

Policy Experiments Talk: Learn how to design how to learn.

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Overview of session

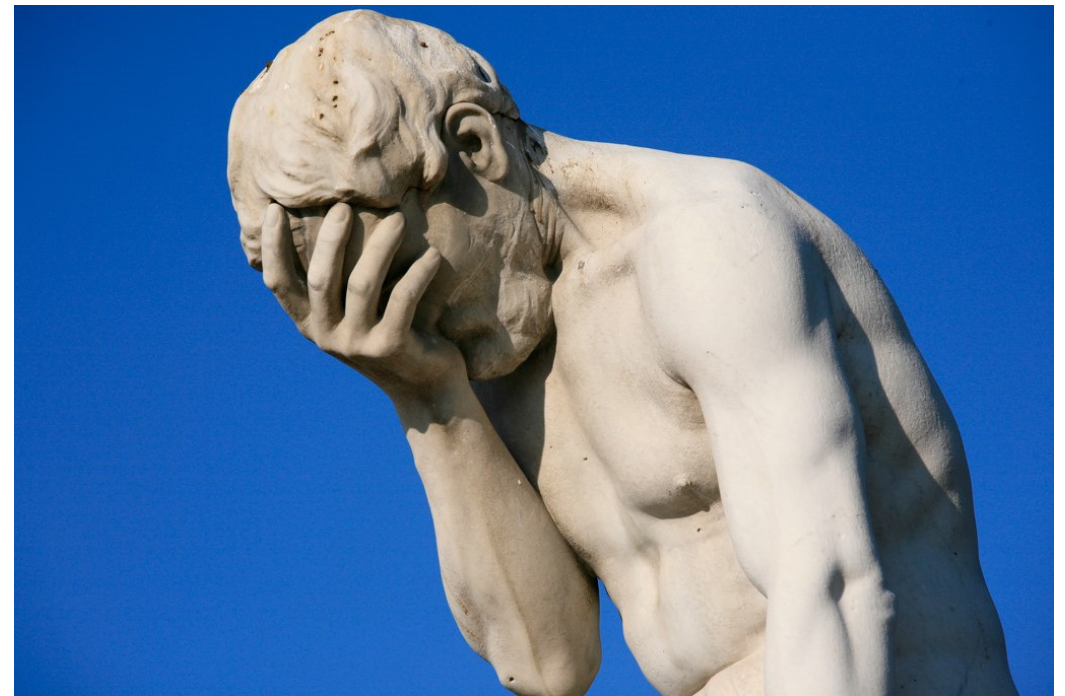
Why experiment? Why now?

What do we mean when we talk about experiments?

What I mean when I talk about experiments.

How I hope my research can help you.

Insights from the UK: Julian Wright from the Environment Agency.



important attribute of an experiment

Stepping up to the challenge

“International exposure

*The Top Team sees a great opportunity for the sector to respond to the consequences of climate change around the world. In the Netherlands, we have the Delta Programme for this. The Top Team sees a special role reserved for the creation of testing grounds and room for **experiments**. The Top Team is **calling on the authorities** to conclude an agreement on investing in innovative projects. Delta Programme projects play an important part in this.”*

<http://www.deltacommissaris.nl/english/news/largeroleforthedeltaprogrammeinthewatertopsector.aspx>

Why experiment? Why now?

- Climate adaptation- addressing a very **urgent** and **complex** issue.
- Experiments can help- test innovative ideas that may solve policy problems.
- Adaptive governance a field that recognises the **complexity** of our social ecological system and the **uncertainty** of climate change effects, and offers experimentation and learning as methods to help manage effectively.

What do we mean when we talk about experiments?

Theoretical basis-

Ex-ante evidence-based policy making;

Random control trials in social system

Testing ecosystem response to management interventions.

Developing solutions in protected space to upscale

Definition-

A temporary, controlled field trial of a policy-relevant governance or conceptual innovation that produces evidence for subsequent policy decisions.

Why so rare?

Relationship between science and policy

Uncertainty and fear of failure

Resources, time

Generalisability

Time it takes for environmental effects to emerge;

How to recognise a policy experiment

What we looked for:

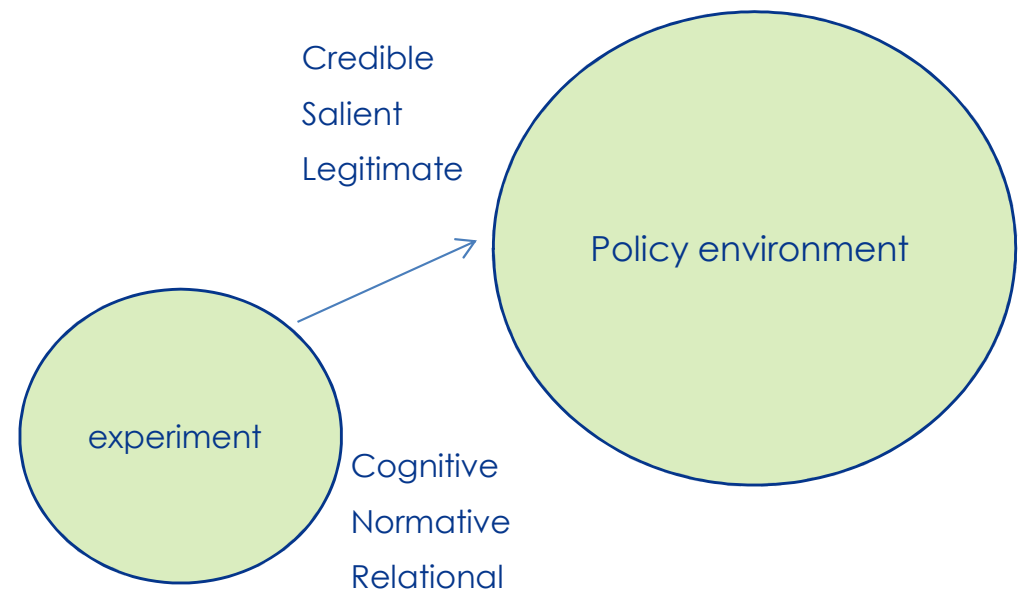
- Testing- what works?
- Failure is an option
- Innovative, novel approaches
- At national, province, and waterboard level
- Apparent conceptual change in approach

What we found:

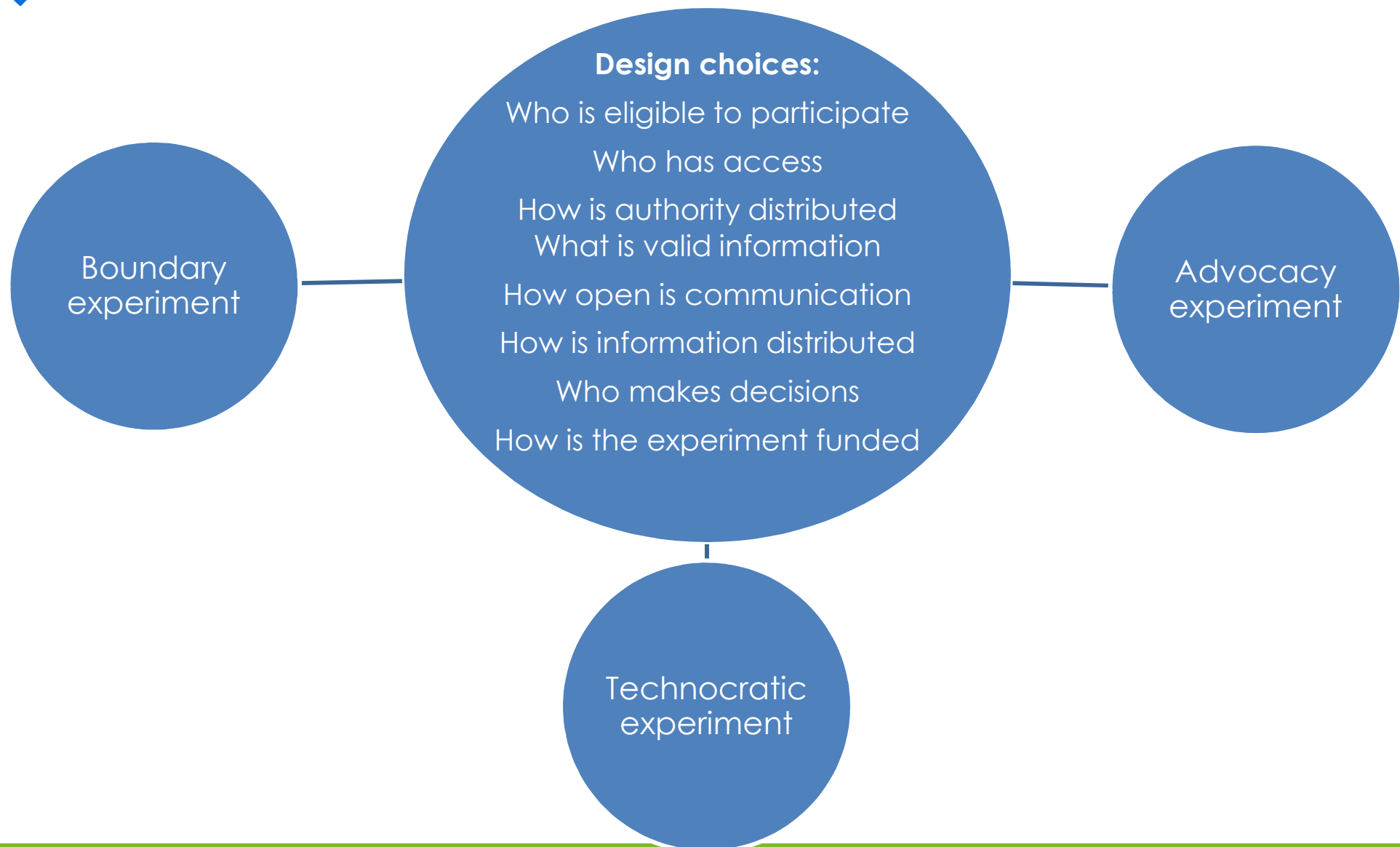
- Use of Building with Nature principles
- Self governance in water storage
- Multi-functional land use
- Dynamic coastal management
- Farming for nature

Policy Learning...

- *Relatively enduring alterations of thought or behavioural intentions that result from experience and that are concerned with the attainment (or revision) of public policy (Sabatier, 1987).*
- The learning we want:
 - Cognitive- acquisition of knowledge; increased complexity of understanding
 - Normative- change in viewpoints, norms, and values
 - Relational- improved understanding of other's mindsets and frames; increased trust and cooperation.
- The evidence we want:
 - Credible- valid and authoritative
 - Salient- relevant and timely
 - Legitimate- fair and balanced



...enabled by Design



Expected outcomes

Ideal Type	Cognitive	Normative	Relational	Credible	Salient	Legitimate
Technocratic	^^^		^^	^^^		^
Boundary	^^	^^^	^^^	^^	^^^	^^^
Advocacy	^^	^	^^	^	^^	^

High levels- ^^^

Medium levels- ^^

Low levels- ^

Thus design choices are expected to have significant effects on the types of learning, with a boundary experiment being most valuable-

“wicked” problems require policy solutions that are deliberative and reflexive.

Take away points

- A **policy experiment** is defined as:

A temporary, controlled field trial of a policy-relevant governance or conceptual innovation that produces evidence for subsequent policy decisions.

- They create the opportunity to test and evaluate new ideas out in practice without commitment; as well as present opportunities to bring non-state actors, including scientists, into the policy process.
- We identified experiments that tested the ecosystem response to different management interventions in several policy areas relevant to climate adaptation.
- Setting up an experiment means making many design choices; ideal types help initiators understand what learning effects to expect.
- Workshop to be held in October to present findings of quantitative research- please leave your business card if you would like an invitation.

Discussion with Julian Wright, Environment Agency, UK.

How does policy use science in environmental governance?

Extent of innovation in climate adaptation?

Where is the space created for innovation

The use of pilots to try different options- are they assessed for effectiveness?