**Principles of Public Policy & Policy Evaluation**

This course introduces the key approaches to the analysis of public policies and seeks to encourage a critical and comparative approach to the study of trends in contemporary public policy. Specifically, the students will consider how and why public policies emerge, the role of citizens and organized interests in the formulation of public policy, why things go wrong in public policy, the challenges that face policy-makers in handling scientific evidence and regulating societal and economic risks. The course will encompass topics such as agenda-setting, public opinion, science, risk regulation and trends in public management.

The main methodologies employed to evaluate policy programs will also be introduced, including cost/benefit analysis, case-studies comparison, meta-studies, participatory action research. The aim of the course is to teach the students how to design, implement a variety of impact evaluation frameworks that combine multiple evaluation methodologies in a coherent way.

It will be organised around the following series of overarching questions:
- What is a public policy?
- Where do policies come from?
- How do we evaluate public policies?

The course will be taught by the course convenor Dr. Alessandro Crociata. **The course is compulsory.**