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WHATIS POLICY ANALYSIS?

Policy analysis is a process of multidisciplinary inquiry aiming at the creation, critical assessment, and communication of policy-relevant knowledge. As a problem-solving discipline, it draws on social science methods, theories, and substantive findings to solve practical problems.

METHODOLOGY OF POLICY INQUIRY

The methodology of policy inquiry refers to the critical investigation of potential solutions to practical problems. Abraham Kaplan, one of the founders of the policy sciences, observed that the aim of methodology is to help understand and question, not only the products of policy inquiry, but the processes employed to create these products.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY POLICY ANALYSIS

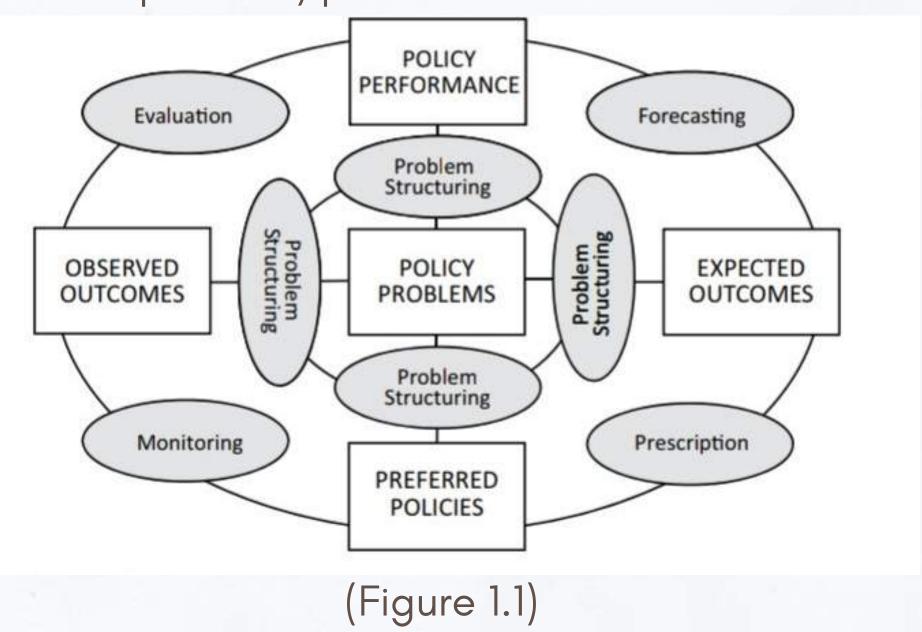
Policy analysis is partly descriptive. It relies on traditional social science disciplines to describe and explain the causes and consequences of policies. But it is also normative. This normative commitment stems from the fact that analyzing policies demands that we choose among desired consequences (ends) and preferred courses of action (means)

POLICY-RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE

- 1) Policy problems
- 2) Expected policy outcomes
- 3) Preferred policy
- 4) Observed policy outcome
- 5) Policy Performance

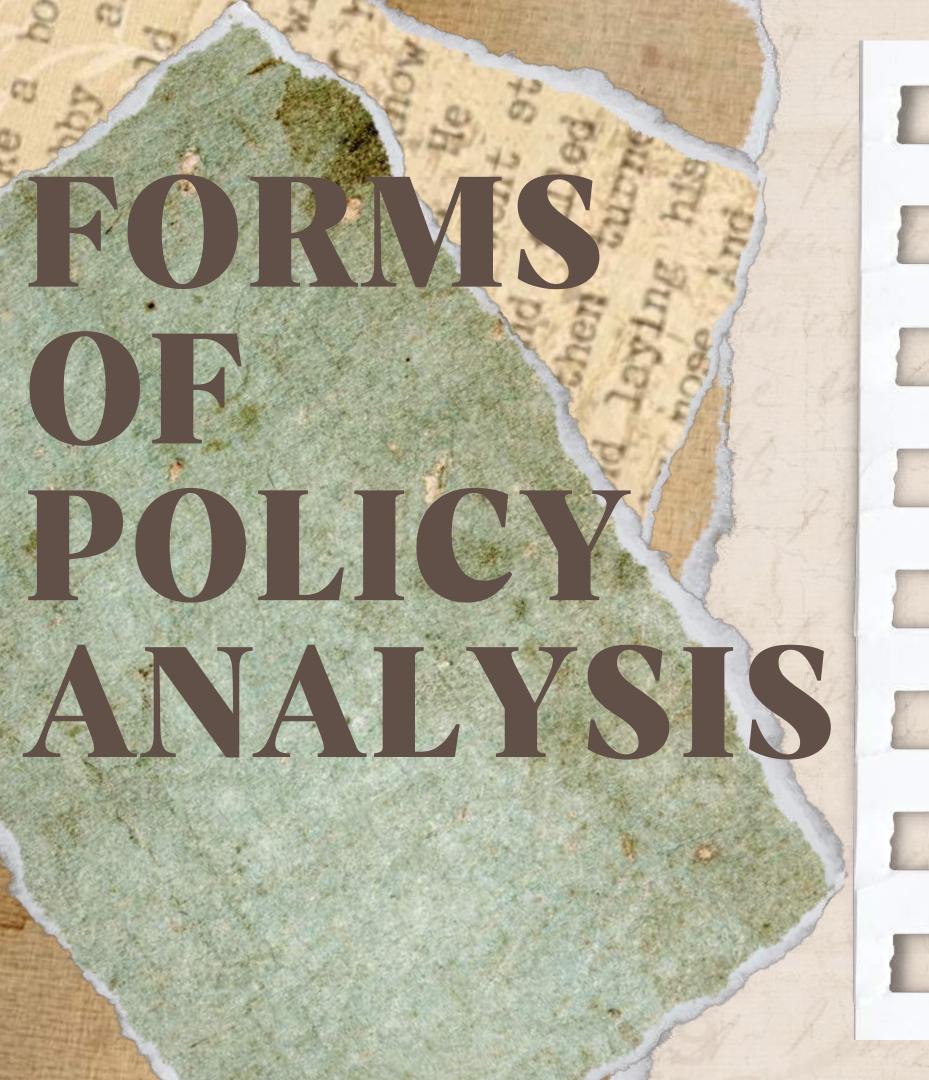
KNOWLEDGE TRANSFORMATIONS

The five types of policy-relevant knowledge are interdependent. The solid lines connecting each pair of components in Figure 1.1 represent knowledge transformations, where one type of knowledge is changed into another, so that the creation of knowledge at any point depends on knowledge produced in an adjacent (and most often previous) phase.



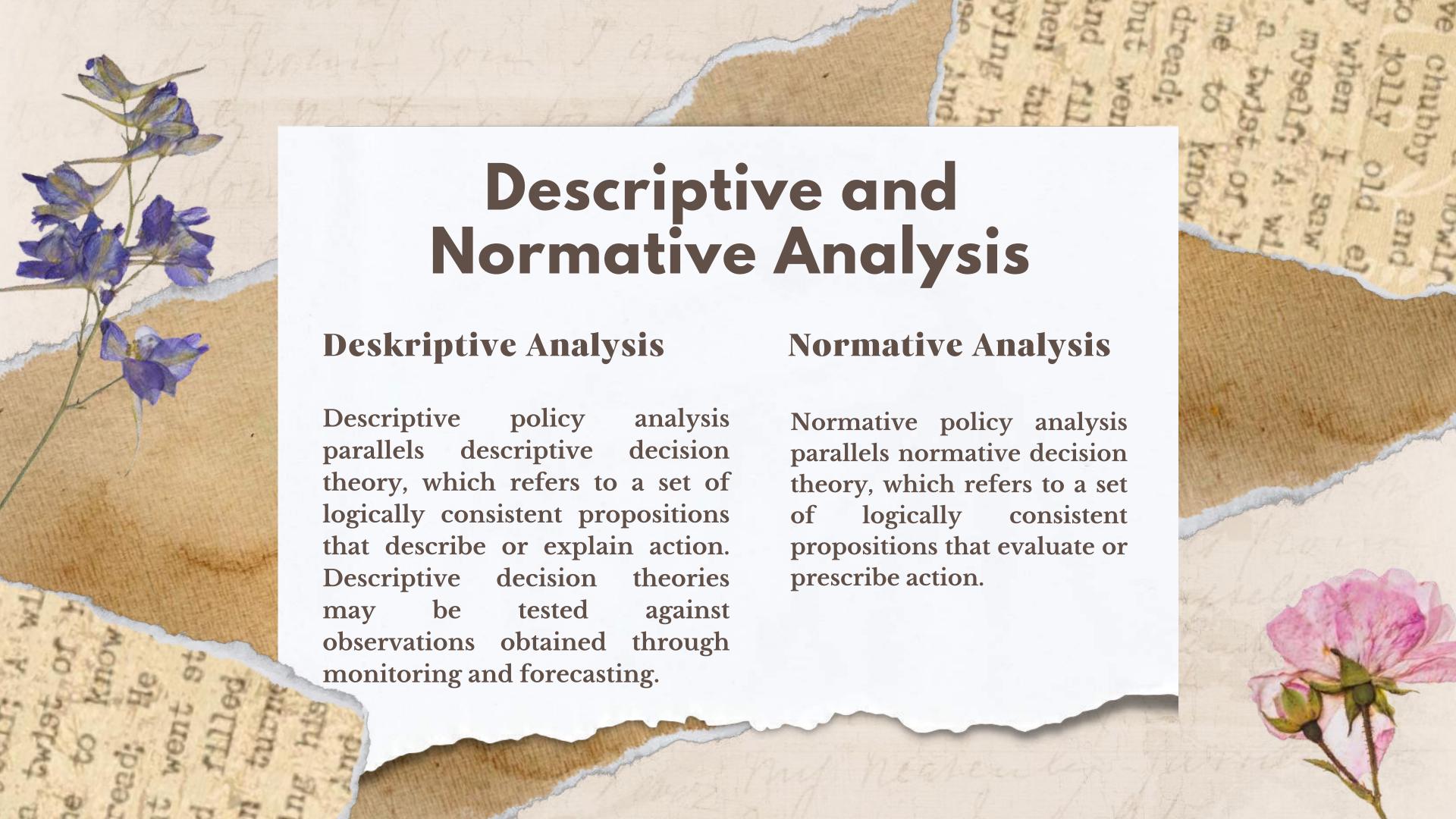
POLICY-ANALYTIC METHODS

- 1. Problem structuring. Problem-structuring methods are employed to produce knowledge about what problem to solve. Problem structuring is called by metamethod (method of methods)
- 2. Forecasting. Forecasting methods are used to produce knowledge about expected policy outcomes
- 3. Prescription. Methods of prescription are employed to create knowledge about preferred policies
- 4. Monitoring. Methods of monitoring are employed to produce knowledge about observed policy outcomes
- 5. Evaluation. Evaluation methods are used to produce knowledge about the value or utility of observed policy outcomes and their contributions to policy performance

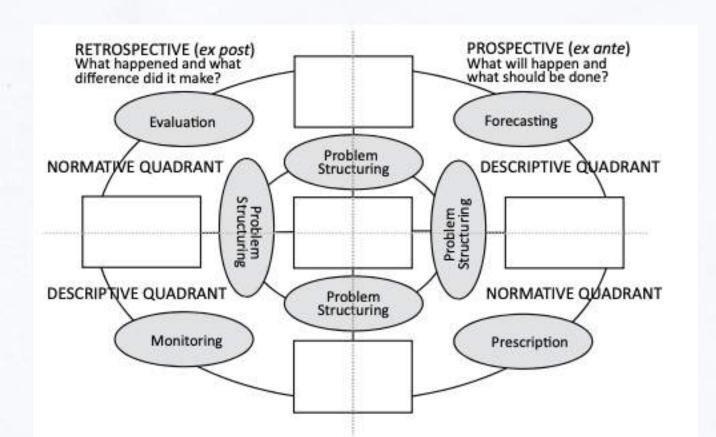


PROSPECTIVE AND RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS

Prospective policy analysis involves the production and transformation of knowledge before prescriptions are made. Prospective analysis is often attended by gaps between the choice of preferred solutions and efforts to implement them. The reason for these gaps is that only a small amount of work required to achieve a desired set of objectives is carried before policies are implemented. Retrospective analysis has important benefits. This approach focuses more on the concrete results of the action.



Problem Structuring and Problem Solving



Procedures of problem structuring are designed to identify elements that go into the definition of a problem, but not to identify solutions. By contrast, problem-solving methods are located in the outer cycle of Figure 1.2. They are designed to solve rather than structure a problem.

Integrated and Segmented Analysis

Integrated policy analysis bridges the several main segments of multidisciplinary policy analysis, especially economics and political science. Today, this need is not being properly met by specialized social science disciplines, which often produce segmented policy analysis. Today, the job of bridging these segmented disciplines is carried out within multidisciplinary professions including public administration, planning, management, and policy analysis.

THE PRACTICE OF POLICY ANALYSIS

Reconstructed Logic VS Logic in Use

The integrated policy analysis process involves logical reconstruction. However, in practice, policy analysis rarely fully follows these reconstructions. This gap arises due to the abstraction of behavior in logical reconstruction. This lack of alignment is referred to as "logic use." These practices often deviate significantly from the idealized methodological "best practices" in logical reconstruction.

Methodological Opportunity Costs

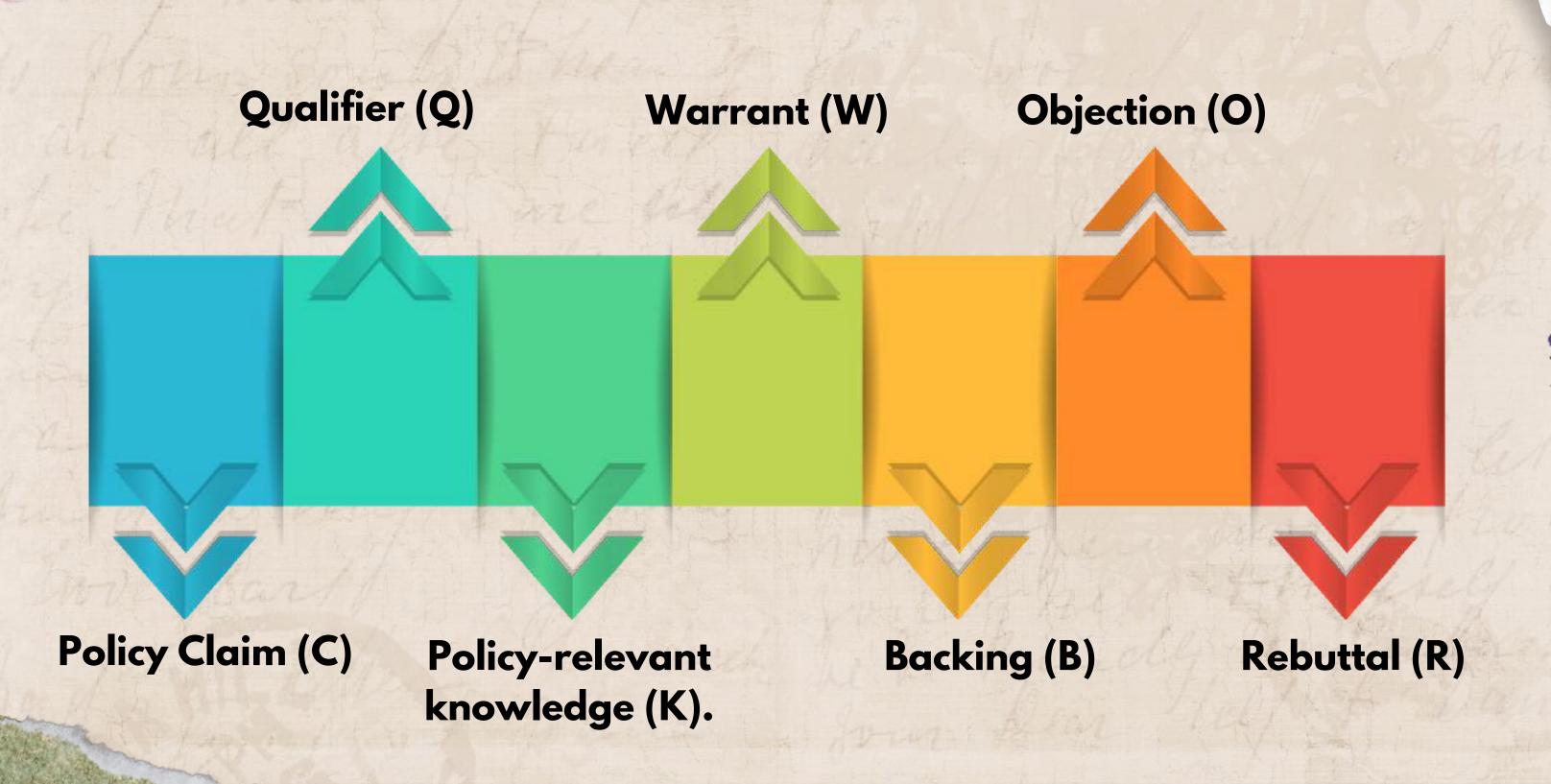
Integrated policy analysis has opportunity costs that must be considered. Due to limited time and resources, conducting systematic analysis in economics, politics, and organizations simultaneously can be difficult. To overcome this limitation, double triangulation or critical multiplism is used, which is an approach to overcome weaknesses in policy analysis.

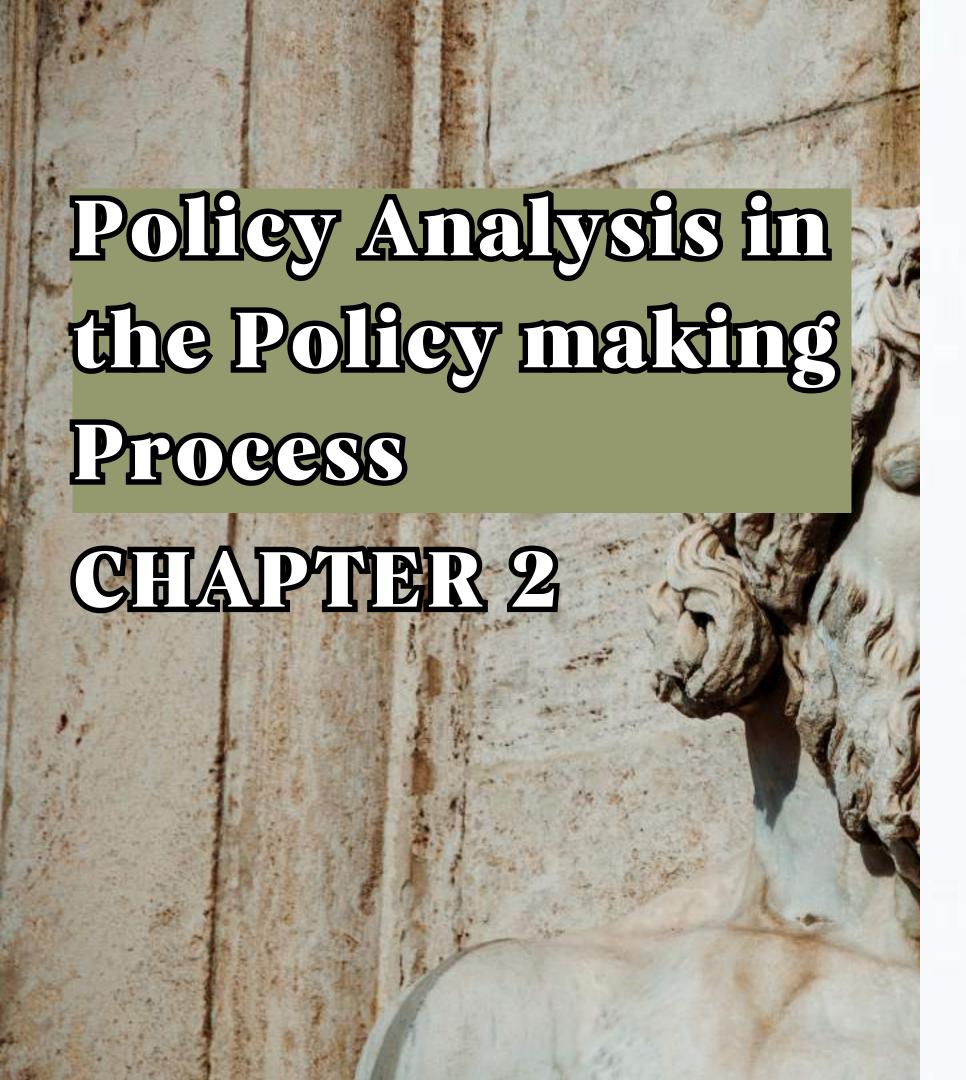
CRITICAL THINKING AND PUBLIC POLICY

Policy analysis is complex. Analysts must sift through large volumes of available data, evaluate sources of these data, select appropriate methods of analysis, and employ effective strategies for communicating the results.

By analyzing policy arguments, we can identify and probe the assumptions underlying competing policy claims, recognize and evaluate objections to these claims, and synthesize knowledge from different sources

THE STRUCTURE OF POLICY ARGUMENTS





- Policy analysts play an important role in creating, evaluating, and communicating knowledge in the policy-making process.
- Policy analysis differs from political science and economics which focus more on developing and testing theories of policy making. Policy analysis is more focused on practical solutions.

THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The historical context of policy analysis includes a long history, with the root of the word "policy" coming from various ancient languages.



EARLY ORIGINS

- Policy analysis refers not only to problem solving, but also to understanding the relationship between knowledge and action.
- In Mesopotamia, the Code of Hammurabi was created to organize stable urban life, covering various aspects such as criminal law, property rights, trade, and public accountability.
- Ancient policy analysts were known as
 "symbol specialists" and were responsible
 for predicting the future using mystical
 methods, ritual sand the occult.

Early Contributors to PolicyAnalysis:

Kautilya and the Code
 of Hammurabiare early
 examples that provide
 systematic guidelines
 for policy making.

 Figures like Plato, Aristotle, and Machiavelli engaged in practical policy making because they wantedto apply knowledgeto policy issues.

In the Middle Ages, the
development of urban
civilization brought about the
birth of "expert officials" who
expertly handled finance,
law, and war.

 The Industrial Revolution era was also a period of Enlightenment where science and technology were considered as tools to solve social problems.





Nineteenth Century Transformation:

- The 19th century saw a fundamental shift in the production of policy-relevant knowledge based on systematic empirical data.
- Statistics and demography began to develop as specialized fields with an emphasis on empirical analysis and social reform.
- Statistical societies in Manchester and London became centers of change with quantitative approaches to understanding social problems.

Overall, policy analysis has a long and evolving history from the past to modern times. In its history,we see an evolution from analytical methods based on mysticism and rituals to more empirical and quantitative approaches. Policy analysts from the past to the present continue to strive to connect knowledge with practical action in policy making.



An important feature of the twentieth century, compared with the nineteenth century, was the professionalization of the social and behavioral sciences The primary function of social scientists in the 1930s was to investigate a broad set of potential solutions to general policy problems and not, as in later periods, to use economic modeling, decision analysis, and policy experiments to identify and select specific solutions to problems. which is well defined.

- Among the important contributions to policy research in this period was America's Army (1950), a four-volume study produced by many leading social scientists.
- This major research program contributed to the development and refinement of multivariate statistical analysis and other quantitative techniques now widely used by researchers in all social science disciplines
- After World War II, the first systematic attempt to develop an explicit policy orientation in the social and behavioral sciences was Policy Science: Recent Developments in Scope and Methods (1951)

The Era of Evidence-Based Policy

Evidence-based policymaking, although taking different forms, is unified in its definition of evidence as causally relevant knowledge about the relationships between policies, on the one hand, and short-, medium-, and long-term policy outcomes on the other.

Among the largest and most competent evidence-based policy repositories in health and medicine policy are the Cochrane Collaboration (C1) and the Campbell Collaboration (C2)

In the first decade of this century, there was widespread recognition among analysts and policymakers that the interdependence among issues in the related policy areas, environmental energy, public health, social welfare, national security, criminal justice, and economic development, appeared to be increasing.

Evidence-based policy is a response to complexity, but at a meso or micro level of analysis

THE POLICYMAKING PROCESS

1. Intelligence

Include gathering, processing, and disseminating knowledge for the use of participants in the decision process, for example regulatory agencies and judicial bodies.

2. Promotion

Include agitation and propaganda for the use of leaders, political parties, and interest groups.

3. Prescriptive

Include the routinization and institutionalization of enforceable norms by executives and legislators.

4. Invocation

Include enforced conformity to prescriptions by staff in line agencies.

5. Application

Include the characterization, or written documentation, by appellate court judges of conditions under which prescriptions are applied.

6. Termination

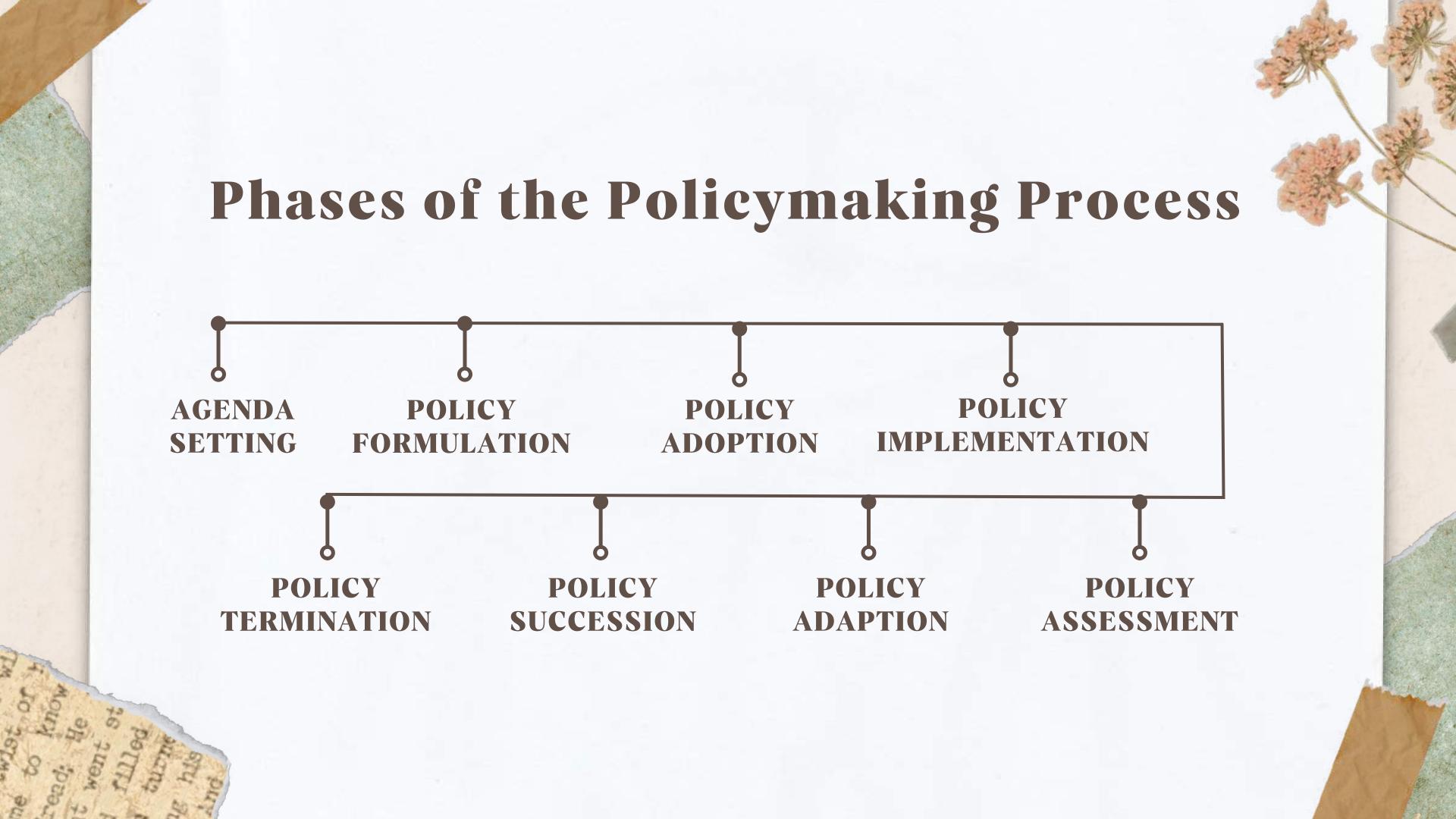
Include the adjudication of claims of parties affected by the cancellation of prescriptions.

7. Appraisal

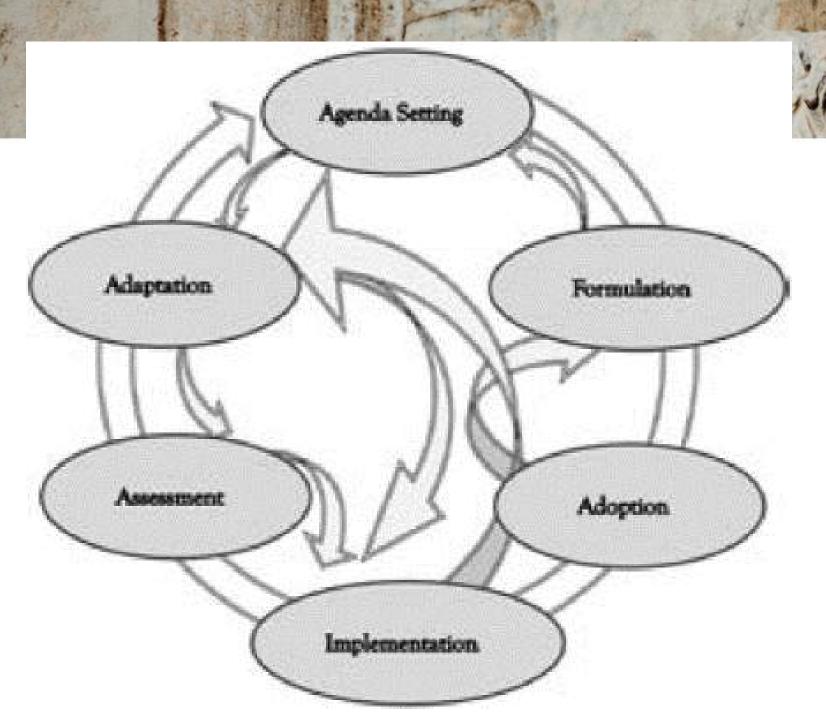
Include the assignment of legal or administrative responsibility for the assessment of policy objectives.

Quote:

However, the seven original decisional functions were later revised in Lasswell's a Pre-view of Policy Sciences, published in 1971. A widely known reworking of these decisional functions includes seven stages of agenda setting, policy formulation, policy adoption, policy implementation, policy communication, policy evaluation, and policy adaptation.



Complexity, Feedback, and Short Circuiting in the Policymaking Process



The policy process is composed of complex cycles,

- Each phase of a policy cycle is linked to the next, in backward and forward loops, and the process as whole has no definite beginning or end.
- Individuals, interest groups, bureaus, departments, and ministries are involved in policy cycles through cooperation, competition, and conflict.
- Other forms of cycles are policy succession and policy termination.

MODELS OF POLICY CHANGE

The Comprehensive Rationality Model

> Second-Best Rationality

Disjointed Incrementalism

> **Bounded Rationality**

> **Erotetic Rationality**

Simultaneous Convergence

Punctuated Equilibrium The comprehensive rationality model as structures the way we think about and explain the process of decision-making.

Second-Best Rationality or Arrow's impossibility theorem as an important criticism of the model of comprehensive economic rationality.

The disjointed-incremental theory is that decisions are made at the margin of the status quo, so that behavior at time t + 1 is marginally different from behavior at time t.

The bounded rationality asserts that individual decision-makers do not attempt to be rational in the full, or comprehensive, sense of considering and weighing all alternatives.

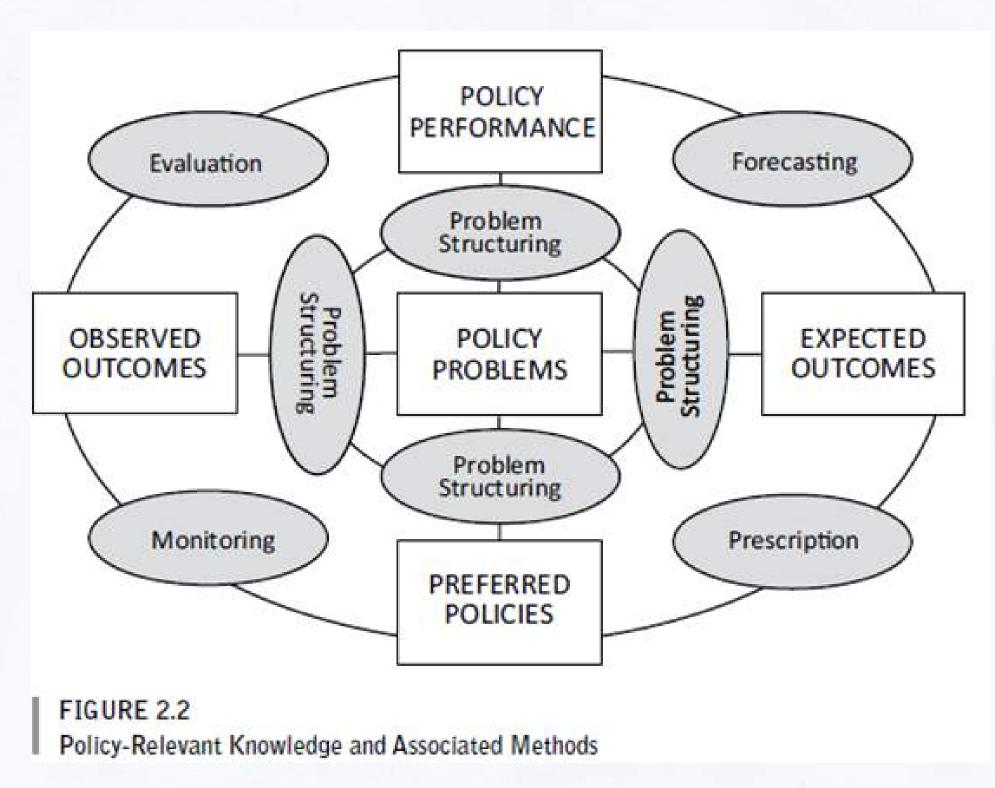
Erotetic rationality refers to a process of questioning and answering. Coz, an important question about erotetic rationality is where the process of questioning begins.

The fundamental proposition of the critical convergence model is that policy change occurs at these critical moments.

The fundamental proposition of the punctuated equilibrium model is that external shocks are a necessary but not sufficient condition of major policy change.

POLICY ANALYSIS IN THE POLICYMAKING PROCESS

• POTENTIAL USES OF ANALYSIS



• USES OF ANALYSIS IN PRACTICE

1. Use is indirect, delayed, and general

4. Composition of users.

2. The meaning of improvement is ethically controversial

5. Scope of knowledge used

3. Being useful reflects personal, professional, and institutional interests.

6. Expected effects of use

CHAPTER SUMMARY

CHAPTER 1

This chapter has provided a methodology for policy analysis that identifies the functions of methods in creating and transforming policy-relevant knowledge. The four regions of the framework, along with inner and outer cycles, call attention to distinctive properties of these methods and point to their origins in different social science disciplines and professions. Because no one method is appropriate for all or most problems, there is a need for multidisciplinary analysis, which requires tradeoffs and opportunity costs. In turn, the analysis of tradeoffs and opportunity costs demands critical thinking. The analysis of policy arguments is well suited for this purpose.

CHAPTER 2

This chapter provides an overview of the role of policy analysis in policymaking, emphasizing its historical aim of providing practical problem-solving knowledge to policymakers. Policy analysis is depicted as an intellectual activity within a complex, non-linear policymaking process. Various models explain policy change, all capturing important aspects of policymaking. The methods of analysis aim to generate policy-relevant knowledge, despite the challenges of indirect, delayed, general, and ethically controversial uses in policymaking due to the diverse nature of knowledge composition, scope, and expected effects.

