

How portable is the policy analysis curriculum?

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Pedagogy vs content

- Focus not on *how* to teach policy analysis but on *what* to teach
- My own experience is domestic students with domestic interests
 - Use increasing amount of cross-national material in substantive courses
- Own research increasingly cross-national
 - Drug policy focused

Bardach *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: canonical text*

- The 8 fold path
 - Define the problem
 - Assemble some evidence
 - Construct the alternatives
 - Select the criteria
 - Project the outcomes
 - Confront the trade-offs
 - Decide!
 - Tell your Story
- Translated into ca. 6 languages

Pragmatic, non-doctinaire

- Language is non-technical
- Students find it empowering...
 - Formal tools in the background
 - Slight mention of cost-benefit, price elasticity
- ...but disturbing
 - Existing research literature always thinner than expected
 - Almost no estimates of any needed parameter
 - Not a formula
- First contact with data collection
 - Statistics courses only about analysis
- Flexible about values
 - Economics implicit but doesn't trouble students

How American is this? Information Assumptions

- Enough data can be collected
 - People will answer questions, even from students
 - Agencies will provide (some) data
- Information about how others tackle this problem is available
- Many other nations with traditions/laws of secrecy
 - Sydney police sergeant imprisoned for leaking previous year's arrest statistics!
 - Officials may need written consent to talk to outsiders

How American is this? Institutions

- Choices are possible
 - Constraints need to be identified but a cheaper/fairer proposal will be considered
- Nations with highly centralized decision making make the cost of choice too high
- The analyst can be honest
 - Would this work in a patrimonial system?
 - Challenging orthodoxy is acceptable, if not always comfortable

Characteristics of Nations that may facilitate teaching the 8 fold path

- The obvious
 - Size, education, openness of government
- Less obvious
 - Federalism; more options for change
 - Non-parliamentary system: greater scrutiny
 - Diversity? Less deference to technocratic solutions