

Revisiting Practical Wisdom and Reconstructing the Policy Theory Framework

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Abstract

4 | Policy serves as a guiding framework for coordinating the actors addressing a public issue. The formation of a policy, as a social phenomenon, requires ensuring various epistemic and non-epistemic grounds. This text aims, contrary to the approach of repeatedly revisiting modern theories, to reconstruct the policy theory framework based on the capacities of practical wisdom. Policy theory provides the necessary epistemic foundations for policy in response to three questions: “ontological,” “axiological,” and “issue-oriented.” Practical wisdom is also a demonstrative knowledge that produces certain understanding about voluntary and human phenomena concerning the pursuit of well-being. This vast knowledge consists of three components: descriptive, evaluative, and prescriptive. The descriptive part of practical wisdom addresses the first question of policy theory by offering a layered ontology for political phenomena. Simultaneously, this portion formulates the concept of well-being and, by collaborating with the evaluative part of practical wisdom, addresses the second question of policy theory. Achieving the theoretical insight needed to understand and structure the political issue also results from the integration of the descriptive and evaluative components.

Keywords: policy theory, practical wisdom, epistemic foundations of policy, well-being theory, religious policy-making.

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