The Impact of Social Sciences and Humanities on Society

14-16 October 2020, Ottawa

12.30 – 13.45pm

Science Impact on Policy

Pearl Dykstra (Chair) – Group of Chief Scientific Advisors, European Commission

Jeff Kinder – Institute on Governance

Mehrdad Hariri – Canadian Science Policy Centre

#SSH20

European Commission's Group of

Chief Scientific Advisors

Science-for-policy advice in the European Union

Pearl Dykstra

#SAMGroup_EU

Session on "Science impact on policy"
AESEIS 2020 conference
Online, hosted from Ottawa

European
Commission

Research and
Innovation

Background

EU policies address highly complex societal issues
Scientific evidence which is called upon
- Often equally complex
- Typically characterized by uncertainty

Role of scientific advice: reliable guide through complexity and uncertainty

➤ How to further strengthen scientific evidence and advice in Commission policymaking

We base our work on a set of fundamental principles

- <u>High-quality science</u> is the bedrock of good scientific advice
- Scientific advisors need to demonstrate their <u>trustworthiness</u> as a prerequisite for doing their work well
- Scientific advice needs to be a <u>transparent</u> and impartial process
- There has to be a clear mandate to ensure that science is <u>separate</u> from politics

Three sets of recommendations

Scientific advice

High-quality science

Recommendation 1: Engage early and regularly

- Clarify boundaries between science, scientific advice, and politics
- Define together the questions for scientific advice

Recommendation 2: Ensure the quality of the scientific evidence

- Use the full scope of good science

- Ensure rigorous synthesis of scientific evidence

- Ensure rigour in expert consultation

- Refine the approach to conflicts of interest

Recommendation 3: Analyse, assess and communicate uncertainties

- Technical
- Methodological
- Epistemic
- Societal

"Before we begin, a word of caution regarding results..."

Recommendation 3: Analyse, assess and communicate uncertainties

- Use the most suitable uncertainty analysis approaches
- Communicate uncertainties and diverging scientific views
- Explain the path from evidence to advice

See the *Scientific Opinion* for examples of practical tools

- Deliberative methods to define questions

- Evidence synthesis methods

- Uncertainty assessments

- Etc

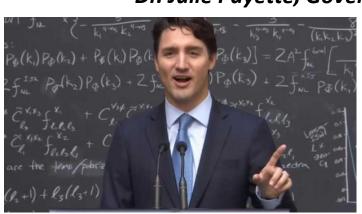*AESIS Network – Impact of SSH Conference "Science Impact on Policy"*

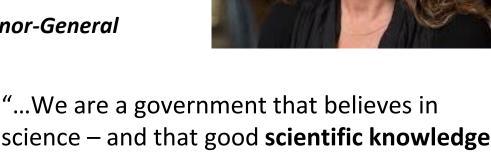*Integration of Science, Policy and Society: A Deliberative Inquiry Approach*

Jeff Kinder, PhD
October 16, 2020

Institute on Governance   Institut sur la gouvernance

LEADING EXPERTISE   EXPERTISE DE POINTE

Science and Policy Integration

"**I think the path for us to take is to trust science, to believe that innovation and discovery are good for us and to make decisions based on data and evidence.**"
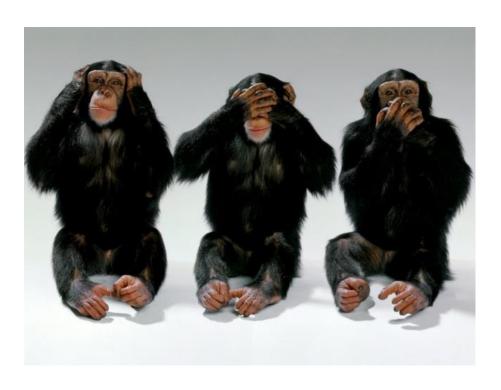
-- Dr. Julie Payette, Governor-General

"…We are a government that believes in science – and that good **scientific knowledge should inform decision-making**."

-- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

Science and Policy Integration

"There is nothing a government hates more than to be well informed; for it makes the process of arriving at decisions much more complicated and difficult."

-- John Maynard Keynes

Integration of science, policy and Society: A deliberative inquiry approach
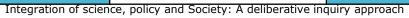
A science / policy encounter

- A man in a hot-air balloon gets lost and descends to ask for directions. The balloonist hovers over a woman on the ground and asks where he is.

- The woman shouts back, "You are at 45 degrees, 25 minutes, 29 seconds north, and 75 degrees, 42 minutes, 20 seconds west. I am standing at 100 metres above sea level, so you must be at about 120 metres."

- The man in the balloon replies, "You must be a **scientist**. I ask you a simple question, you provide me too much information and I'm still lost!"

- The woman calls back, "You must be a **policy analyst**. You came out of nowhere with your questions, I give you the most accurate and precise answer I can, you're still lost, and you blame me!"

Two cultures

C.P. Snow
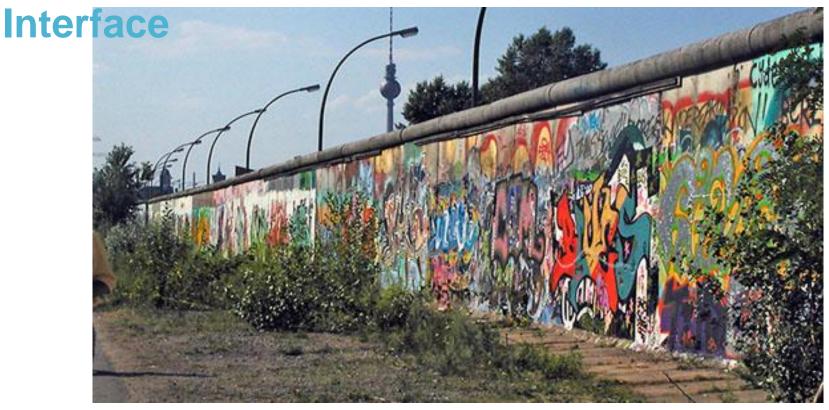
SCIENCE		POLICY
often very long	**Time horizon**	often very short
seeks precision	**Language**	seeks flexibility
scientific jargon	**Lexicon**	policy jargon
tolerant	**Uncertainty**	discomfort
peers	**Audience**	public
horizontal	**Accountability**	vertical
specialists	**Practitioners**	generalists
usually open	**Transparency**	often closed
Distributed	**Location**	"Ottawa"

Integration of science, policy and Society: A deliberative inquiry approach

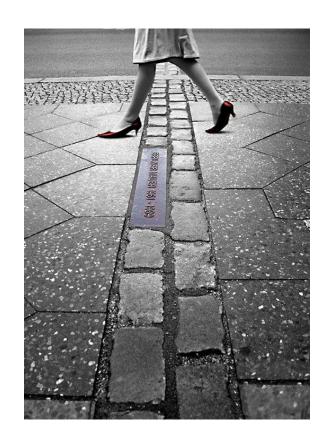# "Standard Model" of the Science / Policy Interface

Integration of science, policy and Society: A deliberative inquiry approach
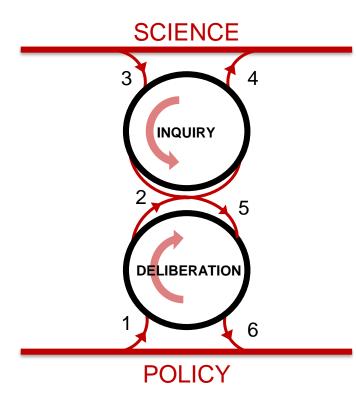
We need a different model

What we need are more knowledge brokers with a foot in both camps.

The **Deliberative Inquiry** model, developed by Graham Orpwood, draws on the tradition of Aristotle's concepts of Theory and Practice, and John Dewey's logic of inquiry.

INTEGRATION OF SCIENCE, POLICY AND SOCIETY: A DELIBERATIVE INQUIRY APPROACH

A Deliberative Inquiry Approach

SCIENCE

3

4

INQUIRY

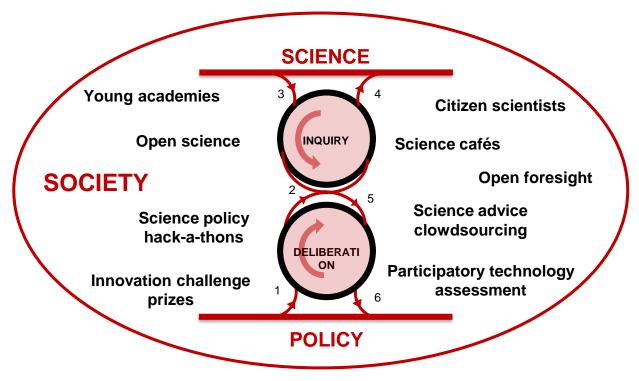2

5

DELIBERATION

1

6

POLICY

The model is represented as two cycles representing inquiry and deliberation, linked so that both turn together in a coordinated and mutually supportive way.

The numbered elements do not necessarily represent a linear sequence; aspects of each element can take place at any time through the process.

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Open Science Advice

INTEGRATION OF SCIENCE, POLICY AND SOCIETY: A DELIBERATIVE INQUIRY APPROACH

Science

Policy

THANK YOU

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iog.ca @IOGca institute-on-governance

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LEADING EXPERTISE

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EXPERTISE DE POINTE

Impact of Social Sciences and Humanities Conference

Mehrdad Hariri

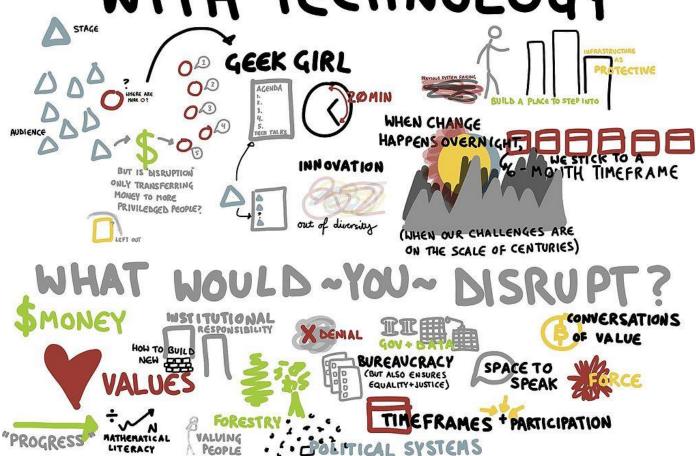*CEO & President*

Canadian Science Policy Centre

Oct. 16, 2020

Outside perspective

- The importance of SSH

- SSH for policy making

- Mechanisms of SSH in policy making

Pandemic disruption

Using social and behavioural science to support COVID-19 pandemic response
•Jay J. Van Bavel, Katherine Baicker, […]
Nature Human Behaviour

Evidence-based policy making in the social sciences

Methods that matter

Edited by

Gerry Stoker and Mark Evans

SSH in
Evidence based decision making:

- 1) SSH as evidence, (all issues are multidisciplinary)
- 2) SSH as the backbone and the context

Mechanisms of SSH in policy making

Something must change!

Global consumers anticipate pulling back on spending across categories.

Expected spending per category over the next two weeks compared to usual[1]
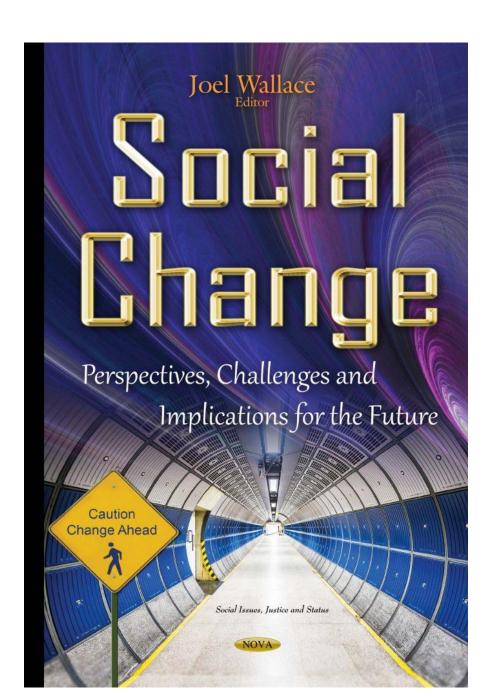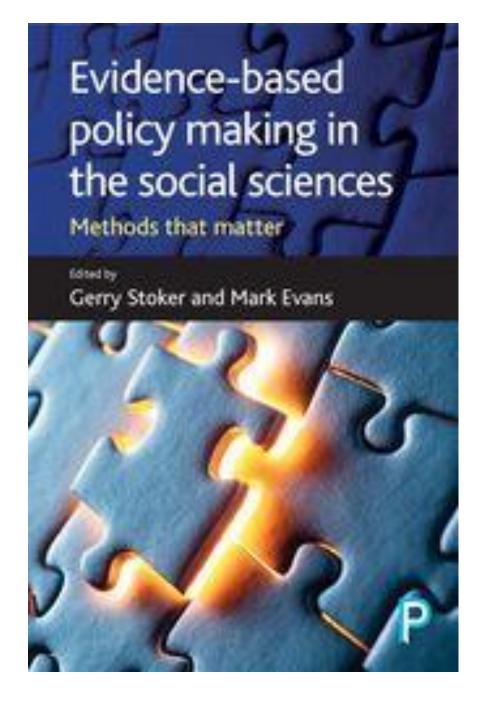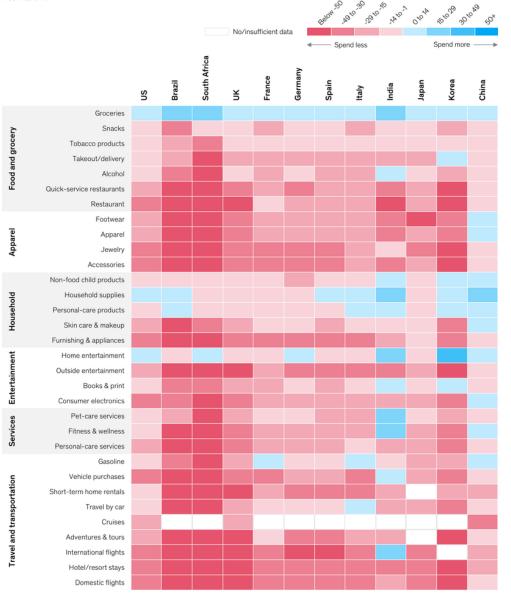Net intent %[2]

No/insufficient data

Below -50 | -49 to -30 | -29 to -15 | -14 to -1 | 0 to 14 | 15 to 29 | 30 to 49 | 50+

← Spend less   Spend more →

Columns: US, Brazil, South Africa, UK, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, India, Japan, Korea, China

Food and grocery
- Groceries
- Snacks
- Tobacco products
- Takeout/delivery
- Alcohol
- Quick-service restaurants
- Restaurant

Apparel
- Footwear
- Apparel
- Jewelry
- Accessories

Household
- Non-food child products
- Household supplies
- Personal-care products
- Skin care & makeup
- Furnishing & appliances

Entertainment
- Home entertainment
- Outside entertainment
- Books & print
- Consumer electronics

Services
- Pet-care services
- Fitness & wellness
- Personal-care services

Travel and transportation
- Gasoline
- Vehicle purchases
- Short-term home rentals
- Travel by car
- Cruises
- Adventures & tours
- International flights
- Hotel/resort stays
- Domestic flights

[1]Q: "Over the next two weeks, do you expect that you will spend more, about the same, or less money on these categories than usual?"
[2]Net intent is calculated by subtracting the percent of respondents stating they expect to decrease spending from the percent of respondents stating they expect to increase spending.

Source: McKinsey & Company COVID-19 Consumer Pulse surveys, conducted globally between March 15 and June 21, 2020. Source of data for South Africa and Brazil was from McKinsey & Company, COVID-19 Consumer Pulse surveys, conducted between May 15 and May 25, 2020.

McKinsey & Company

Challenges of informing policy

- Mechanisms of interaction of Knowledge producers and Policy Makers
- Receptivity from the two sides
- Translation of the knowledge into policy

Questions!