

# Mapping and Aligning Strategy for Impact

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26 May 2021 AESIS – Vienna 25-28 May 2021



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Head of Humanomics Research Centre

Science Policy Adviser, Danish Government Chair of EU COST Expert Group on Science Communication Science Adviser on Algorithms, Data and Democracy (2021-2030)





The value of research is only realized with communication and translation of results into real-world settings.

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Without closing the loop, there is no beneficiary to all the tireless efforts put in by those dedicating their lives to the advancement of science.

**Breanne Everett** 





## THE IMPACT LIFECYCLE

- 1. Impact planning and assessment
- 2. Partnerships for impact
- 3. Mission-driven research





LERU position paper March 2017



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# ... part of a broader change in the lifecycle of science

- Increasing dissatisfaction with current (closed) publication models
- Increasing public demands for Responsible Open Science & Innovation
- Increasing policy interest in mission- and challenge-driven research (SDGs)
- Increasing importance of research for future employment, competitiveness, growth, well-being and policy-making ("broader impact")
- Increasing emphasis on reviewing merit & promotion criteria
- Increasing access to new digital tools and metrics that represent and track the dissemination and uptake of research (beyond bibliometrics)



# International weekly journal of science Home News & Comment Research Careers & Jobs Current Issue Archive Audio & Video Archive Volume 538 Issue 7626 Comment Article

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NATURE | COMMENT

#### Fewer numbers, better science

Rinze Benedictus, Frank Miedema & Mark W. J. Ferguson

26 October 2016

Scientific quality is hard to define, and numbers are easy to look at. But bibliometrics are warping science — encouraging quantity over quality. Leaders at two research institutions describe how they do things differently.



"Publications that directly influence patient care are weighted no higher in evaluations than any other paper, and less if the work appears in the grey literature (official reports rather than in scientific journals). Researchers are actively discouraged from pursuing publications that might improve medicine but would garner few citations. ... Publication pressure is keeping scientists from doing what really matters"



"The evaluation gap is the phenomenon... that the criteria in assessments do not match the character or goals of the research under evaluation or the role that the researcher aims to play in society."

Wouters 2014



## The Impact Lifecycle



## Four "I"s of Research Impact

- 1. INVESTING IN IMPACT. Alignment of mission statement and impact strategy ('theory of change') at university & funding agency level.
- 2. INCENTIVES. Without emphasis on incentives, recognition and rewards, most societal impact activities will not occur.
- 3. INTERMEDIARIES. Professional support and specialist skill-sets, training and needs to be cultivated and provided by knowledge brokers.
- 4. **INFRASTRUCTURE.** Reliable and responsible impact assessment depends on data about impact to learn from best practices and shape new strategies











Humanomics Research Centre 2020



Graham, K. & Budtz Pedersen, D. (2020)

#### Algorithms, Data & Democracy (ADD)



Open Call for 10 year funding programme

Mission-driven research: to foster closer links between democratic governance and research capacity in CS and SSH

SSH & STEM co-lead: obligatory

Build-in 'impact lifecycle' approach: Special research unit tasked with impact management



15 mill Euro / 100 mill DKK

Kick off: January 2021



When we think of digital technologies, we cannot disregard their social impact, with respect to the ethical values and principles that underpin our societies. If there is friction between these values and principles and technological innovation, the latter will not be adopted and it's also likely that this friction will lead to strict policies and regulation.

In turn, this can hinder innovation. Ethics, when embraced at the beginning of any design process, can help us to avoid this path, limit risk, and to make sure that we foster the 'right' innovation.

Mariarosaria Taddeo, Deputy Director of the Oxford Internet Institute's Digital Ethics Lab

#### **ADD Impact Lifecycle Approach**

- 1. ADD mission-oriented research and innovation: create closer links between democratic governance and research capacity (STEM & SSH)
- 2. Mandatory to provide impact plan: should be straightforward and actionable, including stakeholder engagement and partnerships.
- 3. Steering Group will develop, implement and monitor "theory of change" and adjust research strategy to targeted impact
- 4. Special grant for knowledge broker and real-time impact assessment to continuously track and reshape research agenda



#### **Governing the Impact Lifecycle**

Graham, K. & Budtz Pedersen, D. (2020)



Develop competences and strategies for knowledge exchange and research implementation.



Facilitate exchange between researchers and key policy institutions (toolkits, policy guidelines etc.).



Build partnerships and alliances with practitioners, companies, policy-makers, professional bodies. Define and implement indicators for impact assessment to continuously adjust research agenda.

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# THE IMPACT LIFECYCLE

#### 1. Impact planning and assessment

- 2. Partnerships for impact
- 3. Mission-driven research





Outreach plan ADD.



#### MARIANA MAZZUCATO THE VALUE OF EVERYTHING

MAKING & TAKING IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

"Forces us to confront long-held beliefs about how economies work and who benefits." -MARTIN WOLF, Financial Times





"Missions around societal challenges are more complex than going to the moon and must be open, bottom up, flexible, adaptable and engage with citizens from the beginning" Mariana Mazzucato 04.03.2018



A problem-solving approach to fuel innovation-led growth by Mariana MAZZUCATO



**Engagement** of diverse national and regional **stakeholders** 

Measurement and impact by goals and milestones

A portfolio of instruments to foster bottom-up solutions

Flexibility, pro-active management and building in-house capabilities

The Apollo Program goal for the 1960s of "landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to the Earth" within 10 years



"European research and innovation missions sits between broad challenges and concrete projects. Missions set clear and ambitious objectives that can only be achieved by a portfolio of research and innovation projects and supportive measures." (Mazzucato 2018)



DENMARK

### Missions that call on science ...





# MissionsDesign(Where to go?)(How to get there?)



#### Missions and design: key characteristics



	<b>Missions</b> (where to go?)	<b>Design</b> (how to get there?)
Intervention logic	outcome-based, goal-setting, framing, linear, <b>top-down</b>	human-centred, emergent, explorative iterative, <b>bottom-up</b>
Bodies of knowledge	economics, political science, natural, technical and health science	design, humanities, arts, craft
Key actors	policy-makers, system entities, academia, enterprise	people, citizens, users, employees
Key assumptions	tangible long-term objectives, and measures of impact against them	solutions emerge from co-created processes of sense-making
Values	system change, market shaping, <b>public</b> <b>value</b> (economic, social, environmental)	new interactions and interventions, <b>human value</b> meaning and sense-making at individual and community level

Bason 2021

### Pathways to impact





### Starting With the End in Mind



## Developing an impact strategy



Figure 1 Conceptual Framework of Research Impact in the Field of Education





Amo, C. 2007. Conceptualizing research impact: the case of education research. The Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation 22(1):75-98

#### Key messages

Developing an impact lifecycle strategy requires:

- 1. Holistic design and implementation
- 2. Align research mission & strategy with impact indicators
- 3. Co-design metrics with stakeholders ('theory of change')
- 4. Continuous follow-up and real-time impact assessment
- 5. Learning not evaluation (impact is a moving target)



#### **Group discussion 20 minutes**

How to make sure all steps along the impact life cycle are aligned (impact planning, implementation, assessment?)

Are mission- and partnership approaches to research and innovation helpful to generate impact (barriers vs. enablers)?



#### Thank you for the attention

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#### Methods for mapping the impact of social sciences and humanities—A literature review

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#### Abstract

This article explores the current literature on 'research impact' in the social sciences and humanities (SSH). By providing a comprehensive review of available literature, drawing on national and international experiences, we take a systematic look at the impact agenda within SSH. The primary objective of this article is to examine key methodological components used to assess research impact comparing the advantages and disadvantages of each method. The study finds that research impact is a highly complex and contested concept in the SSH literature. Drawing on the strong methodological pluralism emerging in the literature, we conclude that there is considerable room for researchers, universities, and funding agencies to establish impact assessment tools directed towards specific missions while avoiding catch-all indicators and universal metrics.

Key words: research evaluation; impact assessment; social sciences and humanities; Iterature review

#### Introduction

Across the international research and innovation community there is a growing interest in how to assess and communicate the diverse impacts of scholarly work. Being able to demonstrate the societal uptake and value of social sciences and humanities (SSH) research is increasingly seen as a crucial component in ensuring accountability and transparency (Penfield et al. 2014; Morton 2015; Greenhalgh et al. 2016; Ravenscrift et al. 2017). In recent years, the notion of et al. 2017). In this article, we provide an overview of the existing methods for broader impact assessments across SSH.

European SSH community and beyond. The diversity of the impact (Morton 2015). However, rather than being panalyzed by the lack

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agenda in SSH reflects a broader trend within impact studies. The evolution of impact studies has shown that public research organizations do not just release their benefits to society following a linear model of growth and application. Instead, real-world effects of research occur at different stages in the research process, extending from knowledge dissemination and knowledge mobilization to longterm applications and dynamic effects.

Much progress has been made in measuring both the outcome research impact' has gained significant traction within the science of research and the processes and activities through which these are syntem, and have enclosed an activity through the series and evaluation regimes ing. Rip 2000, Hollwook and this article, there exists a multitude of approaches to impact assess more consistent representation of the second sec Science, Technology, and Innovation Indicators Conference in 2017; The contributions of science to society are so varied, and mediated A key finding of the literature review is that different funding by so many different actors, that indicators used in impact assessagencies, policy makers, and research organizations operate with ment cannot be universal. Instead, they need to be developed for different models and methods for impact assessment. Impact simply given contexts and used alongside qualitative assessment". Assessing does not mean the same thing across institutions, grographies, and research cultures. This conceptual diversity is reflected in the num-The ways in which research is taken up, used, and reused in realber of methods and frameworks which are used to track, demon-world settings mean that linking research processes or outputs to strate, assess, and incentivize the impact of mearch across the wider changes is difficult, and timescales are hard to predict

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