

## Evidence Informed Policy Making (Room 6.35)

### Speakers:

Barend van der Meulen (Chair)

Sarah Chaytor

Daniel Robinson



slido

Join at  
**slido.com**  
**#3435 234**



# Evidence Informed Policy Making

<https://wall.sli.do/event/oJ1FeVGWUzbPWQcVjrobjC?section=a0074382-2088-4905-993c-bf5593136df1>

# Evidence Informed Policy Making

**Barend van der Meulen (Chair)**

*Director, Center for Higher Education Policy Studies,*

*University of Twente, The Netherlands*



# POLICY IMPACT BY EVIDENCE

**BAREND VAN DER MEULEN**

**19-10-2023 – CARDIFF - AESIS CONFERENCE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF SSH&A**

**SESSION: EVIDENCE INFORMED POLICY MAKING**

# WELCOME

## Panel

- Sarah Chaytor, Director strategy and policy UCL
- Nicola Dotti, Senior policy officer Science Europe
- James Canton, Dep Director Public policy and engagement, ESRC
- Barend van der Meulen, CHEPS University of Twente



# WELCOME

## Main questions

- How to have impact on policy making?
- What kind of interfaces and support are helpful for making impact?
- How can we do better?

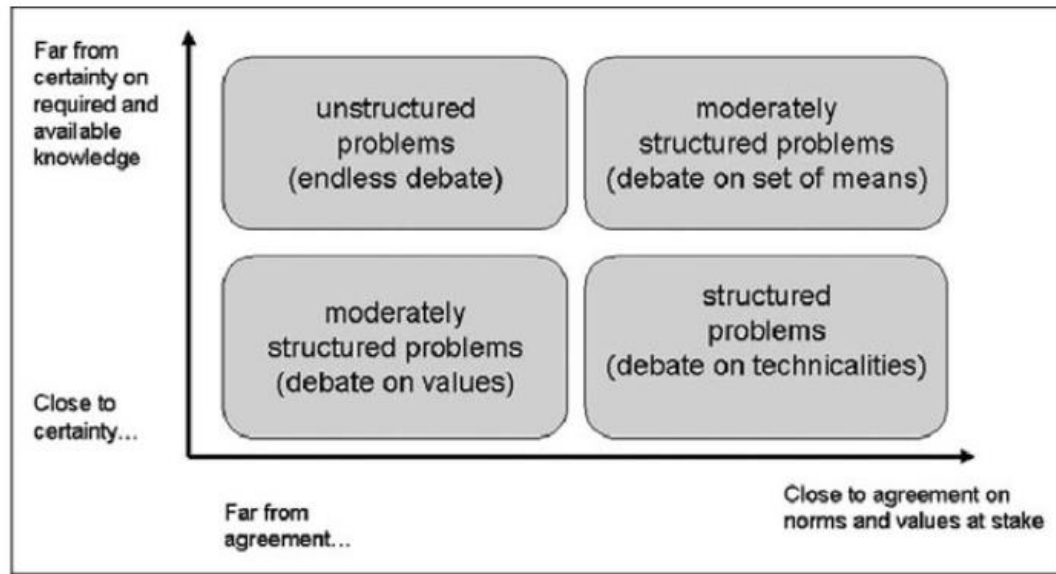




# POLICY PROBLEMS AND POLITICS

## Types of policy problems

- Level of certainty about knowledge
- Level of agreement on norms and values



- EBP fits best with structured problems.
- How to deal with unstructured and moderately structured problems?

Strategy 1: do as lobbyists and suggest the problem is structured

Strategy 2: support parliament in evidence informed political opinions



# FUNDING OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

- How effective is funding model for university research?
  - Competitiveness
  - Priority setting
- Follow the money – study the responses
- Results
  - Priority setting is ineffective
  - Indirect competition is much higher than policy model assumes
- Impact
  - Political debat on funding models



# RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF SCIENCE

- How to calculate the ROI of public funding of science?
- CPB: it is a cost ⇔ KNAW: it is an investment
- Methodological problem
  - Evidence is inconclusive
  - Scientific knowledge as production factor is intangible
  - Use of science in economy is diffuse
  - Knowledge behaves as a public good
- Advice
  - Focus on ROI of science *policy options* instead of level of funding
- Impact: none

Rathenau Instituut

**Eieren voor het onderzoek**  
Prijs, waarde en impact van wetenschap



Rapport

## LESSONS LEARNT

- Producing evidence
  - Independence
  - Integrity
  - Transparency
- Supporting parliament
  - Strengthen the democratic processes we have
  - Multiplicity: experiences of the stakeholders do matter
  - Being accountable
- Accept limitations of any policy analysis, esp. your own

## SUPPORT STRUCTURES

- Have colleagues
- Listen to good communication advisors
- Have a liaison officer for parliament
- Have good contact with parliamentary support staff
- Take media training and learn to formulate key messages
- Learn from lobbyists, but don't copy them

**THANK YOU**



# Evidence Informed Policy Making

**Sarah Chaytor**

*Director of Strategy & Policy, University College London,  
United Kingdom*

# **Enabling evidence-informed policy: Connecting university research to public policy**

**Societal Impact of Social Sciences, Humanities & Arts, 2023**

Sarah Chaytor

Director of Strategy & Policy, UCL Research, Innovation & Global Engagement

Project lead, CAPE

Co-Chair, UPEN

Joint Principal Investigator, IPPO



# 1. What do we know?

# The UK evidence ecosystem is evolving rapidly...

What Works Network



HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT  
PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Universities Policy Engagement Network



INSIGHTS North East



Government Office for Science

IPPO INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY OBSERVATORY

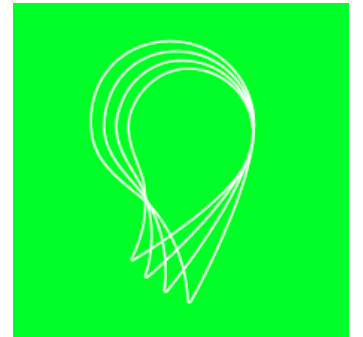
Economics Observatory

Wales Centre for Public Policy  
Canolfan Polisi Cyhoeddus Cymru

SPRE

SCOTTISH POLICY & RESEARCH EXCHANGE

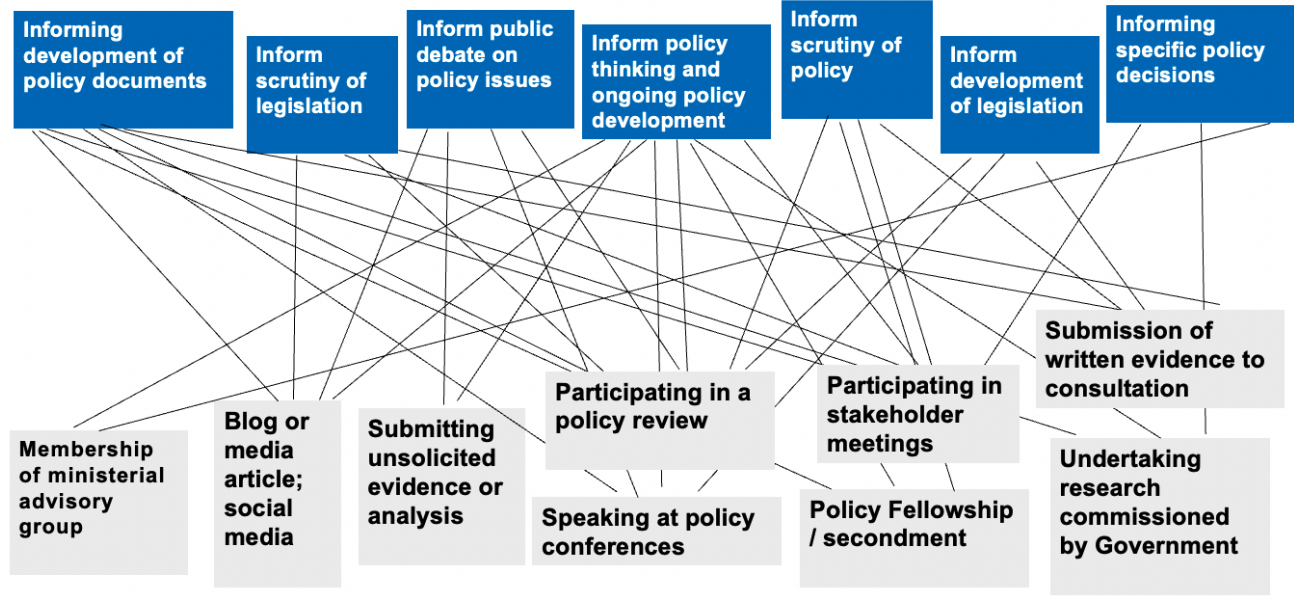
CAPE



Y-PERN

# ...and informing policy is complex

## Policy engagement and impact routes



## Policy functions

	Evidence Analysis	Policy development	Scrutiny	Implementation	Evaluation	Campaigning
MPs						
Parliamentary Staff						
Ministers						
Civil servants						
Local councillors / authority members						
Local / regional authority staff						
NDPBs						
NGOs / intermediaries						

Adapted from *How to Engage Policy Makers with your Research: The Art of Informing and Impacting Policy*

## 2. Examples

# Institutional knowledge brokerage

## Supporting researchers

- training resources
- 'how to' guides
- seed funding
- Ad hoc advice and guidance

## Engagement mechanisms

- Policy Fellowships
- Roundtables
- Thematic projects

## Accessible outputs

- Research Insights briefings
- Select Committee submissions
- Blog
- Podcasts

# Universities Policy Engagement Network



## **Visibility:**

- Circulate and promote calls for evidence and expertise
- Promote fellowship and secondment opportunities
- Events programme

## **Brokerage:**

- Coordinate evidence submissions
- Help to identify experts
- Broker engagement and dialogues
- Support commissioning of research or evidence synthesis

## **Shared learning:**

- Blogs
- Resources, guidance and templates
- Communities of practice
- Masterclasses

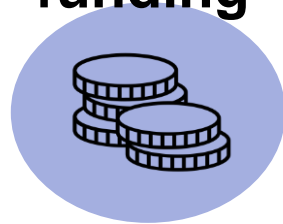
4-year, £10 million partnership to support effective and sustained engagement between academics and policy professionals:

- how to **improve the use of evidence** in public policy
- what works in **different institutional, geographical and policy contexts**
- how to build greater **collaboration between universities** in academic-policy engagement
- **increasing diversity** in academic-policy engagement.

Fellowships



Seed  
funding



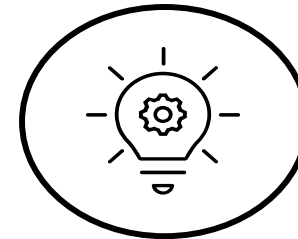
Knowledge  
Exchange



Training



Evaluation





The International Public Policy Observatory (IPPO) aims to mobilise and assess evidence from across the four nations of the United Kingdom, and beyond, to inform policymakers about the best ways to address social harms.

Reports/Briefings



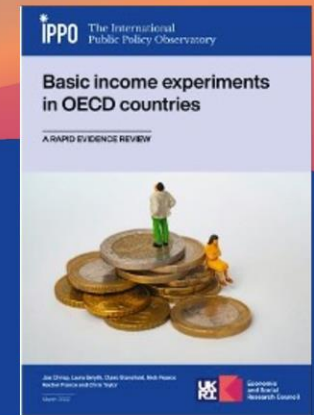
Global Policy Scans



Systems Maps



Evidence Reviews



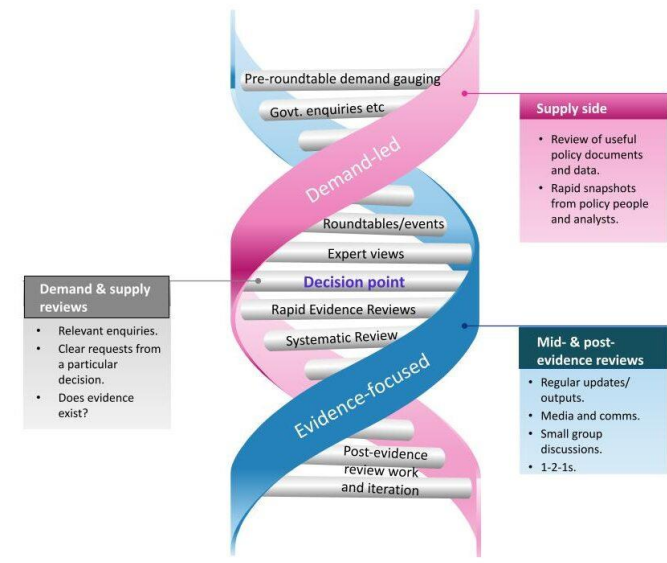
Events/Roundtables



# 3. So where now?

# Persistent challenges

- Creating time and (head) space
- Scoping policy demand
- Lack of ‘business model’
- Multiple forms of evidence
- Inadequate structures and processes
- Relationships matter
- Ensuring a cross-system approach



# What do we need to strengthen the ecosystem?

- **Enhance capabilities:** relational; translational; curational
- **Improve recognition of policy engagement and knowledge brokerage** in policy, professional and academic roles, career pathways and promotions
- **Build sustainable connective infrastructure to connect** university research with public policy
- Stimulate **collaboration** rather than competition
- **Improve coordination** of an increasingly complex ecosystem

Thank you!

[s.chaytor@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.chaytor@ucl.ac.uk)

# Evidence Informed Policy Making

**Daniel Robinson**

*Head of Policy Partnerships and Impact, ESRC,*

*United Kingdom*



UK Research  
and Innovation

**The role of funders:  
Accelerating the exchange of knowledge and talent  
between government and academia**

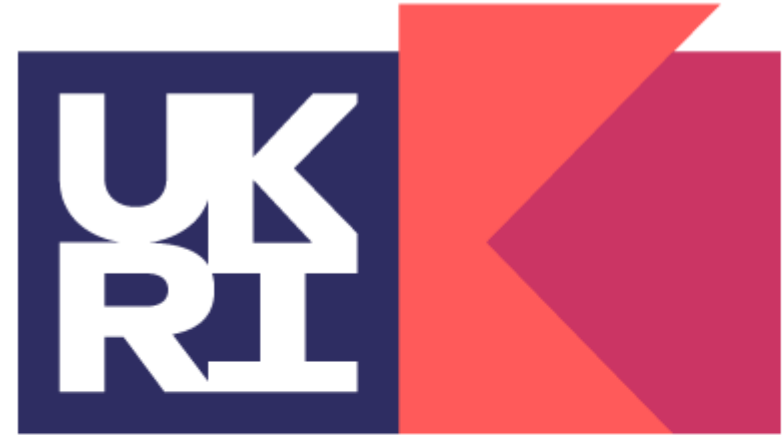
James Canton, ESRC Deputy Director for Public Policy & Engagement



Our **vision** is to find solutions for a more prosperous, healthy, sustainable, and secure society

Our **mission** is to harness the power of social, behavioural and economic research to create real world impact and improve outcomes for individuals, society, and the economy

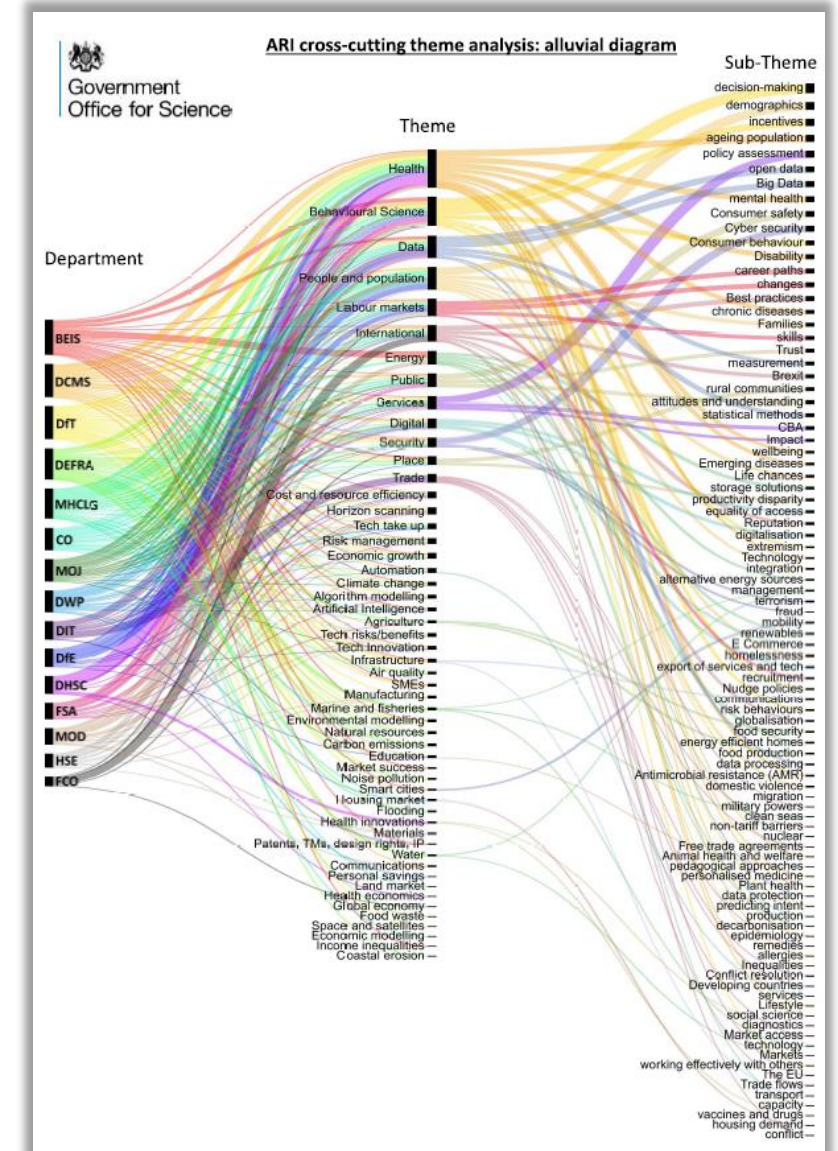
To achieve this, we want to **realise the potential of economic and social research** to influence public policy at all levels



**Economic  
and Social  
Research Council**

# Context: high and growing demand for evidence

- Appetite for science increased by range of serious, immediate and long-term strategic challenges
- The R&D system is a national asset that houses a wealth of evidence and insight that could be applied to tackling challenges
- Critical brokering role for research funders – existing activity with scope to scale up



# What can funders do? Slido.com #2948685

- Brokering / facilitating connections between researchers and policymakers
- Build capability and capacity in research communities
- Build capability and absorptive capacity in policymaking organisations
- Incentivising policy engagement and impact through grants / funding
- Rewarding best practice
- Evidencing / evaluating the impact

# UKRI Policy Fellowships

## Partnerships with 20+ government departments and agencies...

Cabinet Office	Competition and Markets Authority
Department for Business and Trade	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Department for Education	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Department for Science, Innovation and Technology	Department for Transport
Department for Work and Pensions	Department of Health and Social Care
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	HM Treasury
Home Office	Ministry of Justice
National Infrastructure Commission	No. 10
Ofsted	Scottish Government
Welsh Government	Northern Ireland Executive





# Policy Talent Accelerator





# Local Policy Innovation Partnerships

# Opportunity area 1:

## Developing interdisciplinary approaches to policy engagement and impact

### Three areas of work

Strengthening the interdisciplinary 'funder' offer for policymakers

Providing training and opportunities to researchers from broad range of disciplines

Upskilling funders across disciplines





**Opportunity area 2:**

**Evidence synthesis infrastructure for Social  
Sciences, Humanities & Arts**



# Conclusion: Personal reflections

- Capability, in both research organisations and government, is crucial
- Brokers are essential for a systemic approach that values diversity
- We need to evaluate and share learning across funding, government and academic communities



**UK Research  
and Innovation**

# Thank you

**Twitter:** @UKRI\_News

**LinkedIn:** UK Research and  
Innovation

**YouTube:** UK Research and  
Innovation

## Recommendation

### **Parallel session: Evidence Informed Policy Making (Room 6.35)**

Recommendation: “To improve the impact of SSHA we need to build social infrastructures that support researchers to work together and with other societal actors to improve the democratic processes”