

Deliberative Processes and Healthy Public Policies

François-Pierre Gauvin, PhD

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Centre de collaboration nationale
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National Collaborating Centre
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Institut national
de santé publique

Québec

Adopting healthy public policies

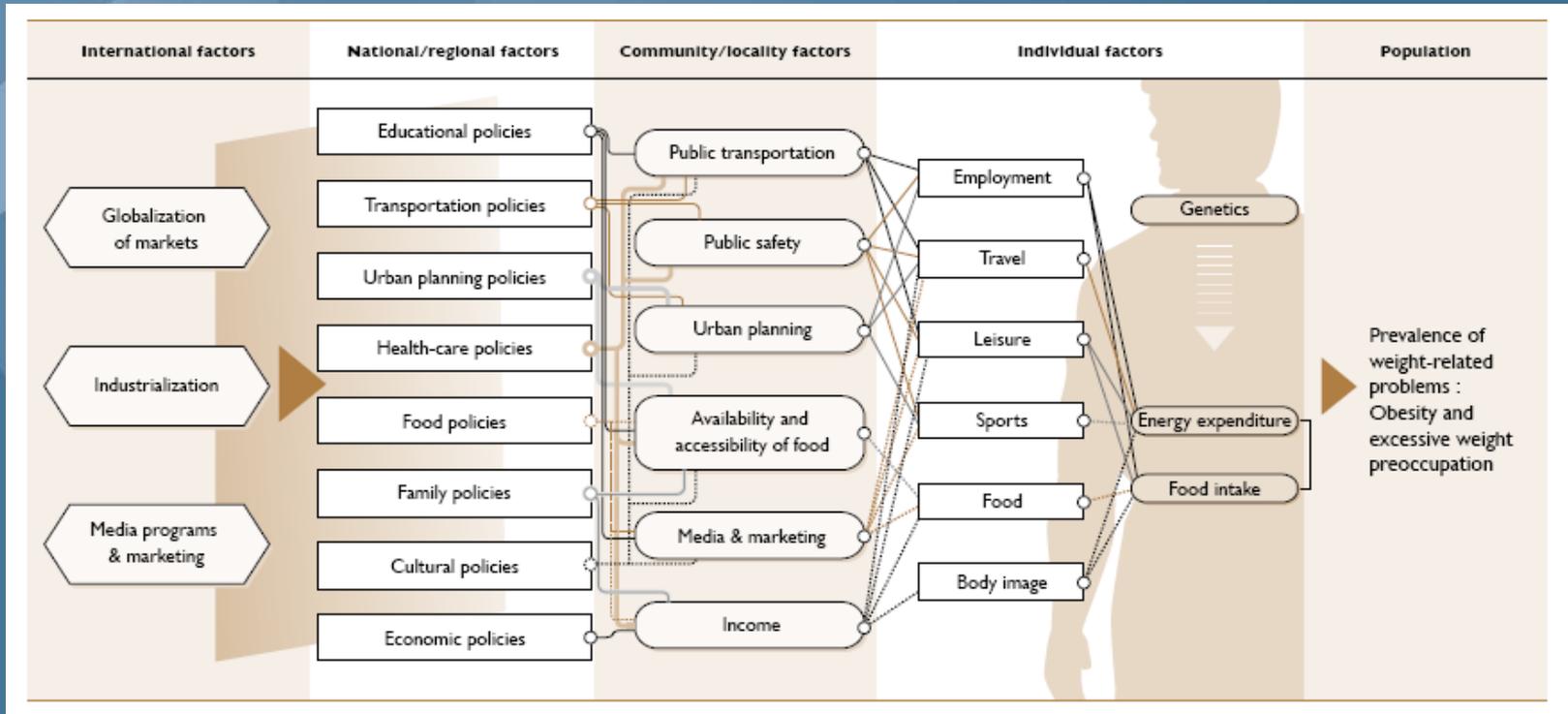
Not a mechanical process of matching well-defined problems to well-defined solutions



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Complex problems

e.g. Obesity

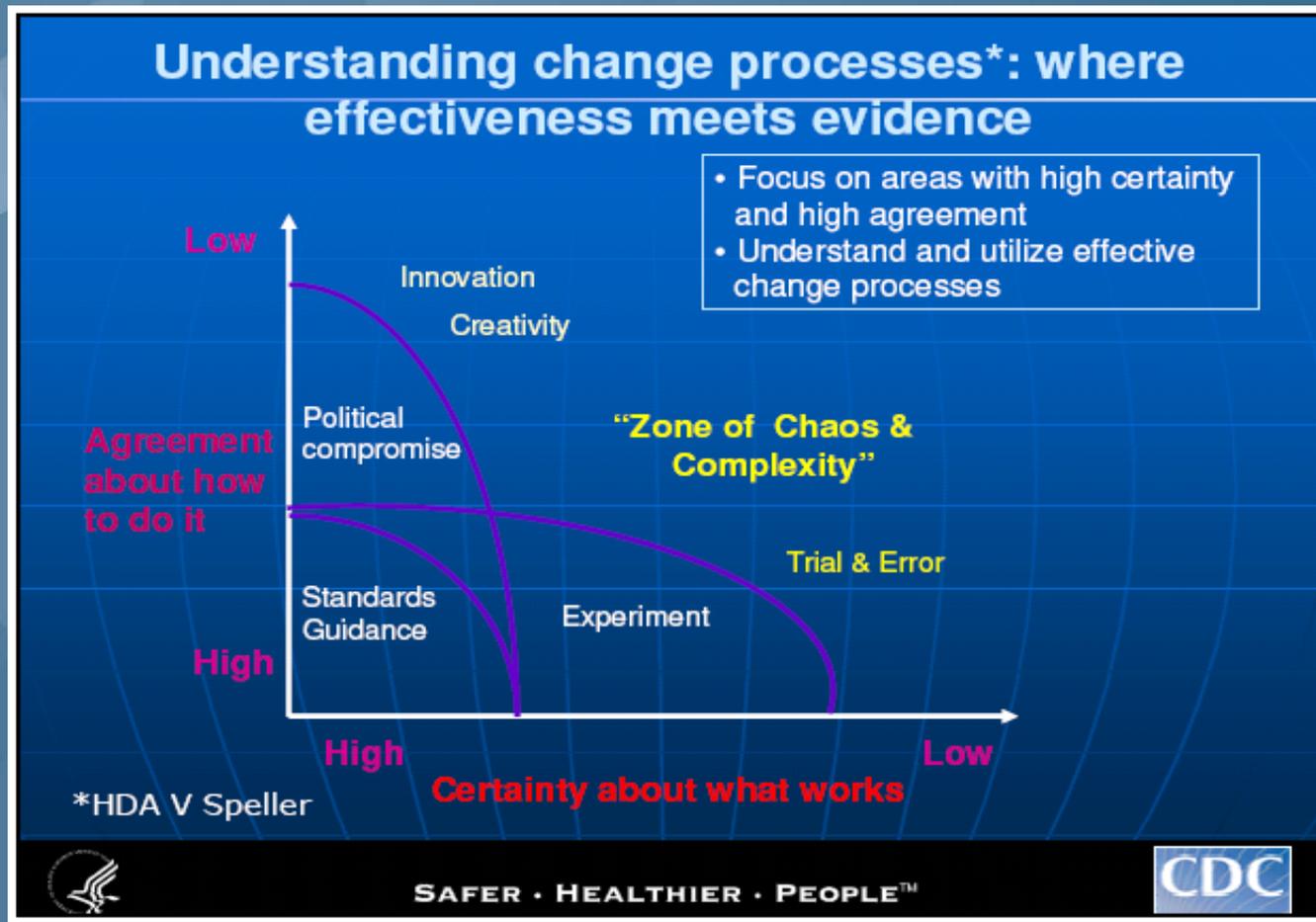


Source : Groupe de travail provincial sur la problématique du poids (2004). *Les problèmes liés au poids au Québec: Appel à la mobilisation*, ASPQ Éditions, p. 12.



“Zones of chaos and complexity”

Source: McQueen DV. (2006) based on the work of Ralph D. Stacey



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Deliberation

1. The act or process of deliberating.
2. Discussion and consideration of all sides of an issue.
3. Thoughtfulness in decision or action.
4. Leisureliness in motion or manner

Source: American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Online



Deliberative processes

Processes allowing a group of actors to exchange information, critically examine an issue, and achieve a rationally motivated agreement that will inform decision-making



Two deliberative approaches

1. Democratic governance
2. Application of research-based knowledge



Conciliation

Informed and engaged
civil society

Consideration of the public's
ideas, values, preferences, and
needs

Transparency, legitimacy, and
accountability

**Democratic
governance**

Consensus

Cross-fertilization of
knowledge

Informed decision
making

Co-production and co-
interpretation of research

Weighing various
forms of evidence

**Application of research-
based knowledge**





www.nifi.org

Goal

Help people of diverse views find common ground for action on important issues (e.g. health, illegal drugs, social security, juvenile crime, and education)

Format

Structured deliberative discussions led by trained moderators

Small study circles held in peoples' homes to large community gatherings modeled on New England town meetings

Nonpartisan issue books serve as a starting point to group deliberations



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NIH Consensus Development Program



<http://consensus.nih.gov>

Goal

Evaluate the available scientific information on a biomedical issue and develop a statement that advances understanding of the issue under consideration

Format

Independent and broad-based panel composed of experts from non-advocacy group

Panel listens to the scientific data presented by invited experts and comments from the general public

Panel weighs the information and prepare a statement that addresses a set of predetermined questions



A lot of promising efforts...

But little evidence of effectiveness



“Is there **any scientific evidence** that deliberative processes actually work? The short answer is **‘not much’**. A lot of the literature on deliberative processes in healthcare has been and continues to be **advocacy rather than reports of the effectiveness** of well-defined processes.”

(Culyer and Lomas, 2006)



Challenges to deliberation

1. Limited time and resources
2. Complex group dynamics
3. Changing traditional practices



Small group activities

1. Key issues in developing deliberative processes
2. Effectiveness of deliberative processes
3. Scenarios



Contact info

François-Pierre Gauvin, PhD

National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy
Institut national de santé publique du Québec

945, avenue Wolfe, local A5-52
Québec (Québec) G1V 5B3

Tel.: 418-650-5115 ext 5544 | **Fax:** 418-654-3210

Email: francois-pierre.gauvin@inspq.qc.ca



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