

The Role of Policy Entrepreneurs in Effecting Aid Policy Change

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Research Question

How do donors change their aid policy?



Overview

What we did

What we found

Why it matters

A black and white photograph of a long, straight road stretching into the distance. The road has a dashed center line and solid outer lines. The road is flanked by trees and a hazy sky, creating a sense of depth and perspective.

What we did

What we found

Why it matters

Methodology

- Reconstruct instances of aid policy change to understand drivers of change
- Causal process tracing
- 100+ interviews
- Archival research

Instances of Aid Policy Change

#	Donor	Change (Outcome)	Year
1	Australia	0.5% spending target established	2005
2	Australia	0.5% spending target abandoned	2013
3	New Zealand	Poverty reduction becomes goal of ODA programme, NZAID established	2001
4	New Zealand	Sustainable development becomes goal of ODA programme, NZAID abolished	2009
5	United Kingdom	Independent development agency (DFID) established	1997
6	United Kingdom	0.7% spending target achieved	2013
7	Netherlands	0.7% spending target abandoned	2013

Individual Actors Matter!

Rectifies the gap in the literature by:

- Bringing policy studies insights about individual actors to aid policy
- Systematically examining the role of individual actors in instances of aid policy change;
- Demonstrating the importance of individual actors in driving aid policy change;
- Identifying key characteristics of aid policy entrepreneurs.



What we did

What we found

Why it matters

Australia establishes 0.5% target



UK achieves 0.7%



NZ aid for poverty and new agency





What we did

What we found

Why it matters

Policy Entrepreneurs

An aid policy entrepreneur has a preferred aid policy, and exhibits certain behaviours to advance their preference through the decision-making policy phase.

Aid Policy Entrepreneurs

- Know the system and how to work it
- Exert their power: enforcing, credibility, influencing
- Apply sustained attention
- Framing
- Care about aid

Implications for aid advocates

- Pay more attention to individuals
- Foster and support individuals who can and will drive change through that system
- Small group dynamics (esp. financial)
- Central agencies
- ‘Lock in’ policy commitments (path dependencies via manifestos, budgets, institutions)
- How to navigate different types of change

Questions!

