

Programme for the international course on

Assessing Impact of Science: Methods & Instruments

AESIS

NETWORK FOR
ADVANCING & EVALUATING THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF SCIENCE

KING'S
College
LONDON

Online, hosted from London,
United Kingdom

3-5 November 2021



ASSESSING IMPACT OF SCIENCE: METHODS & INSTRUMENTS

Science funders, research councils and universities, amongst others all over the world, put more and more emphasis on the societal impact of research. In the UK, for example, government spending has increased on mission-oriented funds such as ARPA, and knowledge-exchange activity assessment, such as KEF. However, assessing the societal impact of universities is complicated. The assessments need to account for all scientific disciplines and should ideally capture long-term impact in addition to direct impact in society. Recognising that it may not be possible to assess the full spectrum of impact of universities, it is useful to focus on which key performance indicators do make sense, especially if the data can be collected in a structured way. And even then there can often be a mismatch between what is assessed and what is meant to be assessed, which is why there is more attention needed for “responsible metrics”. This course will focus primarily on the questions of how research institutes may develop their own “Impact portfolio” and how they and other institutions can create assessment systems to serve their strategy, and it will create insight in the currently available information systems and methods to assess impact and how to implement this in a research strategy.

Main discussion questions

- How can you create parameters of impact assessment that are appropriate for local, national and international purposes?
- To what extent do you need to take a shared or differentiated approach of assessing impact between different disciplines?
- How can parameters of impact assessment and research strategies reinforce each other and how can you avoid the risk of perverse incentives?
- What are the differences between assessing output, outcome and impact and how do you assess what you actually want to assess?
- How can you use existing Research Information Systems for your impact strategy and what are the possibilities to build your own system?

Case study

An important element of this course is a case study. This enables more practical insights of the topic and promote a better understanding for the take-aways and recommendations of this course. An interactive discussion of the case study will also be good for the engagement with the course. With the case study we invite the participants to critically assess the landscape of current tools and systems along the spectrum of assessing the impact of research.

Target Audience

Managers and Strategists at Research institutes, Funders for scientific research,
Users and developers of Research Information Systems, Scientometricians & Librarians



Programme

Wednesday 3 November

all times in GMT

8.30 - 9.00 Walk-in

OPENING & INTRODUCTIONS

9.00 Words of Welcome by AESIS

9.10 Introductions by the participants

- ◇ Why are you here? What do you want to take away?
- ◇ Where do you sit in the ecosystem of research activity?

9.45 - 10.00

10.00 What is impact and why should you assess it?

Martin Kirk Operations Director (Research & Researchers), King's College London
& Anika Duut van Goor Director of AESIS

11.00 - 11.15 Break

IMPACT DEFINITIONS, STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

11.15 Putting Assessing Impact for Science into Context

- ◇ Overview of changing HE landscape
- ◇ Policy discussions and actions around accountability and impact
- ◇ Policy developments and instruments including rankings with a focus on Europe/EU

Ellen Hazelkorn Joint Managing Partner, BH Associates, Professor emeritus, Technological University Dublin, & Joint Editor, Policy Reviews in Higher Education, Ireland

12.00 - 12.15 Break

12.15 *Ellen Hazelkorn continued*

12.45 - 13.30 Lunch Break

- Programme for the day continues on the next page -



Programme

Wednesday 3 November (continued)

all times in GMT

INTEGRATING IMPACT IN A RESEARCH STRATEGY

13.30 **Communicating Your Impact**

- ◇ Framework for Designing Impactful Research using the 7C's: Context, Communities, Constituencies, Challenge, Channels, Communication & Capture
- ◇ Communicating the societal benefits of a research project

Jonathan Grant *Founding Director, Different Angles Ltd*

14.15 - 14.30 Break

14.30 *Jonathan Grant continued*

15.00 - 15.15 Break

15.15 **Panel with Jonathan Grant, Martin Kirk & Anika Duut van Goor**

15.45 **Course assignment: Introduction**

16.30 End of Day 1



Programme

Thursday 4 November

all times in GMT

9.00 - 9.10 Walk-in

9.10 Words of Welcome by AESIS

IMPACT EVALUATION FOR NATIONAL OR REGIONAL STRATEGY

9.15 Impact Evaluation to Inform National and Institutional Strategy

- ◇ How impact evaluation can inform strategy on a national, regional and/or institutional level
- ◇ The advantages to evaluating impact

Steven Hill Director of Research, Research England, UKRI

10.00 - 10.15 Break

10.15 *Steven Hill continued*

10.45 - 11.00 Break

IMPACT ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORKS

11.00 Alternative Impact Evaluation Approaches: the case of Transformative Innovation Policies

- ◇ Impact assessment approaches that do not focus on impact: the why and how
- ◇ Different alternative approaches to impact evaluation (and their different uses)
- ◇ An example: evaluating the outcomes of Transformative Innovation Policies

Jordi Molas-Gallart Research Professor, Spanish Council for Scientific Research (CSIC), Spain

11.45 - 12.00 Break

12.00 *Jordi Molas-Gallart continued*

12.30 - 13.15 Lunch

- Programme for the day continues on the next page -



Programme

Thursday 4 November (continued)

all times in GMT

TOOLS AND METHODS FOR IMPACT EVALUATION

13.15 Measuring your impact using Altmetrics

Michelle Herbert Engagement Manager, Altmetrics, Digital Science

14.00 - 14.15

14.15 The Societal Impact Instrument: Occupational Health & Safety Research (SII:OHSR)

Ole Henning Sørensen Consultant at the National Research Center for the Working Environment, Denmark

15.00 - 15.15 Break

15.15 Panel with Steven Hill, Jordi Molas-Gallart, Michelle Herbert & Ole Henning Sørensen

16.00 Assignment preparations

Participants get some time to work on their Impact Strategy and to ask questions related to the assignment

16.30 End of Day 2



Programme

Friday 5 November

all times in GMT

9.00 - 9.10 Walk-in

9.10 Words of Welcome by AESIS

UNDERSTANDING PERFORMATIVE ASPECT OF IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

9.15 Evaluations, the impact culture & how to approach impact

- ◇ What are the challenges in evaluating impact?
- ◇ Responsible metrics, qualitative and quantitative methods, evaluation methods as a means rather than the end goal

Laurens Hessels *Senior Researcher, Rathenau Institute & Professor by special appointment, Centre for Science & Technology Studies, Leiden University, Netherlands*

10.00 - 10.15 Break

10.15 *Laurens Hessels continued*

10.45 - 11.00 Break

RESPONSIBLE METRICS FOR IMPACT PERFORMANCE

11.00 Relationship Between Societal & Scholarly Impact

- ◇ How institutions define impact and researchers' perspectives on evaluation methods
- ◇ The ethics and values behind evaluations

James Britt Holbrook *Associate Professor, Department of Humanities, New Jersey Institute of Technology, United States*

11.45 - 12.00 Break

12.00 *James Britt Holbrook continued*

12.30 *Interactive Panel with James Britt Holbrook & Laurens Hessels*

13.00 - 13.45 Lunch

- Programme for the day continues on the next page -



Programme

Friday 5 November (continued)

all times in GMT

PARTICIPANT PRESENTATIONS

13.45 Part 1

14.45 - 15.00 Break

15.00 Part 2

15.30 Recap and final words

16.00 End of the Course

Reception

