

# Secret garden to public park: Connecting Brussels and health care systems

Scott L. Greer  
University of Michigan  
School of Public Health  
and LSE Health  
[slgreer@umich.edu](mailto:slgreer@umich.edu)



# Opening up the secret garden

- Social security law
- Patient mobility law
- Competition law
- State aids law
- Public procurement
- New governance (OMC etc)
- Labour law (working time directive!)
- Not to mention health and safety, environment...

# The communication problem: How do we connect policy with reality?

...EU institutions

...Representatives in Brussels

...Member state governments, leaders

...EU policy specialists

...Health policy experts

...Managers

...Health workers

# Problems everybody faces

- **Information** (understanding both EU politics and policies and one's interests)
- **Nimbleness** (ability to respond and adapt to new politics or problems)
- **Good coordination** (ability to understand and use the interaction of issues)
- **Bad coordination** (in which health is subjected to the needs of another department or agenda)
- **Energy** (EU affairs can seem distant and dull)
- **Focus** (deciding a position early and promoting it)

# Why do states do what they do?

- Health care system
- Constitutional structure
- Model of EU relations
- Model of public administration
- Health ministry
- (government political preference)
- (usually not adaptation to Brussels!)

# Influencing EU health policy

- Understanding issues:
  - Impact analysis: what might this do?
  - Political analysis: what is possible and how?
- Political analysis: Understanding Brussels
  - Working with states
  - Working with the EU
  - Backwards lobbying and control of lobbyists

# Thanks

**Scott L. Greer**  
**slgreer@umich.edu**

