Practice Option

Orientation

Spring 2013

What is meant by "practice"?

In Theory

In Practice

Analysis/Evaluation

↓

Policy

↓

Implementation

↓

Analysis/Evaluation

Applied Theory

Evaluation

Policy

Implementation
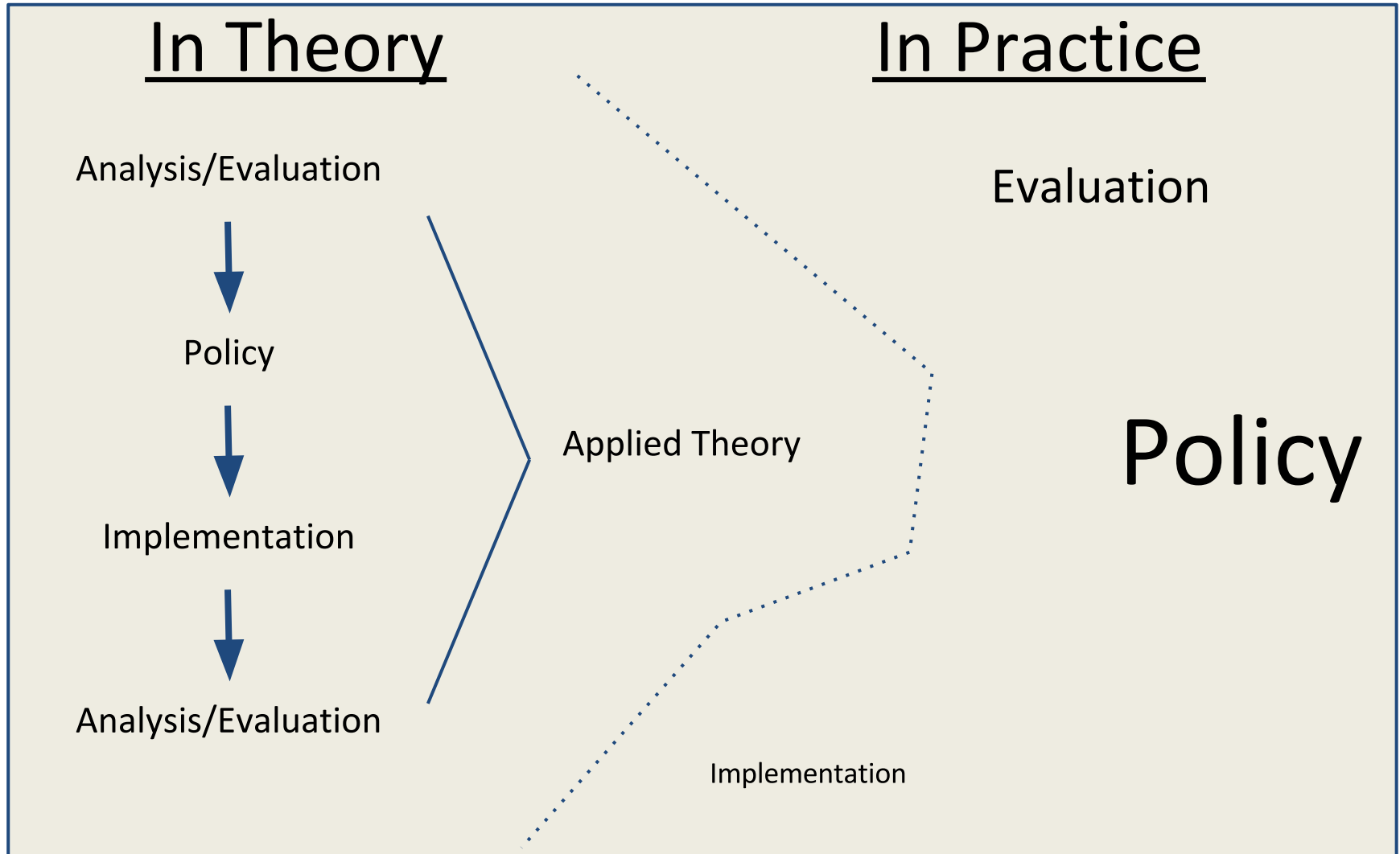
Practitioner as a Vocation

Principles and Perils:

- Democratic and Participatory
  - But we cannot be them
- Transparent and Goals Driven
  - But there is no salvation
- We know what to do
  - But all knowledge is situated and historical

Virtues:

- Humility
- Fortitude
- Critical Thinking

Practice Learning Objectives

- To learn **technical skills** around project implementation.
- To acquire **professional and consulting skills** - teamwork, Terms of Reference, preparing and delivering a professional-caliber product, working on deadline, client communication and reporting, understanding of how organizations work, expanding professional network.
- To gain real world, on the ground, outside of the classroom **experience**.

Practice at GPIA

Combines skills and methods courses, workshops and on-the-ground experience to give students knowledge, training and confidence.

- Research Methods
- Designing Collaborative Development
- International Field Program
- Internships
- Final project Practice Option - Practicum

The Final Project Practice Option

All MA students (but not MS) have a Final Project requirement - Thesis or Practice Option. Both are two-course sequences. The Practice Option is:

1. Practicum in International Affairs 1: Project Design (formerly Program Development and Project Management or "PDPM") taken in 3rd semester or following 24 or 18 credits completed

2. Practicum in International Affairs 2: Project Implementation (formerly "the Practicum") taken in final semester.

The two should be taken in consecutive semesters.

Timing

1st semester: Global Flows, Economics, elective or Research Methods

2nd semester: Comparative Development, Research Methods, elective or IFP prerequisite

Mid-2nd semester: Decision on final project option. Summer: IFP (6 credits)

3rd semester: PIA 1 Project Design or Thesis Workshop, electives

4th semester: PIA 2 Project Implementation or Thesis Supervision, elective or IFP prerequisite

Summer: IFP

Other Practice Electives at Milano

Theory & Practice of Nonprofit Managemt

Fundraising and Development

Financial Management in Nonprofit Orgs

Elements of Finance and Capital Markets

Community Development Finance Lab

Participatory Community Engagement

Social Innovation Bootcamp

Practicum in International Affairs 1: Project Design (formerly PDPM)

Students learn techniques and tools used in formulating and managing projects for desired impact. By course end students should be able to:

1. Conduct basic needs assessment
2. Develop a logical framework
3. Develop measurable indicators for a project
4. Include Monitoring and Evaluation in a project
5. Develop a grant proposal
6. Develop a project budget

PIA 1

By course end students will also be familiar with:

- Aid and development field
- Language and terminology
- Strategies to address potential conflicts and obstacles
- Cultural sensitivity
- Ethics
- Socio-cultural, political and economic dilemmas

Project Work

- PIA 1 and 2 use projects solicited from client organizations from not-for-profit, public and private sectors, and multilateral agencies. In PIA 1 you choose project to work on in both semesters.
- All projects are team projects.
- In PIA 1 the project is used as a focal point and vehicle to practice and apply the skills, as well as gaining background knowledge on the organization, project sector and the project itself.

PIA 2 Implementation

The PIA 2 semester focuses on completing project begun in PIA 1 with deliverables.

The course, to extent possible, simulates a professional consultancy experience, including emphasis on deadlines and professional standards, and client problems.

- Terms of Reference
- Design approach to project
- Conduct data collection and analysis
- Write report or produce some other product (e.g. brochure, manual, film)
- Presentation for client and New School community

The Class

Each project team meets separately with their faculty supervisor at a specified time for project management. These weekly meetings are treated largely as "project updates," similar to what you would have with a client. Each team must also arrange its own weekly one-hour meeting for team work without the instructor. Both meetings are mandatory.

Client Organizations

- UNFPA
- UNICEF
- UNDP
- UN DPKO
- UN NGO Committee on Migration
- UN NGO Liaison Service
- UNDESA

- NYS Dept of Ag and Markets
- Mayor's Office for Immigrant Affairs
- NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault
- Muni of San Fernando, El Salvador
- Intl Rescue Committee
- EngenderHealth
- Human Rights Watch
- CARE International
- Transparency International
- Waterkeeper Alliance

Client Organizations

- Consortium for Haitian Empowerment

- Independent Diplomat

- Amazonia Brasil

- Sauti Yetu Center for African Women

- ProDESC (Proyectos de Desarrollo Económico, Social y Cultural)

- Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)

- Liberian 2011 Election Web Portal

- North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA)

- Rural Women's Movement

Practicum archive: milanoschool. org/programs/gpia/practice/practicum-archive

Final Presentation

At the end of semester, all teams are required to compile, rehearse and present their project work before their client and the university community. The presentation at The New School will take the form of a graded "orals defense," in which a panel of faculty and practitioners will critique students on their process, conclusions and client recommendations.

Advanced Seminar in Nonprofit Management and Urban Policy Analysis and Management

Professional Decision Report (PDR):

PDR paper must address a policy or management issue facing a client, usually a government official or nonprofit executive, of student's choosing. The final document should exhibit both technical and formal skills of analysis and an understanding of the political and operational dimensions that condition policy and management responses.

Advanced Seminar

Paper of Publishable Quality (PPQ): Presents a new point of view, looks at an existing topic critically, takes an opposing point of view from mainstream thinking on a topic, examines an emerging trend, or in some way takes a unique viewpoint. It is also possible to write a case study. For students interested in research path, think tanks, or pursuing a PhD.

Decision Making

- What do I want out of my Master's degree?

- What are my post-Master's objectives?

- What do I need to learn, do and accomplish in my two years at GPIA?

Start thinking now and talk with your advisor!