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DEFINING POLICY ANALYSIS: A JOURNEY THAT NEVER ENDS

Beryl A. Radin



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Defining Policy Analysis: A Journey that Never Ends

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Beryl A. Radin

Author for correspondence: Beryl A. Radin, berylradin@verizon.net

Abstract: For much of its life, the field of policy analysis has lived with a wide range of definitions of its goals, work, and significance in the society. This Element seeks to sort out these differences by describing the issues, players, and developments that have played a role over the life of this field. As a result of the relationships that have developed, an environment has emerged where both academics and practitioners who self-identify as “policy analysts” are not always recognized as such by others who use that same label.

This Element explores the reasons why this conflictual situation has developed and whether the current status is a major departure from the past. While these developments may not be new or found only in policy analysis, they do have an impact on the status of the academics as well as the practitioners in the field.

Keywords: advising, analysis, policy, clients, conflict, practitioners

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Contents

1	Introduction: Searching for an Identity	1
2	Section One: The Origins of the Policy Analyst Concept and its Early History	6
3	The Whiz Kids and their Descendants	8
4	Look to California: Aaron Wildavsky and Activity on the West Coast	12
5	Section Two: What Helps Explain the Changes in the Definition of Policy Analysis?	23
6	Question One: The Differences Between Analysis and Research	24
7	Question Two: The World of Practice vs. the Culture of the Academy	38
8	Question Three: Changes in the Environment of Policy Analysis	45
9	Question Four: Information, Analytic Techniques, and Evidence	47
10	Question Five: Values	52
11	Conclusion	53
12	Section Three: The Questionnaire. What Does It Mean to Be a Policy Analyst?	54