

## Policy Advise Paradoxes in France: So many advisors, experts and courtesans speaking (un-)true to power in a vertical 'republican monarchy'

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**Abstract:** A main thesis of Capano, Craft, Howlett, Eds., Routledge Handbook of Policy Advisory Systems, show how Policy Advise Systems (PAS) develop differently in diverse political regimes, administrative traditions and country-specific governance arrangements: supply, demand, real influence of advice activities vary accordingly.

In such comparative perspective, and according to the two central dimensions of PAS structuration identified in the currently under construction Handbook, i.e. the nature of external actors and their autonomy vs internal ones and vice versa, it appears that France is a case of 'balanced policy advisory system', where policy influence is not mainly externally-driven like in the USA nor internally-driven like in authoritarian regimes but happens to be a dynamic struggle-and-compromise interplay between the high autonomous capacity of external, non-State knowledge producers and advice providers and the same high autonomous capacity of internal, State experts and advisors to speak – true or untrue – to power and make it listen. In the paper I will present to NISPA Cee Conference, the French balanced PAS is analysed in its national context shaped by historicity, as the dynamic combination of classic PAS arrangements inherited from the first decades of the Fifth Republic with strong transformative processes, since the 2000s, due to major 'acclimatized' transnational dynamics combined with some French idiosyncratic changes, all contributing to a certain art of 'governing from the centre'.