

BUILDING LASTING TRUST: ANALYZING THE RESILIENCE OF SCIENCE-TO-POLICY INSTITUTIONS IN QUEBEC AND SWEDEN DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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This study examines how Science-Policy Interface (SPI) configurations shaped their institutional resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic through a comparative analysis of Quebec and Sweden. While both jurisdictions faced similar epidemiological conditions, their SPIs differed fundamentally: Quebec's politically subordinated model concentrated decision-making in government, while Sweden's scientifically autonomous model granted its Public Health Agency (PHA) substantial independence. Using comparable public opinion data on trust, adherence to health measures, and crisis optimism, this study assesses which SPI configuration better sustained public support throughout the pandemic. Results show that Sweden's collaborative SPI demonstrated superior resilience, maintaining trust and optimism despite deteriorating epidemiological indicators. Quebec's politically centralized model proved more vulnerable, with rising death rates significantly eroding government trust. These findings bridge Policy Advisory Systems and Science-Policy Interface literatures, demonstrating that institutional resilience depends on how SPI arrangements sustain public support during crises.

Submission Details

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