

‘Evidence based policy’ – a revenant held alive by different kinds of practices?

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“From “Practice Turn” to “Praxeological Mainstream”?”
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General question

- whether and to which extent the ideas related to the ‘practice turn’ in sociology can tell us something substantial about the **possibilities**, or rather **impossibilities** of ‘**evidence based policy (EBP)**’
- address EBP from its **internal logics** rather than from an outside or contextual perspective
- **education as ,x-field’** of society looked at, the basic framework should also be valid for other ,x-fields’...

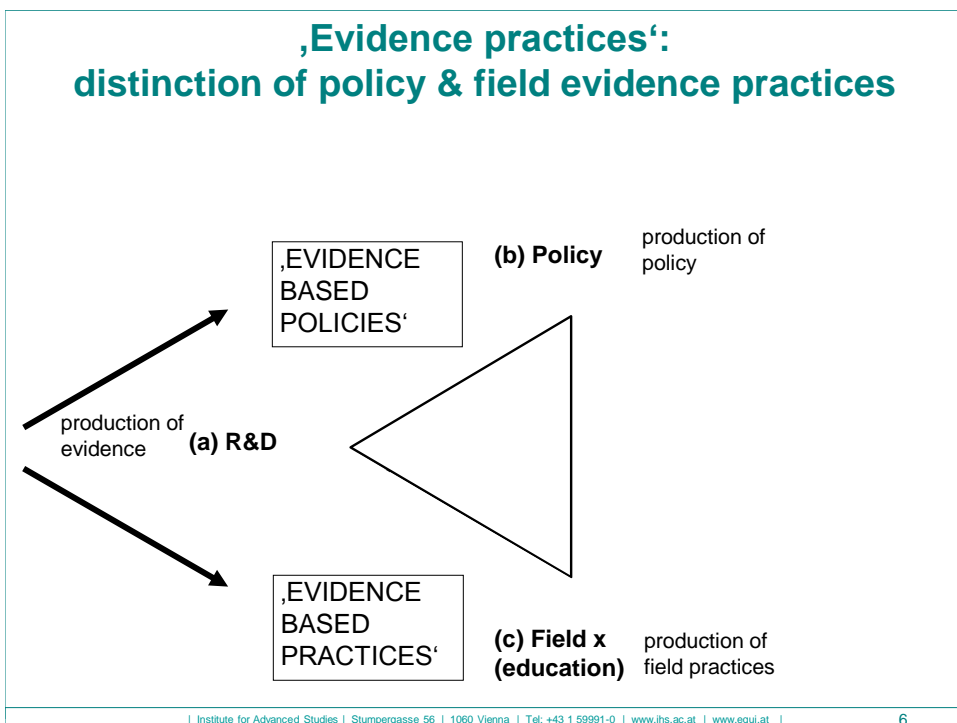
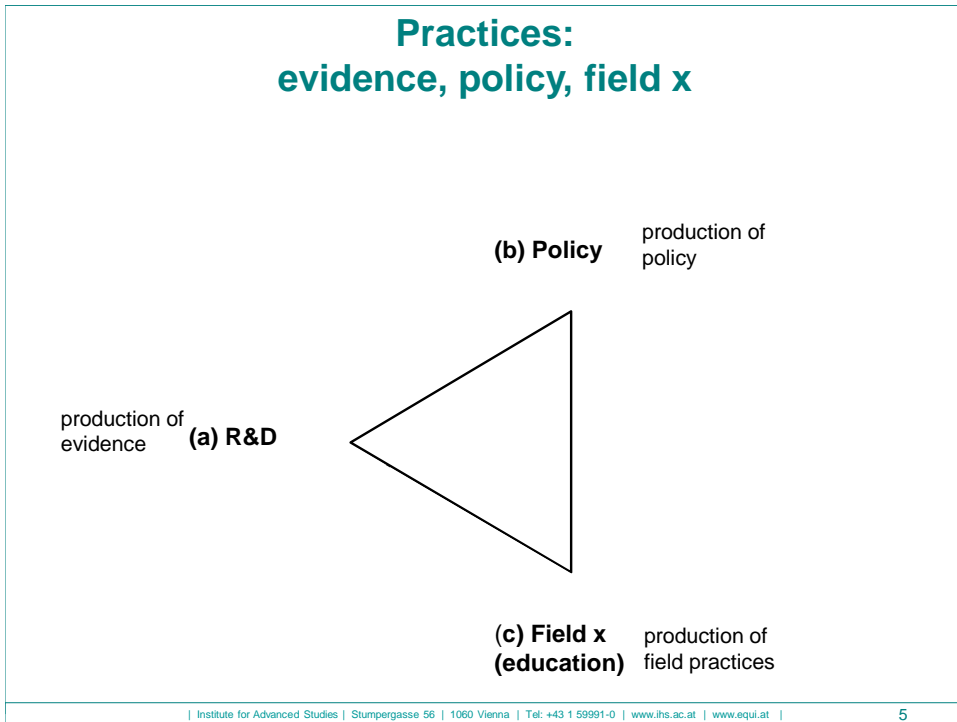
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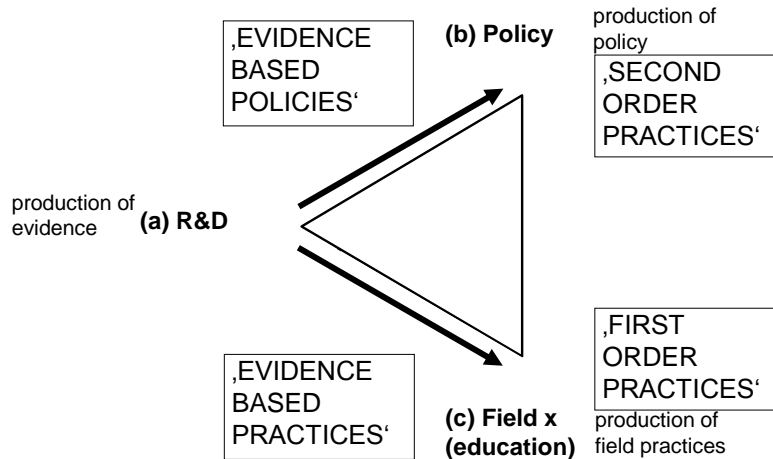
Conceptual framework

- intersection of **three kinds of practices**
 - (a) production and distribution of evidence,
 - (b) production and implementation of policies, and
 - (c) production of the practices in a social x-field or sector (education)
- distinction of **first, second, and third order** practices
 - first order x-field (education, politics)
 - second order: policies
 - third order: research evidence
- institutionalism and praxeology
 - different, but related approaches
- institutionalism: rules and outcomes, policy and politics
 - key distinctions from institutionalism
- praxeology more open
 - specific sites of practices defined by institutionalist distinctions?

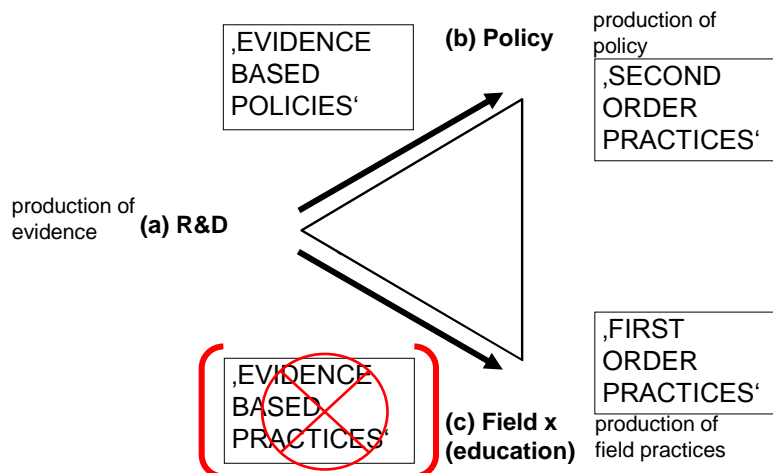
Practices, fields, distinctions...



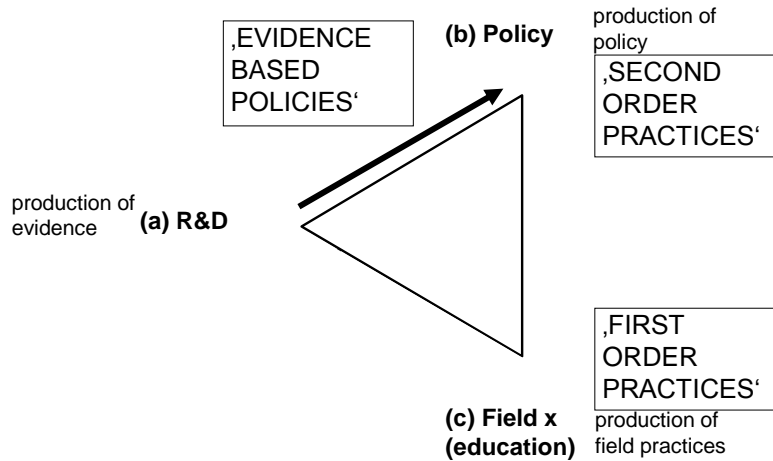
„Policy and field practices“: distinction of first & second order practices



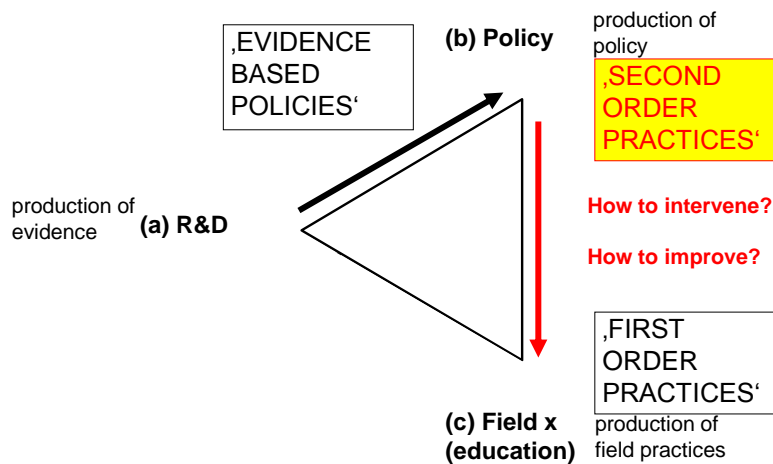
„Policy and field practices“: focus on EBP



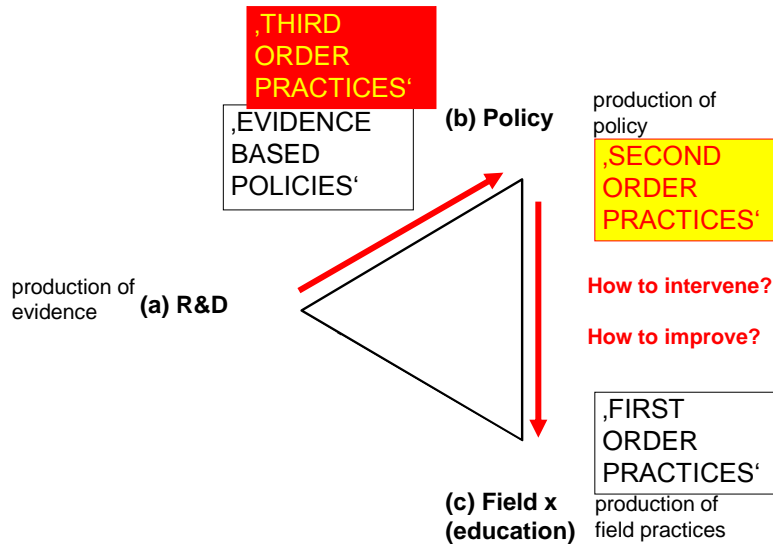
„Policy and field practices“: focus on EBP



„Policy and field practices“: distinction of improvement & intervention



‘evidence practices’: third order bridging policy and x-field

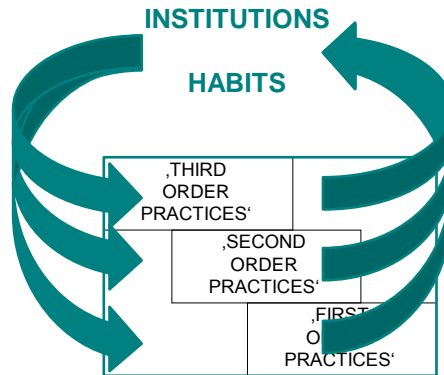


Institutionalism and praxeology

Institutionalism and praxeology

- **Institutionalism**

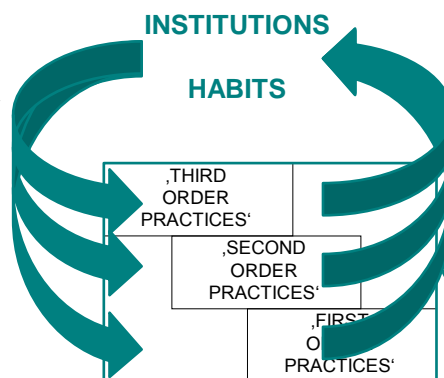
- Complexity of first order practices
- Rules vs. outcomes
- Policy vs. politics



Institutionalism and praxeology

- **Institutionalism**

- Complexity of first order practices
- Rules vs. outcomes
- Policy vs. politics



- **Praxeology**

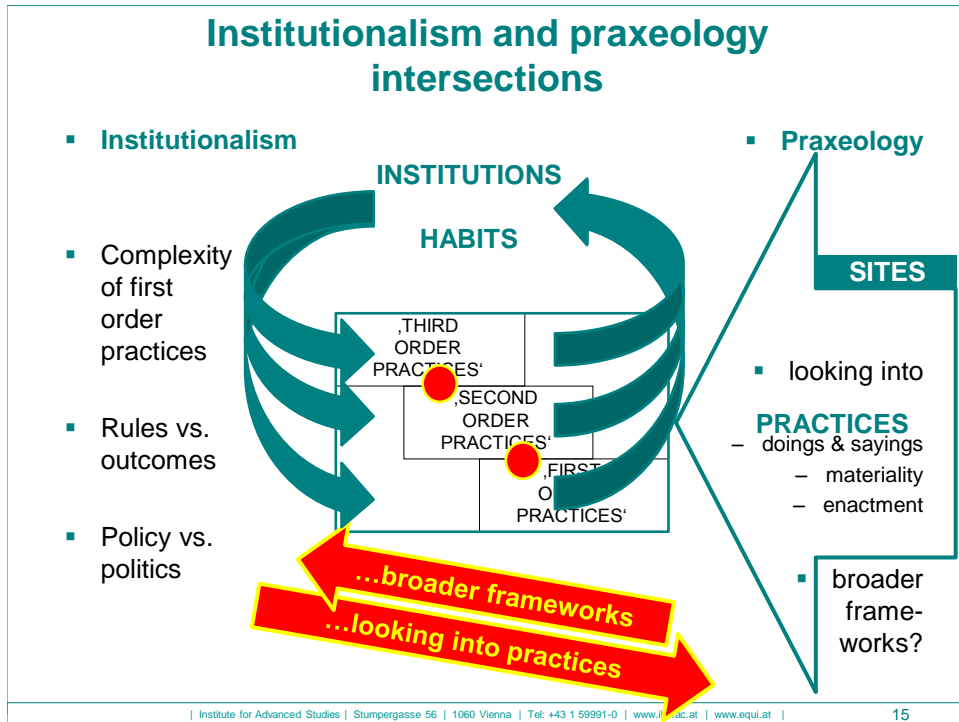
SITES

- looking into

PRACTICES

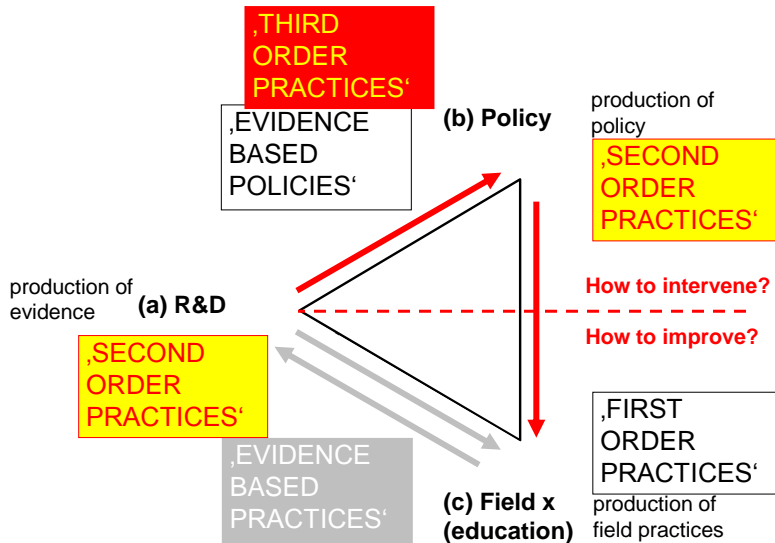
- doings & sayings
- materiality
- enactment

- broader frameworks?

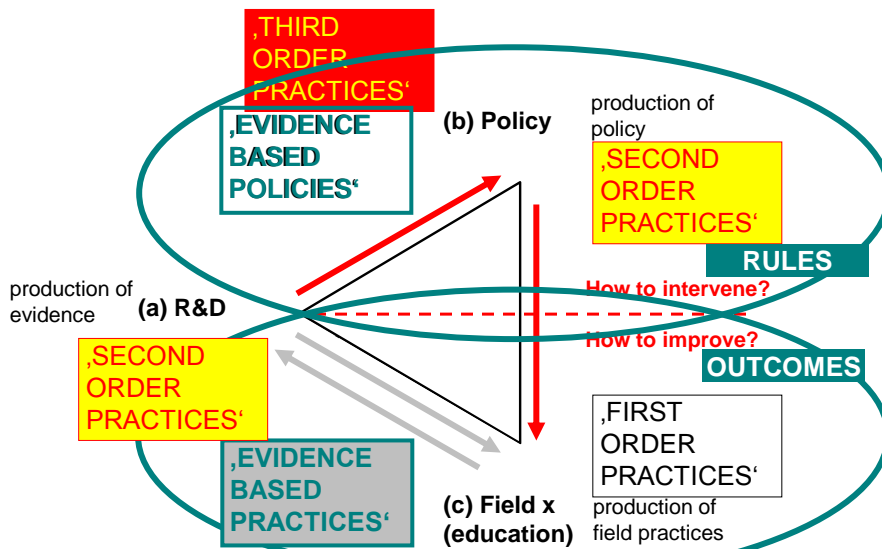


Intervention and improvement, rules and outcomes

„Policy and field practices‘: distinction improvement & intervention



„Policy and field practices‘: distinction improvement & intervention



Policy & politics

Policy & politics

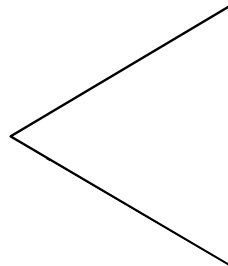
POLITICS > power

'FIRST
ORDER
PRACTICES'

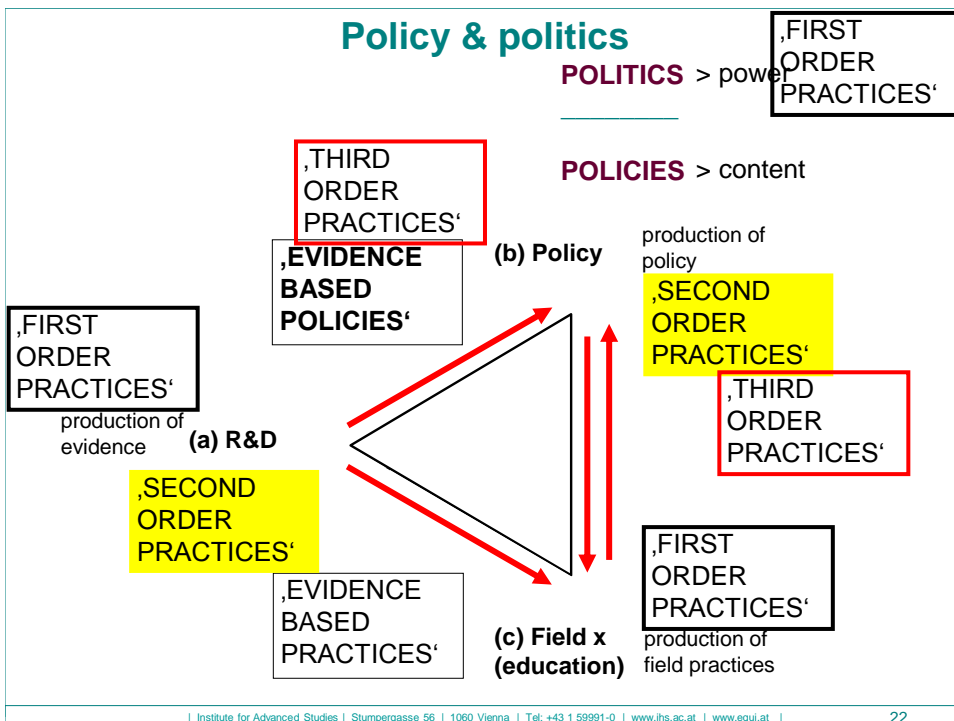
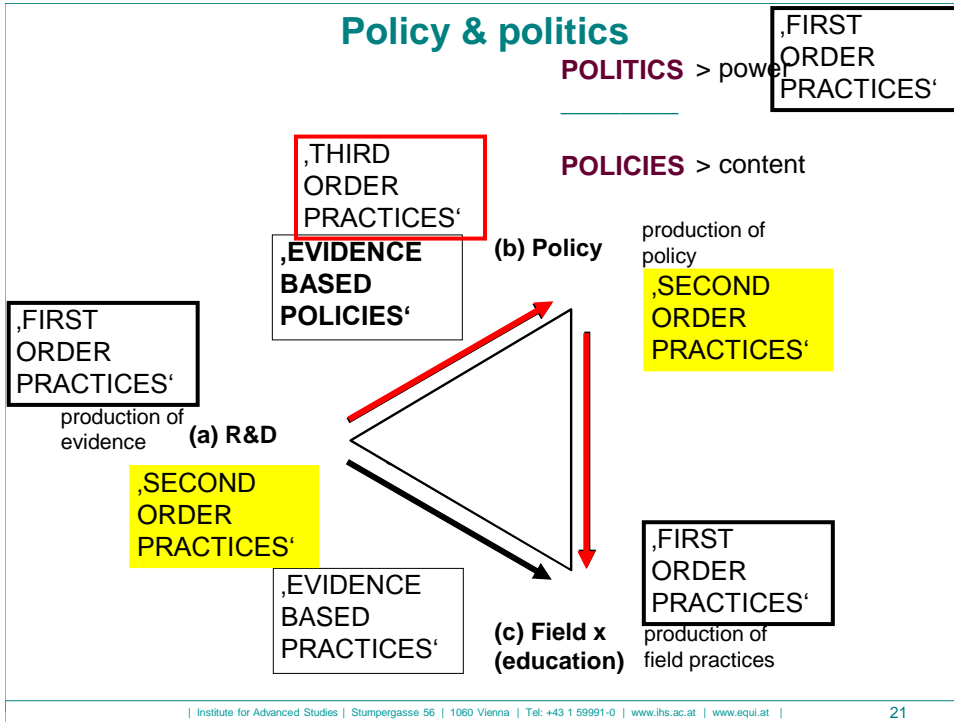
POLICIES > content

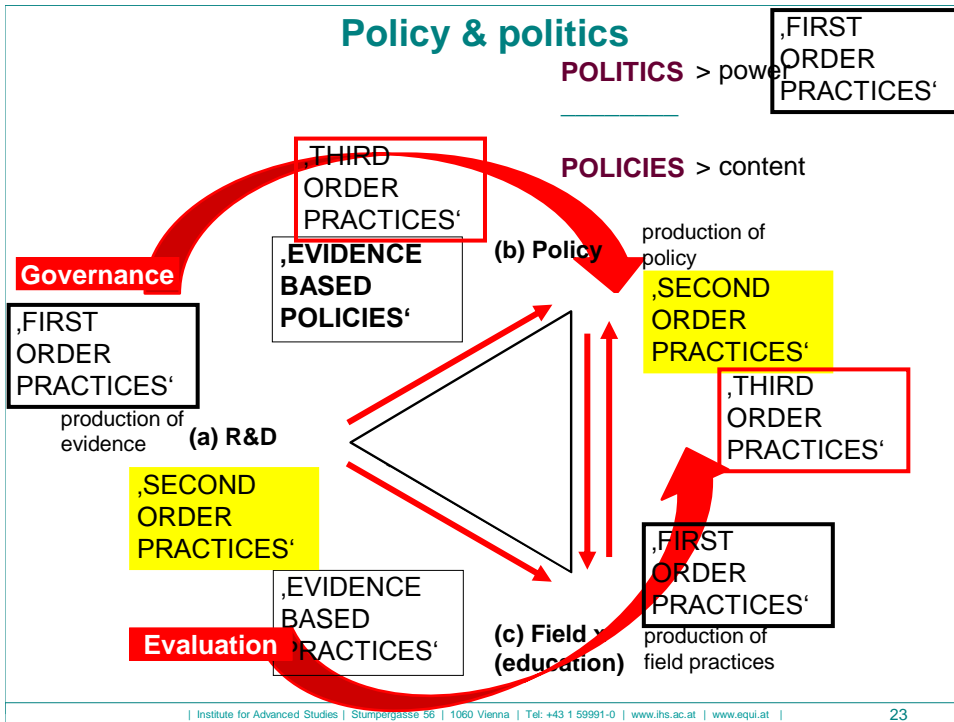
(b) Policy production of policy

production of evidence **(a) R&D**



(c) Field x (education) production of field practices

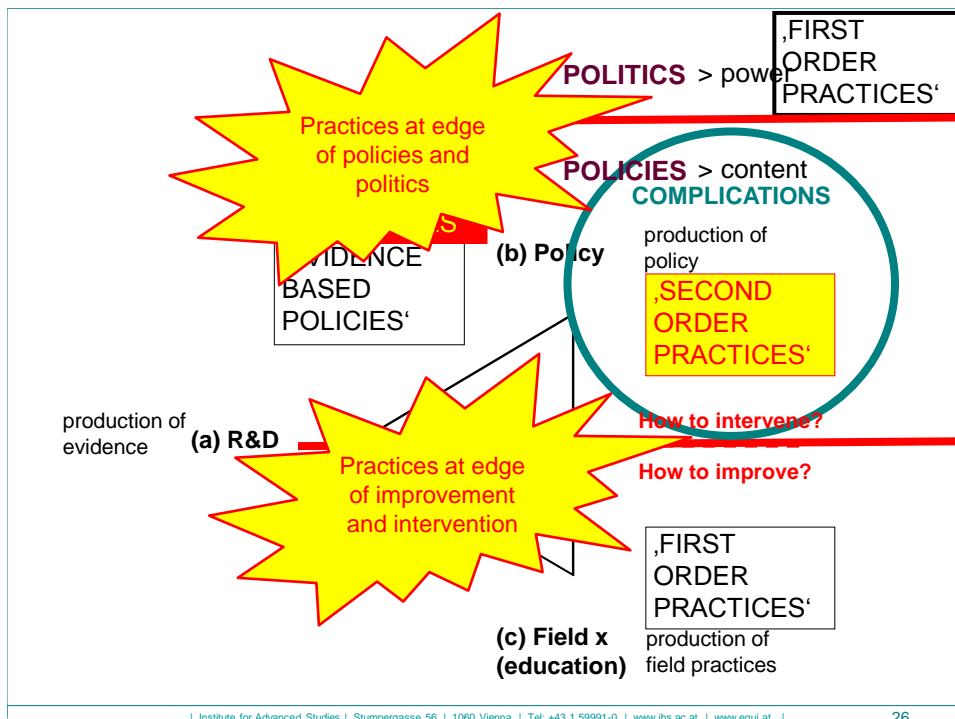


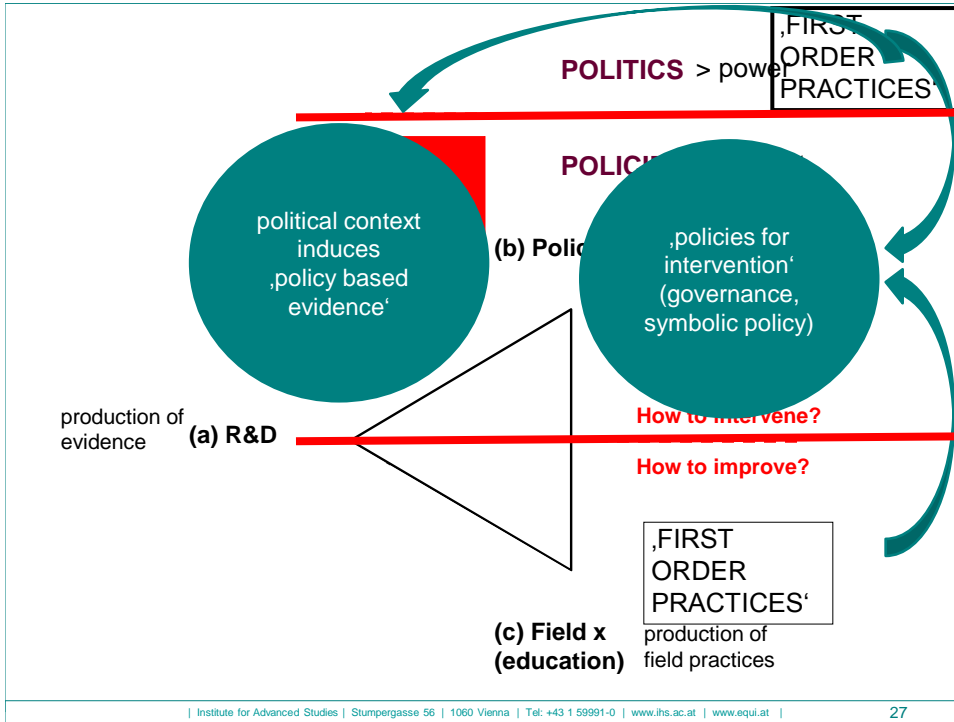


Complications at level of second order practices predicted by institutionalism

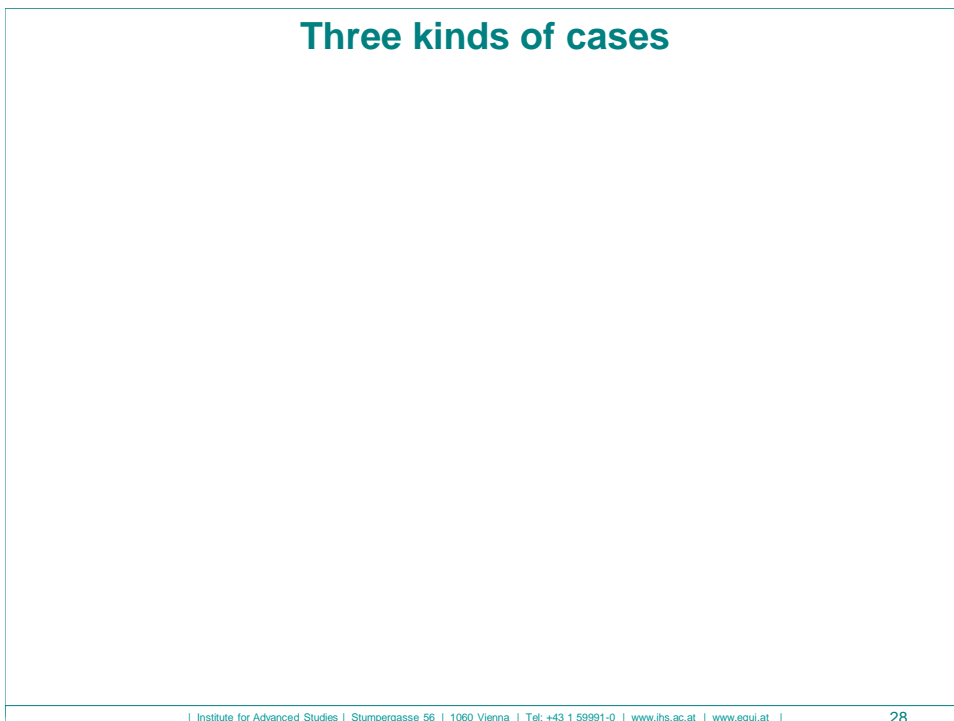
Complications at level of second order practices predicted by institutionalism

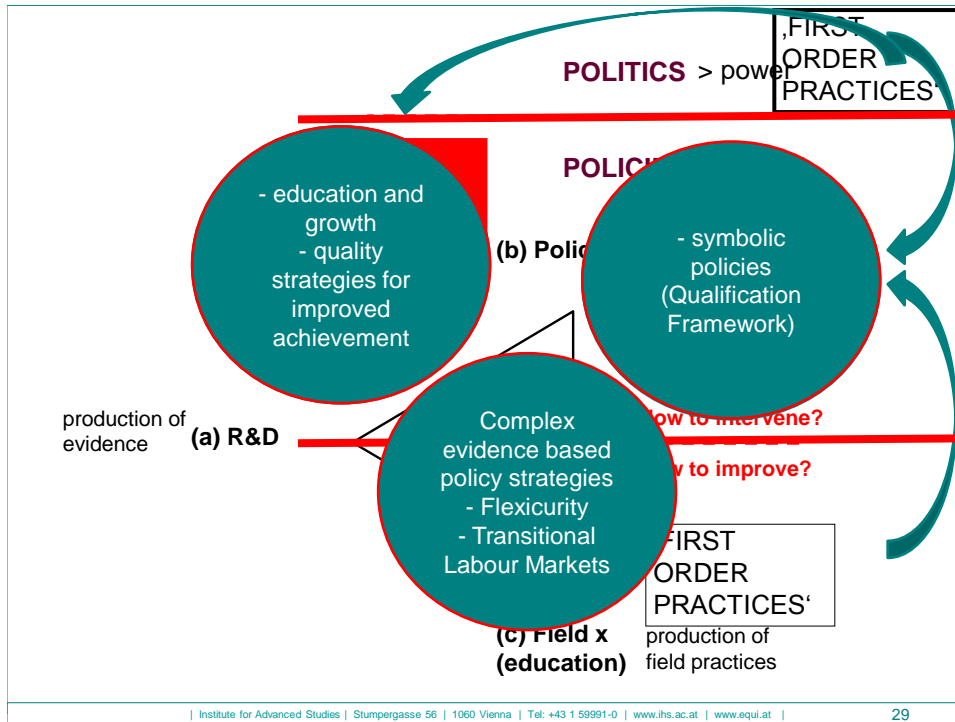
- Distinction of **policy and politics**, different sites, different criteria
 - policy related to content in x-field (driven by first order practices)
 - politics related to power and driven by practices in the political field
 - second order practices at this intersection with contradictory demands
- **First order practices in x-field difficult to change**, complexity of institutional structures (sites), uncertainty
 - institutional structures vs. technical structures
in institutional structures no clear outcomes
 - in institutional structures rules vs. outcomes
problems and solutions notoriously ‚unclear‘; ‚garbage can‘-relation of problems and solutions
 - policy indeterminate: needs decision of politics
- **Politics** based on a **competing first order practice** to x-field, driven by political competition towards success
 - overarching pressure in politics for success
 - success criteria in politics different from x-field





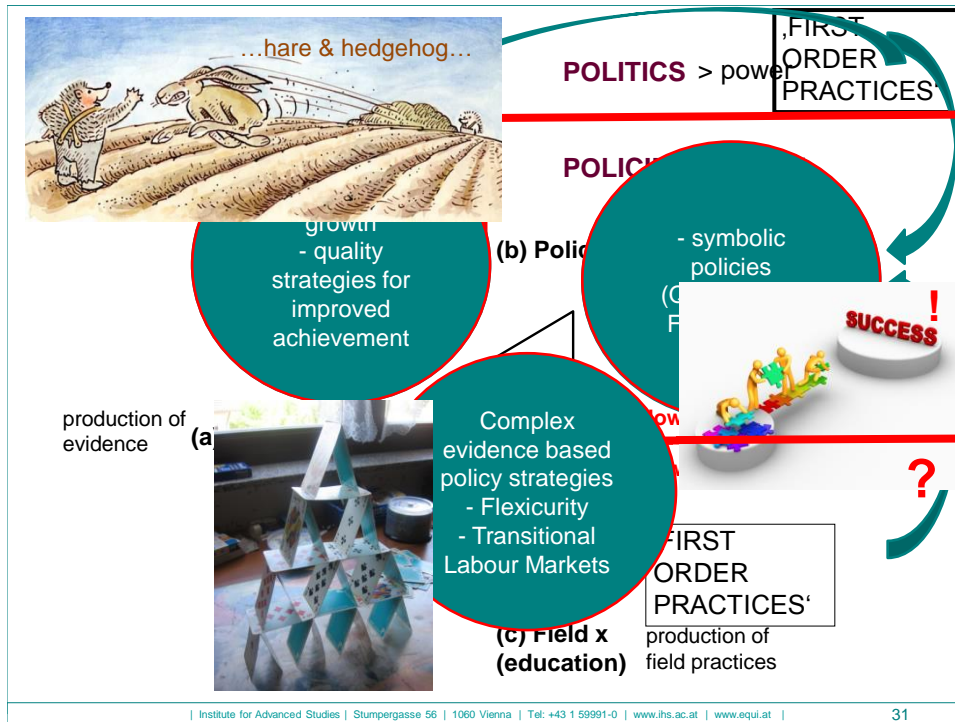
Three kinds of cases





Three kinds of cases

- **Production of evidence:** always behind policy demands
 - education and economic growth: results not sufficient for political decisions
 - strategies for improvement of achievement/'outcomes': diverging proposals
- **Production of policy:** governance and 'symbolic policy'
 - qualifications frameworks: impact of policy on first order practices not clear (promises, threats or no effect...)
- **Complex evidence based policy proposals:** some elements are always left out
 - Flexicurity: one pillar left out
 - transitional labour markets: too complex for politics
 - (markets in higher education)
 - (evaluation strategies)



Conclusions, messages

- ‚Evidence based policy‘ a **third order** practice, ‚evidence based practice‘ **second order** practice
 - one degree more complexity, one degree more difficult...
- Production of **policy** a second order practice situated at the **intersection of two kinds of 1st order practices** (x-field, politics)
 - politics more influence, asymmetry of success-imperative vs. risk to succeed
 - separation of intervention policy (rules) and improvement policy (outcomes)
production of outcomes-rules as solution? difficulty to define and operationalise outcomes
- Praxeology1: observation and analysis of policy practices at the intersections of first and second order practices (x-field and politics)
 - intervention and improvement
 - policy and politics
- Praxeology2: observations and analysis of evidence practices dealing with the three obstacles
 - hare-hedgehog; questionable success, house of cards



The End



Material

