2019 NISPAcee Annual Conference
Pre-conference Seminar "How to Write a Good Policy Paper"

Lecture 2, Types of policy papers – Policy Study and Policy Analysis
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Categories of research

- Theoretical vs applied research

- Young and Quinn (2002):
  - Policy study: understand/inform the policy making process
  - Policy analysis: design actual policy
  - Provide support for policy makers
## Policy studies vs policy analysis (Young and Quinn, 2002)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas of Difference</th>
<th>Policy Study</th>
<th>Policy Paper</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Audience</td>
<td>Other policy specialists</td>
<td>Policy makers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Focus</td>
<td>Issue-driven</td>
<td>Client driven</td>
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<tr>
<td>Methodology</td>
<td>Can include much primary research</td>
<td>Rarely includes primary research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ideas/Language used</td>
<td>Can be discipline specific /technical</td>
<td>Must be very clear and simple</td>
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<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>Up to 20,000 words</td>
<td>Max 5,000 words</td>
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Steps in policy analysis (Bardach, 2000)

Define the problem
- Assemble evidence
- Construct alternatives
- Select criteria
- Project outcomes
- Trade-offs
- Decide
- Tell the story
Evaluation of research methodology

- How much is necessary?
- What kind is required?
- How much is being reported and in which part of the report?
Evaluation of research methodology

- How much is necessary?
- What kind is required?
- How much is being reported and in which part of the report?
  - Depends on the type of paper, target, goas, publishing requirements
Evaluation of results

- Do they support the goal of the paper?
  - And if not, how to proceed
- What are the limits of the design and method?
  - And the consequences for the results?
Points to remember

- Different types of policy papers, each with specific characteristics
- Different levels of reporting the methodology
- Assumptions embedded in the analysis need to be explicit
- Design and methodological choices have consequences for the results