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

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-
   - ACOM abolished (1990)
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