

# Policy mixes for sustainability transitions: Taking stock and developing future research ideas and policy insights

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Florian Kern

IÖW – Institut für ökologische  
Wirtschaftsforschung, Berlin

Karoline Rogge

SPRU, University of Sussex and ISI  
Fraunhofer

Michael Howlett

Simon Fraser University and National  
University of Singapore



# Content

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- 1. What are policy mixes and why do they matter in transitions?**
- 2. Aims and Overview of SI on „Policy Mixes for Sustainability Transitions“ in *Research Policy***
- 3. Future Research Outlook**



# 1. What are policy mixes and why do they matter?

**Different types of instruments are necessary to promote innovation and transitions, but how do such instruments interact and form effective policy mixes?**

- **rapidly emerging literature on policy mixes in STI**  
(Flanagan et al. 2011; Magro and Wilson 2013; Borrás and Edquist 2013; Uyarra et al. 2016)
- **Policy needs to address direction of innovation aimed at addressing social and environmental challenges**  
(Weber and Rohracher 2012; Schot and Steinmueller 2016)
- **Wider definition of policy mix (Rogge and Reichardt, 2016): strategies, instruments, overall mix characteristics (e.g. credibility) as well as policy processes**

## 2. Aims of forthcoming SI policy mixes in *Research Policy*



1. To promote conceptual and methodological novelty in the way innovation scholars understand and study policy mixes by bringing together a collection of authors from innovation studies and policy studies;
2. To increase the visibility of the topic of policy mixes for sustainability transitions;
3. To synthesize relevant policy insights derived from the emerging academic work on policy mixes for sustainability transitions (e.g. interest by OECD, EEA, IEA)

## 2. Overview of forthcoming SI policy mixes in *Research Policy*



### Four Themes

METHODOLOGICAL ADVANCES

POLICY MAKING & IMPLEMENTATION

ACTORS & AGENCY

EVALUATING COMPLEX POLICY MIXES



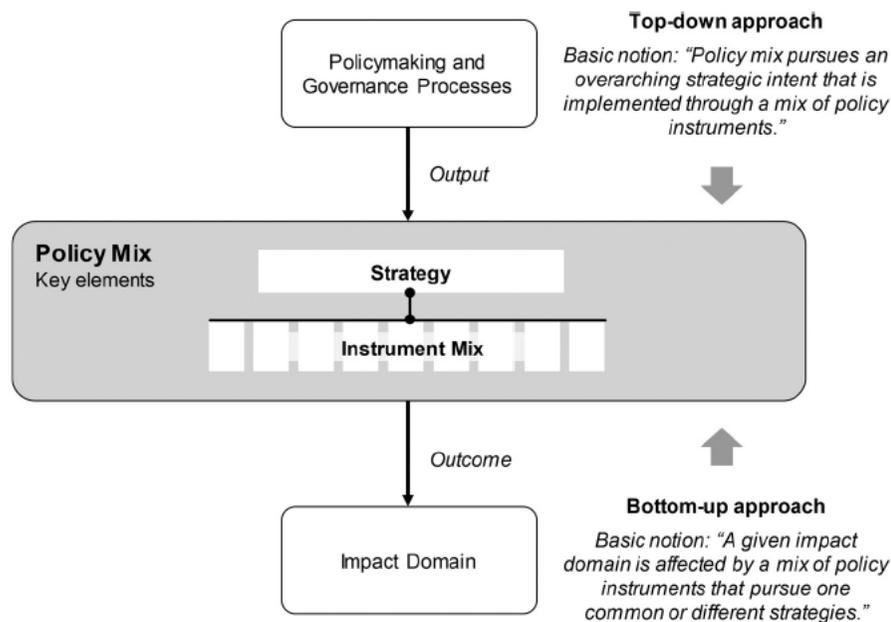
# Methodological advances: delineating policy mixes



Delineating policy mixes: Contrasting top-down and bottom-up approaches to the case of energy-storage policy in California

Jan Ossenbrink<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Sveinboern Finnsson<sup>a</sup>, Catharina R. Bening<sup>a</sup>, Volker H. Hoffmann<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> ETH Zurich, Department of Management, Technology and Economics, Weinbergstrasse 56/58, 8092 Zurich, Switzerland  
<sup>b</sup> Stanford University, Stanford Graduate School of Business, 655 Knight Way, Stanford, CA 94305, USA



- Provides guidelines for delineating elements of policy mixes, starting w/ RQ
- Top-down: overarching strategic intent
- Bottom-up: impact domain affected by policy mix
- Combined: combination of intended and actual effects
- New benchmark for future policy mix studies



# Methodological advances: temporal dynamics



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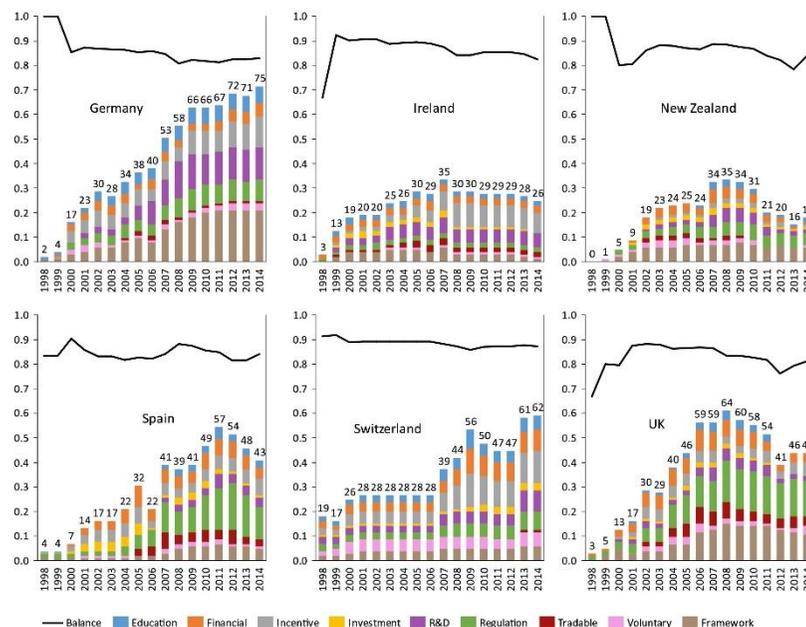
Research Policy

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/respol](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/respol)



Measuring the temporal dynamics of policy mixes – An empirical analysis of renewable energy policy mixes' balance and design features in nine countries

Tobias S. Schmidt\*, Sebastian Sewerin



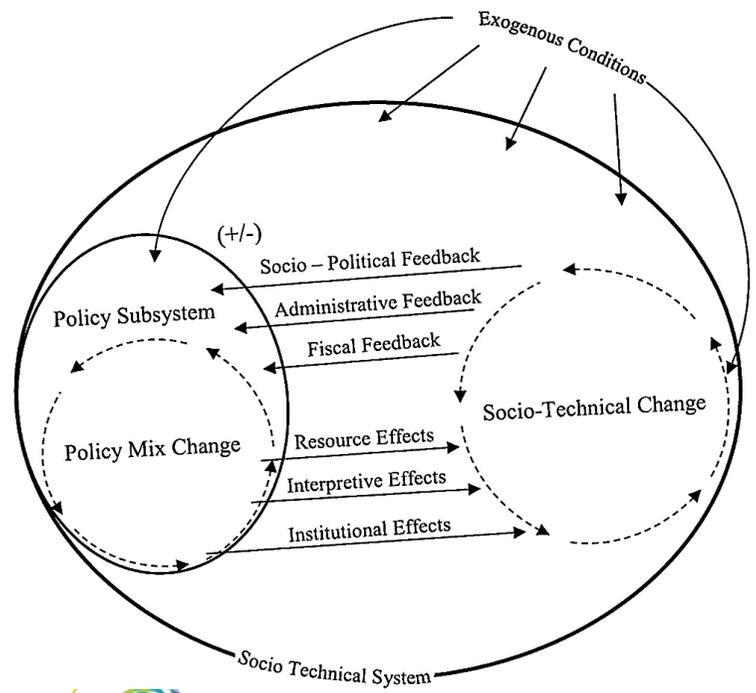
- Tracing developments over time
- Two policy mix features: technology specificity and balance b/w instrument types
- More than counting instruments: policy activity index
- Comparison across 9 OECD countries
- Effects on policy outcomes (diffusion)

# Policy making and implementation: Co-evolution of policy mix and socio-technical change



The co-evolution of policy mixes and socio-technical systems: Towards a conceptual framework of policy mix feedback in sustainability transitions

Duncan L. Edmondson<sup>a,\*</sup>, Florian Kern<sup>a</sup>, Karoline S. Rogge<sup>a,b</sup>



- **Bringing together transitions literature with policy feedback theory (Pierson)**
- **Framework for co-evolution of policy mix and socio-technical change: policy effects and feedbacks**
- **Explicit focus on policy processes and their political effects**
- **Empirical application: come to session F2 @ IST2018**

### 3. Future Research and Outlook



- **Still much room for future research on policy mixes for sustainability transitions, including mainstreaming of broader policy mix thinking**
  - **Further methodological advances, such as:**
    - operationalisations of policy mixes and generating new data
    - research designs for establishing causal relationships between policy mixes and transformative innovation
  - **Institutional and governance challenges arising from complex policy mixes, such as:**
    - appropriate institutional designs and administrative capacities
    - policy learning and coordination across multiple fields and levels
- **Translating insights into policy lessons (e.g. through engagement)**



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SPACE!

Many thanks

Florian Kern  
IÖW – Institut für ökologische  
Wirtschaftsforschung, Berlin  
[florian.kern@ioew.de](mailto:florian.kern@ioew.de)

Karoline Rogge  
SPRU, University of Sussex and  
Fraunhofer ISI  
[K.Rogge@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:K.Rogge@sussex.ac.uk)

Michael Howlett  
Simon Fraser University and  
National University of Singapore

