



The past, present and future of policy modeling

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Abstract

We evaluate the past, present, and future of policy modeling from both qualitative and quantitative perspectives. We do this through an extensive review and analysis of papers published in the *Journal of Policy Modeling* between 1978 and 2018. Over the years the focus of the policy modeling literature (and the Journal) changed. The changes were in research topics, approaches, techniques, theories, methods, and analytical tools as required for the rigorous analysis of complex and dynamic economic phenomena in policy modeling. © 2018 The Society for Policy Modeling. Published by Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

JEL classification: E65

Keywords: Policy modeling; Economic modelling; Research in policy modeling; Teaching of policy modeling; Econophysics

1. Definition and classification of policy modeling

“Policy modeling” can be defined as “an academic research, that is supported by the use of different theories as well as quantitative or qualitative models and techniques, to analytically evaluate the past (causes) and future (effects) of any policy on society, anywhere and anytime.” As an integral part of this definition, “policy” is defined as “a theoretical or technical instrument that is formulated to solve specific problems affecting, directly or indirectly, societies across different periods of times and geographical spaces” (Ruiz Estrada, 2011).

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Table 1

Total of papers published by JPM from 1979 to 2017.

Vol.	Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Sum
1	1979	12	15	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	37
2	1980	12	15	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	37
3	1981	11	11	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	34
4	1982	10	11	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	33
5	1983	8	8	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
6	1984	9	12	10	12	0	0	0	0	0	43
7	1985	9	8	7	11	0	0	0	0	0	35
8	1986	7	7	7	8	0	0	0	0	0	29
9	1987	9	6	6	12	0	0	0	0	0	33
10	1988	8	7	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	31
11	1989	7	5	8	11	0	0	0	0	0	31
12	1990	8	7	20	9	0	0	0	0	0	44
13	1991	8	9	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	35
14	1992	6	8	7	9	0	0	0	0	0	30
15	1993	11	7	5	7	7	0	0	0	0	37
16	1994	10	4	4	7	6	6	0	0	0	37
17	1995	11	6	4	7	6	4	0	0	0	38
18	1996	7	4	5	4	7	6	0	0	0	33
19	1997	9	4	6	6	7	6	0	0	0	38
20	1998	5	7	5	5	7	7	0	0	0	36
21	1999	8	6	7	8	9	6	6	0	0	50
22	2000	6	5	5	3	12	6	7	0	0	44
23	2001	6	6	9	9	9	11	8	7	0	65
24	2002	7	9	6	7	10	5	8	4	0	56
25	2003	13	12	10	12	7	11	6	6	0	77
26	2004	18	11	8	7	12	10	10	13	0	89
27	2005	9	9	10	11	11	11	12	11	8	92
28	2006	9	13	11	15	8	11	11	10	8	96
29	2007	10	14	13	15	12	15	0	0	0	79
30	2008	16	19	11	14	15	15	0	0	0	90
31	2009	11	19	16	14	15	18	0	0	0	93
32	2010	9	9	9	12	11	11	0	0	0	61
33	2011	9	11	13	11	10	11	0	0	0	65
34	2012	9	11	11	12	12	11	0	0	0	66
35	2013	13	12	12	12	12	15	0	0	0	76
36	2014	11	13	9	12	12	15	9	0	0	81
37	2015	9	14	10	10	11	11	0	0	0	65
38	2016	12	12	12	12	12	12	0	0	0	72
39	2017	11	12	12	12	12	12	0	0	0	71
										Total	2085

Source: Journal of Policy Modeling, Science Direct, Elsevier.

Policy modeling can be classified in categories. Based on an analysis of all the two thousand and eighty five (2085) papers that were published in the Journal of Policy Modeling (JPM) between 1978 and 2018 (40 years) (see Table 1). Policy modeling can be classified into the following seventeen (17) categories: (i) domestic and international trade policy modeling; (ii) energy, infrastructure, communications, and transportation policy modeling; (iii) environmental, agriculture, and natural resources management policy modeling; (iv) fiscal, government expenditure, and public debt policy modeling; (v) institutional, regulation and negotiation policy modeling; (vi)

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