

Lecture 1: What is policy analysis?

Chapter 2, Weimer and Vining.

Simple:

If we pass bill A, we will have as a consequence outcome X.

Complex:

If we pass bill A, using strategy S, we will have as a result aggregate social costs C, aggregate social benefits B, and disproportionate benefits for group 1 and disproportionate costs for group 2.

Policy advice is informed by social values.

Policy analysts, in either public or private settings, have clients for their advice who can participate in public decision making.

Policy analysis is client-oriented advice relevant to public decisions informed by social values.

Break down pieces:

Client oriented

Public decision

Social values

Defining by contrast:

| | Major Objective | Client | Common Style | Time Constraints | General Weakness |
|-----------------|---|---|--|---|--|
| Academic | Construct theories for understanding society | “truth”, other scholars, journals | Rigorous methods for constructing and testing theories | Tenure! | Irrelevant to decision making |
| Policy Research | Predict impacts of changes in variables that can be altered by public policy. | Actors in the policy arena | Application of formal methodology to policy relevant questions | Some deadline | Translation of findings to specific policy actions |
| Planning | Define and achieve desirable future state for society | The public interest as professionally defined | Established rules and professional norms | Long term future | Lack of political context and evolving circumstances |
| Public Admin. | Efficiently execute programs established by political process | The public interest as embodied in mandated program | Managerial and legal | Tied to budget cycles / policy details | Does not look at other options |
| Journalism | Focus public attention on societal problems | General public | Descriptive | Deadline issue, topical window | Lack of depth and balance |
| Policy Analysis | Systematic comparison and evaluation of alternatives available to public actors for solving social problems | Specific person or institution as decision maker. | Synthesis of existing research and theory to predict consequence of alternative policies | Analysis deadline tied to implementation schedule of policy | Myopia due to client orientation and time pressure. |

Academic Social Science Research

Econometrica

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Original Articles

[Timing and Self-Control \(pages 1–42\)](#)

Drew Fudenberg and David K. Levine

[One Person, Many Votes: Divided Majority and Information Aggregation \(pages 43–87\)](#)

Laurent Bouton and Micael Castanheira

[Combinatorial Voting \(pages 89–141\)](#)

David S. Ahn and Santiago Oliveros

[Inference of Signs of Interaction Effects in Simultaneous Games With Incomplete Information \(pages 143–172\)](#)

Áureo de Paula and Xun Tang

[One-Dimensional Inference in Autoregressive Models With the Potential Presence of a Unit Root \(pages 173–212\)](#)

Anna Mikusheva

[Inference in Nonparametric Instrumental Variables With Partial Identification \(pages 213–275\)](#)

Andres Santos

[Estimation of Nonparametric Conditional Moment Models With Possibly Nonsmooth Generalized Residuals \(pages 277–321\)](#)

Xiaohong Chen and Demian Pouzo

[Stability and Preference Alignment in Matching and Coalition Formation \(pages 323–362\)](#)

Marek Pycia

POLICY RESEARCH

POLICY REVIEW:

Election 2012: An Unusually Clear Policy Choice

by *Jay Cost*

Nationalism through commerce versus egalitarianism through redistribution

The Private-Sector Pension Predicament

by *Charles Blahous*

A systemic underfunding that could leave taxpayers on the hook

China: Big Changes Coming Soon

by *Henry S. Rowen*

Economic growth and political upheaval

The Sordid Origin of Hate-Speech Laws

by *Jacob Mchangama*

A tenacious Soviet legacy

No Thanks to Gratitude

by *James W. Ceaser*

Struggling to keep national memory and appreciation alive

Distinguish between policy analysis and policy research:
policy research less tied to political decision makers / less
client oriented and more geared toward influencing policy
environment rather than policy maker.

Planning

University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Who we are:

- Over the course of the past 50 or so years, we in the **Department of Urban and Regional Planning** have been active in the core missions of teaching, research, and outreach. Since inception in the 1960s, we have granted about 1000 graduate degrees and forwarded a progressive and interdisciplinary approach to the theory and practice of planning. As a department of both the College of Letters and Science and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, our faculty, affiliates, and students provide a bridge between the array of academic disciplines and knowledge bases necessary to address key planning problems found in the real-world.

Our Goals:

The department has three primary goals. First, we actively prepare qualified graduate students to become competent, creative and effective practicing planners. Second, we contribute to knowledge in the field of planning through scholarly and applied research. And third, we undertake professional planning activities and provide service in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin - Extension, a variety of public agencies, planning consulting firms and other private and non-profit sector organizations.

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[The Role of Public Space in Urban Renewal Strategies in Rotterdam and Dublin.](#) By: Van Melik, Rianne; Lawton, Philip. *Planning Practice & Research*, Oct2011, Vol. 26 Issue 5, p513-530, 18p; DOI: 10.1080/02697459.2011.626681
Subjects: URBAN renewal; URBAN land use; INVESTMENTS; ROTTERDAM (Netherlands); DUBLIN (Ireland); NETHERLANDS; IRELAND; Investment Advice; Miscellaneous Financial Investment Activities; PUBLIC spaces
Database: Business Source Elite

[Assessing Local Government Capacity to Manage and Model Military-Induced Growth in Eastern North Carolina.](#) By: BenDor, Todd; Berke, Philip; Salvesen, David; Song, Yan; Lenahan, Nora. *Planning Practice & Research*, Oct2011, Vol. 26 Issue 5, p531-553, 23p; DOI: 10.1080/02697459.2011.626710
Subjects: LOCAL government; URBAN growth; URBAN land use; SIMULATION models; NORTH Carolina; Land Subdivision

[Can Community Empowerment Reduce Opposition to Housing? Evidence from Rural England.](#) By: Sturzaker, John. *Planning Practice & Research*, Oct2011, Vol. 26 Issue 5, p555-570, 16p; DOI: 10.1080/02697459.2011.626722
Subjects: HOUSING development; ENGLAND; Administration of Housing Programs; COMMUNITY power; HOUSING policy; VILLAGE communities

[Apple Pie–Spinach Metaphor: Shall e-Democracy make Participatory Planning More Wholesome?](#) By: Åström, Joachim; Granberg, Mikael; Khakee, Abdul. *Planning Practice & Research*, Oct2011, Vol. 26 Issue 5, p571-586, 16p; DOI: 10.1080/02697459.2011.626723
Subjects: URBAN planning; DECISION making; URBAN planners; INFORMATION & communication technologies; SWEDEN; TELEDEMOCRACY; CITIZEN participation; COMMUNITY involvement

[Approaching an Ideal: Using Technology to Apply Collaborative Rationality to Urban Planning Processes.](#) Detail Only Available By: Hollander, Justin B.. *Planning Practice & Research*, Oct2011, Vol. 26 Issue 5, p587-596, 10p; DOI: 10.1080/02697459.2011.627001

<http://planningcommission.gov.in/plans/planrel/fiveyr/welcome.html>



(from Wikipedia – we will turn a five year plan into a four year one)

Public Administration

<http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/pa/>

Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory

Volume 20, Number 1 January 2010

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Journalism

www.washingtonpost.com

www.nytimes.com

<http://newhouse.syr.edu/>

Policy Analysis

Journal of Policy Analysis and Management *Research Articles*

Do some enterprise zones create jobs? (p 5-38)

Jed Kolko, David Neumark

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DOI: 10.1002/pam.20477

[Abstract](#) | [References](#) | Full Text: [PDF](#) (Size: 271K)

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Avraham Ebenstein, Kevin Stange

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Elderly immigrants' labor supply response to supplemental security income (p 137-162)

Neeraj Kaushal

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Information disclosure policy: Do state data processing efforts help more than the information disclosure itself? (p 163-182)

Hyunhoe Bae, Peter Wilcoxon, David Popp

Published Online: Nov 30 2009 3:22PM

DOI: 10.1002/pam.20483

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Policy Retrospectives

Incentives and their dynamics in public sector performance management systems (p 183-208)

Carolyn J. Heinrich, Gerald Marschke

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DOI: 10.1002/pam.20484

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Policy analysis as a profession

Grown as a field since the 1980s.

“Policy Analysis” position in government offices.

<http://www.publicservicecareers.org/>

Places one might find such a person:

International organizations

Federal

State

Local

Departments, legislatures

Consulting firms, research institutes, trade organizations,
NGOs.

Office of Management and Budget;

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/>

Council of Economic Advisors

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/cea/>

Congressional Budget Office

<http://www.cbo.gov/>

Government Accountability Office

<http://www.gao.gov/>

America's Health Insurance Plans

<http://www.ahip.org/>

Case study of Department of Health and Human Services FY 2002, oversaw spending of \$460 billion, issued more grants than any other federal agency, employed more than 65,000 people.

Office of the Assistant Secretary, Planning and Evaluation.

<http://aspe.dhhs.gov/library/>

Four functions:

- 1) Desk officer. Point of contact and coordination on key issue. Monitoring other organization working on this topic. Prepared to make assessments and statements on this issue.
- 2) Policy development. Work on policy options papers and help formulate proposals.
- 3) Policy research and oversight. Contract out money for studies to be done. Review research plans, award contracts, review research conducted under contract.
- 4) Firefighting – be ready to respond quickly to requests for analysis from many different actors in the policy making apparatus.

What do you need to do to be a policy analyst?

- 1) Gather, organize and communicate information in situations where deadlines are strict and access is limited.
- 2) An ability to put the problem in question in context:
 - a. What is the case for policy as a remedy
- 3) Technical skills to predict and evaluate the consequences of alternative predictions.
- 4) Understanding of political and organizational behavioral context of the client. Presenting information that they can use in their particular setting.
- 5) Ethical framework in which to conduct analysis and present findings.

A note on logical conditions: Necessary and Sufficient conditions.

Necessary vs. sufficient conditions.

- 1) Necessary but not sufficient.
- 2) Sufficient but not necessary
- 3) Necessary and sufficient.
- 4) (neither necessary nor sufficient)

A necessary condition is in the nature of a prerequisite.

Statement A is true only if another statement B is true, then “A only if B” or “If A, then B”.

B is a necessary condition for establishing the truth of A.

B is the condition, A is what we are trying to find out about.

If a person is a father (A), then they are a male (B).

Being male (B) is a necessary condition for being a father (A).

We are trying to find out something about what it means to be a father, B is a condition that goes along with being a father.

If Felix is a cat (A), then Felix hates baths (B).

Felix is a cat only if he hates baths.

If A (cat), then B (hates baths).

Hating baths is a necessary condition for being a cat.

Can we turn it around: If B (hates baths), then A (cat)?

If Felix hates baths, can we assume Felix is a cat?

No, Felix might be a four year old boy for example.

Felix hating baths is a necessary condition for Felix to be a cat, but it is not sufficient. It is one characteristic of being a cat, but this characteristic is shared by non-cats as well.

A necessary but not sufficient condition.

Consider the situation where A is true if B is true, but A can be true when B is not true.

B is a sufficient condition for A, but B is not a necessary condition for A.

A if B.

If B, then A.

A is “one can get to Chicago from Syracuse”,
B is “There is a plane that flies to Chicago from Syracuse”,

The truth of B (there is a plane) suffices for the establishment of the truth of A (one can get there from here), but B (there is a plane) is not a necessary condition for A (one can get there) to be true.

B is a sufficient condition for A but not a necessary one.

A sufficient but not necessary condition.

Consider where A and B imply each other.

A is “it is the month of February”. B is “there are less than 30 days in the month”.

A is a necessary and sufficient condition for B, and vice versa.

A if and only if B.

There is no way for A to be true without B being true.
There is no way for B to be true without A also being true.

If A is false, there is no way B is true. If B is false there is no way A is true.

It is a definition.

A necessary and sufficient condition.