

Information analysis as an action instrument in policy analysis.



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Define tomorrow.

Discussing Information Analysis (IA)

- In this section of your essay you had to consider IA. You should briefly distinguish between:
 - Information Gathering: Which is about the collection of data to improve policy decision making)
 - Information Analysis: Is more than the mere collection of data. The collected data is also reviewed and involves monitoring existing policies with the view to modify or discontinue policy)
 - Consultation: Considered as the process through which knowledge is shared between those who are responsible for policy formulation; those responsible for the implementation of policy and those who are targeted by particular policies – e.g the general public)
- Action instruments link the various phases in the policy formulation process, as well as inputs between each of the phases.
- Collectively, these three action instruments may assist in:
 - ✓ Improving policy decision making, as helps decision makers gain more complete information about policy issues and concerns
 - ✓ Assessing the quality of information collected for policy decision making and
 - ✓ Establishing more transparent and inclusive policy processes through consultation.

Policy advice as constrained expert discourse

Information Analysis is constrained by:

- capacity, supply and demand for information gathering.
- More importantly, IA is not neutral, but instead shaped by policy design and policy space

The specific policy design space and time shapes Information Analysis by:

- Setting parameters for the number and kinds of policy alternatives to be considered
- Implying a specific context for governance regimes
- Setting a continuum between fairly standard, legalistic-corporatist design modes and flexible modes associated with market and network governance
- Setting a continuum between “direct” government activities and “indirect manipulation” of market and policy network actors.
- Implying a temporal (time frame) aspect to these policy designs contexts

You must also pay attention to the argument that the rationalist approach to policy design and implementation that undergirds the analytical orientation to information analysis.

You should also mention the key information analysis tasks, namely:

- Appraisal – what evidence is needed? Reports? Commissioned research? Experts? General public? Stakeholders?
- Dialogue – discussion about green papers, white papers, comments, etc.
- Formulation or assessment – translate the information into draft plans
- Consolidation – final product

Intersectionality as a perspective for policy consultation

- In this part of your essay you must offer your own views on intersectionality as a perspective on consultation.
- To do this, you must read the article by Hankivsky and Cormier in your reader.
- In essence, intersectionality is based on the idea that our experience of social reality, oppression and domination are different, and often based on specific markers of our identities such as race, class, ability, geographical location and age amongst others.
- Hankivsky and Cormier (2011) argue that policy makers should account for this complexity in the formulation and implementation of policies, given that such an approach has the potential to cast light on how different social groups experience inequality or discrimination.
- For example, most women may at some point encounter some form of gender discrimination in their lives, but their experiences of such discrimination may be different on the basis of their race, sexual-orientation or socio-economic class.
- On this basis, intersectional policy responses to gender discrimination in relation women arguably have to take into account the intersection of race, sexual orientation and socio-economic class. Hankivsky and Cormier incorporates a diverse set of practical examples that illustrates intersectionality in policy debates, see page 227 of your reader.

Intersectionality as an approach to policy analysis can illuminate the limitations of traditional policy formulation methods and how these may unintentionally perpetuate the exclusion and marginalisation certain groups.

It should also cast light on the issue of diversity (*in terms of the markers of social identities as discussed above*) and its implications for policy formulation and implementation. It can also reveal how policy in itself could entrench oppressive consequences of intersecting social locations.

However, incorporating an intersectional approach to policy processes does not come without challenges.

Hankivsky and Cormier (2011:219-220) shows that intersectionality is also accompanied by certain challenges including:

- *intersectionality has not yet been incorporated into mainstream public policy processes*
- *methodological deficiencies in intersectional approaches*
- *and the continued reliance on one-dimensional approaches by policy decision makers.*

For additional explanations of intersectionality have at the following YouTube videos:

What is intersectionality?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6dnj2lyYjE>

The Urgency of intersectionality - Kimberlé Crenshaw

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akOe5-UsQ2o>

Thank you

Define tomorrow.

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