

Local political leadership and political participation in Europe and New Zealand

Opportunities and challenges for research collaboration

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Outline

- Overview of local govt in NZ
- Reform & modernisation (late 1990s/early 2000s)
- Local political participation and representation
 - UK and NZ comparison
- Two research projects (PLUS and UDiTE)
- Policy transfer
- Opportunities and challenges

Local government in NZ

- Treaty of Waitangi 1840 recognised right of British Crown to establish law and government and to settle Aotearoa
- Maori chiefs retained rights to their own lands, water, taonga, etc.
- British system of local representative democracy imported in Municipal Corporations Ordinance 1841



Local government in NZ cont'd

- 12 regional councils
- 73 territorial authorities:
 - 15 city councils
 - 58 district councils (5 are unitary councils i.e. have regional and territorial functions)
- Triennial elections
 - TA mayor elected at large;
 - councillors elected by ward constituents
 - Regional council chair appointed by council
- Broad power to promote 4 well-beings - akin to power of general competence - balanced with requirement to consult

Local Government in NZ cont'd

LGA 2002

- Introduced sustainable development principle - emphasis on four well-beings
- Significant new provisions for long-term community planning
- Strengthened provisions for public participation (new principles of consultation)
- Emphasis on Maori contributions to decision-making

Local Government (Rating) Act 2002

- Significant financial independence from central government
- Significant flexibility for local authorities to determine rates (in conjunction with public consultation)

LG policy reform/innovation

- 1986-89 - NZ public sector reforms inspired by New Public Management
- 1990s - benign (?) neglect
- Early 2000s - legislative reviews as part of modernisation following election of Clark led Labour government in 1999 (Blair in UK, 1997)



Policy transfer

- A large and growing body of literature within public policy
“tendency of societies to grow more alike” (Kerr, 1983: 3)
- Debates about overlap between terms
 - Convergence: observable phenomenon
 - Transfer/Diffusion: mechanisms
 - Lesson drawing

Coercive



Voluntary

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Local political participation

- Declining voter turnout and concerns about disengagement/cynicism/apathy
- New policy and legislative emphasis on public participation in local authority planning and interactive decision-making
- Electoral reform - proportional representation, e-voting, etc

Policy transfer/exchange

UK

Local Government Act 2000
(England & Wales)

- Well-being power
- Community strategies
- Local strategic partnerships

Public participation guidance/best
practice guides

Department of Communities and
Local Government

Lyons Inquiry 2006-7

NZ

Local Government Act 2002

- Power to promote social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being
- Community outcomes process and Long-term council community plan
- LG&C Branch DIA
- Rates Inquiry 2007

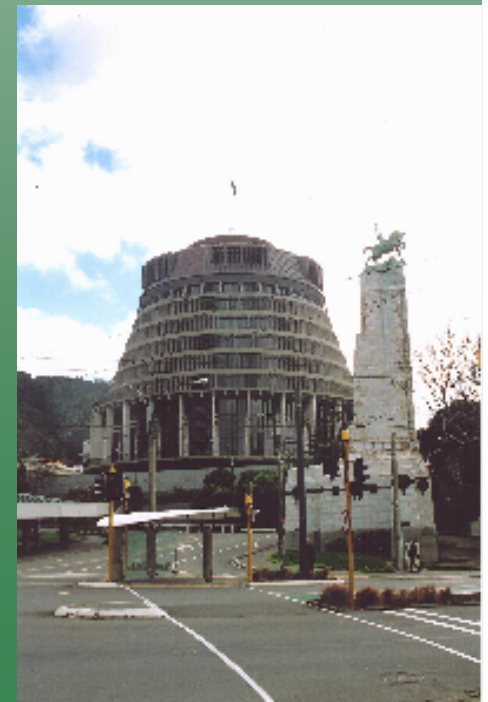
Cross-national research

- Builds on comparative constitutional studies, welfare state typologies
 - Comparative case study research
 - Development of typologies of LG systems:
 - Page and Goldsmith (late 1980s/early 1990s) - North / South
 - Hesse and Sharpe (1991) - subdivide Northern group into:
 - Franco
 - Anglo (UK, Ireland, NZ, Canada, Australia)
 - North & Middle European
- NB does not include 'new democracies' (Eastern Europe)
- Depends on cases included



Local political leadership

- Different types of mayor:
 - Political
 - Executive
 - Collegial
 - Ceremonial
- Different models of leadership
 - Strong Mayor form
 - Committee Leader form
 - Collective form
 - Council-Manager form



Participation, Leadership & Urban Sustainability (PLUS)

- Funded by EC Fifth Framework Programme (Feb 2002-July 2004)
- 8 EU partners and NZ
- Focused on interface between local political leadership and local political participation
- Used Ostrom's institutional analysis and development framework

Countries and cities in PLUS

Country	Academic partner	City authorities	
UK	University of the West of England	Bristol	Stoke-on-Trent
Germany	Darmstadt University of Technology	Hanove	Heidelberg
Greece	Panteion University of Athens	Athens	Volos
Italy	Polytechnic of Milan	Cinisello	Turin
The Netherlands	University of Twente	Enschede	Roermond
New Zealand	Massey University	Christchurch	Waitakere
Norway	Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research	Bergen	Oslo
Poland	University of Warsaw	Ostrow Wielkopolski	Poznan
Sweden	Göteborg University	Göteborg	Stockholm

PLUS Case studies within cities

Country	Social inclusion	Economic competitiveness
Bristol	Neighbourhood renewal in Lockleaze	Regeneration of city retail centre
Stoke-on-Trent	Community facilitation	Chatterly Whifield
Christchurch	Development of first Long Term Council Community Plan	
Waitakere	Development of first Long Term Council Community Plan	
Hannover	Building Kronsberg	Hannover Impuls
Heidelberg	District Development Planning	Dialogical stimulation of the local economy
Ostrow Wielkopolski	Transfer of shares in public utility companies to local citizens	City Development Strategy
Poznan	Centre for Quality of Life research	Revitalisation of Polwiejska Street

UDiTE (European Mayor) study

- 2003 survey:
Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland
- Followed earlier survey of CEOs/managerial leaders (1998)
- Data collected on characteristics of local political leaders and mayoral strength (vertical & horizontal):
 - Whether directly elected by citizens
 - Preside over council
 - Control of council majority
 - At least co-define council agenda
 - Appoint CEO
 - Term of office (independent of council election term?)
 - Cannot be recalled by council

Local political leadership

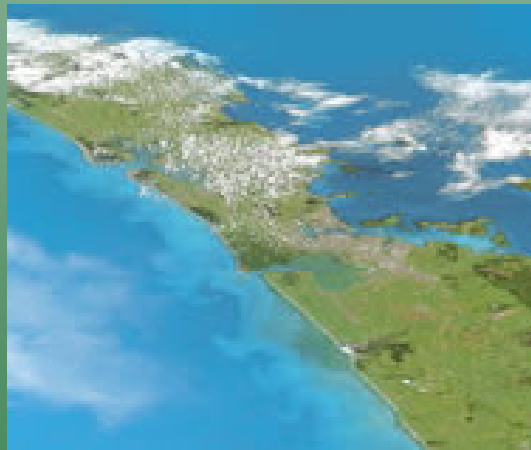
UK

Greater London Authority Act 1999

- created GLA 2000

LGA 2000 - new council constitutions

White Paper July 2008



NZ

Royal Commission on
Auckland Governance



Three levels of analysis of voluntary transfer



- Ideological and political forces
- Ideas in good currency
- Cross-national process design

Current and future prospects



- PT is happening voluntarily and increasingly as result of ICT, ease of travel, etc
- Research opportunities expanding (encouragement by funding bodies, fostered by ICT, etc)
- PT process could be strengthened through enhance opportunities: create forums and structures (“sponsored interaction” Strang & Meyer, 1991: 492)

Challenges

- Linguistic and cultural differences (→conceptual barriers)
- Cost
- Institutional impediments (e.g funding rules)
- Complexity
- Research capability
- Timeframes