

Adventures in policy modeling

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Abstract:

Policy Modeling refers to the application of operations research, statistics, and other quantitative methods to model policy problems. Recognizing that analyses of all sorts often exhibit diminishing returns in insight to effort, the hope is to capture key features of various policy issues with relatively simple "first-strike" models. Problem selection and formulation, and active engagement with policymakers and stakeholders, thus compete with the mathematics of solution methods in determining successful applications. To illustrate, the talk will revisit some personal adventures in policy modeling selected from public housing, HIV/AIDS prevention and surveillance, bioterror preparedness, counterterrorism, and sports.