Making International Economic Policy Research Influential

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How does economic research influence policy research?

Researchers must respect the different cultures and different responsibilities of policy decision makers. To facilitate learning, the research results must be presented in a form that decision makers will accept. This may be done by intermediaries or governmental staff, but each additional step introduces opacity for misunderstanding.

1. Main working with decision makers, researchers should minimize reporting on procedures, even though this is essential to demonstrate validity for an academic audience. The general conclusions should be stated without provoking confusion from excessive warnings about their limitations. Of course, it is essential to warn suffering readers of the conclusions, but these should not detract from the essential message. One approach to maintaining focus is to warn of their general nature and requirements for focusing on the design and empirical estimates of the research. This necessitates useful insights and the design of the results. The researcher should be capable of explaining the evidence for his research, but he has other essential contributions to make.

2. Although it is appropriate in academic work, where a series of positive or negative results are presented, it is not acceptable to adjust the research process to generate outcomes that are supported by a predetermined position, nor is it acceptable to adjust the research process to generate outcomes that are supported by a predetermined position. The research process should only be changed to improve the quality of results. Researchers must respect the different responsibilities of policy decision makers when making decisions that are important to their ultimate test of research for government researchers. The alternative customers would generally be potential beneficiaries of the research.

3. The issue of how much independence the research community should have is partly addressed by its internal professional standards. This is an inherent from the government. They illustrate the need to accommodate the international donor perspective, and government recognition of the need to accommodate the international donor perspective. In the absence of a clear demand for policy research, the credibility of the research is damaged by the absence of a clear demand for policy research. The issue of how much independence the research community should have is partly addressed by its internal professional standards.

4. The international donor perspective is also limited if it is to be effective and if the government is to maintain a separate focus for government time. National decision makers are often interested in allowing someone to control their time for more than, say, ten minutes. Although more time may be scheduled, it is a good strategy to keep everything moving, or to indicate other points for a discussion whose time is limited by the need for a decision. At the least, junior level of officials (who may, however, senior enough to be influenced), 10 minutes is a practical maximum for formal presentation. With 10 minutes there should be a lot left over for informal discussion.

5. High level decision makers will not appreciate technical analytical techniques as much as concrete case studies of the research. Similarly, discussions through familiar concrete examples or success or failure, e.g. project pilots, are less conceptually, parallel efforts to counter concrete institutional incentives.