

RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

Supervisor:	Kristin Makszin Jyothi Thrivikraman
Title of clinic:	Health policy research in practice
Number of students:	1-2
Major (<i>if applicable and approved by the Major Convener</i>):	GPH/GHIS
(Pre)requisites (<i>if applicable</i>):	Academic writing

Research context

This research clinic combines (1) policy analysis research on a topic of the students' choosing related to global health and (2) a reflection and guidance on assessments for policy analysis courses in the major. There is a plethora of different approaches to policy analysis used in global health and social and public policy more broadly. The supervisors will provide guidance, recommend training material, and offer training in different approaches of policy analysis, including stakeholder analysis, economic evaluation, Bardach's eightfold policy analysis, Bacchi's approach to policy analysis called "What's the Problem Represented to be?," among others. The students will first compare these different approaches then apply them in practice to produce case studies examples, such as policy briefs or analysis papers. The students will also consider opportunities for participatory research with stakeholders and when and how that could be an effective part of the research process. The students will learn how to apply different approaches to policy analysis and help inform the approaches to policy analysis applied in the courses in the GPH/GHIS major.

Students' tasks and activities

With the guidance of the supervisors, the students will review and compare the alternative approaches to policy evaluation and analysis to generate a comparison matrix. This will involve extensive reading about approaches to policy analysis in the first weeks. The students will then compile, conduct and write up case study examples and summaries applying these different approaches. Some of these can be collected and cited from existing research, whereas others will be completed by the students applying the skills learned in the first part of the clinic. These case studies could be used as examples in future policy courses at LUC. Finally, the students will produce a structured reflection on their experience with and perspectives on the different approaches to analysis, which may be done collectively and in different formats.

The research clinic will meet about every two weeks with independent work in between the meetings.