

# Policy mixes for sustainability transitions: New insights through bridging innovation and policy studies

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# 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. Reflections**



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

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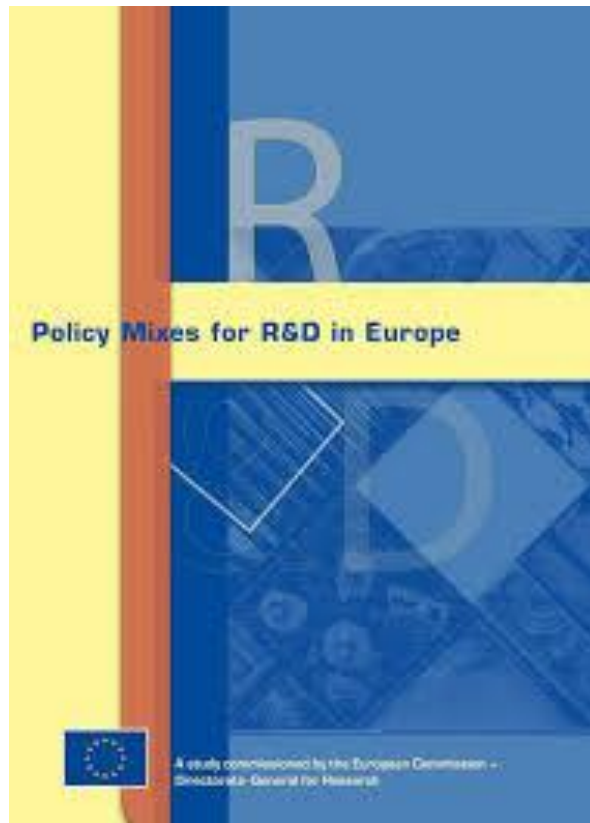
**Different types of instruments are necessary to promote innovation and transitions, but how do such instruments interact and form effective policy mixes?**

- **rapidly growing 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



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

Also increasing policy maker interest in policy mixes:



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

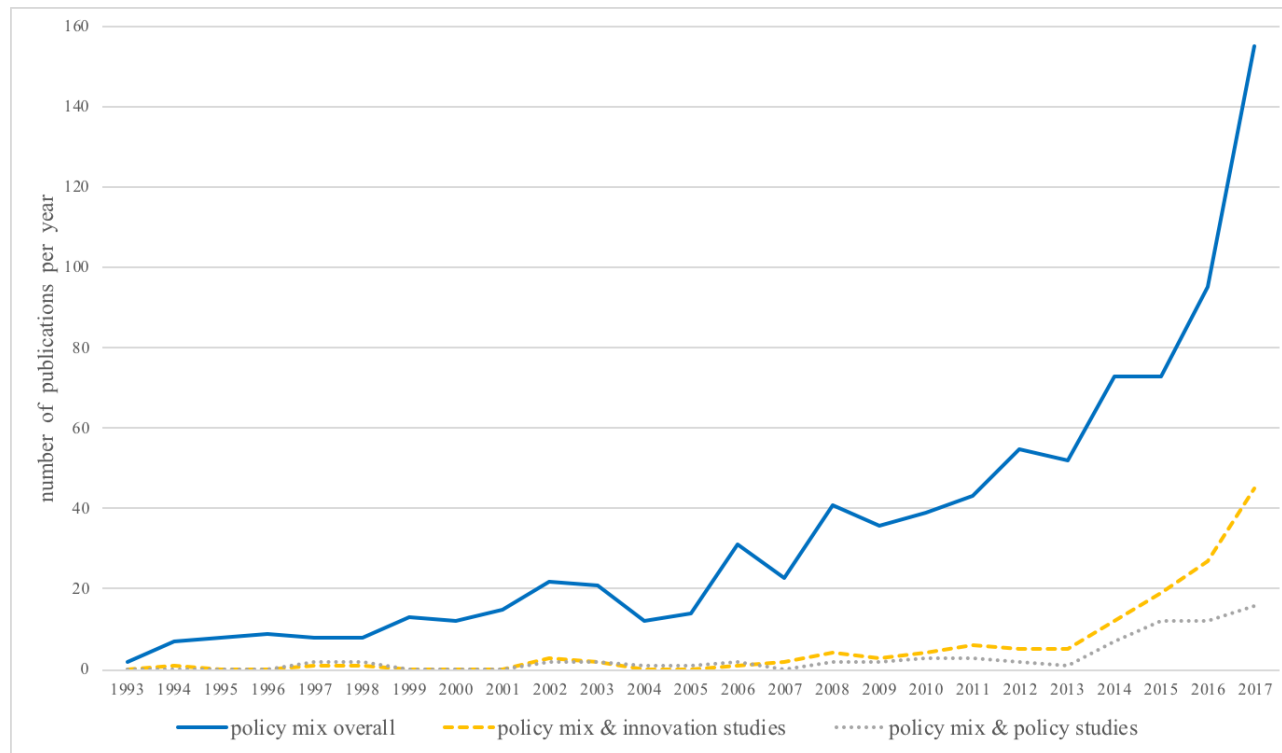


1. To support the **emergence of a new strand of interdisciplinary social science research** on policy mixes in the context of **sustainability transitions** which **combines approaches, methods and insights from innovation and policy studies** to promote **conceptual and methodological novelty**;
2. 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.



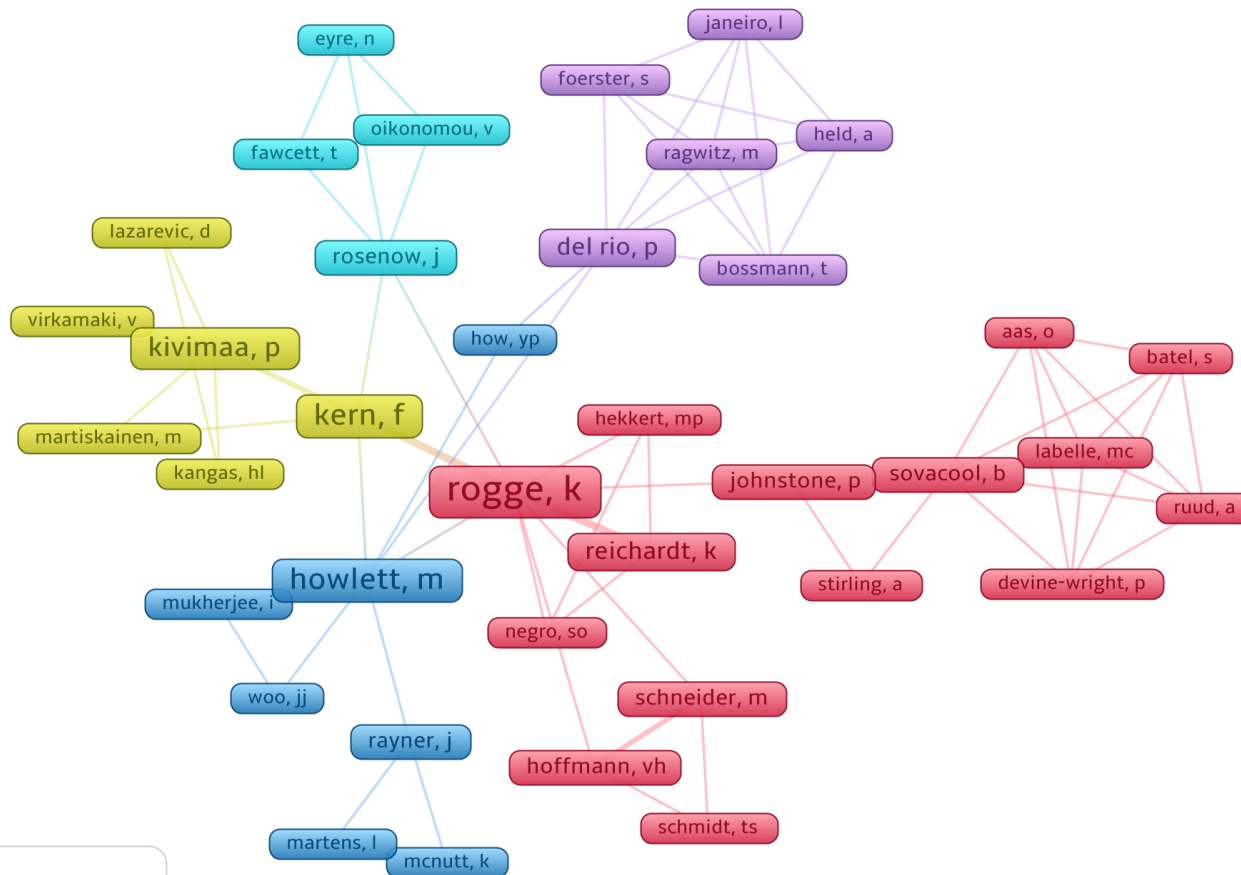
# Growing interest in policy mix research

Figure 1: Policy mix publication trend (1993-2017)



Source: Own, based on data from Web of Science (as of December 21, 2018)

# Collaboration between policy mix authors in innovation and policy studies



From the 190 publications in the ‘innovation and policy studies’ group a total of 464 authors were identified (411 of them with at least one citation), of which only 38 were found to have collaborated with another author in the combined group



Source: Own, based on data from Web of Science (as of December 21, 2018)

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



### Themes

METHODOLOGICAL ADVANCES

POLICY MAKING & IMPLEMENTATION

ACTORS & AGENCY

EVALUATING POLICY MIXES

CO-EVOLUTION



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



### Themes

#### METHODOLOGICAL ADVANCES

Jan Ossenbrink, Sveinbjorn Finnsson, Catharina R. Bening, Volker H. Hoffmann, Delineating policy mixes: Contrasting top-down and bottom-up approaches to the case of energy-storage policy in California, *Research Policy*, 2018, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2018.04.014>

Tobias S. Schmidt, Sebastian Sewerin, Measuring the temporal dynamics of policy mixes – An empirical analysis of renewable energy policy mixes' balance and design features in nine countries, *Research Policy*, 2018, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2018.03.012>

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



### Themes

#### POLICY MAKING & IMPLEMENTATION

Gijs Diercks, Lost in translation: How legacy limits the OECD in promoting new policy mixes for sustainability transitions, *Research Policy*, 2018, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2018.09.002>.

Céline Mavrot, Susanne Hadorn, Fritz Sager, Mapping the mix: Linking instruments, settings and target groups in the study of policy mixes, *Research Policy*, 2018, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2018.06.012>

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



### Themes

#### ACTORS & AGENCY

Karin Ingold, Isabelle Stadelmann-Steffen, Lorenz Kammermann, The acceptance of instruments in instrument mix situations: Citizens' perspective on Swiss energy transition, *Research Policy*, 2018, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2018.10.018>.

Marie Byskov Lindberg, Jochen Markard, Allan Dahl Andersen, Policies, actors and sustainability transition pathways: A study of the EU's energy policy mix, *Research Policy*, 2018, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2018.09.003>

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



### Themes

#### EVALUATING POLICY MIXES

Edurne Magro, James R. Wilson, Policy-mix evaluation: Governance challenges from new place-based innovation policies, *Research Policy*, 2018, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2018.06.010>

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



### Themes

#### CO-EVOLUTION

Duncan L. Edmondson, Florian Kern, Karoline S. Rogge, The co-evolution of policy mixes and socio-technical systems: Towards a conceptual framework of policy mix feedback in sustainability transitions, *Research Policy*, 2018, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2018.03.010>

Ping Huang, The verticality of policy mixes for sustainability transitions: A case study of solar water heating in China, *Research Policy*, 2019, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2019.02.009>

## 3. Reflections (I)

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- all papers included in this special issue draw on some **policy sciences theories, concepts or methodological approaches** → enriching for STI studies, conceptually and methodologically
- Use a **variety of qualitative and quantitative approaches** to shed light on different dimensions of and research questions about policy mixes for sustainability transitions
- Contributions demonstrate the **utility** of their approaches in delivering **insightful empirical analyses**

## 3. Reflections (II)



Relatively **little specific policy advice** coming out of the papers, but

- thinking in terms of broader policy mixes is **relevant** for policy makers, and **reflects much better their everyday experience**;
- policy mix research enables policy makers to advance their thinking about **policy complexity**, and provides a **terminology and analytical tools** to make sense of this complexity.

Much to be learned from policy experiences about

- the way **horizontal and vertical policy mix dynamics** unfold,
- how the **co-evolution of socio-technical systems and policies** influences outcomes, and
- how policy mixes need to be **adjusted over time** to be able to foster transitions (intentional policy sequencing, Howlett 2019; Meckling 2017)



WATCH THIS  
SPACE!

Many thanks

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