

EDITED BY

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BRIDGING THE GAPS

Linking Research to Public Debates
and Policy-making on Migration
and Integration

OXFORD



Background and Approach



Research as a tool for:

- improving the processes and outcomes of migration, and human development more broadly
- debating migration and addressing migration policy dilemmas in an 'enlightened' fashion

Beyond ...

- "Evidence-based policy-making"
- "Post-truth politics"

Aims and Questions

Explore the interplay between social science research, public debates, and policy-making on international migration and integration

- Theory
- Nat. experiences (GER, NED, NOR, SWE, UK, US)
- Int. experiences (EU and global)
- Reasons for failure / success ?
- Implications for strategies in diff. contexts?

Framework

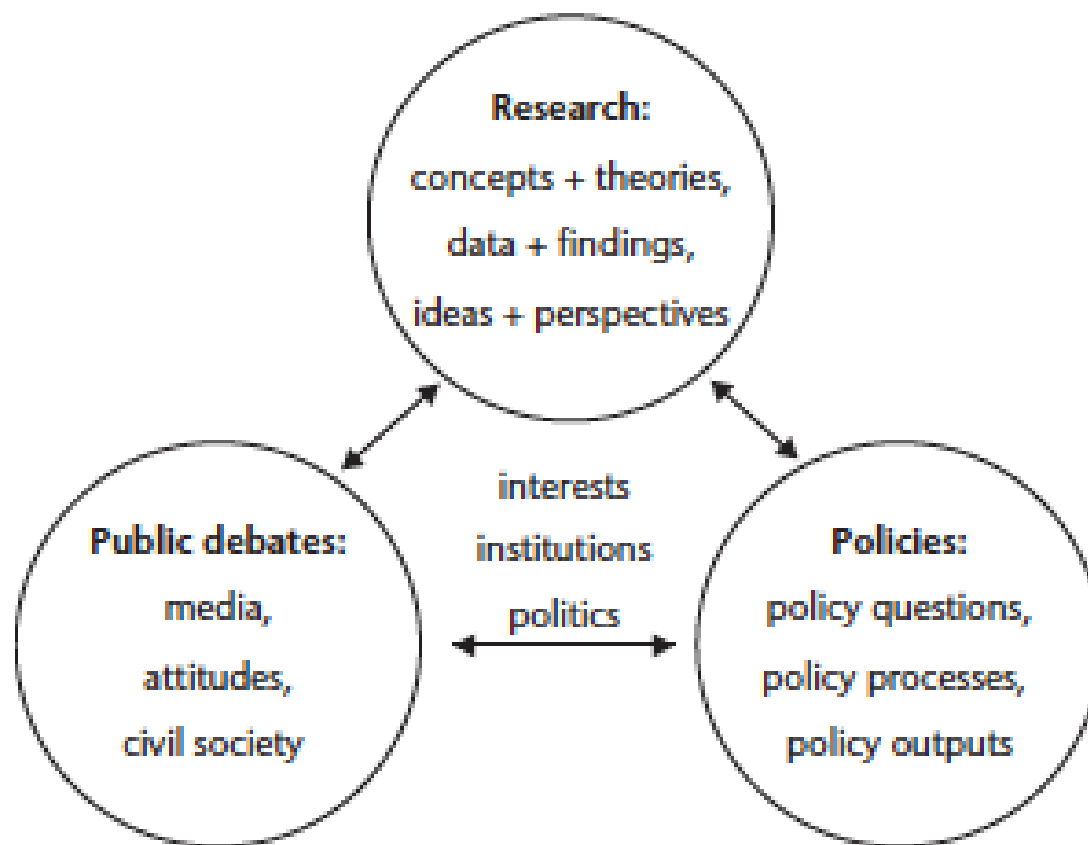


Figure 1.1 Triangular relationships between research, public debate, and policies



Theoretical building blocks



Uses of research in policy (Boswell, ch.2;
Entzinger and Scholten ch.3)

- **Instrumental** role
- Symbolic role: **substantiating** and **legitimizing**

Research and public debates (Allen et al, ch.3)

- 2-way relationships; media and public opinion
- Need to understand media context and conditions (nature of 'demand' and 'supply')



National experiences



- MAC in UK: design matters; ‘taking politics out of policy-making’ ?; limits can be strengths
- WRR in NED: beyond ‘speaking truth to power’; include stakeholders in production of research
- Commissions in NOR: changing public discourse vs changing policies
- GER: key role of media, but problem of balance and ‘minority findings’
- US: admissionists vs. restrictionists; links to funders; predictability of research findings
- SWE: beyond politicisation



International experiences



- EU governance of migration: widening gap between knowledge production and access to EU policy-makers
- EU-funded 'knowledge brokers', e.g. CARIM: genuine partnerships in collaborative research?
- Metropolis: academic 'reward structure'; in policy circles, empirical research preferred to theory
- Global governance: limited role for research unless it fits with existing political agendas; experts confer legitimacy; 'more research and fewer experts'

Conclusions?

- Context of critical importance for understanding/explaining the successes and failures of different initiatives
 - No 'one size fits all'
 - No 'quick fixes'
- Importance of common understanding:
 - different actors need to understand and appreciate each other's primary aims and constraints

Challenges for research

- More researchers should turn 'outwards'
- Increase dialogue and interaction with decision-makers but maintain independence
- Use media's great potential to disseminate knowledge and facts to the debate
- Role of knowledge-brokers?

Challenges for media

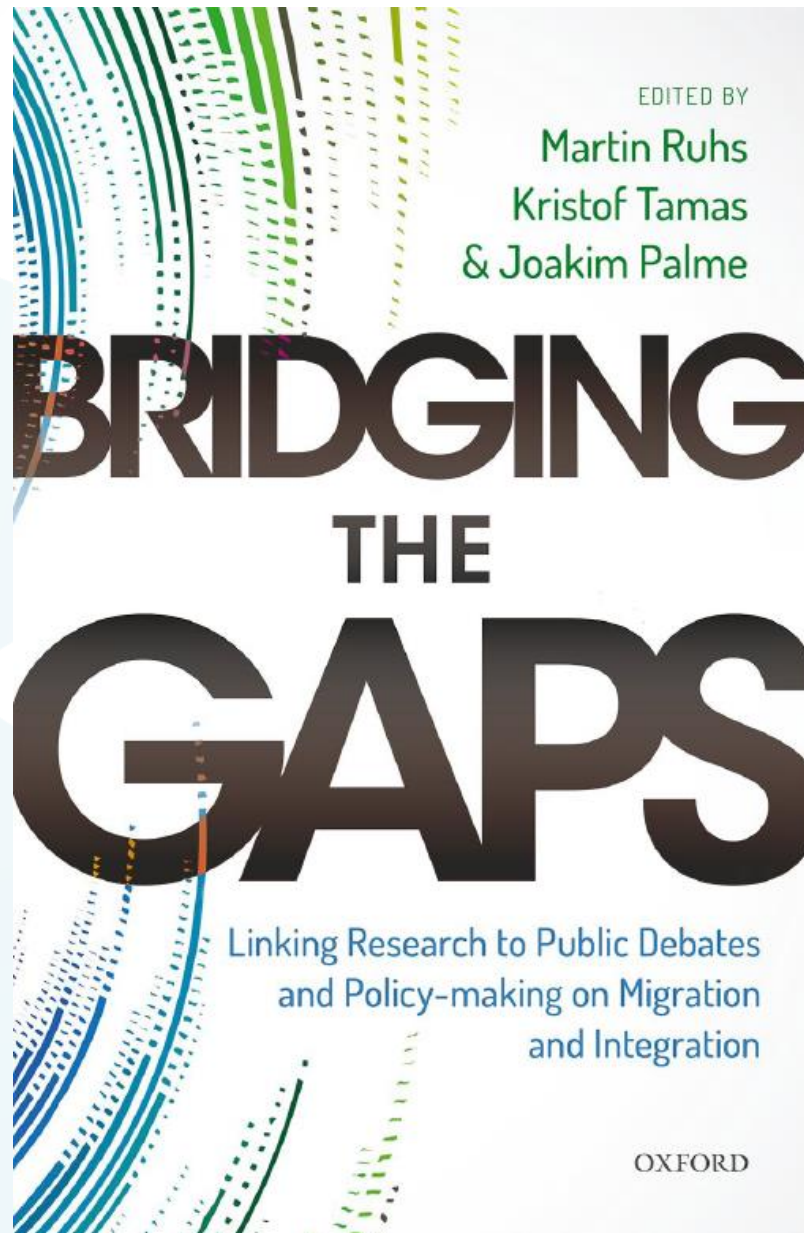
- Engage and examine critically:
 - Research
 - Policy-makers
 - Realities; how to go beyond stereotypes
- Importance of media pluralism and independence



Challenges to politicians and decision-makers



- Establish arenas and tools to enable research to influence policy-making
- Safeguard the independence of research and media
- Recognise that the field of migration and integration policy is characterised by trade-offs - but good policy design can make a difference



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