

**Wednesday, 18 October - Plenary Closing**

**Recommendations  
& Interactive Panel**

## Recommendation (Room 0.47)

### Parallel session: Changing the Culture for more Impact and Innovation

Recommendation: “For a change in culture towards more Impact, the most effective change would be to integrate the User in the research programming, the research funding programs and the evaluation of research. In order to facilitate this, internal support at the universities is needed.”

## Recommendation (Room 1.17)

### **Parallel session: Regional Collaboration for Development**

Recommendation: “New skills are required from both policy makers and academics to build up collaboration – having trust is a starting point for all relationships!”

## Recommendation (Room 1.34)

### **Parallel session: Open Science and Credibility in Society**

Recommendation: “Burst the bubble. Credibility is in the eye of the beholder. In order to develop true long-term credibility in larger sector of society, universities should transform their ways of working in ways which engage with those who have very different world-views. Value not only academic knowledge but other forms of expertise (broadly defined) on equal terms. Take co-creation very seriously. Transform the academic reward and recognition system so academics get the time to spend on public engagement.”

## Recommendation (Room in Building TRH)

### Parallel session: Integrating Impact in an Institutional Strategy

Recommendation: “Institutions are in a long-term pathway for building “institutional impact capabilities and impact culture”, which means the focus of the institutional impact agenda is predominantly moving towards a process model, “organizing, supporting and enabling impact”.

Reflection: what about Impact leadership?”

## Interactive Panel

**Marc Vanholsbeeck** Director of the Coordination Department, Belgian Science Policy Office

**Anne Sofie Laegran** Head of Research Impact, The University of Edinburgh, Scotland

**Sally O'Connor** Director of Operations, SPARK, Cardiff University, United Kingdom

**Paul Wouters** Dean of Social and Behavioural Sciences & former Director, CWTS,  
Leiden University, The Netherlands

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**Marc Vanholsbeeck**

*Director of the Coordination Department,*

*Belgian Science Policy Office*



# A diversity of epistemologies

“... wherever the man of science applies his own value judgements, the full understanding of facts ceases.”

(Max Weber, *Gesammelte Aufsätze zur Wissenschaftslehre*, Tübingen, 1922)

“From this point of view, science - the real game in town - is rhetoric, a series of efforts to persuade relevant social actors that one's manufactured knowledge is a route to a desired form of very objective power.”

(Haraway, Donna. "Situated knowledges: The science question in feminism and the privilege of partial perspective." *Feminist studies* 14.3 (1988): 575-599.)



# A diversity of impact framings

“Through creating impact, research can improve society. However, creating impact should not be the primal task of the science. The task of the research is to explore truth rather than create impact.” (Male, Philosophy, Slovenia)

“[Creating impact is very important] because for me it has no sense of building theories just for the pure intellectual pleasure or satisfaction of building theories. To my mind doing research is participating in the exploration of unsolved problems in order to make the society progress, so it should necessarily have societal impact.” (Female, Innovation Studies, Sweden)

(Quotes taken from Vanholsbeeck, Marc, and Karolina Lendák-Kabók. "Research Impact as a 'Boundary Object' in the Social Sciences and the Humanities." *Word & Text: A Journal of Literary Studies & Linguistics* 10 (2020))



- Impact should not (only) be defined in a top-down manner but considered at research project and individual researcher level.
- Interdisciplinarity within SSH and between SSH and STEM is needed, but also needs ad hoc intercommunication spaces to work.
- In their request for SSH/interdisciplinary expertise, policy makers should consider the specificities of SSH epistemologies.

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**Anne-Sofie Laegran**

*Head of Research Impact, The University  
of Edinburgh, Scotland*

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How can we get SHAPE subjects into the centre of interdisciplinary research and innovation to address future challenges such as AI, Climate change, and Health and Care ?

- What roles can academic colleagues, funders, and the impact profession play in advocating and enabling active involvement of SHAPE subjects ?
- How do we avoid SHAPE being reduced to being about uptake of STEM defined technology?
- If we focus on the need for social science skills – is there a danger we underplay the role of SHAPE colleagues as original researchers in their own right?

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**Sally O'Connor**

*Director of Operations, SPARK, Cardiff*

*University, United Kingdom*

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- How to develop socially robust knowledge together with stakeholders?
- How do we create a learning culture?

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**Paul Wouters**

*Dean of Social and Behavioural Sciences & former  
Director, CWTS, Leiden University, The Netherlands*



# The value of open science for public trust

- It is not the information that counts but the social relationships and the social network
- Open science may contribute to increased (or sustained) trust in the knowledge community if they are seen as part and parcel of society at large (and not as part of some elite)
- Therefore, we need to build more flexible knowledge communities in which academics can more freely share their knowledge (not hindered by university bureaucracy). Hence Academia in Motion.
- This is a program of change of (the role of) academia: open science is only valuable if it transforms the way the universities and research institutes work and share
- And how will open science relate to the global configurations of resources and power? Will it increase the existing inequalities or be really inclusive re the Global South?

## Panel Discussion

Biggest obstacles/Questions:

1. Impact should not (only) be defined in a top-down manner but considered at research project and individual researcher level.
2. Interdisciplinarity within SSH and between SSH and STEM is needed, but also needs ad hoc intercommunication spaces to work.
3. In their request for SSH/interdisciplinary expertise, policy makers should consider the specificities of SSH epistemologies.
4. What roles can academic colleagues, funders, and the impact profession play in advocating and enabling active involvement of SHAPE subjects?
5. How do we avoid SHAPE being reduced to being about uptake of STEM defined technology?
6. If we focus on the need for social science skills – is there a danger we underplay the role of SHAPE colleagues as original researchers in their own right?
7. How to develop socially robust knowledge together with stakeholders?
8. How do we create a learning culture?
9. We need to build more flexible knowledge communities in which academics can more freely share their knowledge (not hindered by university bureaucracy). Hence Academia in Motion.
10. How will open science relate to the global configurations of resources and power? Will it increase the existing inequalities or be really inclusive re the Global South?

## Voting!

1. Go into the superevent app
2. Go to Programme → Interactive session → Vote!

## Panel Discussion

- Paul Wouters**      Dean of Social and Behavioural Sciences & former Director, CWTS, Leiden University, The Netherlands
- Marc Vanholsbeeck**      Director of the Coordination Department, Belgian Science Policy Office
- Sally O'Connor**      Director of Operations, SPARK, Cardiff University, United Kingdom
- Anne Sofie Laegran**      Head of Research Impact, The University of Edinburgh, Scotland

## Boat Tour!

*Bute Park*

*Start of the visit: 16.30*

(Leave from  
sbarc | spark at 16.00)



## Break

*Leaving at **16:00** for the boat tour*

*Meet at the lobby at **15:55!***



End of Day 1

**Thank you!**