

Global Agendas, Local Realities: Reassessing the Effectiveness of Western-Driven Policy Frameworks in African Development Contexts

Focus: Evaluates the SDGs as a Case of Uneven Policy Translation Across Governance Systems

Alusine Diamond-Suma¹

¹University of Bristol

Publication Date: 2026/07/24

Abstract: This essay interrogates the limitations of universal policy transfer models by examining how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) travel from Western institutional architectures into the governance realities of the Global South (Sierra Leone as a case). Drawing on policy transfer, translation, and mobility scholarship, it argues that the success of global frameworks does not hinge on similarity between contexts as (Dolowitz and Marsh, 1996) suggest, but on the capacity of domestic actors to reinterpret, hybridise, and embed external ideas within their own political, cultural, and institutional logics. The analysis shows that Sierra Leone's SDG adoption is shaped by structural constraints, weak data systems, donor-driven incentives, and deep historical legacies, producing incomplete and often misaligned transfers. Yet, the case also reveals meaningful adaptive strategies: localisation through the Sierra Leone Medium-Term National Development Plan (SLMTNDP), consultative voluntary reviews, and hybrid governance arrangements that negotiate global norms with local priorities. Ultimately, the essay positions Sierra Leone as emblematic of wider African experiences where global development agendas collide with and are reshaped by fragile institutions, informal economies, and entrenched social norms. It concludes that policy transfer in such settings is neither linear nor replicative but a contested, negotiated process in which agency, translation, and contextual sensitivity determine outcomes. This reframing contributes to contemporary debates on decolonising global governance and designing development frameworks that recognise complexity rather than impose one-size-fits-all models.

How to Cite: Alusine Diamond-Suma (2026) Global Agendas, Local Realities: Reassessing the Effectiveness of Western-Driven Policy Frameworks in African Development Contexts. *International Journal of Innovative Science and Research Technology*, 11(7), 827-833. <https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/26jul251>

I. INTRODUCTION

This essay argues that Dolowitz and Marsh's emphasis on similarity as a precondition for transfer is misplaced (Dolowitz and Marsh, 2000). The critical issue is not whether developing states mirror Western contexts, but whether domestic actors can localise and creatively integrate global frameworks into their own governance logics (Ugyel and Daugbjerg, 2020). Section II defines the conceptual framework of policy transfer and outlines the key terminology as applied in this essay. Section III analysed the general constraints of policy transfer; Section IV will present a case study of the implementation of the SDGs in Sierra Leone, outlining the specific challenges and adaptation strategies. Section V discuss the findings and concludes

Policy transfer over the past two decades has become central in public policy scholarship (Dolowitz and Marsh, 1996; Benson and Jordan, 2011; Stone, Porto De Oliveira and

Pal, 2020). Yet, its studies on the relationship between universal and contextual realities have long been contested (Lendvai and Stubbs, 2007). Dolowitz and Marsh, (2000), define transfer as 'the process by which knowledge about policies, administrative arrangements, institutions and ideas in one political system (past or present) is used in the development of policies, administrative arrangements, institutions and ideas in another political system.' Even though this definition has guided most literature in policy transfer, it is, however, criticised that it risks framing transfer as a rational and linear process that is divorced from power and politics (Benson and Jordan, 2011)

The earlier claim that "ideological and resource similarities are necessary preconditions" for successful transfer (Dolowitz and Marsh, 1996) appears practically problematic when applied to developing states like Sierra Leone. The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs)¹ in 2015 demonstrates these problems. In Sierra Leone, the SDGs attract limitations of one-size-fits-all models and also offer opportunities for adaptive governance – translation, localisation, and hybridisation (Stone, 2012; Stone, Porto De Oliveira and Pal, 2020) highlighting Sierra Leone as a case where global aspirations are reinterpreted locally, revealing both the limitations and opportunities of global to local transfer.

II. DEFINITIONS AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

➤ *Policy Transfer*

The term ‘Policy Transfer’ can be traced back to (Dolowitz and Marsh, 2000:5) as “the process by which knowledge about policies, administrative arrangements, institutions and ideas in one political system (past or present) is used in the development of policies, administrative arrangements, institutions and ideas in another political system” The puzzle framework underscored this transfer can range from policy goals to institutional mechanisms such as structures and administrative practises. Fundamentally, policy transfer involves taking an idea from Point A, which is the original, to Point B what is being copied or implemented. This demonstrates key dynamics between the source and the adopters, the recipients of those policy ideas (Stone, 2012).

Theoretically, the value of policy transfer cannot be overemphasised, as it pays credence to borrowing mechanisms, learning and diffusion across countries while also being aware of challenges caused by external factors such as international and donor organisations, scholarly communities (Stone, 2012; Evans, 2013) on policy domestication and policy making. It can be misleading to assume that policy transfer is universally beneficial. Benson and Jordan, (2011) argued that the policy process has normative implications for innovation, which might make results look problematic or undesirable. Various scholars, (Dolowitz and Marsh, 2000; Benson and Jordan, 2011) offered fundamental definition and critical re-assessment respectively, positioned the concept of policy transfer as a theoretical framework in public policy, explaining the conditionality – how and why policy adoption across contexts, whilst interrogating its consequences - effectiveness, legitimacy and innovation.

➤ *Knowledge Transfer*

Knowledge Transfer According to (Argote and Ingram, 2000; Van Wijk, Jansen and Lyles, 2008; Van Wijk, Jansen and Lyles, 2008), refers to the movement of knowledge between organisations, defining the roles and processes of the different actors, identifying context in translating and adopting ideas rather than copying them verbatim. Cooke and Morgan's (1998) regional development studies emphasised how knowledge transfer underpins innovation systems and learning.

➤ *Lesson-Drawing*

Lesson-drawing seeks to understand whether and how effective programme implementation in one context can be adapted to another (Rose, 1991), and clearly focuses on the circumstances in which these lessons are translated into policy actions and adoption. In (Phillips and Ochs, 2004) comparative education studies, they extend lesson-drawing to curriculum reform, stressing contextual and selective uptake.

➤ *Policy Learning and Translation Policy Learning*

Policy Learning and Translation Policy learning refers to how foreign practices are selectively interpreted by actors to meet the demands of local contextual needs (Lendvai and Stubbs, 2007; Zeigermann and Tulmets, 2019). ((Stone, 2012; Ugyel and Daugbjerg, 2020) advance that this framework highlights the discursive nature of networks, epistemic communities, and the discursive reframing of policy ideas.

➤ *Policy Mobility*

Policy mobility frames how policies are being circulated across global networks, mutate in between spaces, and are rearticulated through varied local contexts (McCann and Ward, 2011). The mobility approach, according to (McCann and Ward, 2011; Peck, 2011), contested the linear models of transfer by emphasising the rational interplay between spatiality, agency, and context.

➤ *Western Institutions*

Western institutions are international governance bodies - the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United Nations (UN) established in the post-World War II era under Western leadership (Woods, 2008; Fioretos and Heldt, 2019). According to (Woods, 2008; Stone, 2012), these Western institutions act as architects of global governance, setting standards, enforcing conditions, and disseminating policy models across various national contexts.

➤ *National Institutions*

National institutions, which are understood as the state-embedded administrative and regulatory structures, are the primary locus of sovereignty, shaping how external ideas are interpreted, operationalised, and regulated within local governance systems (Evans, 2004). As opposed to Western institutions, which operate transnationally, Sierra Leone's national institutions are rooted in the local context, taking into cognisance the political, cultural, and historical realities. National Institutions are established to shape how global norms are adopted, practised, localised, or resisted. (Rose, 1991; Evans, 2004b) maintain that national institutions are the primary locus of sovereignty and policy authority, mediating between internationally accepted frameworks and domestic realities.

➤ *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*

SDGs are an agenda set by the UN as a global framework for poverty alleviation and envision the promotion of peace in developed and developing nations (United

¹ 17 Sustainable Development Goals:
<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2023). The SDGs comprise 17 goal areas, 169 targets for ease of adaptation and assessment. The goals were developed with the intention for state institutions, companies, and civil society organisations to work together for a common future (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2023). The SDGs are intended to address poverty, gender-based violence, climate change and sustainable cities. SDG, as a case for global policy transfer to other nations, is a perfect example. The goals are implemented by the 193 member states of the UN².

III. CONSTRAINTS IN POLICY TRANSFER

Policy transfer is rarely a straightforward process of copying policies from one context to another. Various Scholars, (Dolowitz and Marsh, 2000; Benson and Jordan, 2011; Stone, 2012) agreed that policy transfer is mediated by multiple constraints - structural, normative, and epistemic factors that influence whether and how policies are adopted.

➤ *Incomplete, Uninformed, or Inappropriate Transfer*

Dolowitz and Marsh, (2000) advance that policy failure as negligence that stems from incomplete or uninformed transfer of knowledge on administrative mechanisms. This can be advanced as a highly relevant insight into the implementation of SDGs in national institutions.

Sierra Leone's adoption of the SDG indicators as a case assumes that the country has a mechanism that manages strong data management coupled with the institutional infrastructure (Fukuda-Parr and McNeill, 2019). Stone (2012) contributes that the policy transfer process is multi-dimensional. The process is meted by contextual constraints and epistemic limitations that guide how global policy frameworks are adopted locally. More recent studies (Jerven, 2013; Fukuda-Parr and McNeill, 2019) reinforce that weak data systems and institutional fragility in low-income countries can lead to concerns around misreporting and misrepresentation of conditional observance with international benchmarks.

➤ *Contextual Divergence*

• *Institutional Capacity:*

Sierra Leone, as a post-conflict state, has an under-resourced civil service and is heavily donor-reliant in most of its development interventions. According to (Evans, 2013), this has limited the country's ability to fully adopt western-style administrative reforms.

• *Historical Legacies:*

Sierra Leone's colonial administration practice, ten years of civil conflict (1991–2002), and structural adjustment programs³ have produced governance habits (Zaki, Pattyn

and Wayenberg, 2024; OECD, 2025) that conflicts with global SDG assumptions.

• *Cultural Norms and Traditions:*

The SDG indicators are often disrupted by entrenched social structures, challenging gender hierarchies and collective decision-making structures (True, 2003; Fukuda-Parr and McNeill, 2019).

• *Language and Epistemic Differences:*

The SDG indicators⁴ might create interpretive tensions when applied to the local context. Such indicators have the tendency to misalign their intention with local knowledge systems and informal institutional practices – proposing an epistemic gap in international mechanisms and domestic realities (Merry, 2016; Fukuda-Parr and McNeill, 2019).

➤ *Power Asymmetries in Transfer*

This study noted that power asymmetries have shaped ostensibly voluntary adoption of international frameworks. Some form of soft coercion such donor conditionality, UN reporting requirements, and international financing mechanisms are steering national governments toward compliance by leveraging financial assistance and global legitimacy. This has at the same time constrained local innovation, domestic autonomy and policy experiment (Dolowitz and Marsh, 2000; Stone, 2012; Evans, 2013) argue, transfer processes find it hard to be neutral, it continuously involving coercive dimensions that limit agency.

➤ *Measurement and Indicators Problem*

Western definitions of development operate with standard indicators (Escobar, 2011; Sachs, 2019). In Sierra Leone, informal economic sectors⁵, community-based social systems, and traditional governance structures may be overlooked by these indicators, creating a major data bias that can distort perceived progress made overtime (Jerven, 2013; UNDP, 2020)

➤ *Analytical Lens*

These constraints provide the lenses to assess SDG adoption in Sierra Leone, highlighting the complexities of transferring globally designed policies to African contexts. These constraints indicate how transfer is not a direct process of adoption but rather a contested negotiation, where global frameworks like the SDGs encounter local realities marked by institutional fragility, cultural practice and epistemic divergence (Datzberger and Nguyen, 2018).

IV. CASE STUDY: SDGs IN SIERRA LEONE

After the global endorsement of the SDGs in 2015 by the UN, Sierra Leone took action to adopt these goals into its national strategy. In 2024, the government developed its

² UN Member States: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/member-states>

³ Sierra Leone Structural Adjustment Program Report: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/157971468101960040/pdf/multi-page.pdf>

⁴ UN SDGs Indicators: <https://sdg.tw/>

⁵ <https://odi.org/en/insights/financial-inclusion-and-sierra-leones-informal-sector-barriers-and-policy-options/>

medium-term national development plan for 2024 to 2023⁶, which supported the adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This was done in collaboration with the UN Sustainable Development Corporation framework⁷, which sees governance reform, social services, food security, and social protection as strategic priorities for the government of Sierra Leone.

In 2024, Sierra Leone conducted a voluntary review on the adoption of the SDGs⁸. It emphasises the point made in localising the SDG indicators, the institutional alignment made and the consultations across civil society and local councils through its decentralisation process.

The UNCTC Sierra Leone 2024 report⁹ revealed the fragility of policy transfer in a low-capacity setting, noting that climate shock inflation deputy pressure, persistent inequality weakened institutional capacity and willingness to implement and achieve the indicators of their stages. Sierra Leone, therefore, represents the case for Africa on how Western institutions' mechanisms, like the UN SDGs, collide with local structural constraints.

➤ *Cultural and Normative Misalignment*

SDG 5, which focuses on gender equality as a case for cultural norms and misalignment, reveals a widening gap between Western institutional practice and local social norms. Sierra Leone has passed two progressive legislations in promoting gender equality - the GEWE Act 2022¹⁰ and the Customary Land Rights Act (2022)¹¹. However, local authorities' structures with high male dominance continue to influence community-level behaviour such as deep-rooted patriarchal practises and early marriage practises.

The gap identified above creates what (Lendvai and Stubbs, 2007; Stone, 2012) refers to as the “translational gap”, that is, where imported policy ideas must be reconditioned in alliance with local social settings. An example to this is the joint UN Women (UNWOMEN) and UN Development Programme's (UNDP) Gender Mainstreaming Initiative, which could walk through traditional leaders and local authority structures to contextualise SDG 5 in a culturally accepted way that illustrates that Sierra Leone is not fostering a borrowing Western development framework but actively rearranging their own priorities.

At this point, this study agrees with (Benson and Jordan, 2011) as this Translation replicates the wider vertical shift in policy transfer scholarship from replication to interpretive adaptation. The remaining needs for the community are trust

and adaptation; hence, the SDGs language of empowerment must be retold in a simple narrative that recognises those needs.

➤ *Political System Misfit*

Sierra Leone's political system is hybrid in nature- a democratic institution and entrenched patronage networks. This undermines the alignment of the SDGs' technocratic and rule-based governance structure. This nature of hybridity always raises questions on the feasibility of policy transfer in fragile states (Stone, 2012; Albrecht, 2017). The SDG indicators faced complicated challenges in their adoption into the everyday governance process due to limited bureaucratic autonomy, politicised appointments and resource-dependent ministries (UNDP, 2022). Hence, the SDGs are introduced in a highly political environment where incentives for implementation are mostly shaped by donor conditions. The dual influence in this case fosters selective uptake over institutionalism – this is common across the African sub-region, where aid dependency in fragile institutions promotes the adoption of global mechanisms (Harrison, 2004; Sindzingre, 2017).

➤ *Indicator and Measurement Problems*

Monitoring and reporting on the SDGs require strong data systems; equally, Sierra Leone's capacity to monitor data consistently is challenged by statistical infrastructural limitations, institutional weaknesses and dominance of the informal economy. (UNDP Sierra Leone, 2023) report reveals that it is difficult to operationalize report - data disaggregation requirements in weak data management. This reflects an epistemic misalignment - a mismatch between global measurement expectations and local data realities (Jerven, 2013).

➤ *Institutional Capacity and Resource Constraints*

The implementation of the SDGs in Sierra Leone is also confronted by strong institutional gaps. Government Ministries often find it challenging to mainstream the SDGs into the national planning process due to limited technical expertise and financial resources. As a result, donor-supported programmes are developed through third-party agencies to support local staff capacity, introducing a dual system where they set priorities, lead the design of frameworks or implement the pilot phase, and state and local institutions adopt it. This model supports capacity and promotes dependency, which limits the state's ability to drive localisation.

⁶ Sierra Leone MTNDP:

<https://mof.gov.sl/documents/medium-term-national-development-plan-2024-2030/>

⁷ UN Corporation Framework:

<https://unsdg.un.org/resources/united-nations-sustainable-development-cooperation-framework-guidance>

⁸ Sierra Leone 2024 Voluntary National Review Report:

https://unosd.un.org/sites/default/files/session_1_ms._darlyn_brima_sierra_leone.pdf

⁹ UN Sierra Leone 2024 Annual Results Report:

<https://sierraleone.un.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/UN%20Sierra%20Leone%202024%20Annual%20Results%20Report.pdf>

¹⁰ GEWE Act 2022: <https://mogca.gov.sl/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Final-GEWE-Act-2022.pdf>

¹¹ <https://grassrootsjusticenetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/THE-CUSTOMARY-LAND-RIGHTS-ACT-2022.pdf>

➤ *Power Asymmetries*

In UNDP Sierra Leone, (2023) shows an unequal relationship between global financing expectations and national development priorities. The plan creates private finances to boost key sectors and to introduce market-oriented assumptions into localised policy thinking. These frameworks attract investment attention to the social needs of the informal community resilience. This circumstance aligns directly with the core critique in policy transfer theory, which asserts (Dolowitz and Marsh, 2000; Stone, 2012) that global norms transfer comes with implicit power structures that reconfigure national agendas more than is publicly acknowledged.

➤ *Localisation and Adaptation*

Through hybridisation, Sierra Leone demonstrated active policy translation through political, local and cultural processes. Listed below are two localised strategies;

- Linking SDGs to Sierra Leone MTNDP (2024- 2030) and consultative Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).
- Organising private finance and investment through SDG Investor Map¹² (UNDP Sierra Leone, 2023)

These interventions suggest that policy transfer is not a linear process but a blend of global ambitions and local reality. This essay enforces that indicators such as a translation, domestication, and narrative alignment are requirements reflecting the broader theoretical knowledge for policy transfer (Dolowitz and Marsh, 2000; Lendvai and Stubbs, 2007; Stone, 2012).

V. DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSION

➤ *Localisation and Translation*

Sierra Leone's experience in implementing the SDGs demonstrates that policy transfer is not fundamentally flawed; most of our error is constrained by structural, normative and epistemic factors. SDGs in Sierra Leone are not replicated, but rather, they are translated, adapted and negotiated as part of a hybridisation demonstrated. This agrees with the theoretical position of (Schneider and Sidney, 2009) that policies are socially constructed and interpreted differently.

➤ *Structural Constraints and Adaptive Governance*

Sierra Leone experienced high donor dependency and a lack of institutional capacity, as stated in the 2024 United Nations Country Programme Draft for Sierra Leone¹³. In deploying adaptive governance, a country is expected to utilise local expertise, iterative learning capacity and flexibility to reconcile global norms with national realities (Schneider and Sidney, 2009; Stone, 2012).

➤ *Power and Agency*

It is noted that while global actors utilise their influence, local stakeholders also hold agency. Sierra Leone's localised SDG frameworks demonstrated negotiated transfer where

local actors contribute to shaping meaning and implementation of SDGs (Dolowitz and Marsh, 2000; Stone, 2017). Success, therefore, is measured by the extent to which the aim of the transfer set by the government is achieved (Dolowitz and Marsh, 2000).

➤ *Implications for African Contexts*

- Policies must be contextualised for culture, history, institutions and political systems.
- Indicators must reflect local realities, including informal economies and national governance structures.
- Local actors should be central in shaping implementation.
- Power disproportionateness must be acknowledged and managed to enhance national ownership.

The implementation of the SDGs in Sierra Leone has critically highlighted the complex nature of policy transfer from Western institutions to African States. While the SDGs provide a universal framework designed to address poverty globally, the adoption of the goals in Africa is constrained by cultural misalignment, institutional capacity gaps, measurement difficulties and power asymmetries.

However, Sierra Leone demonstrates the possibility of policy transfer from an international organisation to the national agenda through linking the goals to the national plan, organising private finance, engaging local authorities and raising public awareness.

Success, therefore, should not be judged by the application of the Western model but lies in context-sensitive adaptation and negotiation. Global frameworks such as the SDG's must remain flexible, allowing co-creation and adaptive strategies that reflect the national social, economic and cultural realities, with Sierra Leone presented as an example of both challenges and possibilities of global-to-local policy transfer.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Albrecht, P. (2017) 'The Hybrid Authority of Sierra Leone's Chiefs', *African Studies Review*, 60(3), pp. 159–180. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1017/asr.2017.87>.
- [2]. Argote, L. and Ingram, P. (2000) 'Knowledge Transfer: A Basis for Competitive Advantage in Firms', *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*, 82(1), pp. 150–169. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1006/obhd.2000.2893>.
- [3]. Benson, D. and Jordan, A. (2011) 'What have we Learned from Policy Transfer Research? Dolowitz and Marsh Revisited', *Political Studies Review*, 9(3), pp. 366–378. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1478-9302.2011.00240.x>.

¹² SDG Investment Map:
https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2023-11/undp_sl_sdg_investor_map_2023_0.pdf

¹³ Second Regular Session 2024 - CPD:
<https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2024-05/Sierra%20Leone%20CPD.pdf>

- [4]. Datzberger, S. and Nguyen, T. (2018) 'Deconstructing Civil Society Actors and Functions: On the Limitations of International Frameworks for Fragile States', *Social Sciences*, 7(2), p. 30. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci7020030>.
- [5]. Dolowitz, D. and Marsh, D. (1996) 'Who Learns What from Whom: A Review of the Policy Transfer Literature', *Political Studies*, 44(2), pp. 343–357. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9248.1996.tb00334.x>.
- [6]. Dolowitz, D.P. and Marsh, D. (2000) 'Learning from Abroad: The Role of Policy Transfer in Contemporary Policy-Making', *Governance*, 13(1), pp. 5–23. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/0952-1895.00121>.
- [7]. Escobar, A. (2011) *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*. Princeton University Press.
- [8]. Evans, M. (ed.) (2013) *New Directions in the Study of Policy Transfer*. London: Routledge. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315868035>.
- [9]. Evans, P. (2004a) 'Development as institutional change: The pitfalls of monocropping and the potentials of deliberation', *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 38(4), pp. 30–52. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF02686327>.
- [10]. Evans, P. (2004b) 'Development as institutional change: The pitfalls of monocropping and the potentials of deliberation', *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 38(4), pp. 30–52. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF02686327>.
- [11]. Fioretos, O. and Heldt, E.C. (2019) 'Legacies and innovations in global economic governance since Bretton Woods', *Review of International Political Economy*, 26(6), pp. 1089–1111. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/09692290.2019.1635513>.
- [12]. Fukuda-Parr, S. and McNeill, D. (2019a) 'Knowledge and Politics in Setting and Measuring the SDGs: Introduction to Special Issue', *Global Policy*, 10(S1), pp. 5–15. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/1758-5899.12604>.
- [13]. Fukuda-Parr, S. and McNeill, D. (2019b) 'Knowledge and Politics in Setting and Measuring the SDGs: Introduction to Special Issue', *Global Policy*, 10(S1), pp. 5–15. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/1758-5899.12604>.
- [14]. Harrison, G. (2004) *The World Bank and Africa: The Construction of Governance States*. London: Routledge. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203500644>.
- [15]. Jerven, M. (2013) *Poor Numbers: How We Are Misled by African Development Statistics and What to Do about It*. Cornell University Press.
- [16]. Lendvai, N. and Stubbs, P. (2007) 'Policies as translation: situating transnational social policies', *Policy reconsidered*. Policy Press, pp. 173–190. Available at: <https://bristoluniversitypressdigital.com/display/book/9781847422996/ch010.xml> (Accessed: 29 November 2025).
- [17]. McCann, E. and Ward, K. (2011) *Mobile Urbanism: Cities and Policymaking in the Global Age*. U of Minnesota Press.
- [18]. OECD (2025) *States of Fragility 2025*. OECD Publishing (States of Fragility). Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1787/81982370-en>.
- [19]. Phillips, D. and Ochs, K. (2004) *Educational Policy Borrowing: historical perspectives*. Symposium Books Ltd.
- [20]. Rose, R. (1991) 'What is Lesson-Drawing?', *Journal of Public Policy*, 11(1), pp. 3–30. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0143814X00004918>.
- [21]. Sachs, W. (2019) *The Development Dictionary: A Guide to Knowledge as Power*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- [22]. Schneider, A. and Sidney, M. (2009) 'What Is Next for Policy Design and Social Construction Theory?', *Policy Studies Journal*, 37(1), pp. 103–119. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1541-0072.2008.00298.x>.
- [23]. Sindzingre, A.N. (2017) 'Conditionality as Policy Externalisation: the Inherent Impasses of Asymmetry', *International Initiative for Promoting Political Economy (IIPPE) 8th Conference*. [Preprint].
- [24]. Stone, D. (2012) 'Transfer and translation of policy', *Policy Studies*, 33(6), pp. 483–499. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/01442872.2012.695933>.
- [25]. Stone, D. (2017) 'Understanding the transfer of policy failure: bricolage, experimentalism and translation', *Policy & Politics*, 45(1), pp. 55–70. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1332/030557316X14748914098041>.
- [26]. Stone, D., Porto De Oliveira, O. and Pal, L.A. (2020) 'Transnational policy transfer: the circulation of ideas, power and development models', *Policy and Society*, 39(1), pp. 1–18. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/14494035.2019.1619325>.
- [27]. True, J. (2003) 'Mainstreaming Gender in Global Public Policy', *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, 5(3), pp. 368–396. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/1461674032000122740>.
- [28]. Ugyel, L. and Daugbjerg, C. (2020) 'Successful policy transfer and public sector reform in developing countries', *Policy & Politics*, 48(4), pp. 603–618. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1332/030557320X1578663111699>.
- [29]. 'UN Sierra Leone CPD' (2024).
- [30]. UNDP (ed.) (2020) *The next frontier: human development and the Anthropocene*. New York, NY: United Nations Development Programme (Human development report, 2020).
- [31]. UNDP (2022) *Human Development Report*. Available at: <https://www.undp.org/sierra-leone/press-releases/2021/2022-human-development-report-9-out-10-countries-fall-backwards-human-development> (Accessed: 29 November 2025).
- [32]. UNDP Sierra Leone (2023) *Sierra Leone SDG Investor Map*. Available at: <https://www.undp.org/sierra-leone/publications/sierra-leone-sdg-investor-map> (Accessed: 27 November 2025).

- [33]. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2023) The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special Edition. United Nations (The Sustainable Development Goals Report). Available at: <https://doi.org/10.18356/9789210024914>.
- [34]. Van Wijk, R., Jansen, J.J.P. and Lyles, M.A. (2008) 'Inter- and Intra-Organizational Knowledge Transfer: A Meta-Analytic Review and Assessment of its Antecedents and Consequences', *Journal of Management Studies*, 45(4), pp. 830–853. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-6486.2008.00771.x>.
- [35]. Woods, N. (2008) 'Bretton Woods Institutions', in S. Daws and T.G. Weiss (eds) *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations*. Oxford University Press, p. 0. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199560103.003.0013>.
- [36]. Zaki, B.L., Pattyn, V. and Wayenberg, E. (2024) 'Policymaking in an age of polycrises: emerging perspectives', *Policy Design and Practice*, 7(4), pp. 377–389. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/25741292.2024.2432048>.
- [37]. Zeigermann, U. and Tulmets, E. (2019) *Policy Transfer and Norm Circulation*. London: Routledge (Taylor & Francis Group). Available at: <https://shs.hal.science/halshs-02388278>? (Accessed: 29 November 2025).