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Nota di contenuto	-- Why Interpret?. -- What Does It Mean to Interpret?. -- How and What to Interpret?. -- Example: Relational Analysis of Vouchers for Social Service Delivery. -- Where Do We Go from Here?.
Sommario/riassunto	This Brief provides researchers with an introduction to interpretive approaches for analyzing public policies. It introduces several real- world policy situations where the lack of an interpretive focus limits the analysis and precludes better policy responses. It takes an integrative point of view, with an openness to combining the insights from interpretive and positivist approaches in policy analysis, noting the ability of the interpretive approach to make sense of data while uncovering the otherwise hidden ideological and normative bases of other types of analyses. While not a 'how-to' methods book, this Brief provides sufficient discussion of different ways to find meaning in texts, such as narrative and discourse analysis, or cultural/ethnographic readings of the social and material artifacts found in a place, as well as uncovering meaning from direct engagement with subjects through interviews, action research, and

other strategies. The main intent of the book is to convince policy scholars of the usefulness of interpretive thinking, which entails answering the questions: "what does it mean to interpret?" and "what do we gain from interpreting?" As such, this Brief will be of interest to scholars in public policy, public administration, and political science as well as researchers in applied fields (e.g., environmental studies, race and gender studies, urban planning, sociology) engaged in policy analysis.
