

A decorative background at the top of the slide featuring a network diagram with red and black nodes connected by thin lines, set against a light red gradient.

The Impact of Social Sciences and Humanities on Society

17-18 October 2019, Washington DC

Rasmuson Theater, 3.30 – 4pm

SSH for Policy and Politics

James Wilsdon

Sara Guyer

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The Impact of Social Sciences and Humanities on Society

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SSH for Policy and Politics

James Wilsdon

*Vice-Chair of the International Network for Governmental Science Advice
& Director of Research and Innovation,
Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom*

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Social sciences for policy and politics

James Wilsdon, Director, RoRI

j.wilsdon@sheffield.ac.uk;

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Sunday Review

Let's Shake Up the Social Sciences

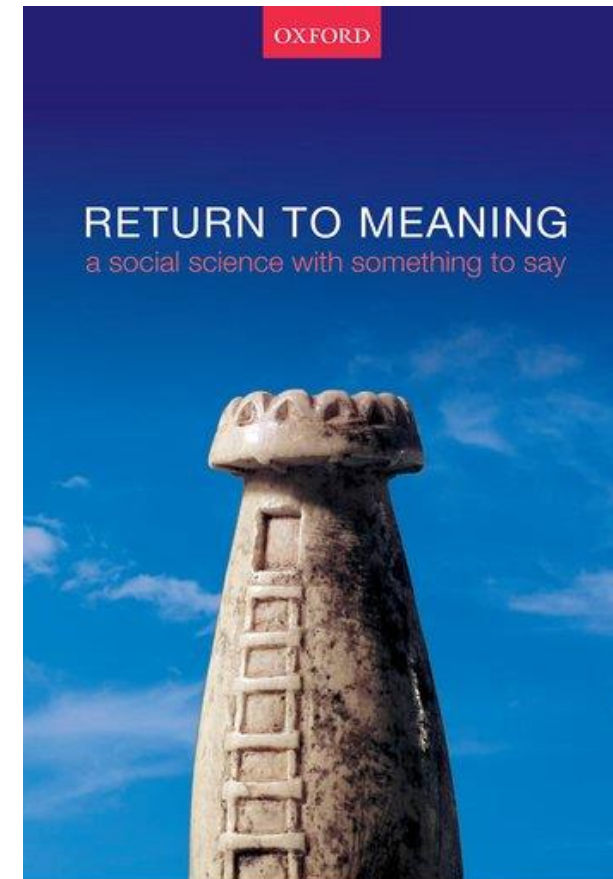
Gray Matter

By NICHOLAS A. CHRISTAKIS JULY 19, 2013

TWENTY-FIVE years ago, when I was a graduate student, there were departments of natural science that no longer exist today. Departments of anatomy, histology, biochemistry and physiology have disappeared, replaced by innovative departments of stem-cell biology, systems biology, neurobiology and molecular biophysics. Taking a page from Darwin, the natural sciences are evolving with the times. The perfection of cloning techniques gave rise to stem-cell biology; advances in computer science contributed to systems biology. Whole new fields of inquiry, as well as university departments and majors, owe their existence to fresh discoveries and novel tools.

In contrast, the social sciences have stagnated. They offer essentially the same set of academic departments and disciplines that they have for nearly 100 years: sociology, economics, anthropology, psychology and political science. This is not only boring but also counterproductive, constraining engagement with the scientific cutting edge and stifling the creation of new

“Never before in the history of humanity have so many written so much while having so little to say to so few”



MATS ALVESSON, YIANNIS GABRIEL, & ROLAND PAULSEN

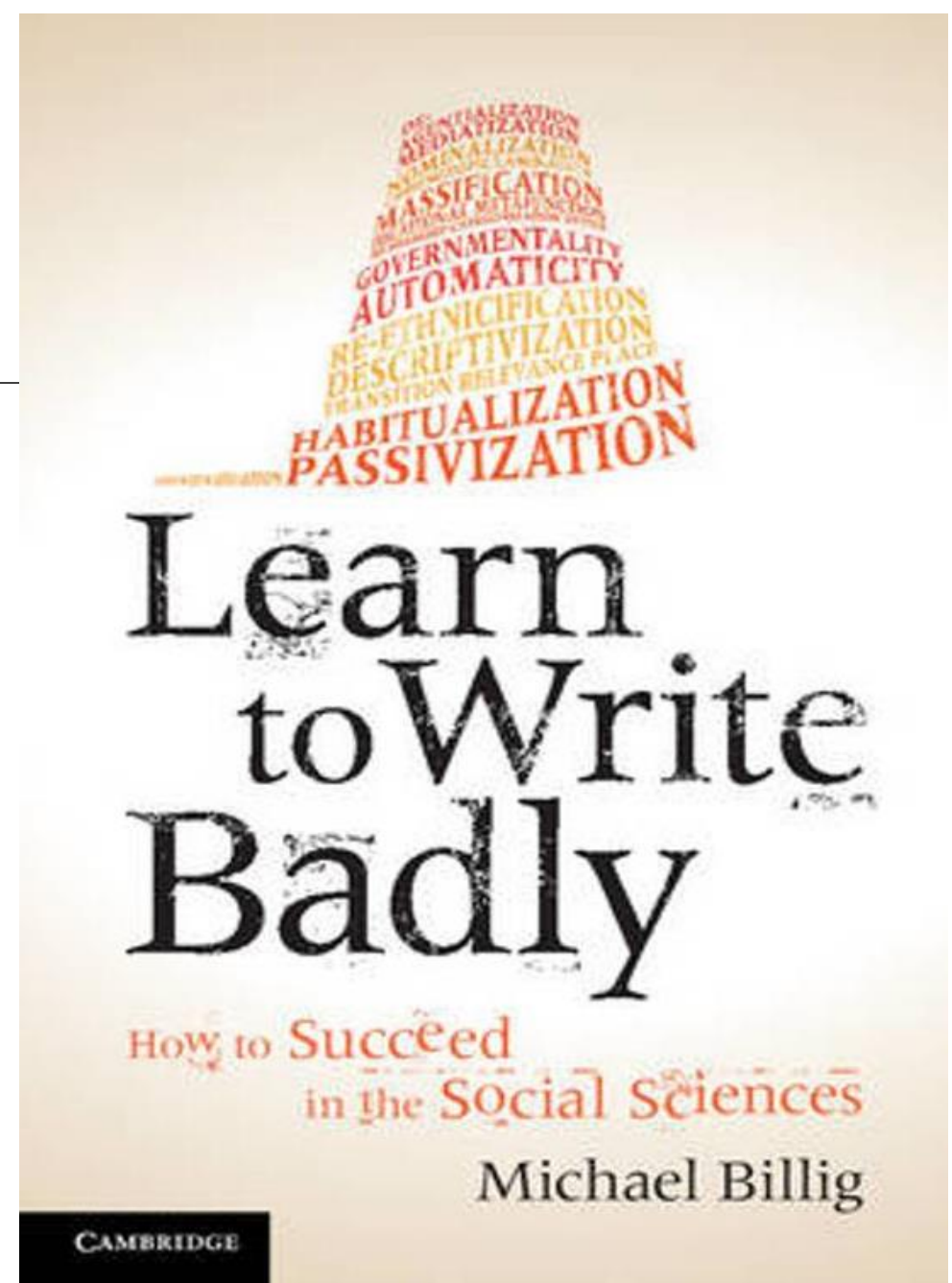
Barriers to research collaboration: are social scientists constrained by their desire for autonomy?



*Researchers everywhere are being pushed to collaborate. Individual academics are being urged to join teams, small teams are encouraged to merge with others to become bigger teams, and institution-wide and inter-institutional collaborations are spreading. With potential benefits including increased chances of funding, visibility, and impact, why, asks **Jenny M. Lewis**, are social scientists not embracing collaboration more? Might it be the value they place on their autonomy, the freedom to pursue their own ideas and choose which topics to work on, that is constraining them? Researcher interviews suggest it may actually be time pressures and managerial constraints that are bounding autonomy, crowding out space to develop collaborations.*

Research collaboration, broadly meaning teams of researchers working together on a common topic, is being encouraged within countries, between countries, within regions, and globally. It features in national research policy in the form of grants that encourage it, and this is mirrored in the strategies of individual universities. This trend has escalated. Individual academics are being urged to join teams, small teams are encouraged to merge with others to become bigger teams, and institution-wide and inter-institutional collaborations are spreading. Many of these are deliberately tilted towards interdisciplinary, multinational teams and partnerships between academic and non-academic institutions. This push is backed by a belief that better research results from "many different brains working on the same question". Collaboration is also seen as important for addressing grand societal challenges, increasing research productivity, and increasing research impact.

Compared to the biological and physical sciences or the science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines, the humanities, arts and social sciences lag behind on collaboration, at least as measured by concrete, visible markers such as co-authorship practices or jointly held grants. While



Should social science be more solution-oriented?

Duncan J. Watts

Over the past 100 years, social science has generated a tremendous number of theories on the topics of individual and collective human behaviour. However, it has been much less successful at reconciling the innumerable inconsistencies and contradictions among these competing explanations, a situation that has not been resolved by recent advances in 'computational social science'. In this Perspective, I argue that this 'incoherency problem' has been perpetuated by an historical emphasis in social science on the advancement of theories over the solution of practical problems. I argue that one way for social science to make progress is to adopt a more solution-oriented approach, starting first with a practical problem and then asking what theories (and methods) must be brought to bear to solve it. Finally, I conclude with a few suggestions regarding the sort of problems on which progress might be made and how we might organize ourselves to solve them.

As a sociologist who spends a lot of time in the company of physicists, computer scientists and other outsiders to my field, I am often asked a question of the sort: "What is the social science perspective on X?", where X is some topic of interest. To a social scientist, the question sounds hopelessly naïve: for any topic X, social science has dozens, if not hundreds, of perspectives, but no single perspective on which there is anything close to universal agreement. Nevertheless, I would argue that it is worth taking the question seriously, if only because it highlights an important difference between the social and physical/engineering sciences.

Physicists disagree of course — for example, about the best way to reconcile general relativity with quantum mechanics, or the best explanation for the 'missing mass' problem in cosmology — but overall there is tremendous agreement both on what physicists know about the universe (Newtonian mechanics, thermodynamics, electromagnetism, optics, special and general relativity, statistical mechanics, particle physics and so on) and where the remaining areas of uncertainty lie. By contrast, any representative cross-section

of theories over the solution of practical problems. Finally, I argue that one possible solution to the incoherency problem is to reject the traditional distinction between basic and applied science, and instead seek to advance theory specifically in the service of solving real-world problems.

Before proceeding, however, let me clarify two points of possible confusion. First, I am not arguing that all, or even most, of social science should become solution-oriented. Social science can serve many purposes — for example, the field can challenge common-sense assumptions about the nature of social reality⁷⁻⁹, provide rich descriptions of lived experience¹⁰⁻¹², inspire new ways of thinking about human behaviour^{13,14} and shed light on specific empirical puzzles^{15,16} — that do not directly address practical problems but can still provide valuable insight. My argument is not that social scientists should stop pursuing these other objectives in favour of solving practical problems; only that collectively we should pay more attention than we do to the latter. Second, I am also not suggesting that social scientists do not already devote themselves to solving



**CHEERFUL
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SSH-Impact Pathways and SSH-Integration in EU Research Framework Programmes.

Thomas König

April 2019

In remembrance of
Philippe Keraudren (1963-2017)

Abstract

This Working Paper builds on the scientific discourse on valuation of SSH research as well as SSH-integration in EU framework programmes and aims at summarizing the key findings from the November 2018 Austrian EU Presidency Conference “Impact of Social Sciences and Humanities for a European Research Agenda – Valuation of SSH in mission-oriented research”. It deals with the topic in three instalments. First, it will discuss recent trends in research funding. Second, it provides a brief historical overview of the efforts of integrating SSH into the EU Research Framework Programme. It then adds some observations about continued challenges in SSH. Finally, it will conclude with some suggestions for SSH scholars, based on the discussions from the conference. In that regard the Working Paper is also a document for further reading for those who have read earlier, shorter texts that were published in preparation of that conference.

Keywords

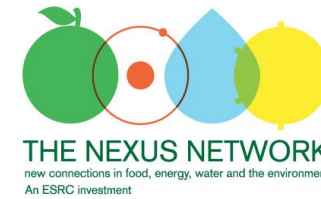
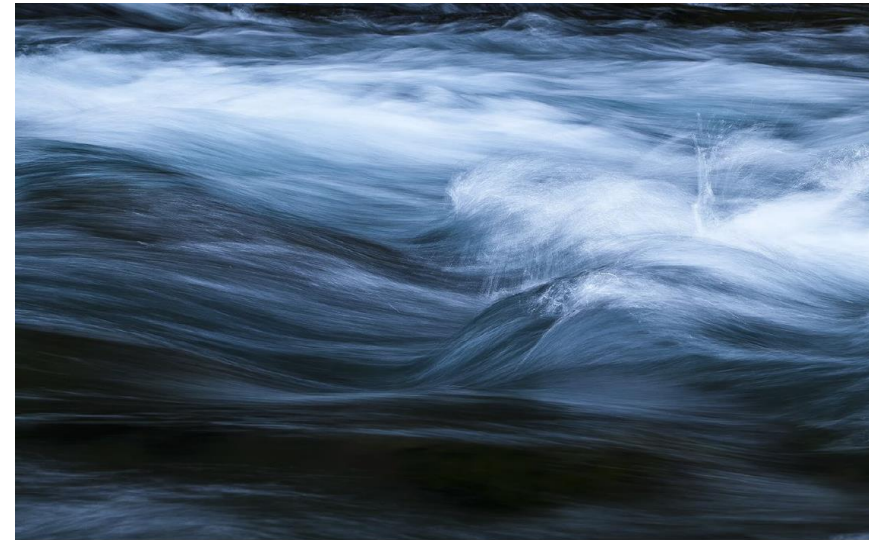
SSH research; social sciences; humanities; research policy; Horizon 2020; Horizon Europe; European integration



“We argue that the time has come to move from a purely defensive stance...Social Sciences & Humanities have to look at “impact” in a different way – the term needs to be “re-loaded” with a renewed sense of responsibility and reflecting a different self-image of their role and position in society.”

*Thomas König, Helga Nowotny
& Klaus Schuch*

SDGs: the lingua franca of interdisciplinary global challenges research



Sustainability in Turbulent Times

Lessons from the Nexus Network for supporting transdisciplinary research





The Campaign for Social Science aim is to raise the profile of social science in the public, media and Parliament

About



A World of Talent: International Staff at UK Universities & the Future Migration System

Will you help the Campaign sustain social science at this time of great change?

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TO SECURE KNOWLEDGE

Social Science Partnerships for the Common Good

Contents

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- A Knowledge System in Flux
- Key Areas for Collaboration
- Conclusion: Toward a New Compact for the Social Sciences
- Recommendations

Executive Summary

For decades, the social sciences have generated knowledge vital to guiding public policy, informing business, and understanding and improving the human condition. But today, the social sciences face serious threats. From dwindling federal funding to public mistrust in institutions to widespread skepticism about data, the infrastructure supporting the social sciences is shifting in ways that threaten to undercut research and knowledge production.

How can we secure social knowledge for future generations?

This question has guided the Social Science Research Council's Task Force. Following eighteen months of consultation with key players as well as internal deliberation, we have identified

We can create our own economies of promise

Zinc builds new tech companies that solve the developed world's toughest social issues.

Learning from the successful innovation systems in computer and life sciences, Zinc combines insights from social sciences with top entrepreneurial talent and venture capital to build new, scalable, mission-led businesses.

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Each programme has a single mission, to solve a social problem which affects at least 100m people.

Mission-Led Approach

Each of our 9-month company-builder programmes is mission-led because we believe in the power of mission-led capital, to achieve scale of impact.

We have 3 criteria for choosing a Zinc mission:

1. it must tackle one of the great **unmet needs** in the developed world;
2. the target addressable **market must exceed 100m** people in the developed world alone;
3. there must be lots of **unexploited opportunities to disrupt**, extend and improve existing services through research.

Social Science Foo Camp 2018

SAGE Ocean
@SAGEOceanTweets - 9. Februar 2018

The first ever #socsifoo. Co-hosted by Facebook, O'Reilly Media & SAGE Publishing. 2 - 4 Feb 2018 - Menlo Park, CA.

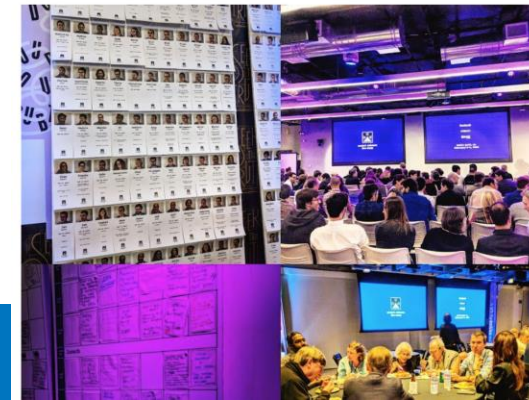
3 Gefällt mir

Gefällt mir Twittern

The team behind Zinc

SAUL KLEIN
Co-Founder, Chairman

PAUL KIRBY
Co-Founder, CEO



Possibilities of *some* new metrics & research data platforms

Dimensions

social policy Free text in full data ×
Save / Export
Support
Register
Log in

FILTERS FAVORITES

✓ PUBLICATION YEAR

- 2018 262,733
- 2017 287,816
- 2016 271,242
- 2015 268,473
- 2014 257,532
- 2013 243,488
- 2012 212,457
- 2011 203,600
- 2010 181,789
- 2009 162,364

More

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46,366
12,298
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168,270

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Title, Author(s), Bibliographic reference - [About the metrics](#)

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Crystal A Ennis, Margaret Walton-Roberts
2018, Global Social Policy - Article

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Rachel K Henry, Chadleo Webb
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Margaret S Sherraden, Betsy Slosar, Michael Sherraden
2002, Social Work - Article

ANALYTICAL VIEWS

📁 FIELDS OF RESEARCH ▼

- [1117 Public Health and Health Services](#) 534,269
- [1402 Applied Economics](#) 350,084
- [1701 Psychology](#) 256,597
- [1608 Sociology](#) 230,553
- [2103 Historical Studies](#) 204,694

🚩 OVERVIEW ▼

RCR Mean FCR Mean

1.26 **1.57**

Year	Publications
2009	~150,000
2010	~170,000
2011	~190,000
2012	~210,000
2013	~230,000
2014	~250,000
2015	~260,000
2016	~270,000
2017	~290,000
2018	~260,000

👤 RESEARCHERS ▼

7 PRIORITIES FOR HIGH-IMPACT SOCIAL SCIENCE

HOW DO WE AVOID
STRETCHING PEOPLE
IN TOO MANY
DIRECTIONS?
ARE INCENTIVES
MISALIGNED ?

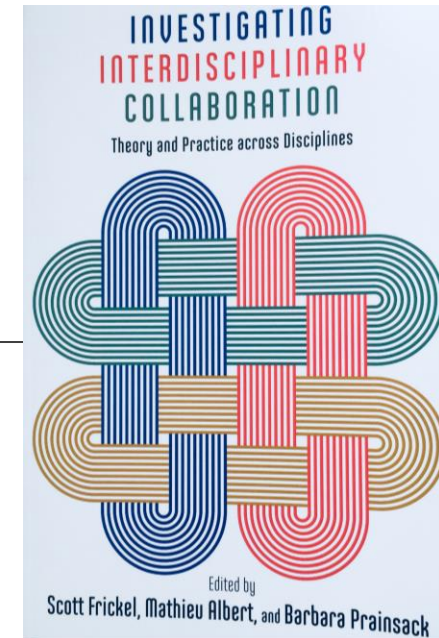


1. Be critical, confident transdisciplinaryians

A **multidisciplinary** approach draws upon the strengths or expertise of different disciplines, and more effectively joins up their findings, but leaves disciplinary boundaries (and sometimes hierarchies) intact.

An **interdisciplinary** approach involves the fuller integration of disciplines, to develop potentially novel ways of approaching research questions, recognising that there is a diversity of ways to understand and address particular problems.

Transdisciplinary research not only integrates expertise from across academic disciplines, but also involves societal stakeholders in the design stage, and throughout the research process. In transdisciplinary research, knowledge can come from beyond academic disciplines, and insights are often provided through other kinds of tacit knowledge – as held by local communities, businesses, social movements or practitioners.



2. Keep it complex & embrace the messiness



CONSERVATION Threats to Adélie penguins assessed p.1034

MATHEMATICS Roger Penrose reflects on 50 years and 6 volumes of work p.1039

REVIEWING Pool of peers grows to cope with submissions surge p.1041

OBITUARY Brian Marsden, keeper of comets, remembered p.1042



A UK crop circle, created by activists to signify uncertainty over where genetic contamination can occur.

Keep it complex

When knowledge is uncertain, experts should avoid pressures to simplify their advice. Render decision-makers accountable for decisions, says **Andy Stirling**.

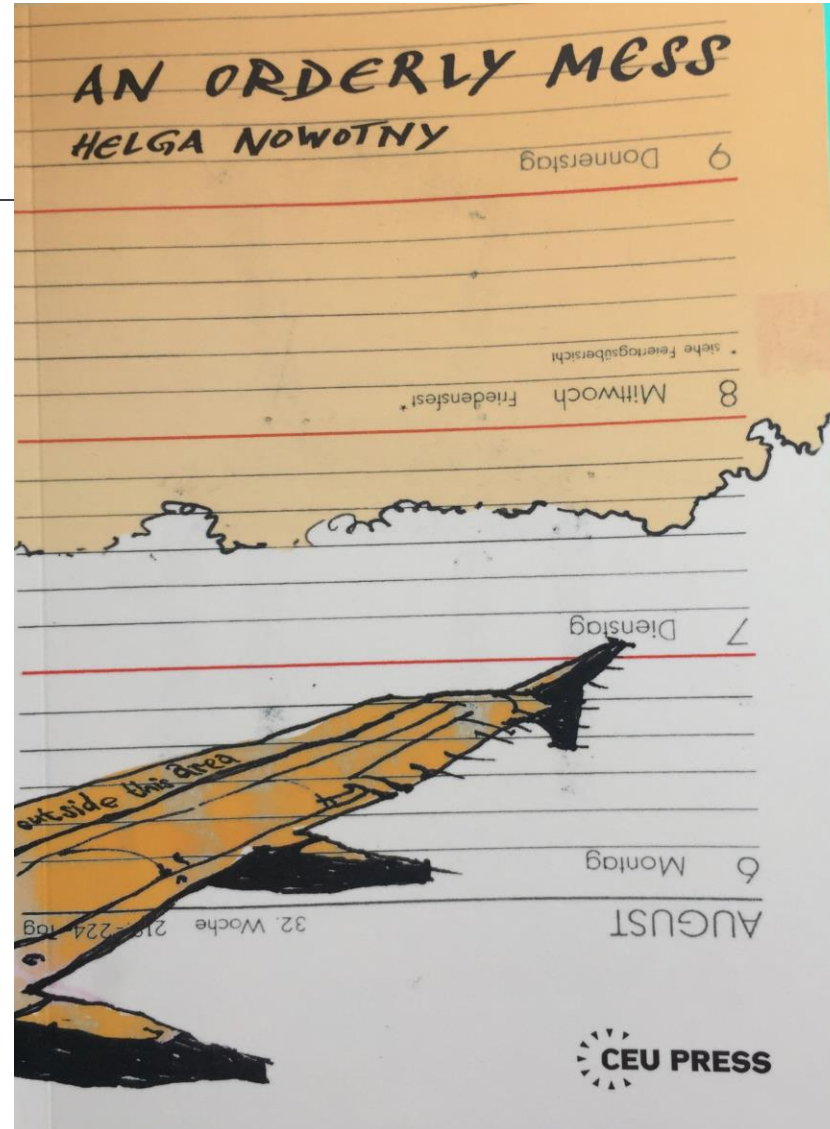
Worldwide and across many fields, there lurks a hidden assumption about how scientific expertise can best serve society. Expert advice is often thought most useful to policy when it is presented as a single 'definitive' interpretation. Even when experts acknowledge uncertainty, they tend to do so in ways that reduce unknowns to measurable 'risk'. In this way, policy-makers are encouraged to pursue (and claim) 'science-based' decisions. It is also not uncommon for senior scientists to assert that there is no alternative to some scientifically contestable policy. After years researching — and participating in — science advisory processes, I have come to the conclusion that this practice is misguided.

An overly narrow focus on risk is an inadequate response to incomplete knowledge. It leaves science advice vulnerable to the social dynamics of groups — and to manipulation by political pressures seeking legitimacy, justification and blame management. When the intrinsically plural, conditional nature of knowledge is recognized, I believe that science advice can become more rigorous, robust and democratically accountable.

A rigorous definition of uncertainty can be traced back to the twentieth-century economist Frank Knight'. For Knight, 'a measurable uncertainty, or 'risk' proper ... is so far different from an unmeasurable one that it is not in effect an uncertainty at all'. This is not just a matter of words, or even methods. The stakes are potentially much higher. A preoccupation with assessing risk means that policy-makers are denied exposure to dissenting interpretations and the possibility of downright surprise.

Of course, no-one can reliably foresee the unpredictable, but there are lessons to be learned from past mistakes. For example, the belated recognition that seemingly inert and benign halogenated hydrocarbons were interfering with the ozone layer. Or the slowness to acknowledge the possibility of novel transmission mechanisms for spongiform encephalopathies, in animal breeding and in the food chain. In the early stages, these sources of harm were not formally characterized as possible risks — they were 'early warnings' offered by dissenting voices. Policy recommendations that miss such warnings court overconfidence and error.

The question is how to move away ▶



3. Get serious about 'team social science'

You are here: Home > Policy > Policy projects > Team science

Team science

This project sought to understand the current incentives and disincentives for individual researchers participating in 'team science', and how to improve reward and recognition for their contributions.

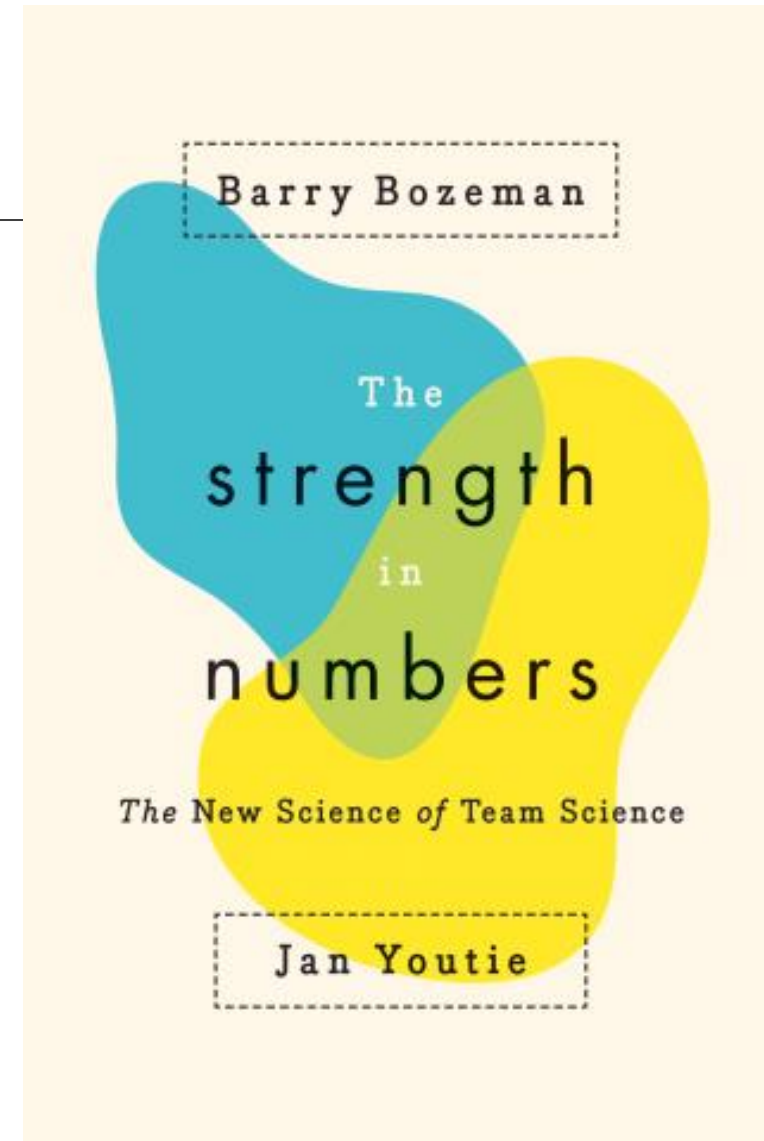
Status
Ongoing



Summary | [Scope of project](#) | [Working Group Members](#) | [2012 roundtable](#)

Downloads

| [Image competition](#)



4. Take the argument into the strongholds of STEM

The Biomedical Bubble

Why UK research and innovation needs a greater diversity of priorities, politics, places and people

Richard Jones and James Wilsdon
July 2018

THE LANCET

Volume 392, Number 10143, Pages 102-103, July 21-27, 2018 www.thelancet.com

"A radical shift of life sciences funding priorities, away from the biomedical bubble and towards the social, behavioural, and environmental determinants of health, is now needed."

See Editorial page 102

World Report	Articles	Articles	Articles	Commission
Egypt since the creation of PEPFAR See page 98	Outbreak of Zika virus disease in the US Virgin Islands April-May 2018 See page 102	Barriers to treatment of systemic lupus erythematosus See page 103	Evaluation of a novel HIV-1 vaccine in humans and in African monkeys See page 104	WHO Independent High Level Commission on NCDs See page 105

5. Invest in new spaces for collaboration & knowledge exchange

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News **New spin-out generator receives £5 million**

TUE 10 APR 2018

“ We need to harness the insights from the social sciences so they can better contribute to the economy and productivity ”

- Professor Julia Black



LSE Library. Nigel Stead

Tuesday, 10 November 2015

The Rise of the Para-Academic



David Mills and a room of para-academics

The annual conference of the Association of Research Managers and Administrators took place in Brighton at the beginning of June. The event, and the association



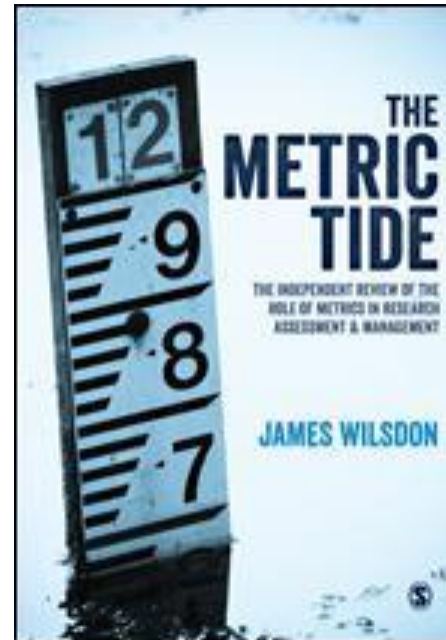
CSaP

Public Policy @Southampton #IgniteTheDebate

6. Expand notions of leadership & the criteria & indicators we use for hiring, promotion & assessment

Annex I: Core leadership characteristics derived from existing research base

Leadership	Meaning
Disciplinary leadership	Provide foresight, vision and direction to advance and transform knowledge and methods within research disciplines, through both individual and collective efforts.
Inter-disciplinary leadership	Engage across disciplinary boundaries with both confidence and humility to develop new ways of thinking and working, often to address major societal challenges.
Complex project leadership	Manage large, complex projects, programmes and research infrastructures effectively, including some element of financial management and oversight.
Leading generational change	Provide inspiration and guidance to the next generation of social scientists.
Leadership in impact generation	Spur innovation in the delivery of impact from social science research, including building close relationships with senior figures among potential research users. High-profile advocacy and promotion of the social sciences.
Leadership in public engagement	Engage the wider public in understanding and appreciating the value of social science to their lives and communities. High-profile advocacy and promotion of the social sciences.
International leadership	Work internationally to raise the profile of UK social science and strengthen international collaborations.



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Home > Policy and analysis > Forum for Responsible Research Metrics

Forum for Responsible Research Metrics

A group of research funders, sector bodies and infrastructure experts working in partnership to promote the responsible use of research metrics.

- [About the forum](#)
- [Survey on the culture of research metrics - respond by Monday 11 December](#)
- [Research Excellence Framework 2021](#)
- [Papers](#)

About the forum

The Forum for Responsible Metrics is developing a programme of activities to support the responsible use of research metrics in higher education institutions and across the research community in the UK. It focuses on the recommendations made in the [Metric Tide](#) report.

The Forum will advise on, and work to improve, the data infrastructure that underpins metric use and the culture of research metrics.

The Forum will offer advice to the UK higher education funding bodies on how quantitative indicators might be used in assessing research outputs, environments and impact in REF2021.

Who is involved with the Forum for Responsible Metrics?

The forum is a partnership between the Higher Education Funding Council for England, Research Councils UK, the Wellcome Trust,

7. Invest more in 'research on research'

COMMUNITY PAGE

Meta-research: Evaluation and Improvement of Research Methods and Practices

John P. A. Ioannidis*, Daniele Fanelli, Debbie Drake Dunne, Steven N. Goodman

Meta-Research Innovation Center at Stanford (METRICS), Stanford University, Stanford, California, United States of America

* joannid@stanford.edu

Abstract

As the scientific enterprise has grown in size and diversity, we need empirical evidence on the research process to test and apply interventions that make it more efficient and its results more reliable. Meta-research is an evolving scientific discipline that aims to evaluate and improve research practices. It includes thematic areas of methods, reporting, reproducibility, evaluation, and incentives (how to do, report, verify, correct, and reward science). Much work is already done in this growing field, but efforts to-date are fragmented. We provide a map of ongoing efforts and discuss plans for connecting the multiple meta-research efforts across science worldwide.



OPEN ACCESS

Citation: Ioannidis JPA, Fanelli D, Dunne DD, Goodman SN (2015) Meta-research: Evaluation and



Research on Research Awards

These awards are for researchers who use a range of interdisciplinary methods to understand and improve how research is funded, practiced and evaluated, also known as research on research.

Scheme at a glance

This scheme is now closed

Career stage: Postdoctoral research [i](#), Leading a research programme [i](#), Returning to research [i](#)

Where your host organisation is based: UK, Republic of Ireland, Low- or middle-income countries [i](#)

Level of funding: Between £50,000 and £250,000

Duration of funding: 6 to 24 months

RoRI is a partnership initiative

The Wellcome Trust, Digital Science and the Universities of Sheffield and Leiden have joined forces to create RoRI



RoRI launches to enable more strategic, open, diverse, and inclusive research

We're thrilled to announce the launch of the Research on Research Institute (RoRI) – an international consortium of research funders, academic institutions, and technologists working to champion the latest approaches to research on research.

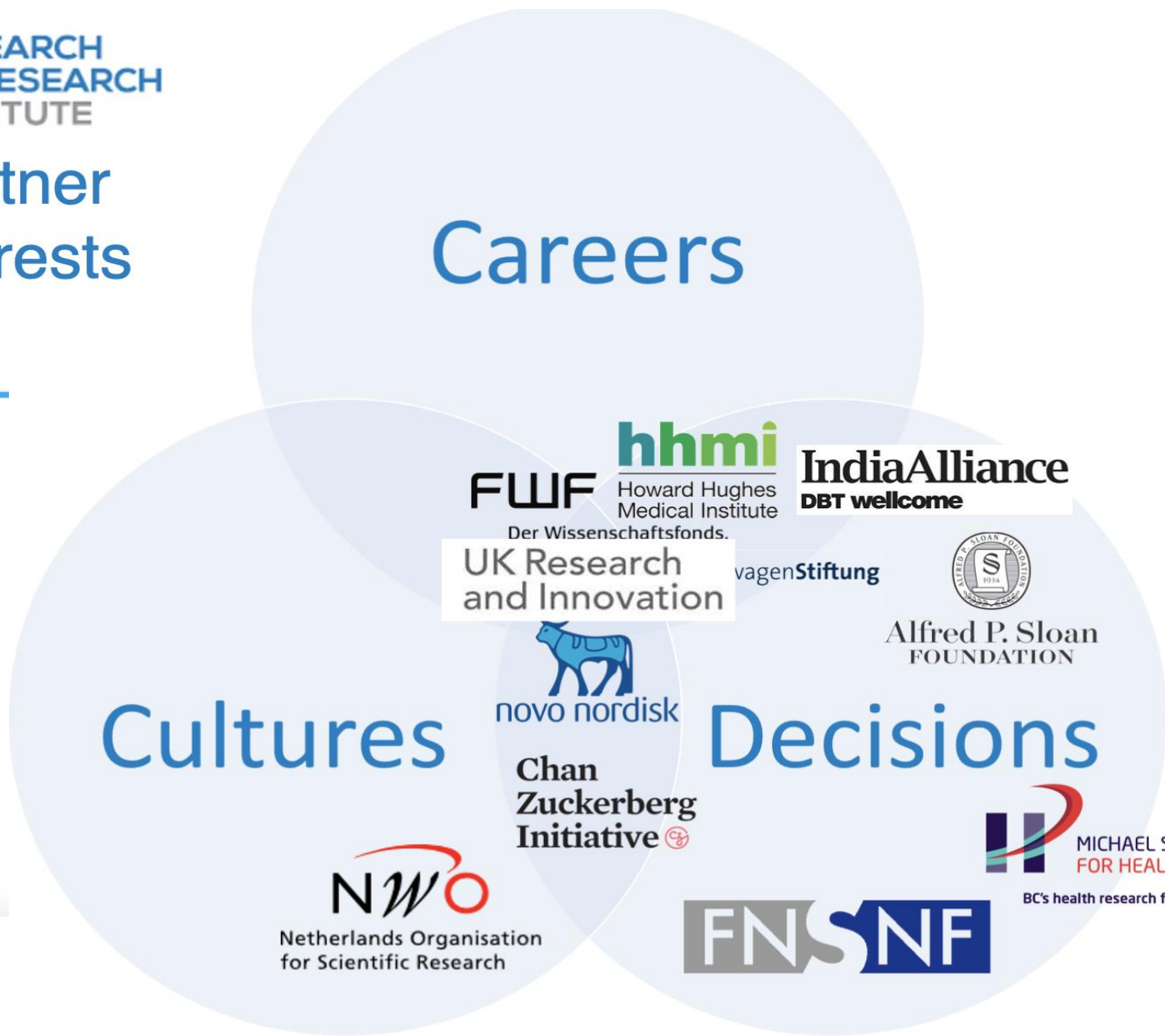
Co-founded by the Wellcome Trust, the universities of Sheffield and Leiden, and Digital Science, the RoRI consortium will undertake transformative and translational research on research (also known as meta-research, science of science or meta-science). By analysing research systems and experimenting with decision and evaluation data, tools

African Academy of Sciences
Austrian Science Fund (FWF)
Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI)
Dutch Research Council (NWO)
Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI)
Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research
Novo Nordisk Foundation
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)
UK Research & Innovation (UKRI)
Volkswagen Foundation
Wellcome Trust/DBT India Alliance
Wellcome Trust

Why 'research on research'?

- Evidence tends to be **narrow, fragmented**, rarely generalisable and not actionable by funders.
- There is **little funding for meta-research** studies that could usefully inform funding policy and practice.
- Funders need to participate as **collaborators and end-users** of research through the co-design, co-development and co-production of research.
- There should be a clearly defined set of research questions where funding **data, policies and practices can be shared**.

Strategic Partner thematic interests



RoRI Discussion Paper

Research on research:
partners, priorities and projects

Partners-only draft for consultation. Not for external circulation.

RoRI consortium
September, 2019

NEW FRONTIERS FOR RESEARCH ON RESEARCH

WIFI: 'WELLCOME-WIFI'
SLIDO: #RORILAUNCH
TWITTER: #RORILAUNCH

RoRI RESEARCH
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A kinder research culture is possible

Wellcome is right to call out hyper-competitiveness in research and question the focus on excellence. But other funders must follow its move.



The focus on excellence in research can contribute to a negative working culture. Credit: James Brittain/View Pictures/UiG/Getty

Wellcome's director Jeremy Farrar didn't hold back. "The emphasis on excellence in the research system is stifling diverse thinking and positive behaviours," he wrote in a [blog](#) post last month. "The relentless drive for research excellence has created a culture in modern science that cares exclusively about what is achieved and not about how it is achieved." These are strong words, not least because Farrar acknowledges that the UK biomedical funding charity that he leads helped to create such a focus on excellence.

Wellcome is not alone — excellence is everywhere. Germany plans to spend €533 million (US\$581 million) a year on its Excellence Strategy. In the United Kingdom, £2 billion (US\$2.5 billion) of public funding is allocated annually to universities through a suite of funds that support "excellence wherever it is found". Australia's research-evaluation system is called Excellence in Research for Australia. Worldwide, research facilities are being named centres of excellence, and excellence is scattered generously in the pages of universities' strategic plans.

PDF version

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SUBJECTS

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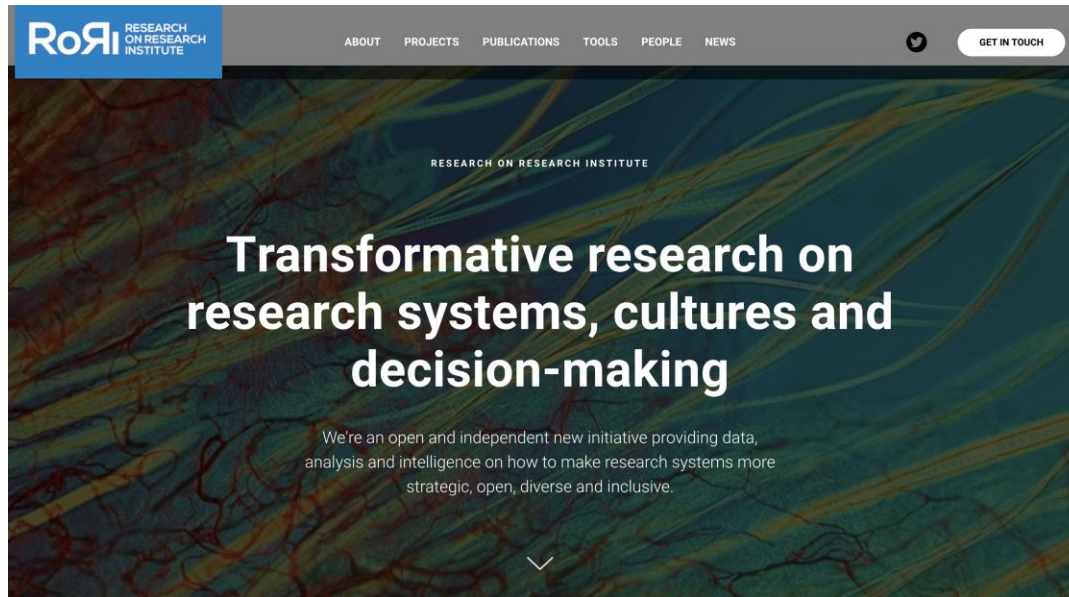
Research management

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“Wellcome and its partners in RoRI should be commended for taking an important first step. They have recognized that there are problems in research culture and that these need to be fixed. RoRI will help to probe some of the causes of distress, and suggest solutions. Now, other funders and research-management societies must join the mission...”

Nature editorial, 1 October 2019

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<http://researchonresearch.org>

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The Impact of Social Sciences and Humanities on Society

17-18 October 2019, Washington DC

SSH for Policy and Politics

Sara Guyer

*President of the Consortium of Humanities Centres and Institutes &
Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Madison*



The World Humanities Report

Humanities for
Policy and Policy for
the Humanities:
*The 2020 World
Humanities Report*
Sara Guyer

AESIS, Washington, DC
October 2019

Demonstrating the vitality and the necessity of the
humanities throughout the world



The World Humanities Report is an initiative to demonstrate the rich, varied, and necessary contributions the humanities have made, and are making, to knowledge and society throughout the world. This project highlights where and how the humanities are practiced and makes recommendations to ensure that the humanities flourish in and beyond the 2020s.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture.



The International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH) is a non-governmental organization within UNESCO, which federates hundreds of different learned societies in the field of philosophy, human sciences, and related subjects.

CHCI

Consortium of
Humanities Centers
and Institutes

The international Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI) is a global network shaping the future of the humanities, cultivating new forms of multilateral collaboration and generating innovative models for research, pedagogy, and public engagement.



A Global Report with Regional Contributors



Demonstrating the vitality and the necessity of the humanities throughout the world



Contributors:

- ❖ Eight Research Teams on Five Continents:
Regional Grounding of a Global project.
- ❖ International Scientific Committee:
Diverse Methods, Disciplines, Approaches

Demonstrating the vitality and the necessity of the humanities throughout the world



Core Theme: Flourishing

- ❖ Where are the humanities flourishing? What positive changes are underway and how can they be supported?
- ❖ This includes the development of new approaches, disciplines–interdisciplines–transdisciplines, methods, institutions, collaborations, archives, and technologies, often in areas of the world that have not received significant attention.

Demonstrating the vitality and the necessity of the humanities throughout the world



Core Theme: Risk

- ❖ Where and how are the humanities today at risk?
- ❖ This includes archives, heritage sites, disciplines, methods, languages, platforms, research programs, and institutions that are threatened by policy, lost state or private funding, changing taste, or shifting values.

Demonstrating the vitality and the necessity of the humanities throughout the world



Core Theme: Institutions

- ❖ Where are the humanities located within and adjacent to universities, libraries, research centers and institutes, disciplines, museums, and foundations?
- ❖ Between and within the arts and the social sciences; between and within theory and practice; between and within universities and their departments.
- ❖ How are new institutional logics and generational changes affecting the location of the humanities?

Demonstrating the vitality and the necessity of the humanities throughout the world



Outcomes:

- ❖ Digital Working Papers by Regional Teams
- ❖ World Humanities Report
- ❖ Policy Recommendations for UNESCO

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Information: guyer@wisc.edu



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



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humanities throughout the world



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17-18 October 2019, Washington DC

Synergy with governmental institutions

James Wilsdon (Chair)

Vice-Chair of the International Network for Governmental Science Advice

By changing systems and institutions, we can increase researchers' contextual knowledge and strengthen relationships with practitioners, policymakers, and knowledge brokers – to have more impact.



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Stakeholder co-creation

Mary Ellen O'Connell (Chair)

Executive Director of the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, The National Academies

Increasing the impact that SSH can have on addressing societal challenges will require: 1) identifying societal challenges by listening to and working with relevant stakeholders; 2) developing new incentives, institutional support mechanisms, and faculty/graduate student training to enable effective stakeholder engagement; 3) changing University culture to focus on civic responsibility and inter/transdisciplinary solutions; 4) creating mechanisms that connect and acknowledge varied perspectives; and 5) developing new funding opportunities for stakeholder partnerships



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Supporting SSH impact through foundations

David Budtz Pedersen (Chair)

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

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

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Interdisciplinary research

Kathleen Woodward

Director of the Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington

How can we incentivize greater cross-disciplinary collaboration in defining and measuring the impact of our SSH interventions in society?

A network diagram with red nodes and lines, representing social connections, is visible in the top left corner of the slide.

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Indicators of SSH impact

Kenneth Prewitt (Chair)

President, American Academy of Political and Social Science

That we closely examine when metrics might introduce as much risk of damage as they introduce helpful indicators



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Institutional assessment systems

David Sweeney (Chair)

Executive Chair, Research England

Challenging academics to work with external stakeholders on both design and implementation of impact frameworks is the way forward

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

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Measurement tools

Vivian Tseng (Chair)

Senior Vice President, William T. Grant Foundation

Multiple problems, multiple methods, multiple perspectives. Context matters but standardization is important in order to join the community



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Public Engagement

Tim Wilson (Chair)

Executive Director, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canada

We need to combat humanities exceptionalism: we have public humanities but can be just translating... one-directional... we need engagement that co-creates the research or citizen science need model, good models, good examples in Humanities

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The Impact of Social Sciences and Humanities on Society

17-18 October 2019, Washington DC

Rasmuson Theater, 4.15 – 5.15pm

**Interactive debate: ‘The role of SSH in providing knowledge
for addressing societal challenges’**

Moderator:

Arthur Lupia

Panel members:

Tim Wilson

Lidia Brito

David Oxtoby

Daniel Sarewitz



The Impact of Social Sciences and Humanities on Society

17-18 October 2019, Washington DC

Rasmuson Theater, 4.15 – 5.15pm

**Interactive debate: ‘The role of SSH in providing knowledge
for addressing societal challenges’**

[Results](#)

A decorative background at the top of the slide featuring a network diagram with red and black nodes connected by thin lines, set against a light red gradient.

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17-18 October 2019, Washington DC

Rasmuson Theater, 4.15 – 5.15pm

**Interactive debate: ‘The role of SSH in providing knowledge
for addressing societal challenges’**

<http://etc.ch/iiAH>

A network diagram with red nodes and lines, overlaid on a light red background.

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Topic 1

In some cases, policymakers don't know about, or choose not use the best available SSH evidence. What is the best piece of advice that you can give for how to increase a policymaker's awareness of relevant evidence?

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

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Topic 2

We all share a desire to increase the public impact of SSH work. We want the next generation to learn from our failures and build on our successes. With these criteria in mind, if you could give one piece of advice to members of this audience, on how to increase SSH's public impact, what would it be?



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Topic 3

What is one thing that people in the SSH community should stop doing if they want to increase the impact of their work?



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Topic 4

Sometimes people use the term “junk science” to refer to studies whose results they dislike. What is the best way for people in our community (e.g. policy makers, academics, science funders) to increase the credibility and acceptance of SSH work?



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Topic 5

When people disagree on how to measure impact, what strategies – if any -- do you employ to try to resolve that conflict?



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Topic 6

Big data, artificial intelligence, and machine learning are changing what we can know about one another and how we interact. What is the best way for us to employ and manage these fast-evolving resources for social impact and what aspect of these changes should we be most concerned about while doing our work?



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Topic 7

If you wanted to increase the societal impact of SSH work and could give one piece of advice to university administrators, what would it be?



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Topic 8

If you wanted to increase the social impact of SSH work and could give one piece of advice to funding agencies, what would it be?



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Closing Remarks and Summary

Arthur Lupia

*Head of the Directorate for Social, Behavioural, and Economic Sciences,
National Science Foundation*



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Up Next

Reception

5.15pm

The Partisan

709 D Street, NW

Washington DC

Dinner (pre-registration required)

6.30pm

Clyde's of Gallery Place

707 7th Street, NW

Washington DC