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SUB-DOMAIN: POLICY AND PLANNING, SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

PANEL TITLE: POLICY-PRACTICE RELATIONSHIP IN ANTHROPOLOGY - THE LATEST TRENDS

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ABSTRACT

In several ways, anthropology as a discipline has contributed to social policy study, practice, and activism. Peacock (1997) has responded to this trend by highlighting the significance of anthropology informing public policy, helping to formulate the pressing problems facing our society and all societies on the planet, proposing solutions that satisfy residents' needs and desires, and fostering a synergy between theory and practice. Ember & Ember (2004) state that anthropology of policy is concerned in comprehending the cultures and worldviews of those decision-makers and policy experts, who want to execute and uphold their worldview through their policies. Anthropologists are engaged in multidisciplinary collaborative research projects to have better informed health policies. These studies show that cultural presumptions should not be taken at face value but rather should be analysed in the context of theory and practice. Thus, the goal of the anthropological approach to policy is to see it through the eyes of actors and reveal the processes and forces that influence policy decisions, their execution, outcomes, and how they are played out. The panel is looking for studies that empirically explain how policies and programs are implemented and what happens as a result. Additionally, it would examine how ethnographic and anthropological research has influenced organizational policy and practices in the fields of health, development, humanitarianism, the public sector, governments, and parliaments, as well as businesses and civil society groups. Panel invites anthropologists interested in campaigning and working for or with groups both inside and outside of academia. The objective of these discussions is to increase the potential influence of the discipline and to promote it among organizations and policymakers/practitioners.

Keywords: Policy implementation, policy in practice, anthropology

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