



An Introduction to Public Policy and Policy Evaluation

Location: Miranda House, Delhi University

Course date: Monday 2 - Friday 6 February 2026

Course fee: Rs 5,000

This course introduces key concepts, debates, and actors involved in policymaking. It takes a comparative lens that is both interdisciplinary and cross-national. Theoretical concepts from political science, public policy, and public administration will be studied and used in real-world problem analysis and policy solution evaluation.

Students will develop:

- An understanding of how literatures in public policy, public administration, and comparative politics inform policymaking.
- Knowledge of key macrostructural contexts for policymaking, the stage in the policymaking cycle, and how to conduct policy evaluations.

Teaching activities:

Lectures will be based on the topic and optional readings, including class discussions. Interactive learning sessions with case studies will allow for further discussion. External speakers, arranged in collaboration with Miranda House, will complement these activities. Time will be allocated for group work on a final 'Policy Pitch' project, with faculty members present to provide guidance.



Course lectures will explain key concepts in public policy. The discussions will allow students to react and engage with the material from class, and interactive case studies will give students a chance to apply their knowledge and understanding in more real-world applications. Finally, interactions with policymakers in Delhi will allow students to then engage with those involved in public policy more directly.

Students will be assigned groups within which they will create 8-12 minute "Policy Pitches" based on an issue of interest to them. This will involve identifying a policy problem and then providing a solution and its defence and evaluation with evidence and a political rationale. This will allow students to directly apply the content of the intensive course to a real-world problem of interest to them. This will be presented as a poster, with all students partaking in a poster session that other colleagues, students, and family can attend on the last day of the programme.

For further information, please contact renu.singh@durham.ac.uk

Register now

This course will be delivered by:

Professor Gidon Cohen

Professor of Politics, Durham University

Gidon researches British political development using qualitative and quantitative methods. He is the former director of the Centre for Institutions and Political Behaviour. He is currently co-investigator on a joint ESRC/AHRC funded project 'Causes and Consequences of Electoral Violence: Evidence from England and Wales, 1832-1914'.

Gidon has over 22 years of experience teaching politics and public policy and was Head of the Durham University School of Government and International Affairs 2020-23. His current research focuses on public attitudes related to climate policy and on policy implications of that opinion. He has experience of working on policy evaluation projects in challenging environments, including Somalia.



Dr Renu Singh

Assistant Professor in Comparative Politics, Durham University



Renu is the Programme Director for the MSc in Public Policy. Her research interests centre around the relationship between political institutions, public opinion, and policy change in the context of global health politics, science policy, sustainability, comparative social policy, and global health security and governance.

Renu has previously taught at Georgetown University, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and Bocconi University. She has given commentary or written for CNN International, Foreign Policy Magazine, and the Washington Post, among others.

She has also advised or engaged with organisations, including the European Commission, COP28, the Wilson Center, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and the Global Public Policy Institute.

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