

A network diagram with red and black nodes connected by lines, set against a light background.

The Impact of Social Sciences and Humanities on Society

17-18 October 2019, Washington DC

Room 4025, 11.30am - 12.45pm

Supporting SSH impact through foundations

David Budtz Pedersen (Chair)

Wolfgang Rohe

Daniel Goroff

Kimberly DuMont




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David Budtz Pedersen (Chair)

Director, Humanomics Research Centre, Denmark

 @HumanomicsMap

Supporting SSH Impact Through Foundations

David Budtz Pedersen PhD
Professor of Impact Studies & Science Communication
Aalborg University Copenhagen

17 October 2019
National Museum of The American Indian Washington DC



AALBORG UNIVERSITET

Program

- Wolfgang Rohe Executive Director, Stiftung Mercator, Germany
- Daniel Goroff Vice President and Program Director, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
- Kimberly DuMont Senior Program Officer, William T. Grant Foundation

Introduction

David Budtz Pedersen
Professor, Science Programme Advisor

Velux Foundation's Humanomics Research Centre
AAU Department of Communication & Psychology

Obel Family Foundation's Program for Responsible Impact
AAU Department of Communication & Psychology

Grant recipient Novo Nordic Foundation
and Carlsberg Foundation

Danish Government's Commission on Rewards in Research
Danish Government's Expert Group on Open Science

VELUX FONDEN



Deff

Danmarks Elektroniske
Fag- og Forskningsbibliotek



Ministry of Higher Education
and Science – Denmark



VELUX FONDEN



cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



**DET FRIE
FORSKNINGSRÅD**
DANISH COUNCIL
FOR INDEPENDENT
RESEARCH

CARLSBERG FOUNDATION



Innovation Fund Denmark
RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY & GROWTH



Ministry of Higher Education
and Science – Denmark

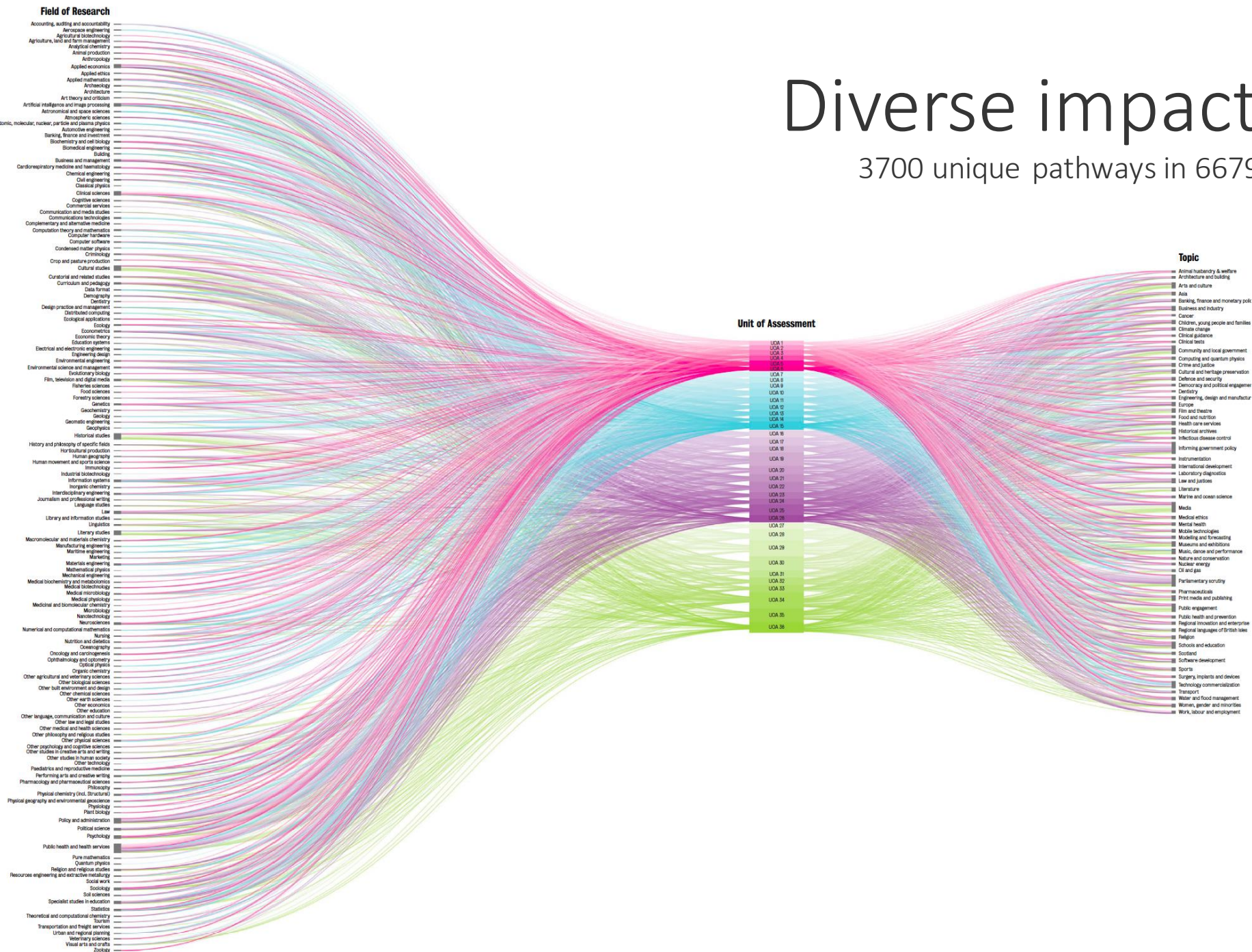


The role of foundations in driving impact

- Private foundations are increasingly committed to support long-term ground breaking research.
- Private foundations are “change makers” who aim at creating societal impact and improvement of long-term public goods, such as health, learning, and education.
- Considering how strategic philanthropy is influencing research universities is essential when designing future policies and funding instruments.
- Foundations are positioning themselves to stimulate societal impact in an increasingly complex research and innovation ecosystem.
- Most foundations consider themselves as supplement not replacement of existing funding sources.

Diverse impact pathways

3700 unique pathways in 6679 REF impact case studies



Connecting mission and impact

- "The Obel Family Foundation (DK) supports research activities at the highest level of scientific excellence with the aim of sustaining, developing and supporting a well-functioning, unified civil society ..."
- "Researchers and universities are expected to produce results which are disseminated as widely as possible in society to generate positive impacts that sustain and accelerate civic engagement and social progress"
- "We support basic research and applied research. In both cases, grant applications that account for expected impacts (in terms of real-world implementation of results) will be weighted higher in evaluations".

The four I-s of Research Impact

1. **INVESTING IN IMPACT.** Alignment of mission statement (strategy/values) impact profile and indicators.
2. **INCENTIVES.** Without emphasis on incentives, recognition, and impact awards, most research-2-business activities in SSHA will not occur.
3. **INTERMEDIARIES.** Roles and skill-sets needs to be cultivated and updated with on-demand services, training and knowledge hubs/brokers.
4. **INFRASTRUCTURE.** Better, more robust data about impact activities used to learn from best practices and inform new strategies and instruments.



Responsible Impact Indicators (ReACT)



Aalborg University, Department of Communication and Psychology, 2017-2020

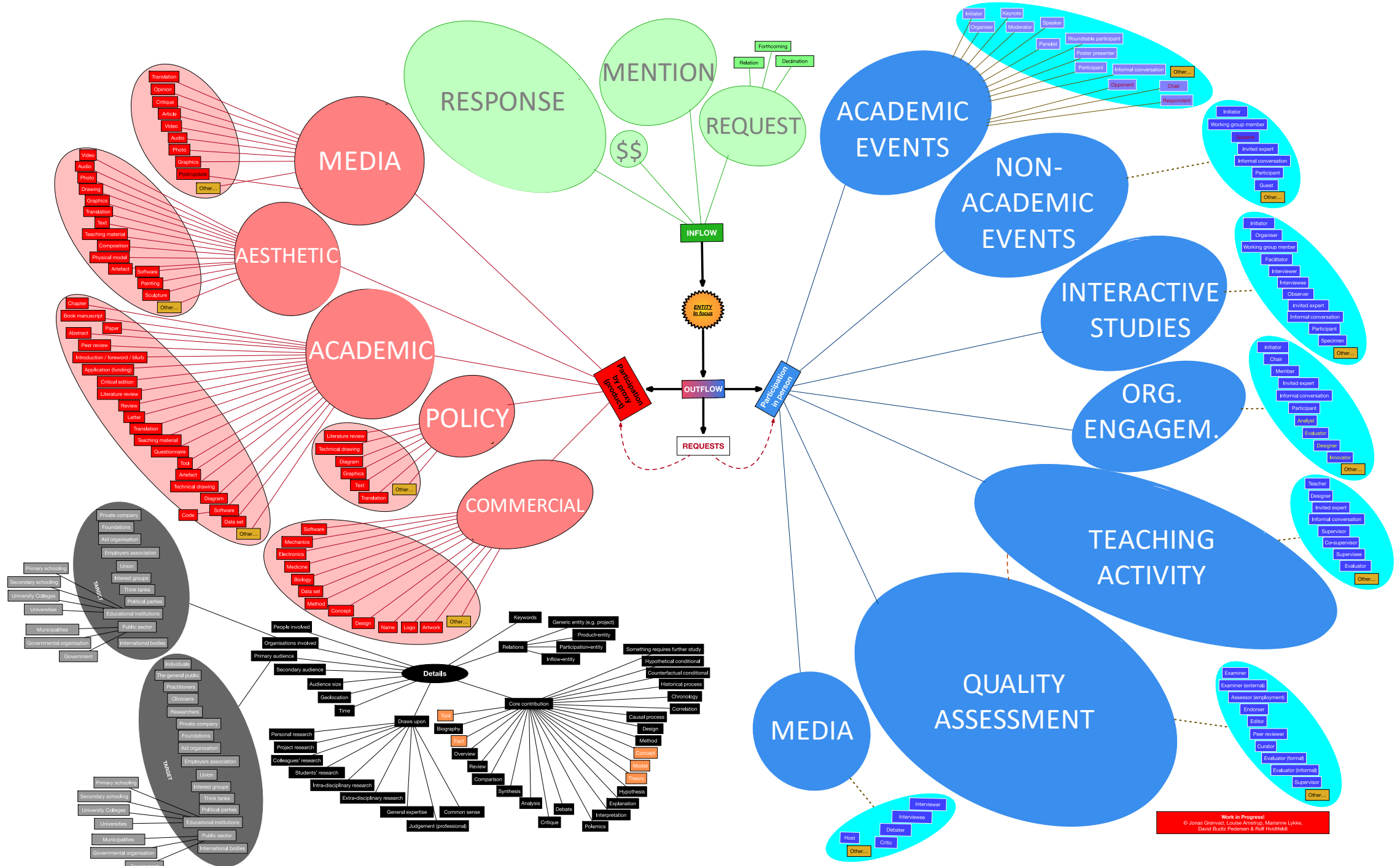
- Create a conducive institutional environment, e.g. re-engineering the academic reward system, funding, infrastructure and culture.
- When designing indicators, a one-size-fits-all solution is unlikely to work (high domain-specificity across disciplines).
- Multiple indicators and data sources for tracking impact – complemented and aligned with case studies, narratives and values.

As seen on  mapping-humanities.dk

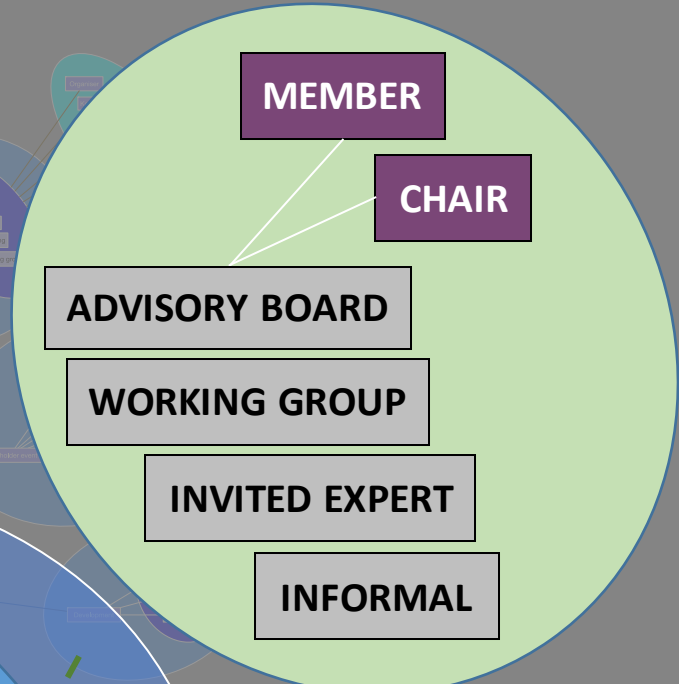
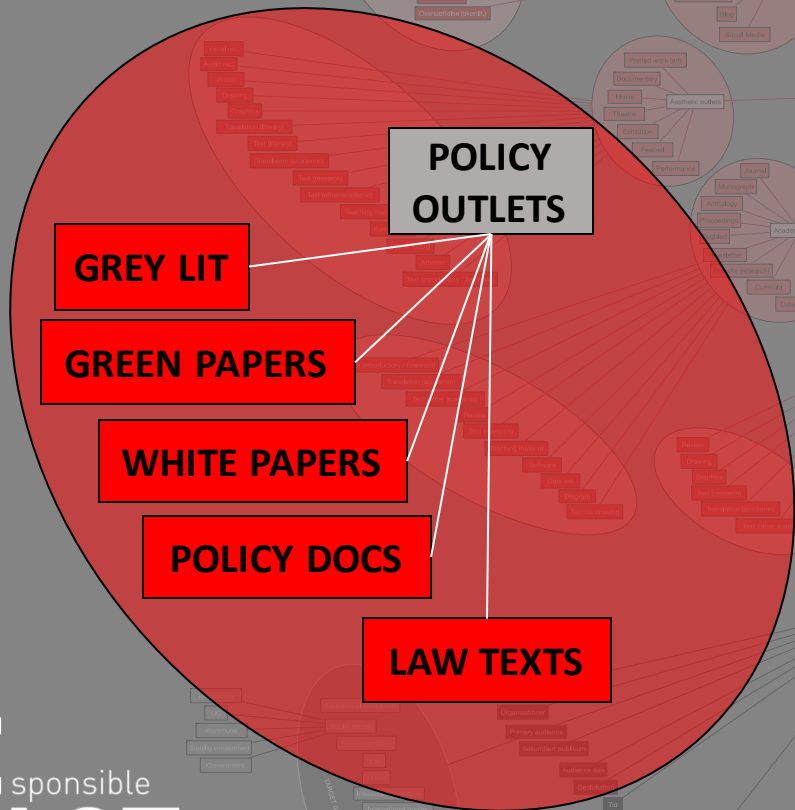
Impact Taxonomies in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Workshop organised by The Humanomics Research Centre, Aalborg University. 1 September 2017 in the Royal Danish Library (Den Sorte Diamant).

by  sciadvice 8 days ago 1 Like 77 Views 



CATEGORIES MOST DIRECTLY RELATED TO POLICY INFLUENCE



ViVO ReACT Impact Platform

The screenshot shows a web browser window with three tabs, all pointing to <https://vivo.aau.dk/admin/spa>. The active tab is titled "Hvidtfeldt, Rolf". The browser address bar shows <https://vivo.aau.dk/display/n360>. The page header features the "REACT" logo and navigation links for "Home", "People", "Input", and "Log out".

The main content area displays an "Admin Panel" for the individual "Hvidtfeldt, Rolf". It includes an "Edit this individual" link, a toggle for "Verbose property display is off | Turn on", and the "Resource URI: http://vivo.mydomain.edu/individual/n360". A circular profile picture of Rolf Hvidtfeldt is shown. Below the name, it lists his role as "Postdoc, Aalborg University | 1." and the period "January, 2017 -".

To the right of the profile, there are four tabs: "Participation", "Products", "Inflow", and "Other". The "Participation" tab is selected, showing a list of "Academic Event" entries. Each entry includes a category (seminar, meeting, presentation), a description, a date, and a role (Speaker or Participant) for the year 2018. Each entry also has a trash icon for deletion.

Category	Description	Date	Role	Year
seminar	Research seminar m. Rolf Hvidtfeldt	05.12.	Speaker	2018
seminar	ReAct: Internat	16.-17.08.	Participant	2018
meeting	Gruppemøde, Public Value of the Humanities	d. 02.11.18.	Participant	2018
meeting	Meeting with Associate Vice Chancellor at UC Davis	(12.06.)	Participant	2018
meeting	Meeting with professor at UC Berkeley	(09.06.)	Participant	2018
meeting	Gruppemøde, Public Value of the Humanities	d.13.04.18.	Speaker	2018
presentation	Oplæg v. Brook Struck	(10.09.)	Participant	2018

Alignment of impact portfolio with mission & strategy

- Greater alignment of impact indicators and values & foundations missions & vision.
- Experiment with **indicators in the wild** – drawing on micro impacts and dialogue with researchers & stakeholders in design.
- Build your impact strategy from mapping your key contributions, audiences, stakeholders and values ✓

Thank you for the attention

- David Budtz Pedersen (davidp@hum.aau.dk)
- Twitter: @HumanomicsMap
- Website: www.mapping-humanities.dk

Supported by

VELUX FONDEN





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Wolfgang Rohe

Executive Director, Stiftung Mercator, Germany

SUPPORTING SSH IMPACT THROUGH FOUNDATIONS

WOLFGANG ROHE
STIFTUNG MERCATOR

THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER

STIFTUNG MERCATOR – KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

- Annual budget approx. 64 million Euros
- 125 employees
- 10 partner organizations
- 368 employees overall
- Dedicated to Europe, integration and climate change
- Offices in Essen, Berlin, Beijing, Istanbul

IMPACT OF SSH THROUGH FOUNDATIONS – 4 DIMENSIONS

- 1) Research on civil society and the societal role of foundations
- 2) Grand challenges: analysis and co-creation of solutions
- 3) Assessment of impact
- 4) Research on science and its changing interfaces with society

4 BOTTLENECKS

- 1) Incompatibility between the need for research and the reputation system in science
- 2) Find people equally of high scientific reputation and keen on societal impact
- 3) Change the business model of financing science
- 4) Avoid the „King-Midas-effect“: whatever scientists touch turns into science

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Create research environments open for interdisciplinary attempts and involving non-academic stakeholders
- 2) Combine stakeholder councils and think tanks in one institution
- 3) Invest more in theory building
- 4) Support Science Studies

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



Wolfgang Rohe

Executive Director

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Daniel Goroff

Vice President and Program Director, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

Social Science Research on Social Science Research



Daniel L. Goroff
AESIS, October 2019

Opinions not necessarily those of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

Alfred P. Sloan, Jr.



Organized and ran General Motors beginning in 1923.

Cared a great deal about data before it was fashionable.

Started his foundation in 1934 as a privately endowed charity.

Charge: to support research and outreach about **science, technology, and economics** because markets will not adequately do so.

Therefore the **economics of science** is a natural topic of interest.

Public Goods

A type of commodity that is:

Non-rival: using it leaves just as much for others

Non-excludable: hard to keep others from using it

E.g. lighthouses, parks, defense, discoveries, open data

Notoriously hard to finance: **taxes, philanthropy, bundling**



Research Production

Two ways of increasing production

Extensive margin: more dollars, people, other inputs

Intensive margin: more outputs per input

Fundamental relationship $\text{Output} = \text{Input} \times \left(\frac{\text{Output}}{\text{Input}} \right)$

Productivity: ratio in parentheses

Outputs and Inputs



Outputs: publications, citations, patents, ideas, evidence

Inputs:

1. Capital
2. Labor
3. Multi-Factor Productivity

Outputs and Inputs

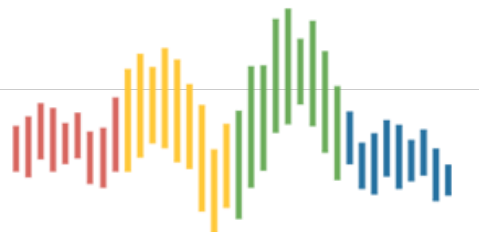
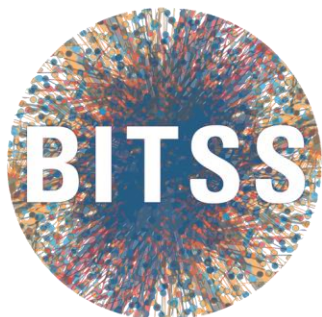


THE CONVERSATION

Outputs: publications, citations, patents, ideas, evidence

Inputs:

1. Capital
2. Labor
3. Multi-Factor Productivity



QuantEcon



S|E|W|P

Science & Engineering Workforce Project
at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)



Dataverse[®]

Project



J-PAL

ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL POVERTY ACTION LAB
NORTH AMERICA

ideas

42



Outputs and Inputs



Institute for Research on Innovation and Science links:

1. Grant Spending data
2. University Administrative data
3. Publications and Patent data
4. U.S. Census data

“Now, with the help of IRIS, universities can better understand the impacts of research on their students, local community, and nation.”

Mary Sue Coleman
President, Association
of American Universities

Measuring Impact?

1. The plural of *anecdote* is not *data*.
2. But bibliometrics are not enough.
3. Observational data are not enough.
Correlations should not convince anyone.



Correlation \neq Causality



Note: correlation is symmetric, but the order matters for causality

Why Productivity?

1. The plural of *anecdote* is not *data*.
2. But bibliometrics are not enough.
3. Observational data are not enough. Correlations should not convince anyone.
4. Impact measurement requires counterfactuals, usually by designing experiments to make comparisons. Ideally RCT's.
5. Public Goods problem remains. Need productivity comparisons with other worthwhile public good investments.





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Kimberly DuMont

Senior Program Officer, William T. Grant Foundation



**Moving closer
to social
impact:
the need for
institutional
change**

Kim DuMont
kdumont@wtgrantfdn.org



to inform policy and practice

**Supporting Research to Improve
the Lives of Youth**

Fundamental Tension

universities
often attribute
work with real-
world benefits
as service, not
research

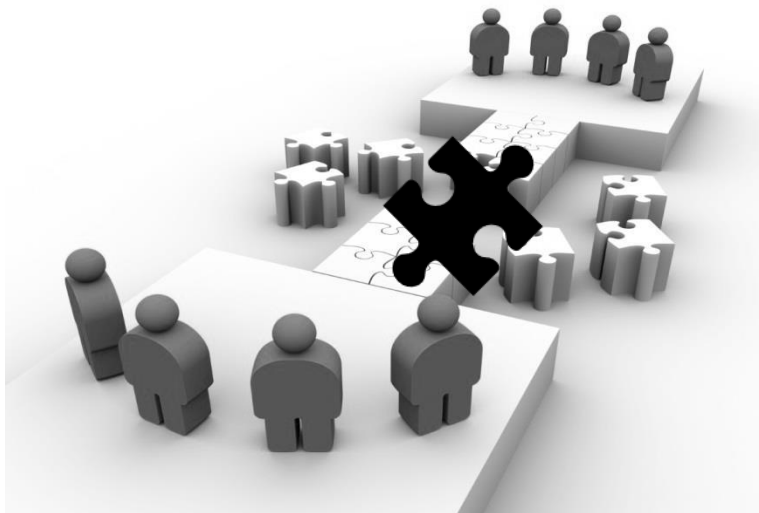


Undercuts Social Impact

- Discourages some researchers experienced with building theory and empirical evidence from addressing research questions that are relevant to policy and practice
 - Limits potential for beneficial impacts
- Misses opportunities to build relationships and conduct research in ways we know improve its impact

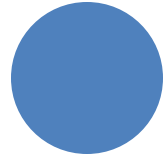
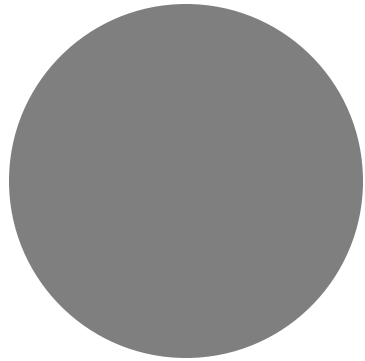
Research, Policy and Practice

Too often
policymakers' and
practitioners' ideas
fail to shape
research agendas



Too often
researchers lack
incentives to
undertake research
to inform policy
and practice

Institutional change is
needed to bridge these
gaps



Incentivize Institutional Change



The Institutional Challenge

Grant



PARTNERSHIP

- Build a sustained institutional partnership with a public agency or nonprofit organization



RESEARCH

- Pursue a joint research agenda to reduce inequality in youth outcomes



INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

- Create institutional change to value research-practice partnerships and their work



CAPACITY

- Develop the partners' capacity to collaborate, and to produce and use high-quality relevant research

Research Practice Partnerships

Research-practice partnerships are long-term, mutually beneficial collaborations that promote the production and use of rigorous and relevant research evidence

Long-term view

Persist beyond a single project



Relationships between institutions

Benefit both parties

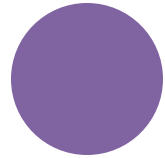
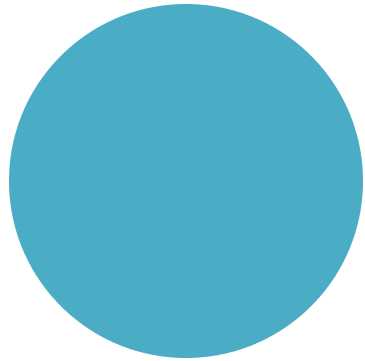
Why Partnerships?

- Researchers
 - understand the local context
 - learn about policymakers' and practitioners' needs and questions
 - provide insights that facilitate ground breaking research
- Policymakers and practitioners
 - gain access to existing research
 - contribute to research that is relevant to their context
 - receive assistance with their efforts to use research

Barriers to Success

- Policies and practices within institutions inadvertently create barriers to the success of partnerships
 - limit participation between and within institutions
 - obstruct career advancement
 - undermine longevity





Reshape Policies & Practices |

Thank you



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Panel discussion and Q&A

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Director, Humanomics Research Centre, Denmark

- 1) Create research environments open for (interdisciplinary attempts and) involving non-academic stakeholders
- 2) Find and train academics with high scientific reputation and keen on societal impact
- 3) Bibliometrics are not enough, observational impact data are not enough: we need to figure out how to fund the most valuable research, and feed impact data back into funding programs
- 4) Encourage incentives and rewards for researchers that work on informing policies and practices and create successful partnerships



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Up Next

12.45-1.45pm Lunch

Mitsitam Cafe

1.45-3pm Indicators of SSH impact
Institutional assessment systems
Measurement tools
Public Engagement

Rasmuson Theater
Patrons Lounge
Room 4025
Room 4018+4019