MPA 886 Leading Change in Public Sector: Policy Innovation Lab
Short Description

Professor Adam Wellstead
Week 1: April 25 - 29, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (in-person)

This course will function as a PIL. The students will choose a name. Its proposed short lifespan is not out of the ordinary for many PILs. PILs address a wide variety of issues and can be focused at the national, provincial, or municipal level. To ensure and to have a manageable project, our PIL will focus on a municipal-level issue(s). In preparation for the course, I intend to coordinate with the City of Kingston well before the course begins.

The course will be based on the following sections.

1) Background (Material will be available before the course begins) (Overview paper)
a) What are PILs? e.g., Villa Alvarez et al's (2022) and McGann et al's (2017) overview papers
b) Understanding the rise of PILs e.g., Tonurist et al 2017; Whicher 2021
c) Understanding the rise of Canadian PILs and the current Canadian PIL landscape eg., Brock 2021; Evans and Cheng 2021; Lindquist and Buttazzoni 2021. Zoom discussions from Canadian PIL practitioners will be included.

2) Identifying tools used by PILs. (Briefing note for Section 1 and 2)
a) This will section Zoom discussion by Karol Olejniczak (SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Warsaw, Poland).
b) Students will have access to Wellstead and Gofen's OECD PIL database and catalog which lists tools used by over 400 labs.

3) Selection of tools to address the selected issue. This includes tools examining policy formation, implementation, evaluation, or a combination thereof.

4) Implementation of the PIL with stakeholders.

5) Evaluation of the PILs activities (Reflection report including lessons learned and an evaluation-based impact PIL has on policy capacity and public value).

6) Development of an individual guidebook for future PIL development by the student.
Much of the current PIL literature pays little attention to the impact of the labs. In this course, students will evaluate the PIL's contribution to policy capacity and to public value. We use Wu et al's (2015) policy capacity conceptual framework for understanding policy competencies and capabilities and Osborne et als (2021) "public service value creation" framework.