

# THEPEP Berlin

## The dos and don'ts of importing *policy transplants*

Martin de Jong  
Delft University of Technology

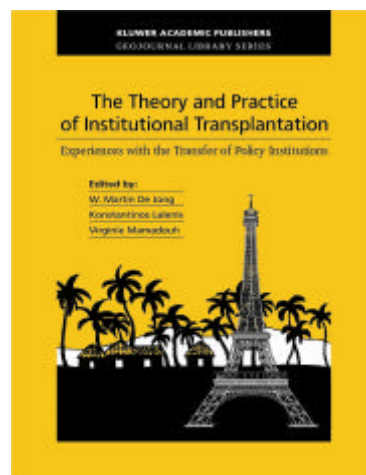
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## Policy transplants as alien bodies (1)

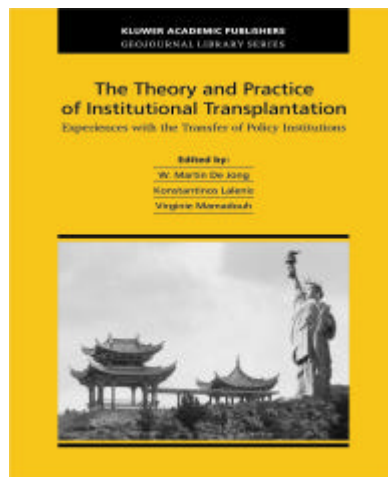


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## Policy transplants as alien bodies (2)

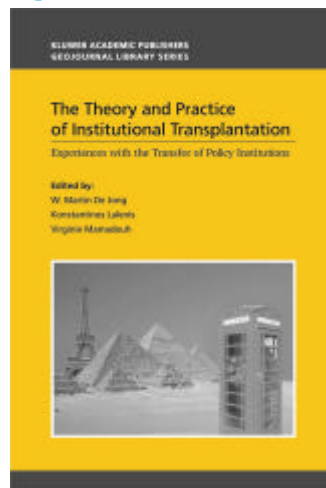


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## Policy transplants as alien bodies (3)



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## Fatal attraction of policy transplants?

Attraction of making international benchmarks

Strong belief in 'best practices' worldwide

Self-improvement following 'leading nations' powerful drive

Proclaimed existence of global imperatives for development

What's the evidence?

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## Can a Euro-bath achieve policy harmonisation? (1)



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## How different can national cultures be?

- High versus low *power distance*
- Individualism versus *collectivism*
- High versus low *uncertainty avoidance*
- Focus on *performance* versus *care/cure*
- Short versus long *term orientation*
- Neutral versus affective *expression of emotions*
- *Task/rule orientation* versus personal orientation
- Focus on *personal achievements* versus social background
- Serial versus parallel processing *time conception*
- Voluntarism versus *fatalism*

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## Can a Euro-bath achieve policy harmonisation? (2)

Can a Euro-bath achieve policy harmonisation?

The answer is 'No'

Policies and their effects rooted in formal rules & informal practices

Institutional environments have a history and constitute a culture

Some policy transplants are successes, others failures

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## What can be transplanted?

- A general idea, philosophy or ideology
- An analytical model or policy framework
- Policy goals and policy instruments
- A legislative framework (completely or partially)
- An action programme or project
- Positive and negative lessons

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## Common pitfalls in policy transplantation (1)

- Technological/ economic context for original is too different
- Effectiveness of original was overstated or ill-understood
- Donor pushes/imposes the original too eagerly
- Wishes and interest of various policy actors in receiving country are overlooked
- Original is imitated too slavishly, making negotiations difficult
- Champions lose negotiations with opponents

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## Common pitfalls in policy transplantation (2)

Relevant other sources of inspiration are ignored

Constitutional and legal framework is too different

Political and administrative culture is too different

Very subtle, but vital institutional differences exist

No sense of urgency for change exists among relevant actors

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## Critical Success Factors

- Develop institutional self-awareness
- Take institutional differences into account, including subtle ones
- Activate domestic champions that can use their networks
- Draw inspiration from various sources, for learning and bargaining purposes
- Be sensitive and tolerant to uncertainty and ambiguity
- Draw inspiration from action programmes rather than legislation
- Show agility in creating a sense of urgency and intense feeling of backwardness and crisis
- Anticipate why and how certain actors like the original you propose and others do not
- Operate in transnational Communities of Practice and absorb ideas through multilateral learning

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