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Public Policy

**Defining Policy
Analysis: A Journey
that Never Ends**

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Book availability

- Available at Cambridge Elements Public Policy
- This Element, *Defining Policy Analysis: A Journey that Never Ends*, has been published in the series Elements in Public Policy, published by Cambridge University Press. The version of record available here: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/elements/defining-policy-analysis-a-journey-that-never-ends/6AF6E41390CCB682150EE243933C3C44> © Beryl A. Radin.
- Also available at Amazon

Questions:

Five questions have emerged that had an impact on the changes that have occurred in the definition of policy analysis. They are:

1. Is there a difference between policy analysis and policy research? Does the difference focus largely on the presence of a client?
2. Did the move of policy analysis from its origins in the world of practice to its base in the academic world make a difference? If so, what changes accompanied that shift?
3. Did changes in both the internal and external environments of policy analysis make a difference? These could have focused on the effects of constant change, globalization, differentiation between public and private sectors, and organization structure (e.g. networks, shared powers).
4. Were there changes in the repertoire of analytic techniques used by policy analysts? Where did new techniques come from (e.g. other disciplines, private sector, data sources)? Did the focus on evidence make any difference?
5. What values structured the analytic process (e.g. efficiency, equity, effectiveness)? Were values built into some policy issues and policy cultures? Was the search for theory related to tendencies to define one-size-fits-all situations?