Handbook on Think Tanks in Public Policy

Handbooks of Research on Public Policy series

Edited by Donald E. Abelson, Director, Brian Mulroney Institute of Government, Steven K. Hudson Chair in Canada-US Relations and Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science, St. Francis Xavier University and Christopher J. Rastrick, Director of Policy and Deputy Chief of Staff, Ministry of Education, Government of Ontario, Canada

This important Handbook is a comprehensive guide to the role, function and perceived impact of policy research-oriented institutions in North America, Europe and beyond. Over 20 international scholars explore the diverse and eclectic world of think tanks to reveal their structure, governance and unique position in occupying a critical space on the public-policy landscape.

‘This is a remarkable collection of expert analysis on the politics, practices and study of think tanks. Abelson and Rastrick have curated a collection that adds significantly to our appreciation of the role of think tanks in different geographical and political contexts, and explores the dynamics and influence of think tanks within the nation-state and those that operate globally. The collection combines insightful insider reflections with scholarly discussion to provide an invaluable addition to our understanding of these important institutions.’

– Helen Sullivan, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australia

‘I started my career in Washington, DC think tanks in 1993, and reading this impressive collection of analytical perspectives on think tanks in Washington, DC, and around the world made me feel like a monkey in the zoo who suddenly realized that I was in a zoo! The authors provide the perspective that a think tanker lacks, and I learned something important and useful from every chapter. More importantly, these scholarly perspectives rang true. This book is a monumental contribution to the literature, but more than that, it is a must-read for policy scholars and policymakers seeking to understand us monkeys, our influence, and what it is we do.’

– Christopher Sands, Wilson Centre, US

2021 416 pp Hardback 978 1 78990 183 2 £150.00 £135.00 $220.00 $198.00
Elgaronline 978 1 78990 184 9