



The Impact of Social Sciences
and Humanities on Society

14-16 October 2020, Ottawa

12.30 – 13.45pm

Structuring SSH Impact through collaboration with Government

Tim Wilson (Chair) – SSHRC

Christine Weidenslauffer – Library of National Congress Chile

Mihiri Seneviratne – Department for Education U.K.



CHILE'S PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH SERVICE IN TIMES OF CHANGE

CHRISTINE WEIDENSLAUFER

LIBRARY OF NATIONAL CONGRESS, CHILE

THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 2020

AESIS - THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES ON SOCIETY
CONFERENCE

THE SILOS & PIPES STRATEGY (STOA)

SILOS: specialised communities of knowledge / expertise



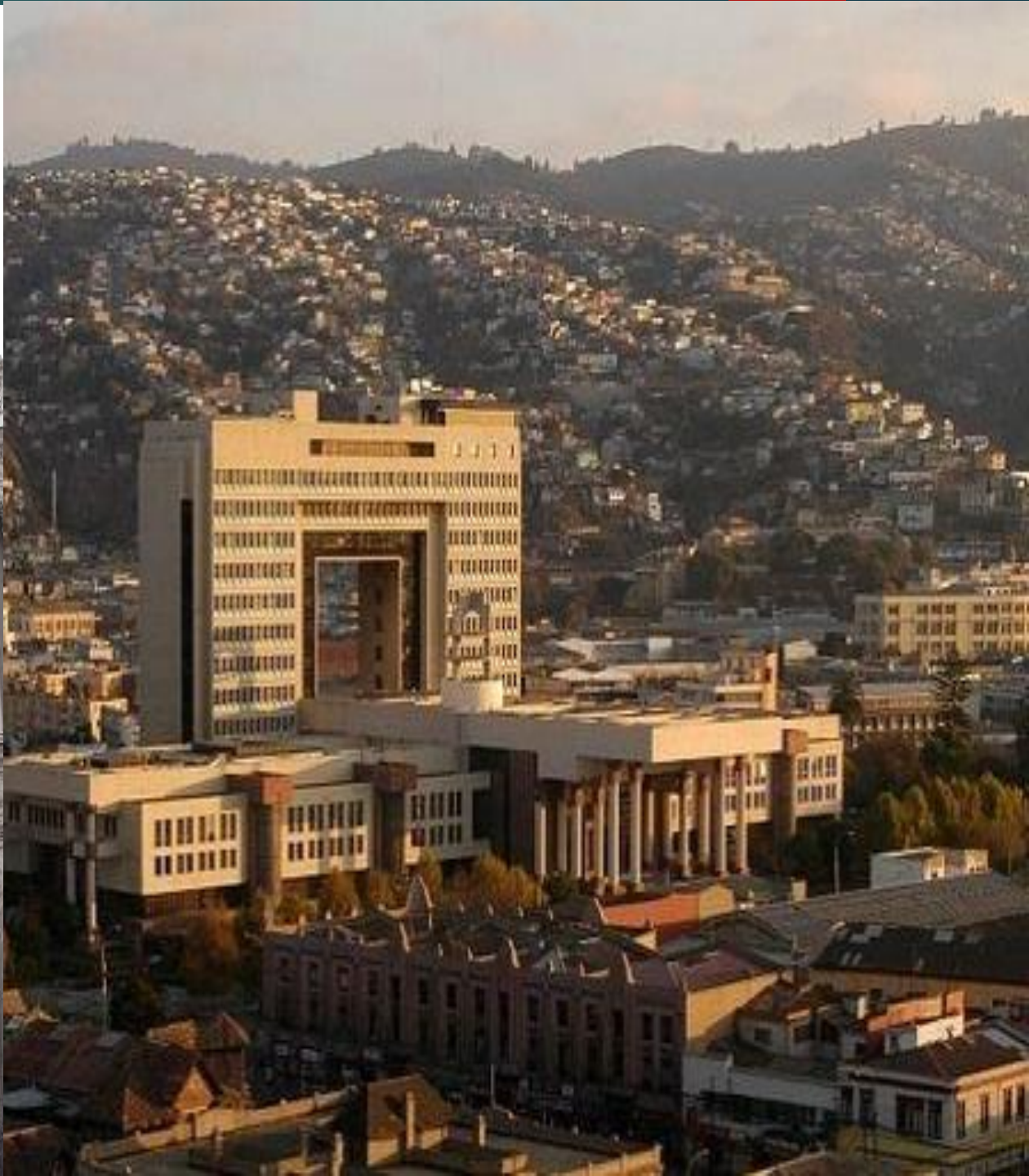
PIPES: communication channels



THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES/RESEARCH SERVICES

- ▶ Fundamental component in the development of democratic legislatures throughout the world
- ▶ Trusted “key information brokers” for legislatures
- ▶ Disseminate their own work (silo) as well as from third parties, v. gr. researchers (pipe)

NATIONAL CONGRESS, CHILE



THE LIBRARY OF NATIONAL CONGRESS / ATP

- ▶ Chile: strong presidentialist govt w/ a bicameral co-legislator
- ▶ Parliamentary Technical Advisory Service (“ATP”): to reduce the asymmetry of information with the Executive



BCN & ATP IN NUMBERS



135 YEARS OLD
INSTITUTION



12 YEARS



224
STAFF



41 RESEARCHERS



18 MILLIONS
BUDGET



13 PROFESSIONS + 100 FIELDS OF
EXPERTISE



85 % POSTGRADUATE
EDUCATION

SHAPPING ATP: OUR EARLY MODELS



OUR PRODUCTS: FOLLOWING THE STANDARD

- ▶ The usual: written analysis; presentations before Committees; verbal counseling to Congress members and committees
- ▶ 1/3 products include comparative law
- ▶ 2018: some pilot innovative experiences

AND THEN... THERE WAS OCTOBER 18th 2019...

By 2018, Chile:

- ← 4.8% Growth
- ← 8.6% of the population living in poverty,
- ← 3.1% was the approximate inflation
- ← 7% estimated unemployment rate
- ← GNI, per capita: 24,000



AN EMERGENCY POLITICAL AGREEMENT FOR A NEW CONSTITUTION



LESSONS TO AN UNFORGETTABLE 2020

- ↪ Social/Political Crisis
- ↪ Environmental Crisis
- ↪ Health Crisis

+ Fake news and disinformation !



Evidence based decision-making is more important than ever!!

TIME FOR CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION: NEW “PIPES”!

What are we doing at ATP to improve our research and advisory services? **BUILDING NEW PIPES!**

- Developing new IT solutions and new related products
- Institutionalizing getting research into Congress
- Strengthening our networks

FINALLY, AN INVITATION...

I would like to ask each one of you...

ARE YOU A SILO OR A PIPE?



Department
for Education

Research collaboration with central government

Mihiri Seneviratne, Department for Education (England)

Outline

- Introduction
- Models of collaboration with central government
- Strategic choices for researchers
- Factors for impactful collaboration
- Summary

Questions for discussion:

1. *What do you want to get out of collaboration with government?*
2. *What has been positive or challenging about past experiences of collaboration?*

Models of collaboration

Contractor



Department: specifies research questions, outputs, timing

Researcher: brings technical and subject expertise; capacity; independence

Examples: research with service users, programme evaluation, longitudinal studies



Adviser

Department: invites experts to advise on topic, policy project or research project

Researchers: bring technical and subject expertise; credibility; challenge

Example: expert advisory panels, evidence brokers, think tanks

DWP Methods Advisory Group

The DWP Methods Advisory Group supports DWP's Chief Scientific Adviser in providing the department with the latest expert advice.

The Methods Advisory Group ensures DWP analysts and scientists use the latest scientific, technical and analytical approaches when providing evidence to support policy and delivery decisions.

The group supports and advises DWP's internal analytical and scientific functions and enhances the department's existing academic engagement. The Methods Advisory Group is trans-disciplinary in nature, consisting of members with different areas of expertise that are world-leading independent experts in their fields.

Membership

Professor Nick Bailey
Professor Richard Bower
Dr Sarah-Marie Hall
Professor Gordon Harold
Ruth Kaufman OBE
Professor Frank Kee
Professor Helen Kennedy
Professor Hamish Low
Professor Anne McMunn
Professor Sofia Olhede
Dr Jim Riccio
Dr Peter Stoman

What Works Network

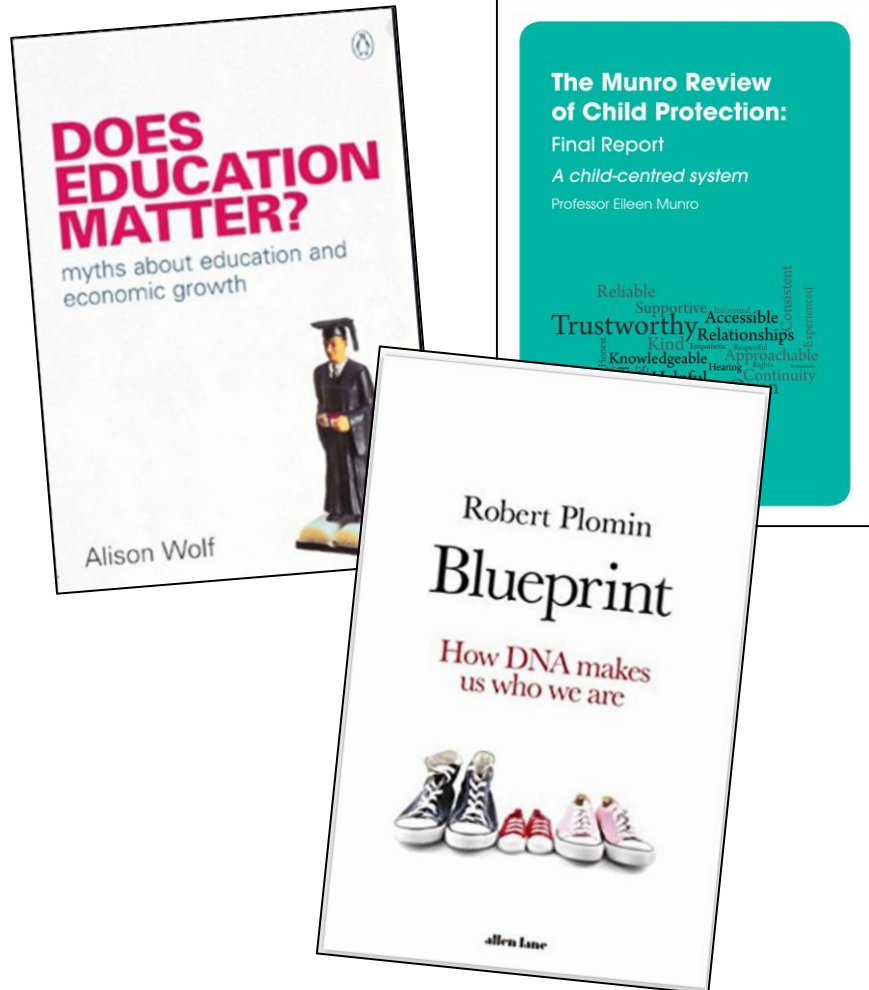


Professor Becky Allen
Workload Advisory Group Chair
| Department for Education

"The Workload Advisory Group looked at the way data are used by schools."

"I hope that the principles and advice we have provided for schools will help them to question their current practice."

Influencer



Less structured - operates through personal influence, senior-level relationships and reputation

Researcher brings idea that shapes strategic priorities

Example: independent reviews, commissions, informal influencing, think tanks

Strategic decisions for researchers

What do you want to achieve through government collaboration, and what trade-offs are you willing to make?

Collaboration opportunities vary by:

- 'Level' of influence i.e. strategic, policy, operational
- Degree of intellectual ownership
- Time and funding available
- Impact on final decision making - and visibility of impact
- Tension between independence and influence

Tips for successful collaboration

- ✓ Understand who in government you're working with and their objectives, constraints and expectations
- ✓ Take a constructive approach to political context and timing – out of the hands of most individuals you'll work with
- ✓ Communicate using clear, accessible language, emphasising the “so what” and being transparent about uncertainty
- ✓ Open, responsive communication is key throughout a collaboration

Summary

- There are several possible approaches to impactful SSH collaboration with central government, which carry different risks and benefits
- Successful, impactful collaboration requires:
 - Understanding what you want to achieve and what you're willing to compromise on
 - Understanding the aims, constraints and expectations of whoever you are collaborating with
 - Responsive, open communication throughout

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