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
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

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