

Public Policy Research in Hong Kong's Higher Education Institutions: Potential, Possibilities, and Policies

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“Public Policy”

Evidence-based policy formulation

Examples

Public Policies in HK HEIs: P, P, & P

Definition

Public policy is the body of principles that underpin the operation of legal systems in each state. This addresses the social, moral and economic values that tie a society together: values that vary in different cultures and change over time. ...

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_policy_\(law\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_policy_(law))

Many other definitions exist with approximately the same content (some with emphasis on particular features).

Evidence-based policy formulation

Particular approach to public policy research:

- ▶ Perform an in-depth analysis of the situation (with all its constraints) based on (existing) data
- ▶ Pose various scenarios on "what if", and observe their effects
- ▶ Formulate policies

Example: Health Insurance Commission, Australia

- ▶ Comprehensive health insurance scheme for all its citizens and residents
- ▶ Co-payment scheme for both medical consultation and prescriptions

Health Insurance Commission

- ▶ Had access to all medical transactions of all Australians over a number of quarters
- ▶ Studied the claiming patterns of medical consultations, pathology visits, etc.
- ▶ Posed "what if" scenarios on various ways to cap the maximum expenditure on particular patterns of practice
- ▶ Formulated policies regarding claims by subjects (and indirectly the medical practices)

Example: Electricity Department, New Zealand

- ▶ Studied the electricity consumption patterns in entire New Zealand
- ▶ Formulated the electricity pricing problem as an optimization problem
- ▶ Posed "what if" scenarios on relative pricing policies
- ▶ Recommended to New Zealand Electricity Department on how they might wish to price the electricity

Public policies in HK HEIs: potential

There is great potential in considering public policy formulations in HK HEIs.

- ▶ We have some of the best minds in the world on many topics related to public policies, much multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary research being conducted
- ▶ We have the facilities to carry out work in many areas
- ▶ We can pose "what if" questions and formulate public policies accordingly.

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- ▶ Example: Environment
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University Policies

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