What is Research Impact and Why is it Important

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Drivers

- University as engine of the economy
- Need to spread activity and economic benefit across country-levelling up agendaNeed to spread activity and economic benefit across country-levelling up agenda

- Need to advance (or at least protect) global rank
- Need to work closer with industry
- Need to encourage, accelerate and evidence impact-REF/KEF
- Need to be more innovative-UK ARPA
- Need to reduce admin burden-BEIS

Importance of (making and evidencing) IMPACT

- Attract students
- Attract top researchers
- Justification to government/tax-payers of spend on research
- Building brand/reputation
- Advancing in the global rankings
- Supporting University Strategy to do good in the world
- Performance managing the research "machine"

What Best Defines Impact?

- Defined by Research Excellence Framework or Knowledge Exchange Framework
- Defined by Times Higher Education, ARWU/Shanghai, Leiden, QS etc
- SciVal/InCites – citation impact
- Altmetrics/PlumX – altmetrics
- Licensing income, spin-offs, patents etc
- Balanced scorecard
- Snowball metrics, Star metrics
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Impact Case Studies re REF

Research Excellence Framework 2021

- Outputs – scoring of selected academic publications 1-4*- 60%

- Impact case studies 132 KCL (narrative) impact case studies submitted-25%

- Environment –Describes the environment the institutions have to support research activity.- 15%

Institution   King's College London

Each segment below shows the relative strength of the selected institution for each KEF perspective, compared against the average for the cluster they are a member of (as denoted by black decile line). Tap or hover over a segment to show the links to the dashboard for each perspective. Segments are displayed using deciles; for example, a segment that reaches the outer edge of the chart shows that the selected institution is one of the top 10% of all institutions for that perspective.

Public and community engagement
top 40%

Research partnerships
top 10%

IP and commercialisation
top 20%

Working with business
top 20%

Local growth and regeneration
bottom 30%

Working with the public and third sector
top 20%

Skills, enterprise and entrepreneurship
top 30%

 Note that the metrics for public and community engagement and local growth and regeneration have associated narratives that give a more complete picture. Tap or hover over the chart segment to show a summary of the narrative, and a link to the full version.

Institution Context

Since our foundation in 1829, King's students and staff have dedicated themselves in the service of society.
As a civic university at the heart of London, King's is spread across five main campuses in London, three co-located with major NHS hospitals, along with sites in Oxfordshire and Cornwall.
King's is a diverse inclusive community with students, staff and alumni joining us from London, the UK and across the globe. A research-intensive multi-faculty university with a diverse range of subjects and disciplines, we employ 8,500 staff and have 33,000 students from over 150 countries; annual income is c.£971m. King's is ranked 7th in the UK by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (2021).
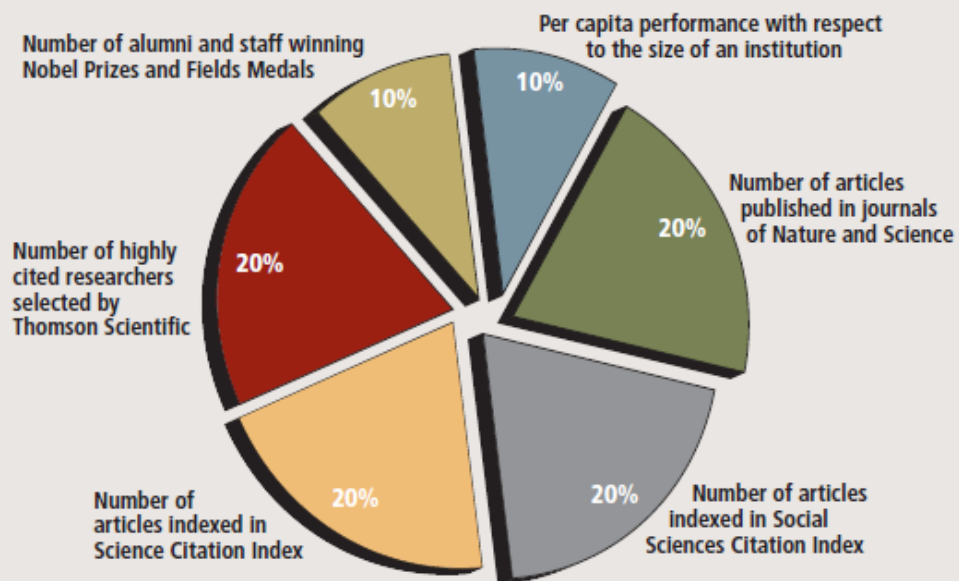
Read the full institutional context
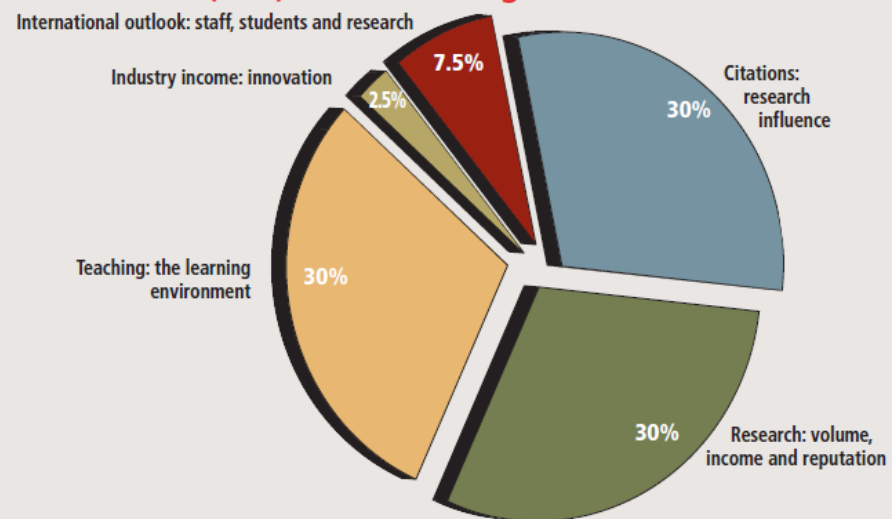(opens in new window)

Cluster V summary

Very large, very high research intensive and broad-discipline universities undertaking significant amounts of excellent research. Research funded by range of sources including UKRI, other government bodies and charities; 10.2% from industry. Significant activity in clinical medicine and STEM. Student body includes significant numbers of taught and research postgraduates.

Figure 1. ARWU/Shanghai World Ranking indicators

Number of alumni and staff winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals — 10%

Per capita performance with respect to the size of an institution — 10%

Number of articles published in journals of Nature and Science — 20%

Number of highly cited researchers selected by Thomson Scientific — 20%

Number of articles indexed in Social Sciences Citation Index — 20%

Number of articles indexed in Science Citation Index — 20%

Figure 3. The Times Higher Education (THE) World Ranking indicators:

International outlook: staff, students and research — 7.5%

Industry income: innovation — 2.5%

Citations: research influence — 30%

Teaching: the learning environment — 30%

Research: volume, income and reputation — 30%

This Webinar is being recorded.

Sustainable Development Goals

OVERALL RANKING	1 NO POVERTY	2 ZERO HUNGER	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
9 INDUSTRY INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	13 CLIMATE ACTION	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	15 LIFE ON LAND	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

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King's College London

📍 United Kingdom

16 88.6   11 89.7   3 86.7   17 96.0   95.5

ⓘ SDG Descriptions
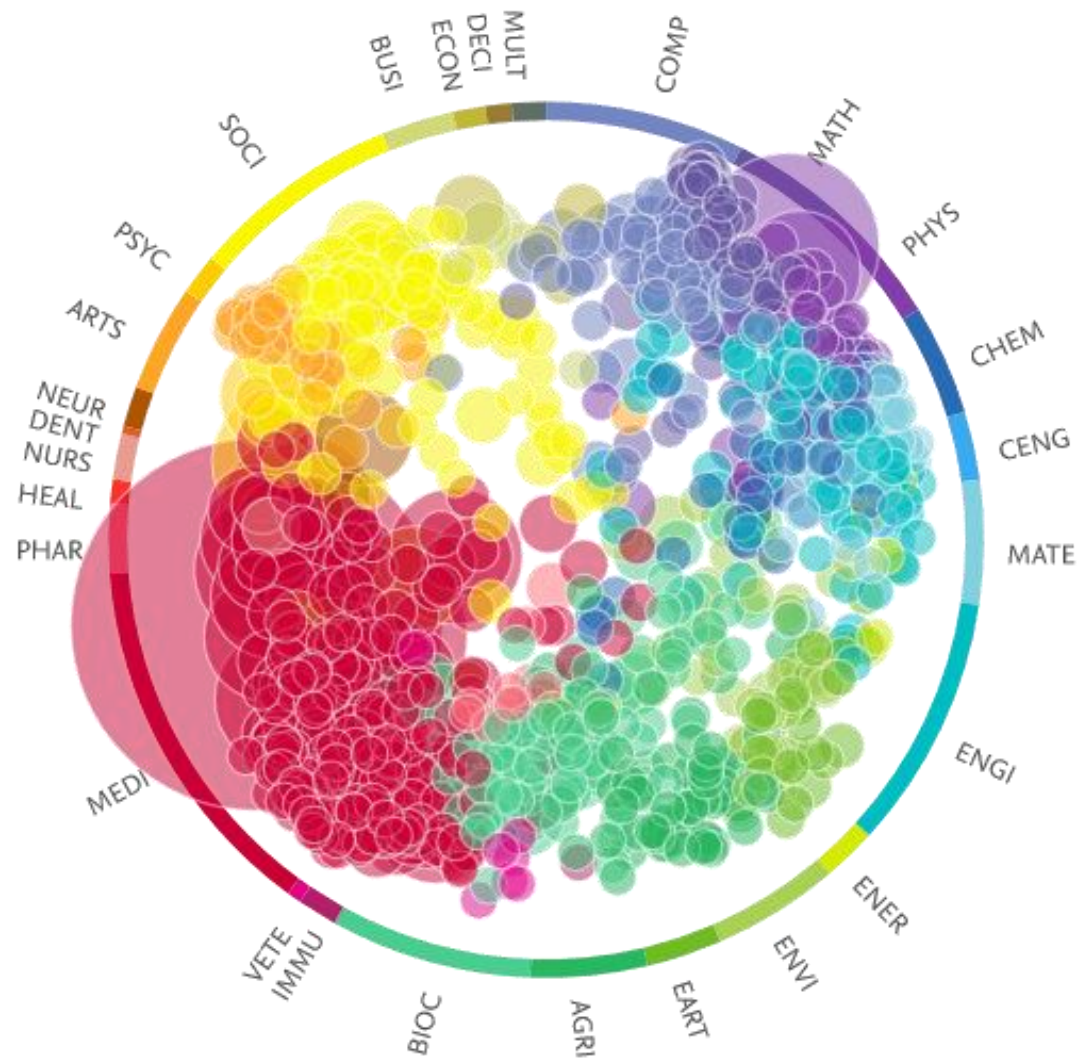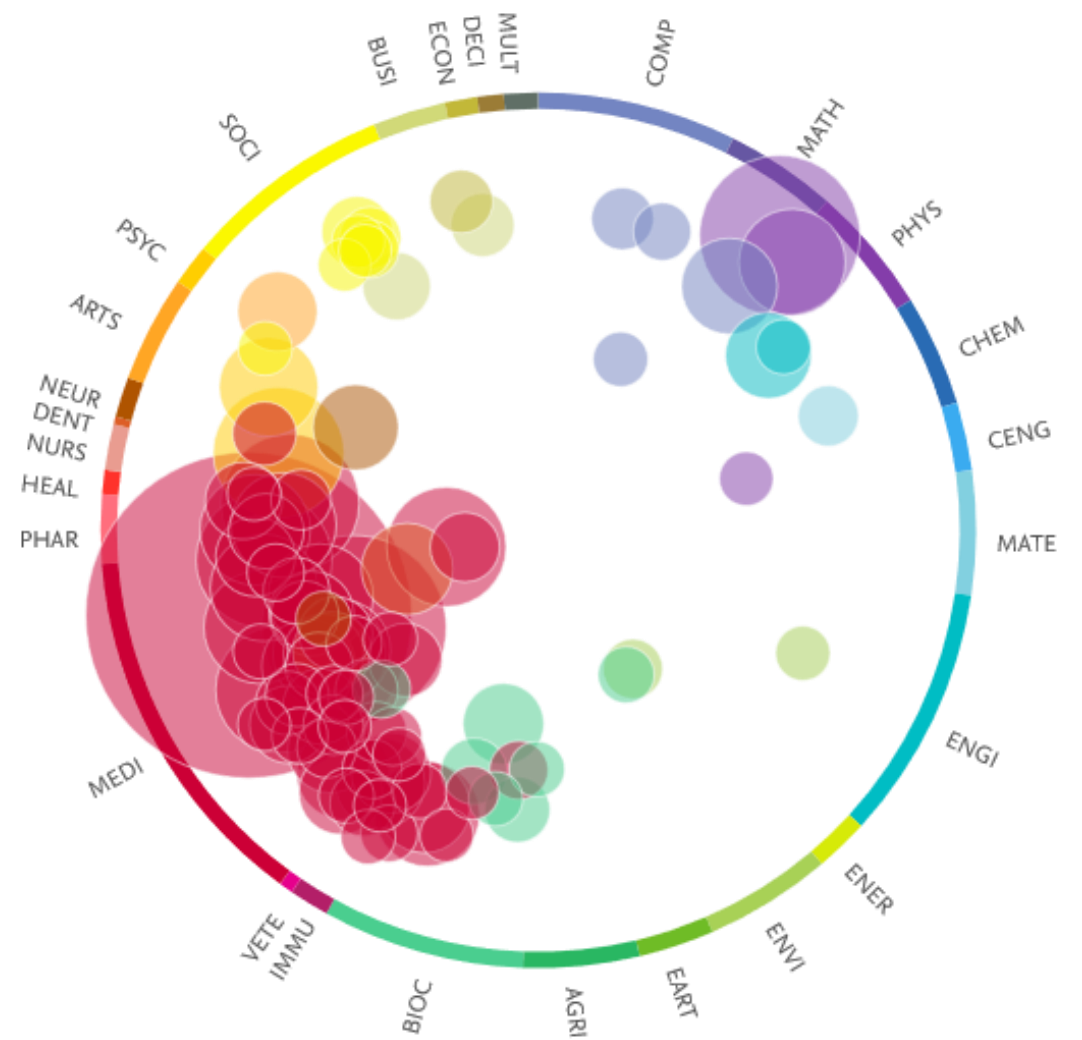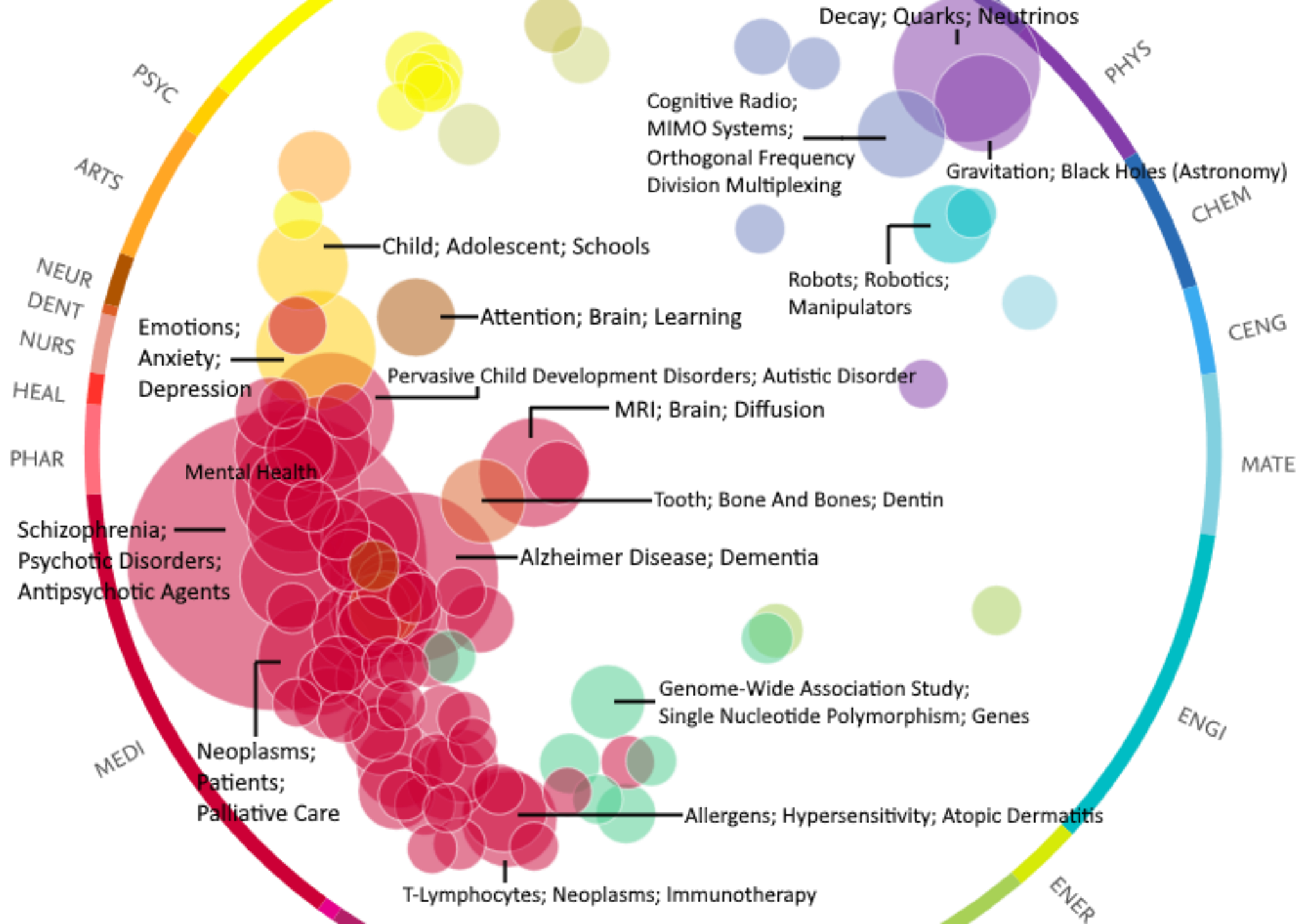
SciVal- King's outputs by Topic Cluster and Subject Area

All Topic Clusters

Top 100 TCs by Scholarly Output

Field-weighted citation impact, 2014-present

Institution	Scholarly Output	Field-Weighted Citation Impact	Output in Top 10% Citation Percentiles (%)
Stanford University	99,404	2.55	28
Harvard University	217,097	2.29	27.5
University of Oxford	97,958	2.29	25.2
Imperial College London	84,962	2.18	25.6
University of Edinburgh	52,803	2.16	22.9
King's College London	**52,280**	**2.15**	**23.5**
University of Cambridge	81,300	2.13	26.4
University College London	108893	2.11	24.2
Tsinghua University	107726	1.63	21.1
Beijing Normal University	29,960	1.26	19.2

Data source: Scopus | All publication types | Year range: 2014 to >2020 | Date exported: 23 Nov 2020

Best practice

https://impactmap.cam.ac.uk/?ucam-ref=home-hero

Explore our global impact
From the Arctic to Zambia, explore how research carried out by Cambridge and its partners is having a positive impact around the world.

Impact
Measuring/Evidencing/Communicating tools

- Measuring- SciVal, InCites, Altmentrics, PlumX

- Collating / Evidencing/Communicating – Pure, Elements, Esploro

- Ranking Systems – Times Higher Ed, Shanghai/ARWU, Leiden, QS etc

COVID-19 Symptom Study App: Influencing global understanding and national government policy

- March 2020: King's researchers together with ZOE Global (a King's spinout) rapidly adapted a successful King's digital health App into the **COVID Symptom Study App**. Within less than a month over 2M people in the UK and over 100k in the US individuals began reporting symptoms through it.

- Participants were asked to log daily health updates and record a wide range of risk factors, symptoms (temperature, tiredness, coughing, breathing problems, headaches etc), whether or not they had tested positive for the virus and if so, the treatment they received.

- The data provided by the app was then regularly used to inform SAGE's advice to the UK government on COVID-19. By August 2020, the UK Govt and several key health charities had publicly endorsed the app. By December 2020 more than 4M people were using it.

Incorporating behavioural science into policy making, planning and response for emergencies.

- King's research has demonstrated that the public are largely resilient to extreme events (e.g., terrorism, pandemics, flooding) and highlighted the role of effective communication in informing protective health behaviours before, during, and after civil emergencies of this kind.

- Research has demonstrated that many policies, plans, and responses for emergencies are based on inaccurate assumptions about public risk perceptions and behaviours. This can lead to situations where public behaviours overwhelm emergency response systems.

- Rogers and Pearce have worked with industry, emergency response, local, national, and international government organisations to enhance their ability to influence public responses to extreme events; address concerns about causing public panic when communicating; and reframe the representation of the public in emergency response processes.

- This has allowed King's research to have a significant impact on policy making, planning and response for emergencies. Specifically, it has (i) changed the ways that public responses are incorporated in UK national risk assessments, (ii) repositioned behavioural science at the heart of emergency response policy, and (iii) informed security-focused communication with the public and industry.

Mathematical modelling of pension assets and liabilities shapes UK Government's pension policies

- The Financial Mathematics (FM) group at King's have developed mathematical and computational simulation tools to quantify the financial risks associated with long-term pensions liabilities.

- Since 2013, the Pensions Policy Institute (PPI, an independent research charity and think tank) has been collaborating with the FM group. The models created by the FM group have been heavily used by PPI as a basis for their research regular publications and policy discussions with the UK Government, and have been central to pensions policy debate and development in the UK.

- In addition, there has been significant usage of the models in PPI's production of briefing notes. Significant recent examples include the 2017 report that explores the role that behavioural techniques play alongside other policy levers to help people achieve better long-term saving outcomes, the 2019 report showing that women have around 28% lower pensions savings and income than men, and the September 2020 briefing note on proposed changes to the state pension scheme resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Accelerating Impact Making

- Creating top notch impact strategy at institutional level
- Communicating-sending out media (and social media) savvy comms on college impact
- Having superb externally facing research impact system (Pure/Elements/Esploro)
- Supporting impact at the faculty level
- Working hard to optimize REF/KEF scores/Global Ranking systems
- Having top quality research infrastructure and support for researchers
- Integrating public engagement and service agendas into central Impact
- Supporting and encouraging industry partnership, international collaboration

Conclusions

- Impact making and evidencing is crucial
- Integrated Impact Planning/Leadership at Institutional Level is Vital
- Nuanced approach to measuring impact vital-Think beyond citation impact and embrace social media
- Having appropriate tools and systems very, very important
- Impact has wide scope across research spectrum….Not just STEM
- Integrated approach is critical (PE, Service)
- Ensure promotion/tenure processes reflect importance of impact