

The Mobility of Migration Policies

Conceptualizing and Tracing the Diffusion of Asylum Regulations

IP35
DIFFUSION

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Research Questions

- How can we conceptualize policy diffusion?
- How much do asylum policies spread across borders?
- Through which mechanisms do these policies migrate?

Migration-Mobility Nexus

Policy diffusion studies public policy making (in the field of migration) in line with a mobility lense, since it focusses on the influence of cross-border flows and interdependencies.

Theorizing Policy Diffusion

Rationalist Explanations

Interest-based Explanations

- Externalities
- Exchange of Information

Rights-based Explanations

- Hierarchy
- Conditionality

Social Constructivist Explanations

Ideology-based Explanations

- Principled Beliefs
- Policy Beliefs

Recognition-based Explanations

- Policy Expertise
- Popular Attention

Symmetric
constellations

Asymmetric
constellations

Theoretical Contributions

- Overcoming biases in diffusion studies and integrating different paradigmatic strands in a pluralist framework
- Analytic framework that allows to combine quantitative and qualitative designs/methods in a consistent way

Studying the Diffusion of Migration Policies

Learning across Swiss Cantons

Survey experiment

- Exploring how MPs learn from policies of other cantons
- Ca. 2,500 cantonal MPs from all german- and frenchspeaking regions

Main finding

- Policymakers primarily learn within party families about the appropriateness of policies, which highlights the importance of *ideological learning*.

Quantitative
Research

The Diffusion of Safe Country Policies (SCPs)

Case studies

- Studying diffusion mechanisms in CH, DK & SA
- Process-tracing based on archival research & expert interviews

Descriptive-comparative analysis

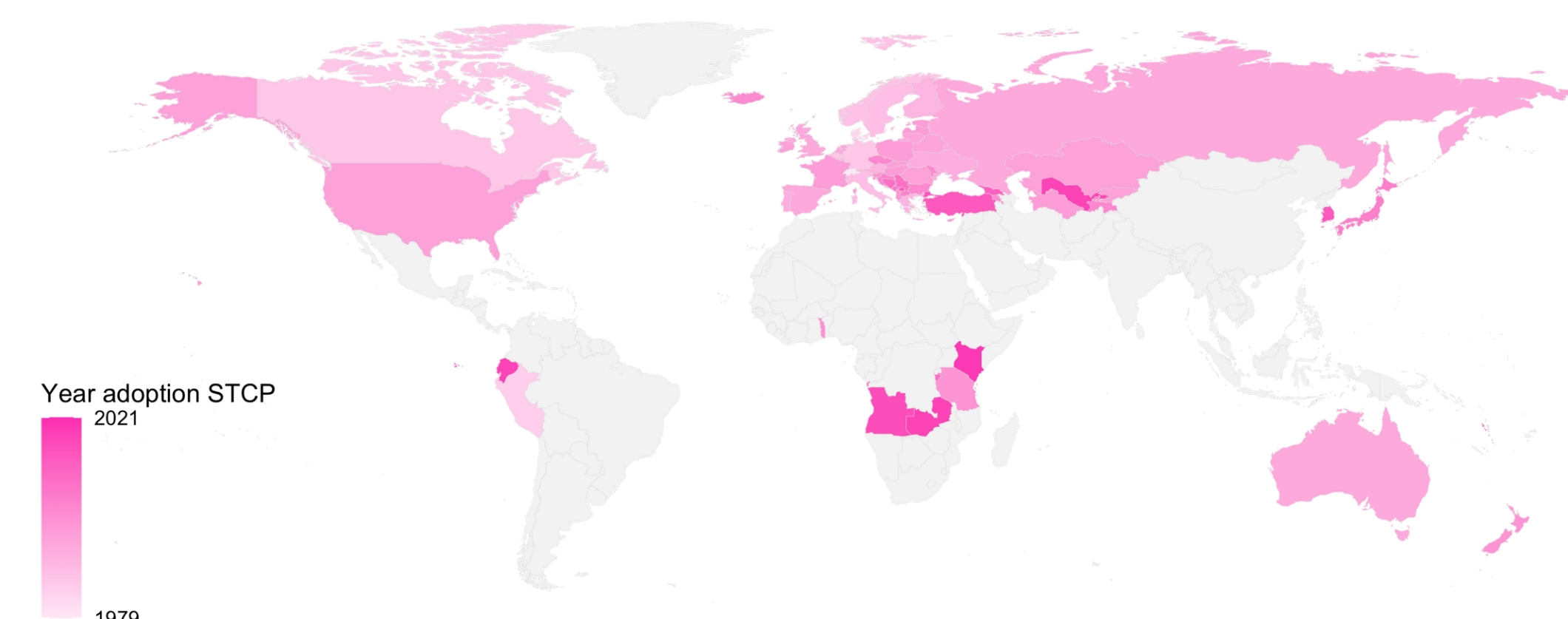
- Analysis asylum & migration laws
- 195 countries, 1951–2021

Spatial econometric analysis

- Investigating diffusion mechanisms involved in the spread of SCPs
- Spatial econometric models based on fine-grained spatial matrices

Main finding

- SCPs not only widely spread in Global North, but increasingly popular in the Global South



Qualitative
Research

Quantitative
Research

Output

Publications (peer-review)

- Blatter, Joachim, Lea Portmann, and Frowin Rausis. 2021. "Theorizing Policy Diffusion: From a Patchy Set of Mechanisms to a Paradigmatic Typology". *Journal of European Public Policy*.
- Lutz, Philipp, and Lea Portman. 2021. "Why do States Admit Refugees? A Comparative Analysis of Resettlement Policies in OECD Countries". *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.
- Rausis, Frowin, and Paula Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik. 2021. "Contagious Policies? Studying National Responses to a Global Pandemic in Europe". *Swiss Political Science Review*.
- Rausis, Frowin. 2022. "The Global Spread of Safe Country Policies: Introducing the SACOP Dataset". nccr – on the move Working Paper Series. #31.

Manuscripts

- Portmann, Lea. "Learning in Policy Diffusion Processes. Experimental Evidence on How Policy Makers Learn in the Field of Migration." To be submitted to *British Journal of Political Science*.
- Portmann, Lea, Joachim Blatter, Melyssa Piña Sigg, Frowin Rausis, Samuel D. Schmid, and Philipp Lutz. "The Global Diffusion of Safe Country Policies: Disentangling the Mechanisms." To be submitted to *Policy Studies Journal*.
- Rausis, Frowin. "Deflecting Responsibility in Refugee Protection." To be submitted to *Journal of Refugee Studies*.
- Rausis, Frowin. *The Invention of Safe Countries*. PhD thesis. To be submitted by 2022.

Dataset

- Rausis, Frowin. 2022. Safe Country Policies Dataset (SACOP) (Version 1.1) [Data set]. Zenodo.