

Governmental rationalities and public policies: acquiring tools for strategic analysis

CPHA Annual Conference, Ottawa

Pre conference workshop | June 9, 2013

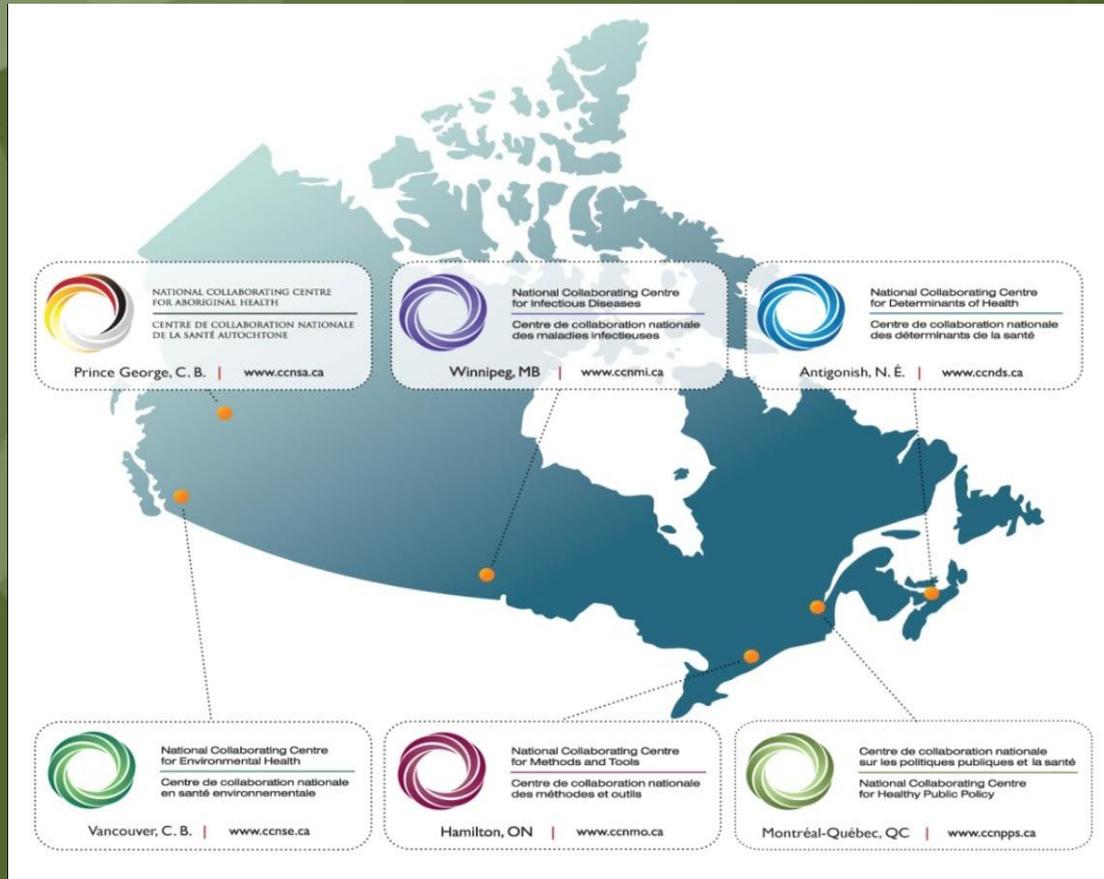
François Gagnon, Ph.D.
National Collaborating Centre
for Healthy Public Policy



Centre de collaboration nationale
sur les politiques publiques et la santé
National Collaborating Centre
for Healthy Public Policy

*Institut national
de santé publique*
Québec

NCCHPP: one of six National Collaborating Centres for Public Health



Goal of the workshop

Propose an analytical framework that will allow you to evaluate the political viability of various public policy options



Plan

Governmentality 101
Transportation in Canada 1940
Diverging interventions
Political viability: a few thoughts
So what?
Other examples?

A note to the reader of this online version: this version has been shortened and some images used during the workshop have been removed.



Michel Foucault and governmentality



Centre de collaboration nationale
sur les politiques publiques et la santé
National Collaborating Centre
for Healthy Public Policy

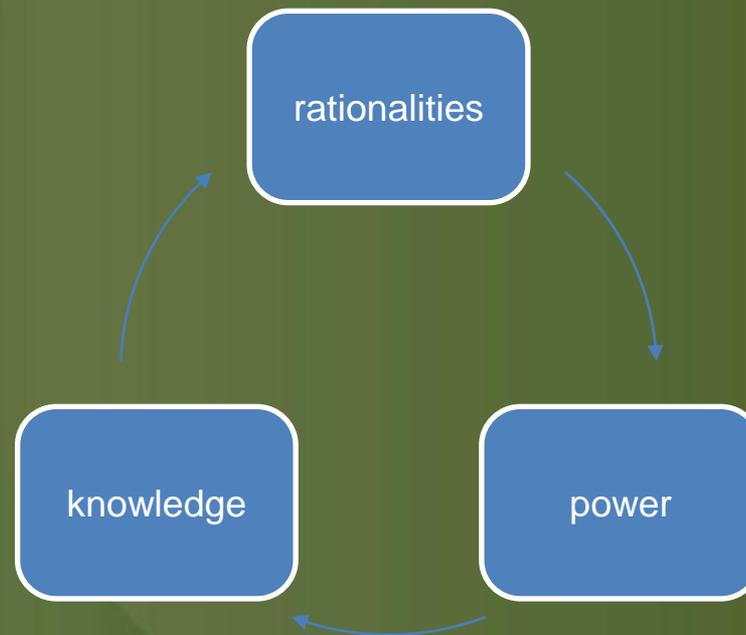
*Institut national
de santé publique*
Québec 

Michel Foucault and governmentality

Rationality / rationalities



Michel Foucault and governmentality



Michel Foucault and governmentality

Power: organized force
relations that play out at
multiple and mobile sites



Michel Foucault and governmentality

Knowledge: a relation to reality that informs and categorizes (and allows one to order it)



Michel Foucault and governmentality

Problematization

Defines the elements that pose a problem, hierarchizes them and establishes their etiology (including public policies)

Allows for an understanding of the solutions that are put forward, the conditions under which they are proposed and their order within a given regime



Political viability: a few thoughts (1)

Some interventions diverge from the predominant rationality all the while largely supporting its assumptions and objectives

High political viability



Political viability: a few thoughts (2)

Some interventions
problematize core
aspects of the
predominant rationality
and/or its preferred
action mechanisms or
effects

Political viability:
moderate to low

‘Health status’ of the
paradigm

Degree of
divergence re:
paradigm and of its
“exceptionality”



So what?

Strategic planning

Changes inside predominant rationality boundaries:
potential is sometimes significant with limited effort

Changes that problematize the predominant rationality:
possibilities are enhanced if one is able to define a situation as exceptional or if the paradigm is weakened



So what?

New subjects, objects and technologies of knowledge/power to reinforce ongoing transformations or begin new ones.



Thank you!

francois.gagnon@inspq.qc.ca



Centre de collaboration nationale
sur les politiques publiques et la santé
National Collaborating Centre
for Healthy Public Policy

Institut national
de santé publique
Québec 