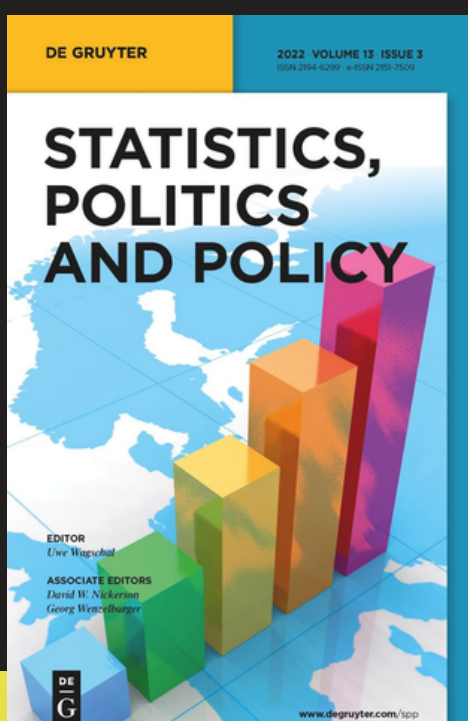


PROTEMO INSIGHTS

Why emotions deserve more attention in policymaking research



based on Katja Elke Stempel, "**A State of the Art on Emotions in the Context of Public Policymaking**"
Statistics, Politics and Policy



Emotions are widely

studied in political science, shaping **research** on voting, communication, and populism, with first explorations of their role in policymaking.

Yet, most studies examine **policy preferences or public attitudes**, not the *policymaking process itself*.





We wanted to explore

how emotions shape the policymaking process — not just public opinion.

By reviewing **264 publications**, we examined how emotions are integrated into public policy research and **what this reveals about decision-making processes.**





Our review shows

that most research on emotion the in policymaking process still **focuses on citizens, not policymakers.**

Survey-based approaches dominate, and research on **negative emotions**—especially fear and anger—still far outweighs work on positive ones like hope or enthusiasm.



Different emotions

influence policy choices in distinct ways.



Fear can lead people to seek more information and support protective measures



Anger often fuels demand for stricter policies



Sadness is linked to more support for welfare-oriented ones.





During the pandemic

many studies examined how fear shaped public support for protective measures and compliance with restrictions.

Yet even then, few explored how **policymakers used or managed emotion**, or how emotional dynamics influenced decisions and outcomes.



Future research

should go beyond fear and anger, include more diverse contexts and methods, and explore how policymakers use emotion and how citizens respond to it.

Understanding the role of emotions in policymaking is not a soft addition — it's key to making public decisions **more responsive and sustainable.**



Want to know more?

Read the full publication "**A State of the Art on Emotions in the Context of Public Policymaking**" by Katja Elke Stempel in the *Statistics, Politics and Policy* journal!

Link in the first
comment!

