

Political Analysis in Health: the contribution of the Observatory for Political Analysis in Health (OAPS)

The theoretical-epistemological reflection on Public Health has led to the possibility of it being considered a “field” of knowledge and practices and a social “space” where a complex dynamic involving multiple individual and collective subjects takes place. These are confronted and/or articulated around different projects that configure the scope of scientific research, which unfold in political and strategic proposals of intervention on the problems of Brazilian health and society.

The geographic metaphor remains valid and pertinent when one visualizes the “area” of Health Policy, Planning, Management and Evaluation (PPGS) as a unique territory in the Public Health “field”/“space”, the intellectual and political landscape of which can be scrutinized by the interweaving of the “lines” that delimit questions and objects of investigation, and by the approaches that can either form walls that separate, or bridges that unite, subjects committed to different projects.

The elaboration and implementation of the Observatory of Political Analysis in Health (OAPS), which presents, in this thematic issue, part of its academic production, is part of this process, to the extent that it involved the articulation of a heterogeneous set of researchers, linked to sundry Institutions, currently constituting a Network focused on the production and dissemination of knowledge in 11 thematic areas, which include the political analysis in health and the analysis of specific policies.

The link established between the OAPS researchers was initiated in 2013, with the encouragement of Abrasco, when the possibility was discussed of proposing to CNPq the launch of an invitation to bid that contemplated the financing of projects in the area of PPGS. The process of construction of the project that resulted in the OAPS has fostered dialogue and cooperation among researchers who have been organized to conduct research in each thematic axis, providing a broad reflection on theoretical benchmarks and methodological strategies in approaching the different topics. In addition, the face-to-face or virtual meeting of the various teams, has motivated the exchange of experience and the learning of the role of researchers and activists in the field of Public Health, specifically in PPGS.

It is worth highlighting the implementation of the OAPS website (www.analisepoliticaemsaude.gov), which represents a technological change that focuses on the organization of the work process of the research Network. Thus, the assembly of the site involved the group of researchers, summoned to think about the architecture of the page and its dynamics of operation. It also involved the definition of mechanisms for systematization and dissemination of scientific and political information that goes beyond the traditional format of articles in periodicals, chapters and books whose editorial duration extends for months and even years.

The challenge of deploying the OAPS website was therefore an opportunity to work with another time dimension, a, compressed, accelerated time, in order to offer users as soon as possible the results of the researchers involved in monitoring the health policy process through access to different sources of information, mostly available from the Internet.

As a result, we invite all readers of this issue to critically appraise this production and to visit the OAPS website, through the navigation in its various spaces, the fruits of this work focused on the monitoring of specific policies and the monitoring of the political process. More generally, through the publication of interviews, bulletins, analyses, debates, texts and news about the events that mark the crisis conjuncture and dismantling of social and health policies in particular.

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