

CONCURRENT PLENARIES

Race and Public Policy Research: Pitfalls and Quandaries

Room: Marriott - 2nd fl - Salons AB

Researchers and scholars use examples drawn from their own work to address such questions as: (1) What are some of the scientific and ethical problems inherent in the use of race as an explanatory variable in social and policy research? (2) Whether, how, and under what circumstances does racial identity function as an asset or a liability for the policy researcher? And, (3) whether, how, and with what consequences, do considerations of race impact upon the way policy research is reacted to by the various audiences that encounter it, including the media, policy advocates, and politicians?

Moderator: Glenn Loury, Brown University

Panelists:

Ronald Ferguson, Harvard University
Roland Fryer, Jr., New York City Public Schools
Roberto Suro, University of Southern California

Partisanship, Objectivity, and Policy Analysis

Room: Marriott - 2nd fl - Salons CDE

A panel of researchers and politicians explores the challenges to objective policy analysis in the current political atmosphere. Has partisanship increased and, if so, why? Compared to the past, is there now less interest in objective research? What factors that encourage partisan research? How should we think about the issue? What, actually, is "objective" research? Perhaps objective research is a unrealizable goal. Is this all bad?

Moderator: Pietro Nivola, The Brookings Institution

Panelists:

James Leach, Princeton University and former congressman
Robert Reischauer, The Urban Institute
Alice Rivlin, The Brookings Institution
John Graham, Pardee RAND Graduate School

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- ❖ Underwriting the new Award for Research in Comparative Policy Analysis – a selection committee consisting of Laurence Lynn, Jr. (Texas A&M University), Beryl Radin (American University), Peter Reuter (University of Maryland-College Park), and Jane Waldfogel (Columbia University) will select a paper from the 2007 Fall Research Conference that demonstrates excellence in comparative policy analysis to be recognized at the 2008 conference in Los Angeles
- ❖ Offering all APPAM members a special reduced subscription price for the *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis* – for more information view the page on “Membership Benefits” under “Membership” on the APPAM website
- ❖ Seeking through these and other initiatives to contribute to APPAM’s focus on international and comparative policy research.

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