

A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON

Pathways to Convert Research into Public Policy

16 October 2024 | 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

On Site and Via Zoom

Center for Integrative and Development Studies (CIDS)

Ang Bahay ng Alumni, University of the Philippines Diliman



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
**CENTER FOR
INTEGRATIVE AND
DEVELOPMENT
STUDIES**

A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON

Pathways to Convert Research into Public Policy

16 October 2024 | 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

On Site and Via Zoom

*Center for Integrative and Development Studies (CIDS)
Ang Bahay ng Alumni, University of the Philippines Diliman*



UP CIDS Proceedings

is published by the

University of the Philippines**Center for Integrative and Development Studies**

Lower Ground Floor, Ang Bahay ng Alumni
Magsaysay Avenue, University of the Philippines
Diliman, Quezon City 1101



cids.up.edu.ph

Telephone: (02) 8981-8500 loc. 4266 to 4268 / (02) 8426-0955

Email: cidspublications@up.edu.ph

Website: cids.up.edu.ph

Copyright 2025 by the
UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies.

The views and opinions expressed in this discussion paper are those of the author/s and neither reflect nor represent those of the University of the Philippines or the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies. No copies can be made in part or in whole without prior written permission from the authors/editors and the publisher.

ISSN 2718-9295 (Print)

ISSN 2718-9309 (Online)

Cover image credit

"From the UP CIDS Data Science and Public Policy Program RTD Pubmat on Pathways to Convert Research Into Public Policy"

Table of Contents

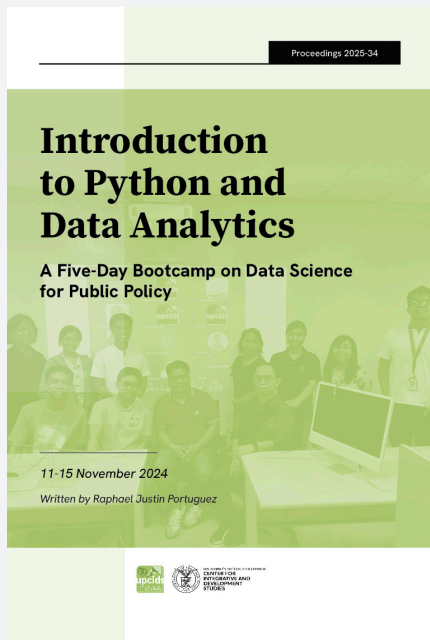
1 Presentations

- 1 Policy Analytics Software: A Tool for Data-Driven/
Evidence-Based Policy Analysis
Ebinezzer R. Florano, PhD
- 5 Pathways to Convert Research into Public Policies
Dr. Romulo Emmanuel M. Miral Jr.
- 8 Bridging the Gap: Linking Academic Research and
Public Policy Making in the Philippine Senate
Mr. Peter Anthony S. Turingan
- 12 Input from the Presidential Management Staff:
The Contribution of Research to Policymaking
Ms. Michaela Tania Limpo
- 14 Data and Evidence-Based Policymaking
Dr. Rogelio Alicor Panao
- 16 Academic Research and Policy Alignment Challenges
Professor Herman Joseph S. Kraft
-

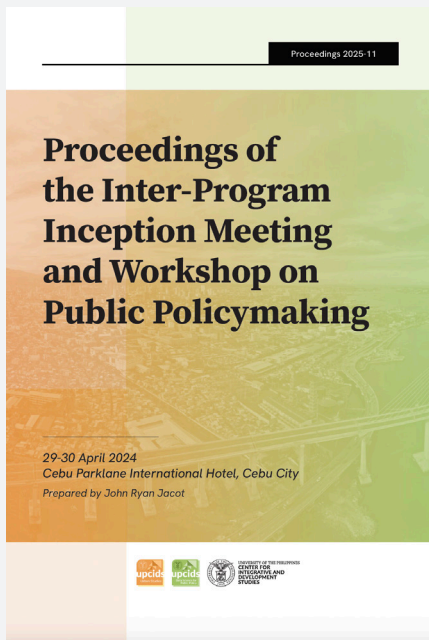
19 Open Forum

Download related policy papers

for *free*



*Introduction to Python and Data Analytics:
A Five-Day Bootcamp on Data Science for
Public Policy*



*Proceedings of the Inter-Program
Inception Meeting and Workshop on Public
Policymaking*

cids.up.edu.ph/collection-database

Get your policy papers published.

Download open-access articles.

The Philippine Journal of Public Policy: Interdisciplinary Development Perspectives (PJPP), the annual peer-reviewed journal of the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS), welcomes submissions in the form of full-length policy-oriented manuscripts, book reviews, essays, and commentaries. The PJPP provides a multidisciplinary forum for examining contemporary social, cultural, economic, and political issues in the Philippines and elsewhere. Submissions are welcome year-around.

For more information, visit cids.up.edu.ph.

All issues/articles of the PJPP can be downloaded for free.

**Get news and the
latest publications.**

Join our mailing list to get our publications delivered straight to your inbox! Also, you'll receive news of upcoming webinars and other updates.

bit.ly/signup_cids

**We need
your feedback.**

Have our publications been useful?
Tell us what you think.

bit.ly/dearcids

Executive Summary



A ROUNDTABLE

PATHWAYS TO CONVERT RESEARCH INTO PUBLIC POLICY

16 OCTOBER 2024
9 am to 11 am
(Philippine Standard Time)

ONSITE
UP CIDS, Ang Bahay ng Alumni,
UP Diliman, Quezon City

This roundtable discussion aims to delve into the dynamics of the research-policy-making relationship. Gathering legislative officers/policy analysts of major policymaking bodies in the Philippines, the roundtable centers on the following questions:

- How important is academic research in public policymaking?
- How could academics contribute to/provide inputs to policymaking?
- What are the pathways (i.e., systems and procedures in your agency) for academics to convert their research into policy proposals in your agency?
- How should the papers be written? What are the requisite skills for effective policy advocacy?
- What is your agency's current legislative agenda that academics could be involved in or assist with?
- What would you recommend to institutionalize academic-public policymaking cooperation between your agency and UP?

View Details | Sign Up
bit.ly/policy1016

PANELISTS



DR. ROMULO EMMANUEL M. MIRAL, JR.
Deputy Secretary General
Congressional Planning and Budget Research Department



PETER ANTHONY S. TURINGAN
Supervising Legislative Staff Officer II
Senate Economic Planning Office

REACTORS



PROF. HERMAN JOSEPH S. KRAFT
Convenor, Strategic Studies Program
UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies
Professor of Political Science, UP Diliman



DR. ROGELIO ALICOR PANAÓ
Convenor, Program on Social and Political Change
UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies
Associate Professor of Political Science, UP Diliman

MODERATOR



DR. EBINEZER R. FLORANO
Convenor, Program on Data Science for Public Policy
UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies
Professor and UP Scientist
National College of Public Administration and Governance, UP Diliman

The University of the Philippines Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS) hosted a roundtable discussion (RTD) titled: "Pathways to Convert Research into Public Policy," last October 16, 2024. This event aimed to bridge the gap between academic research and policymaking by facilitating dialogue between researchers and policymakers.

Discussions focused on providing insights on the following matters:

- **The Role of Academic Research in Policymaking:** Participants explored the importance of academic research in informing policy decision makers on ways to address pressing societal issues.
- **Pathways for Policymaking to Gain Impact:** What are the specific mechanisms and strategies for translating research into public policy, including the development of policy briefs and advocacy skills for public engagement and lobbying in the public sector?
- **Challenges and Opportunities:** Participants identified key challenges in the research-policy nexus, such as the time lag between research and policy implementation and the difficulty of communicating complex research findings to policymakers. They also discussed potential solutions, such as strengthening partnerships between the academia and government, and investing in capacity building for researchers and policymakers.

Dr. Ebinezer Florano, Data Science for Public Policy Program (DSPPP) Convenor and moderator for the RTD had brought together representatives from the legislature with the following representatives:

- Dr. Romulo Miral, Jr., director general of the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department (CPBRD);
- Mr. Peter Turingan from the Senate Economic Planning Office (SEPO); and
- Ms. Mechaela Tania Limpo from the Presidential Management Staff.

Interaction and reaction from the academic perspective were provided by the UP CIDS Program Convenors, Professor Herman Joseph S. Kraft of the Strategic Studies Program, and Dr. Rogelio Alicor Panoa of the Political Science Program.

The RTD concluded with a discussion of recommendations to enhance the alignment of academic research with government policymaking. Participants explored potential collaborations between academia and government institutions to promote evidence-based policymaking.

Presentations

Policy Analytics Software: A Tool for Data-Driven/Evidence-Based Policy Analysis

Ebinezer R. Florano, PhD

Data Science for Public Policy Program (DSPPP)

Center for Integrative and Development Studies, University of the Philippines (UP CIDS)

Dr. Florano began by providing an overview of the policy analytics application that the DSPPP is developing, emphasizing its potential to incorporate big data in real-time from multiple sources, enhancing responsiveness to stakeholder sentiments, and accelerating data gathering. The application is based on the framework of William Dunn which incorporates continuous evaluation and various analytics. The software is currently under development and is expected to be upgraded in the future with financial and technical support.

Dr. Florano shared the framework and vision of the software. According to him, the DSPPP is adopting a problem-centered policy analysis framework, incorporating both policy analysis and policy-making processes. This includes agenda-setting, policy formulation, adoption, implementation, and assessment. The software will focus on problem structuring, forecasting, recommendation, action, and monitoring.

Moreover, the software envisions to achieve faster, data-driven, evidence-based, real-time, continuous, accurate, and reliable policy analysis. This approach veers away from the traditional policy model which is often criticized for its limitations, such as a narrow focus on current events, limited stakeholder engagement, and a lack of flexibility in policy revisions.

Dr. Florano also shared that they are integrating policy analytics to leverage voluminous digital data and advanced technology for more effective policymaking. This involves continuous evaluation, reassessment, and reiteration. They will also utilize descriptive, diagnostic, predictive, and prescriptive analytics to inform their analysis. Dr. Florano provided a concise overview of the various analytics types, which are detailed below:

- **Descriptive Analytics (DA):** “What has happened?” – describes the past using aggregated or detailed data using tables and graphs for easy comprehension;
- **Diagnostic Analytics (DiA):** “Why did it happen?” – tries to analyze the phenomenon and its causes using data mining and correlation techniques; visualization is needed to spot variances, outliers, and changes over time;
- **Predictive Analytics (PA):** “What will happen?” – uses statistical models and forecasting techniques to predict future trends or events based on historical patterns in the data and estimates the likelihood of occurrence;
- **Prescriptive Analytics (Pr):** “What should we do?” embedded with the predictive models, it uses optimization algorithms and simulation exercises to assist people (decision support) or systems (decision automation) to decide on the next best action (i.e., terminate, continue, modify or scale up);

Dr. Florano further highlighted the key differences between traditional policy analysis and policy analytics. By comparing their coverage, speed, stakeholder interaction, data collection methods, and data nature, he underscored the advantages of adopting policy analytics for more effective policy analysis. Specifically, he noted the following:

- **Coverage:** Traditional analysis relies on extrapolation, while policy analytics leverages big data.
- **Speed:** Traditional analysis is hampered by data gathering delays, whereas policy analytics utilizes real-time data from multiple sources.

- **Stakeholder Interaction:** Traditional analysis struggles to detect stakeholder behavior, while policy analytics enables real-time monitoring.
- **Data Collection:** Traditional analysis heavily relies on researchers, while policy analytics minimizes researcher involvement.
- **Data Nature:** Traditional analysis is often perception-based, while policy analytics is grounded in actual behavior.

He emphasized the two-phase approach to software development. The first phase, currently underway, focuses on data-driven and evidence-based policy analytics. Meanwhile, the second phase will introduce real-time and continuous monitoring and evaluation capabilities.

The DSPPP's policy analytics software, based on William Dunn's framework, can be used as a valuable tool for both training and practical application. It can serve as a teaching aid in classrooms and training programs to introduce students to policy analysis techniques. Additionally, the software can be used as a template for writing comprehensive policy analysis papers.

The framework also covers the following key features of policy analysis:

- **Problem Structuring:** Identifies and analyzes policy problems.
- **Forecasting:** Predicts future trends and outcomes.
- **Recommendation:** Proposes evidence-based policy solutions.
- **Implementation Planning:** Develops actionable implementation plans.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Designs and implements robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks.
- **Data Analysis:** Employs quantitative and qualitative methods, including regression analysis, problem tree analysis, and cost-benefit analysis.
- **Stakeholder Analysis:** Identifies and engages relevant stakeholders.
- **Policy Impact Assessment:** Evaluates the effectiveness and efficiency of policies.

A part of DSPPP's vision for the software is to be artificial intelligence (AI)-ready to further enhance its capabilities and streamline the policy analysis process. But while they have made significant progress, Dr. Florano also emphasized the need for financial and technical support to fully realize this vision. He believes that by leveraging these tools and approaches, the DSPPP can significantly improve the quality and timeliness of policy analysis and ultimately contribute to better policy outcomes.

Pathways to Convert Research into Public Policies

Dr. Romulo Emmanuel M. Miral Jr.

*Deputy Secretary General, Congressional Policy and Budget
Research Department (CPBRD)*

In his presentation, Dr. Romulo Miral Jr. of the CPBRD emphasized the importance of converting research into public policy, highlighting the need for evidence-based policymaking. He discussed the role of research in agenda setting, policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation, noting that politics often determines what gets addressed. He stressed the importance of objective academic research in identifying pressing problems, formulating policy proposals, convincing stakeholders, and monitoring policy implementation. He also acknowledged the challenge of translating academic research into policy. Dr. Miral further discussed the challenges faced by researchers and policymakers in addressing complex problems, including untimeliness, lack of available data, and data quality issues. He emphasized the need for proper validation of each step in the research process to ensure accurate results.

Dr. Miral began his presentation stating that evidence-based policymaking is crucial to ensure effective and efficient governance. It prioritizes information over opinions and ideologies, enabling policymakers to make informed decisions based on real-world evidence.

He then pointed out that research plays a crucial role in every stage of the policymaking process, as it is essential for the following:

- **Agenda Setting:** Research helps identify pressing problems and prioritize issues for policy attention. It involves analyzing the root causes and potential solutions to these problems.
- **Policy Formulation:** Research provides the theoretical and empirical foundation for developing effective policies. It helps policymakers

identify evidence-based solutions and evaluate the potential impact of different policy options.

- **Policy Adoption:** Research can be used to build consensus among stakeholders and garner support for policy proposals. By providing credible evidence, researchers can help policymakers persuade decision-makers and the public.
- **Policy Implementation:** Research can inform the design and implementation of policies. It helps recognize potential implementation challenges and develop strategies to overcome them.
- **Policy Evaluation:** Research is essential for assessing the impact of policies. It involves collecting and analyzing data to determine whether policies have achieved their intended goals and identifying areas for improvement.

While the importance of evidence-based policymaking is widely recognized, several challenges hinder its effective implementation. These challenges include the following:

- **The Research-Policy Gap:** Often, research findings do not directly address the specific needs of policymakers. Researchers may focus on academic questions rather than practical policy problems.
- **Time Constraints:** Policymakers often face tight deadlines, limiting the time available for conducting and analyzing research.
- **Data Limitations:** Access to reliable and timely data can be challenging, especially in developing countries.
- **The Rise of AI and Big Data:** While AI and big data offer new opportunities for data-driven policymaking, they also raise concerns about bias, privacy, and the potential for misuse.

To bridge the gap between research and policy, Dr. Miral emphasized the following recommendations:

- Collaboration between researchers and policymakers to ensure that research is relevant and actionable.
- Focusing on research that has the potential to make a real-world difference.
- Developing effective communication strategies to share research findings with policymakers and the public.
- Investing in data collection, storage, and analysis systems to support evidence-based decision-making.
- Developing ethical guidelines for the use of AI in policymaking and ensure that AI systems are transparent and accountable.

By working together, Dr. Miral highlighted that researchers, policymakers, and practitioners can harness the power of evidence to create a better future.

Bridging the Gap: Linking Academic Research and Public Policy Making in the Philippine Senate

Mr. Peter Anthony S. Turingan

Supervising Legislative Staff Officer II

Senate Economic Planning Office (SEPO), Senate of the Philippines

Mr. Peter Turingan of the SEPO discussed the importance of academic research in policymaking, highlighting its role in providing high-quality and policy-relevant information to inform decision-making. He acknowledged the challenges in linking research and policy due to factors beyond research, such as political agenda and limited time for legislators. Mr. Turingan also emphasized the need to balance rigor with clarity in research outputs and the importance of effectively communicating research findings. He discussed strategies for linking research and policy, including understanding legislators' needs, targeting findings to key audiences, fostering partnerships, and continuously training themselves.

Mr. Peter Turingan began his discussion by introducing the SEPO. The SEPO, established by Senate Resolution No. 56 in October 2003, provides the Senate with comprehensive research and in-depth policy analysis on economic and social issues. SEPO supports various Senate committees by supplying essential data and statistics to aid in their decision-making processes.

Additionally, the SEPO actively engages with the public through public forums, webinars, and other events to discuss key issues and foster informed dialogue.

The SEPO, housed under the Office of the Senate Secretary, comprises 14 highly skilled technical staff divided into four key units:

- The Macroeconomics Unit focuses on national economic trends, fiscal policy, and budgetary matters.

- The Microeconomics Unit which analyzes sectoral issues, trade, and enterprise development.
- The Social Unit which examines social welfare, healthcare, and educational policies.
- The Governance Unit which assesses public administration, transparency, and accountability measures.

The SEPO also maintains a dedicated Administrative Staff to ensure the smooth operation of the office.

The SEPO also actively disseminates its research findings through various publications available on the Senate website (www.senate.gov.ph). These are the following:

- **Overviews:** Provides comprehensive analyses of key issues, such as the “Overview of the Proposed 2025 National Budget: Key Macroeconomic and Fiscal Assumptions.”
- **Policy Briefs:** Offers in-depth analyses on specific policy areas, such as “Reforming Military and Uniformed Personnel Pensions,” “Blue Economy,” “Enhancing Enterprise-Based Training,” and “Reforming Water Governance.”
- **At A Glance Reports:** Presents concise, data-driven insights into specific sectors, like the “Agricultural Trade At A Glance.”

These publications offer valuable resources for policymakers, researchers, and the public interested in Philippine economic and social issues.

Mr. Turingan then proceeded with answering the question, “Why is Academic Research Crucial for Policymaking?” Here, he discussed that academic research plays a pivotal role in evidence-based decision-making. It provides policymakers with high-quality, policy-relevant information to inform their decisions. By delving into complex issues, research helps policymakers accurately define problems and explore potential solutions. Furthermore, research can challenge conventional wisdom, offering fresh perspectives that can lead to innovative and effective policies.

However, he also recognized the challenges in linking research to policy. The policymaking process is a multifaceted endeavor influenced by a complex interplay of factors, extending beyond academic research. Political considerations, economic conditions, and public opinion significantly shape policy decisions. Given time constraints and competing priorities, policymakers often rely on a diverse range of information sources, not solely academic research. While rigorous and relevant research can significantly impact policy, there is no guarantee that research findings will be directly implemented, as they may be weighed against other factors and competing interests.

On the other hand, research plays a vital role in shaping policymakers' understanding of complex issues and informing them about their approach to problem-solving. While research findings may not always lead to immediate policy changes, they gradually influence policy discourse, challenging assumptions and shaping decision-making over time. By contributing to a broader knowledge base, research empowers policymakers to make informed decisions and develop effective policies.

Mr. Turingan outlined the characteristics of useful research for legislators. First, research should adhere to rigorous methodologies to ensure credibility and reliability. Second, it should be policy-relevant, offering actionable insights and specific recommendations. Third, research should align with legislative priorities, either supporting or challenging existing positions. Fourth, it should be innovative, questioning conventional wisdom and proposing novel solutions.

He also emphasized the importance effectively communicating research findings, as even the most groundbreaking research findings can have limited impact if not effectively communicated. Researchers must tailor their message to specific audiences, clearly articulating the real-world policy implications of their work. By employing diverse communication channels, such as policy briefs, infographics, and public forums, researchers can reach a wider audience and ensure their findings contribute to informed policy decisions.

Mr. Turingan concluded his discussion by outlining strategies for bridging the gap between research and policymaking. He emphasized the importance of tailoring research to the specific needs of legislators, effectively

communicating findings to key audiences, fostering collaborations with various stakeholders, and investing in ongoing training for researchers. By implementing these strategies, researchers can significantly enhance the impact of their work on public policy.

Input from the Presidential Management Staff: The Contribution of Research to Policymaking

Ms. Michaela Tania Limpo

*Division Chief, Good Governance and Development Administration
Division*

Policy Officer II

President Management Staff

Ms. Michaela Tania Limpo from the Presidential Management Staff provided inputs on the executive branch's perspective in the contribution of research to policymaking. She emphasized the role of academic research in policymaking by focusing on relevance and alignment with the President's priority sectors, including economy, international investments, digitalization, and right-sizing of the executive branch. Ms. Limpo also discussed the daily briefers prepared for the President and encouraged academics to submit their research directly to the Department or the Office of the Executive Secretary for further studies. A potential partnership with the University of the Philippines National College on Public Administration and Governance (UP NCPAG) to help capture different perspectives on the priority sectors was also mentioned.

Ms. Limpo's input began with the discussion on aligning academic research with policymaking priorities. To maximize the impact of academic research on policymaking, she emphasized that it is crucial to align research efforts with the administration's priorities. By focusing on relevant topics and providing timely and actionable insights, researchers can contribute significantly to the policy process.

Ms. Limpo also mentioned key strategies for aligning research with policy priorities.

The first one is about prioritizing relevant topics such as analyzing the President's State of the Nation Address (SONA) and the President's Report to the People to identify key policy priorities. Also included is focusing on issues that directly impact the lives of Filipinos, such as economic growth, digitalization, agriculture, and governance. She also emphasized the importance of supporting policy implementation by providing research to inform government programs and initiatives, such as rightsizing the bureaucracy and devolving power to local government units (LGUs).

The second strategy is engaging with policymakers. This includes establish strong relationships with policymakers, including legislators and government officials, contributing to policy discussions and debates by sharing research findings and expertise, and providing policymakers with concise and actionable policy recommendations through policy briefs and likewise.

The third strategy is leveraging interdisciplinary collaboration by working with researchers from different fields to gain diverse perspectives and insights, collaborating with government agencies to identify research needs and share expertise, and working with civil society organizations (CSOs) to understand the needs and concerns of communities.

According to Ms. Limpo, by adopting this strategies, academic researchers can play a crucial role in shaping evidence-based policies and contributing to a more just and equitable society.

Data and Evidence-Based Policymaking

Dr. Rogelio Alicor Panao

*Convenor, Program on Social and Political Change (UP CIDS)
Associate Professor of Political Science, UP Diliman*

Dr. Rogelio Panao discussed the importance of data in policymaking and research, emphasizing that without complete data, policy decisions could only be based on anecdotal evidence or political pressure. He highlighted the role of data in tracking trends, evaluating policy options, and measuring impact. Dr. Panao also proposed using data visualization and video blogs to simplify complex information and encourage public engagement. The discussion also touched on the conundrum between the worlds of policymaking and research, with a focus on the relevance of academic work versus non-policymaking.

The first part of Dr. Panao's discussion on data and evidence-based policymaking is about the role of data and effective communication in policymaking. Dr. Panao stated that data is a crucial tool for evidence-based policymaking. By providing quantitative insights, data can help policymakers identify problems, evaluate solutions, and measure the impact of policy interventions. However, challenges remain in effectively utilizing data and communicating research findings to policymakers.

One of the challenges that he shared is aligning research with policy priorities. Researchers often struggle to align their research with the specific needs of policymakers. Dr. Panao remarked that it is essential to bridge the gap between academic research and practical policy concerns. Another challenge he pointed out concerns data accessibility and quality. While data is increasingly available, ensuring its accuracy, reliability, and accessibility remains a challenge.

Dr. Panao provided two answers to address these challenges.

The first strategy is effective communication. Communicating complex research findings to non-expert audiences, such as policymakers, requires clear and concise language. Data visualization techniques can be used to make research findings more accessible and engaging. Another strategy that Dr. Panao highlighted in his discussion is about building relationships with policymakers. Establishing strong relationships with policymakers is crucial for influencing policy decisions. According to him, researchers should actively engage with policymakers to understand their needs and priorities.

Dr. Panao also shared strategies for enhancing the impact of research on policy. These include the following:

- **Prioritize Policy-Relevant Research:** Focus research efforts on addressing pressing societal problems and providing actionable policy recommendations.
- **Collaborate with Policymakers:** Work closely with policymakers to identify research needs and ensure that research findings are relevant and timely.
- **Utilize Data Visualization:** Employ data visualization techniques to make research findings more accessible and engaging.
- **Leverage Digital Platforms:** Utilize digital platforms, such as blogs and social media, to disseminate research findings and engage with a wider audience.
- **Build Strong Relationships:** Foster strong relationships with policymakers and other stakeholders to build trust and credibility.

By addressing these challenges and implementing these strategies, Dr. Panao noted that researchers can play a more significant role in shaping evidence-based policies and improving the lives of Filipinos.

Academic Research and Policy Alignment Challenges

Professor Herman Joseph S. Kraft

Convenor, Strategic Studies Program (UP CIDS)

Professor of Political Science, UP Diliman

Prof. Herman Kraft discussed the importance of academic research and its alignment with administration priorities. He noted that academic research is not always aligned with an administration's agenda, but it is crucial for researchers to maintain their academic freedom and explore various issues. Prof. Kraft also highlighted the challenges faced by policy processes in government, emphasizing the reactive nature of policymaking and the lack of a clear separation between long-term and immediate concerns. He suggested that academics must learn how to provide recommendations that can be acted upon, rather than just expressing wishes or hopes.

In his reaction to the presentations of the invited panelists to the RTD, Prof. Herman Kraft first pointed out the complex interplay of politics and research in policymaking. Prof. Kraft reiterated Dr. Miral's point about the influence of politics on policymaking which is crucial to consider when it comes to research. While policymaking is often framed as a rational process, political considerations inevitably shape decision-making. This can lead to challenges in aligning academic research with policy priorities.

He then moved to discussing key challenges and points for consideration.

First, there is a need to align research with policy priorities by balancing academic freedom and policy relevance. While academic freedom is essential, it is important to consider how research can contribute to addressing pressing policy issues. There is also a need to understanding policymakers' needs. According to Prof. Kraft, researchers should strive to understand the specific needs and priorities of policymakers to tailor their research accordingly.

Additionally, research should be communicated effectively. As Dr. Panao noted, and as Prof. Kraft reiterated, researchers must effectively communicate complex findings to policymakers in a clear and concise manner.

The second consideration in aligning research and policy is about the time dimension of policymaking. Prof. Kraft shared the need for policymakers to balance long-term and short-term goals: Policymakers often face pressure to address immediate crises, which can limit their ability to focus on long-term strategic planning. Another point to consider is ensuring policy coherence. Prof. Kraft noted that it is important to consider how current policies align with long-term goals and avoid unintended consequences.

The final point to consider is the critical role of research in policy implementation. As Prof. Kraft emphasized, it is essential to bridge the gap between theory and practice. Researchers should not only identify problems and propose solutions, but also consider the practical implications of their recommendations. Moreover, it is important to evaluate policy impact to see the effectiveness of policies and use the findings to inform future decision-making.

By addressing these challenges and fostering stronger collaborations between researchers and policymakers, we can improve the quality and impact of public policy.

Open Forum

The first question sought to explore effective strategies for engaging with legislators to translate academic research into policy. A participant asked how can researchers build relationships with policymakers, convince them of the relevance of data-driven research, and collaborate effectively to shape policy decisions. Ultimately, the question aimed to identify practical approaches to bridge the gap between academia and policymaking.

Dr. Miral responded by acknowledging the challenge of navigating the complex policymaking process. He highlighted the importance of sustained partnerships and collaboration between researchers and policymakers. He suggested that the CPBRD could serve as a valuable bridge between researchers and legislators. By working together, researchers and policymakers can effectively communicate, build relationships, and advocate for evidence-based policies. CPBRD can provide guidance on the policymaking process, identify key stakeholders, and help researchers navigate the political landscape.

Mr. Turingan also emphasized the challenges of translating research into policy. He noted that while it is important to consistently produce high-quality research, there is no guarantee that it will be directly used in policymaking. He suggested that building relationships with policymakers, such as through the CPBRD can be a valuable strategy. Additionally, Mr. Turingan highlighted the importance of persistence and continuous effort in advocating for research-informed policies. By consistently producing relevant research and actively engaging with policymakers, researchers can increase the likelihood of their work influencing decision-making.

The second question highlighted the tension between academic freedom and political constraints. Another participant asked how researchers can reconcile their duty to disseminate truthful information with the potential limitations imposed by political considerations, particularly when their research challenges prevailing political narratives or vested interests.

In his response, Mr. Turingan emphasized the importance of integrity in research, stating that researchers should prioritize truth and evidence over

political expediency. While acknowledging that policymakers may not always agree with research findings, he stressed the responsibility of researchers to present accurate and unbiased information. He provided an example of a study on the death penalty, where the research findings did not align with public opinion. In this case, the researcher presented the evidence, even though it contradicted the prevailing sentiment. But ultimately, the decision of whether to implement a policy based on the research lies with the policymakers.

Mr. Turingan highlighted the delicate balance between academic freedom and the practical constraints of policymaking. While researchers should strive to produce high-quality research, they must also be prepared to engage with policymakers and the public to effectively communicate their findings and advocate for evidence-based policies.

The third question sought to clarify the appropriate application of top-down and bottom-up approaches in various policy contexts. One of the participants asked what circumstances and under which each approach is most effective and how they can be combined to achieve optimal outcomes.

Dr. Miral emphasized the importance of a balanced approach to budgeting, for example, combining top-down and bottom-up approaches. While top-down budgeting is necessary to set overall spending limits and priorities, bottom-up approaches can help identify specific needs and allocate resources effectively. The optimal approach depends on the specific policy context and the nature of the problem being addressed.

The fourth question from one of the participants highlighted the challenges researchers face in effectively communicating their findings to policymakers and translating them into concrete policy changes. The participant asked for strategies to overcome these challenges.

Dr. Miral expressed his commitment to using research to address real-world problems. He highlighted the importance of collaboration among researchers and the need for a more organized approach to policy advocacy. Dr. Miral then emphasized the value of interdisciplinary research teams, suggesting that involving experts from various fields can strengthen the credibility and impact of research findings. He also stressed the importance of seeking expert validation for specific claims, such as legal interpretations or economic

analyses. By working together and leveraging the expertise of different disciplines, researchers can develop more comprehensive and persuasive policy recommendations.

The fifth question raised a valid concern about the potential for research to be misrepresented or misused for political purposes. The inquiry questioned the criteria used to evaluate research quality and the challenges of ensuring that research findings are accurately communicated to the public. Additionally, another participant asked about the prevention of the mischaracterization of research in the public sphere.

Dr. Panao addressed the issue of research mischaracterization by emphasizing the importance of researchers taking control of the communication process. He suggested that researchers should proactively engage with the public through various channels, including blogs and social media, to ensure accurate and effective communication of their findings. Dr. Panao also highlighted the value of educational initiatives, such as creating short and accessible explanations of complex concepts, to improve public understanding of research and promote evidence-based decision-making. By taking these steps, researchers can mitigate the risk of misinterpretation and contribute to a more informed public discourse.

Prof. Kraft also acknowledged the challenge of effectively communicating research findings to a broader audience in the age of information overload. He emphasized the importance of utilizing various platforms such as podcasts and social media, to reach diverse audiences. However, he also highlighted the responsibility of the audience to actively seek out reliable information and to critically evaluate different sources. While researchers can strive to communicate their ideas more effectively, ultimately, it is up to the audience to choose what information they consume.

Dr. Turingan also added the challenge of competing for attention in today's information-saturated world. He highlighted the need for academics to adapt to changing communication trends and to embrace new technologies, such as vlogging and AI, to effectively disseminate their research findings. On the other hand, he also expressed concern about the potential impact of AI on academic research and the importance of ensuring that AI-generated content is accurate and reliable.

The last question raised was about the extent to which policymakers value evidence-based research. One of the participants stated that while there may be a general recognition of the importance of research, it is not always consistently applied in the policymaking process.

Dr. Panao highlighted the significant influence of public opinion on policymaking in the Philippines and other developing countries. He noted that policymakers may prioritize public opinion over evidence-based research, especially when the evidence contradicts popular sentiment or threatens political interests. This can lead to policies that are not necessarily the most effective or equitable. Dr. Panao suggested that researchers should be mindful of the political context and consider how their findings might be perceived by the public and policymakers. By effectively communicating the implications of their research and engaging with policymakers, researchers can increase the likelihood that their findings will be incorporated into policy decisions.

Moreover, Mr. Turingan emphasized the importance of aligning research with the priorities of policymakers. While researchers may have personal interests, it is crucial to consider the relevance of the research to current legislative issues. He highlighted the need to balance academic curiosity with practical considerations and to focus on topics that can have a real-world impact. Dr. Turingan also acknowledged the challenges of navigating the political landscape and securing the attention of policymakers. He stressed the importance of tailoring research to the specific needs of policymakers and presenting findings in a clear and concise manner.

Dr. Miral readily agreed, emphasizing the enduring value of evidence. However, he highlighted a crucial caveat: timeliness. Just like in any discussion, evidence is paramount. But the lack of readily available data undermines its effectiveness. He further acknowledged the role of the audience, particularly the public and their votes. Politicians, he observed, sometimes prioritize demonstrating action over proving its efficacy. This, he argued, fostered a troubling cultural norm – the absence of a robust evaluation system. This lack of evaluation, he concluded, was a significant issue. The public, he implied, deserved a more thorough analysis of implemented policies.

Prof. Kraft echoed Dr. Panao's point that political considerations often influence policy decisions, even when they may not align with evidence-based

approaches. He highlighted the tension between pursuing rational, evidence-based policies and responding to public opinion and political pressures. Ultimately, policymakers must balance these competing demands to make informed decisions that serve the public interest.

CENTER FOR INTEGRATIVE AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Established in 1985 by University of the Philippines (UP) President Edgardo J. Angara, the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS) is the policy research unit of the University that connects disciplines and scholars across the several units of the UP System. It is mandated to encourage collaborative and rigorous research addressing issues of national significance by supporting scholars and securing funding, enabling them to produce outputs and recommendations for public policy.

The UP CIDS currently has twelve research programs that are clustered under the areas of education and capacity building, development, and social, political, and cultural studies. It publishes policy briefs, monographs, webinar/conference/forum proceedings, and the Philippine Journal for Public Policy, all of which can be downloaded free from the UP CIDS website.

THE PROGRAM

The **Program on Data Science for Public Policy (DSPPP)** aims to build the capacity of UP faculty in data science and apply this learned skill to public policy and governance. It seeks to engage a community of researchers within the university and encourage the pursuit of interdisciplinary problem-oriented research using high-level quantitative analyses.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Rosalie Arcala Hall
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Honeylet L. Alerta
DEPUTY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

PROGRAM EDITORS

■ EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING CLUSTER

Dina S. Ocampo
Lorina Y. Calingasan
EDUCATION RESEARCH PROGRAM

Fernando dIc. Paragas
PROGRAM ON HIGHER EDUCATION
RESEARCH AND POLICY REFORM

Marie Therese Angeline P. Bustos
Kevin Carl P. Santos
ASSESSMENT, CURRICULUM, AND
TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH PROGRAM

Ebinezer R. Florano
PROGRAM ON DATA SCIENCE FOR
PUBLIC POLICY

■ SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND CULTURAL STUDIES CLUSTER

Rogelio Alicor L. Panao
PROGRAM ON SOCIAL AND
POLITICAL CHANGE

Darwin J. Absari
ISLAMIC STUDIES PROGRAM

Herman Joseph S. Kraft
Francis Rico C. Domingo
STRATEGIC STUDIES PROGRAM

Marie Aubrey J. Villaceran
Frances Antoinette C. Cruz
DECOLONIAL STUDIES PROGRAM

■ DEVELOPMENT CLUSTER

Annette O. Balaoing-Pelkmans
PROGRAM ON ESCAPING THE
MIDDLE-INCOME TRAP: CHAINS FOR CHANGE

Antoinette R. Raquiza
Monica Santos
POLITICAL ECONOMY PROGRAM

Eduardo C. Tadem
Ma. Simeona M. Martinez
PROGRAM ON
ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Leonila F. Dans
Iris Thiele Isip-Tan
PROGRAM ON HEALTH
SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

■ NEW PROGRAMS

Maria Angeles O. Catelo
FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM

Weena S. Gera
URBAN STUDIES PROGRAM

Benjamin M. Vallejo, Jr.
CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY

Rosalie B. Arcala Hall
LOCAL AND REGIONAL STUDIES NETWORK

EDITORIAL STAFF

Jheimeel P. Valencia
COPYEDITOR

Alexa Samantha R. Hernandez
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Jessie Feniquito
Mikaela Anna Cheska D. Orlino
LAYOUT ARTISTS

