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# What Motivates Policy Transfer in Coastal Management? A Historical Review of South Korea's Land Reclamation and Restoration Policies

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# Aim and approach of the paper

- Fill the knowledge gap
  - 1) In-depth analysis of how policy transfer has occurred in coastal management.
  - 2) Integrated insights into the way decisions are made on coastal management policies, considering both 'endogenous' and 'exogenous' factors.
  - 3) The role of foreign actors in Korea's coastal management is understudied.
- By analyzing the history of coastal management policy in Korea (1960-2020)
  - 1) The role of policy transfer in coastal management
  - 2) The conditions under which policy transfer affects coastal management policies

# Korea's land reclamation & restoration policies



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Prof. Adriaan Volker receives a  
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# The key components of policy transfer analysis

(modified from Dolowitz and Marsh 2000)

| Main components                                      | Sub-components                                                                                                                                                                             | References                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Objects</b>                                       | Policy goals, policy instruments, policy programs, administrative arrangements, ideologies & justifications, ideas and attitudes, outcomes (incl. negative lessons)                        | Bennett 1991; Dolowitz and Marsh 1996; Dolowitz and Marsh 2000; Evans 2004; Stone 2012; Mukhtarov and Daniell 2016 |
| <b>Agents</b>                                        | Elected officials, civil servants, pressure groups, policy entrepreneurs and experts, transnational corporations, think tanks, supra-national governmental institutions, NGOs, consultants | Dolowitz and Marsh (2000), Mukhtarov (2014), Hasan et al. (2019), Huitema and Meijerink (2009)                     |
| <b>Power relations that motivate policy transfer</b> | Voluntary, mixtures, Coercive                                                                                                                                                              | Dolowitz and Marsh (2000)                                                                                          |
| <b>Meaning modification</b>                          | Frames, storylines, rhetoric and metaphors                                                                                                                                                 | Hajer (2006), Mukhtarov (2014)                                                                                     |
| <b>Relevant endogenous factors</b>                   | Political institutions                                                                                                                                                                     | March and Olsen (1983), Hall (2016)                                                                                |
|                                                      | Critical (focusing) events                                                                                                                                                                 | Birkland (1998); Kingdon (1995)                                                                                    |

# Findings

| Main components                               | Land reclamation                                                                                                                                                                                                | Wetland restoration                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Objects                                       | Policy instruments, policy programs                                                                                                                                                                             | Policy goals, policy programs, ideologies & justifications, ideas and attitudes                                                                                                                                          |
| Agents                                        | Ministry of Agriculture<br>Korea Rural Community Corporation<br>Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport<br>KRIHS<br>Hydraulic engineers, civil engineers<br>FAO (sending side)<br>NEDECO (sending side) | Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries<br>KOEM<br>Governors of Chungnam Province<br>Eco Horizon Institute and other environmental NGOs<br>Ecologists, environmental scientists<br>Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (sending side) |
| Power relations that motivate policy transfer | Voluntary                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Voluntary                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Meaning modification                          | Frame 1: Reclamation means modernization and economic development<br>Frame 2: Natural resource with ideal condition for reclamation                                                                             | Frame 1: Financial benefits from tourism and fisheries<br>Frame 2: Environmental protection                                                                                                                              |
| Relevant endogenous factors                   | Developmental state institutions                                                                                                                                                                                | Decentralization<br><br>Pollution accidents in Lake Sihwa and Nakdong River                                                                                                                                              |

# Discussion

- The components of policy transfer have changed over time.
  - Objects: Knowledge and technology ➡ policy instruments and ideas
  - Agents: central government's bureaucrats ➡ local governments, NGOs
  - Methods: Instrumental ➡ soft knowledge transfer
  - Meaning modification ➡ diversified with the diversification of actors
- Domestic political changes influence policy transfer
  - Democratization and decentralization of the Korean political system
  - Diversified stakeholders ➡ diversified channels of policy transfers

# Implications for policy studies literature

- Constraints on transfer such as institutional feasibility were not elaborated in Dolowitz and Marsh's framework
- By adopting Mukhtarov's (2014) policy translation concept, we added a political aspect to the framework.
- The elements of discourse and institutional analyses were incorporated to link policy transfer to endogenous policy process.
- More integrated study of the mutual influence of policy transfer and domestic politics is needed to address empirical reality more explicitly.

# Thank you!

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