well as gender equity. In this sense, a feature that characterizes the work is the theoretical-methodological plurality that also expresses a characteristic of the country's social sciences. Thus, we find the contributions of: Daniel García Delgado, Mabel Thwaites Rey, Vanesa Ciolli, Horacio Cao, Gustavo Blutman, Rita Grandinetti, Exequiel Rodríguez, Anabela Rosconi, Cristina Díaz, Silvio Crudo, María Del Mar Monti, Juan Ignacio Doberti, Dante Sabatto, Melina Levy, Gerardo Izzo, Luz Piraino Martínez, Diego Pando, Adrián Darmohraj, Pablo Bulcourn, Natalia Galano, Guillermina Curti, Karina Montes, Gabriela Mansilla, Sergio Agoff, Maximiliano Campos Ríos, Alejandro Estévez, Natalia Staiano, Pablo Lozada, Nelson Cardozo, Paola Ferrari, Melina Guardamagna, Gonzalo Diéguez, Demian González Chmielewski, Silvia Fontana, Sofia Conrero and Oscar Oszlak.

The range of institutions represented by these people is very wide, if we take into account their institutional affiliations and the exercise of undergraduate and graduate teaching. The University of Buenos Aires, the main higher education institution in the country, is represented by two relevant faculties, the Faculty of Economics and the Faculty of Social Sciences. Other universities include the National University of Rosario, National University of Quilmes, the National University of Cuyo, the National University of Lomas de Zamora, the National University of Entre Ríos, the Catholic University of Córdoba, the University of San Andrés, the Torcuato Di Tella University, the Argentine University of Enterprise (UADE) and the Metropolitan University for Education and Work.

One of the distinctive elements of the book, in comparison to other volumes in the collection, is the relevance of the theory of the State as an element that expresses this problem for the social sciences of the country and that has been developing since the middle of the last century, articulating public law, political sociology and later political science in Argentina. This allowed the construction of original analytical frameworks that are addressed throughout several of the chapters (Bulcourn & Cardozo, 2021).

Given the characteristics of the book in terms of its thematic scope, number of authors and institutional affiliation, as well as the international relevance of the collection to which it belongs, we can argue that *Policy Analysis in Argentina* is one of the most relevant works related to political science that has been carried out during the democratic period in Argentina.

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