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How to cite:

Korkut, Umut; Mahendran, Kesi; Bucken-Knapp, Gregg and Cox, Robert Henry eds. (2015). Discursive Governance in Politics, Policy and the Public Sphere. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

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Version: Publication Extract

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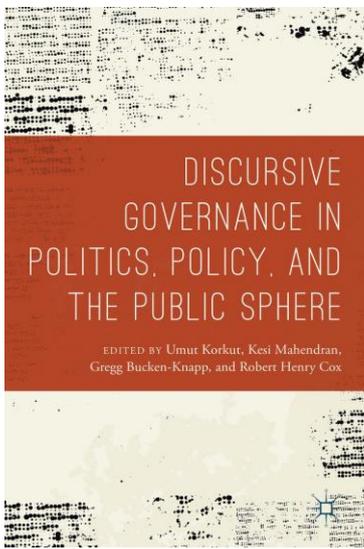
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# Discursive Governance in Politics, Policy, and the Public Sphere

Edited by Umut Korkut, Kesi Mahendran, Gregg Bucken-Knapp, Robert Henry Cox

Hardcover 9781137495778 £62.50 / \$105.00

Discursive governance refers to implicit mechanisms of governance such as narratives, leitmotifs, and strategic metaphors in political language. It examines how the framing of policies affects political and social representations in accordance with the wishes of political authorities. Ad hoc discourses generate a space where politicians configure, transmit, and initiate politics ideationally, rather than vouchsafing substantial policy change with respect to governance. This book studies the dynamics of political discourse in governance processes. It demonstrates the process in which political discourses become normative mechanisms, first marking socially constructed realities in politics, second playing a role in delineating the subsequent policy frames, and third influencing the public sphere. The key contribution of this volume is tracing the discursive relationships among actors, namely governments and political parties, policy participants and societal actors, and the public in European nation states, intergovernmental organizations, subnational or regional entities, and geographies beyond Europe where European norms trigger ideational processes of change. The book extends earlier work in the field by exploring how policy and politics create social knowledge, make some ideas publicly salient, and bring together coalitions of actors that find certain policy alternatives attractive and eventually generate political and policy change.

Umut Korkut is a Reader in Politics at Glasgow School for Business and Society at Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland. In addition to two other books with Palgrave, he has published in Political Geography, Europe-Asia Studies, Eurasian Geography and Economics, Social Politics, Parliamentary Affairs, Nationalities Papers, Economic and Industrial Democracy, and East European Quarterly, among others.

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Robert Henry Cox is director of the Walker Institute of International and Area Studies and a professor of political science at the University of South Carolina. An expert on European politics, he has published extensively on the history of social policy in Europe and the reform of welfare states. His recent work examines the politics of sustainability in Europe, focusing on renewable energy programs. He co-edited,

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