



## Bridges between Research and Policy?

### The Dutch Case

See: <http://www.unesco.org/shs/ijms/vol7/issue1/art3>



## Basic analytical assumptions I

### 1. The logic of integration processes and its scientific analysis

- Empirically open concepts/analytical model defining dimensions, actors, interaction, levels of analysis
- Long term nature of process: generations
- Not linear or uni-directional process



## Basic analytical assumptions II

### 2. The logic of politics and policy making

- (in democratic societies) Majority decision making
- Short term cycle: between elections
- About inclusion/exclusion of outsiders
- Perceptions and framing are decisive
- Normative definitions in policies



## **The Dutch case: Immigrant policy**

### **Phases**

- a) Pre-1980: non-policy/ad hoc policy
- b) 1980-1994: Ethnic Minorities' Policy
- c) 1994-2002: Integration Policy
- d) 2002-: Integration Policy 'New Style'



## **Characteristics of phases**

- a) Framing of integration: policy assumptions
- b) Governance of policy
- c) Political involvement, political climate
- d) Structural bridges between research and policy





## **Pre-1980 phase: non-policy/ad hoc policies**

a) No common denominator for immigrants.

Specific problematic groups: `guest workers`, Moluccans, `Oversea Dutch`, gypsies/travellers

b) Different ministries involved and responsible

c) Incidental and ad hoc political involvement

d) Ministry of Culture, Recreation and Social Work installed the ACOM: Advisory Committee on Research on Minorities. 1976-1990



## Ethnic Minorities' Policy 1980-1994

a) Welfare state policy for vulnerable groups that have:

- low socio-economic status
- perceived as ethnically/culturally different

Group emancipation concept/ Comprehensive policies (all dimensions/domains)/Not only migrants; not all migrants

b) Strong coordination: Home Affairs

Top down/participative

c) Broad political support, technocratic policy making, depolitization

d) Report of Scientific Council for Government Policy (1979) triggered new policy. ACOM transferred to Home Affairs



## Integration policy 1994-2002

### a) Reframing towards 'Republican' policies

- focus on individuals (replacing group)
- focus on socio-economic domain, away from culture
- citizenship and its duties/equipment
- area based policies (replacing group emancipation)

### b) Since 1998 special minister for Urban Policy and Integration (within Home Affairs). City/local policies develop: decentralisation

### c) Increasing politicization during 1990s. Hyper-politicization 2002-

### d) -2nd Report of Scientific Council for Government Policy (1989) triggered change

- ACOM abolished (1990)
- Mixed Advisory Committee TWCM 1992-1996





### **Integration Policy `New Style`**

a) Integration as precondition for immigration

Mandatory courses and tests

Integration is responsibility of the migrant

Sharing norms and values

b) Immigration and integration policies brought together under a new minister within Ministry of Justice.

Recentralisation

c) Hyper-politicization at national level.

Populistic policy proposals

Symbolic policies

d) Absence of structural bridges between research and policy

Pick and choose strategies.



## **Conclusions**

- 1. Bridge or clash between two logics is primarily dependant on politicization. Unequal partners**
- 2. Paradox: Need to structurally anchor bridges versus the trend to demolish bridges when politicization increases**
- 3. If direct structural bridges are absent, researchers do still have the indirect route available: public debate in general**