

Institutional structures for societal impact of science

A four-day workshop on integrating societal impact in your institutional strategy, implementing support structures for access to funding, and responsible assessment of impact

23-26 May 2023, Online (PDT-EDT times)



ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

Science funders, research councils and universities, amongst others all over the world, put more and more emphasis on the societal impact of research. And with good reason. In a world that is rapidly transforming, with growing challenges on regional and global level, scientific knowledge and research is of the utmost importance in helping to find solutions. However, researchers themselves cannot stand alone in the pursuit of having societal impact, they need the support of their institutions and sufficient funding. Therefore research institutions need to undergo a culture change, in which policy, strategy, structure, mindset and skills are adjusted to be able to stimulate societal impact of research, and demonstrate the pathways through which they take place. This workshop offers expertise and insights to those who want to build, execute and/or strengthen these supporting structures within their institution with an interactive perspective!

Assessing societal impact is necessary to increase chances of receiving funding and to serve institutional strategy, but it is also complicated. The assessments need to be appropriate 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”.

In addition to an effective evaluation system, an impact-focused institutional strategy can help create communities and ecosystems for co-creation, engagement and transformation. An institutional approach can help develop a strong internal infrastructure that offers (tailor-made) training for impact-skills, facilities to help find appropriate stakeholders in society, increase the chances of receiving funding, encourage interdisciplinary research, and spark energy for impact.

Together with experts in the field and other participants from all over North America, representing a variety of contexts and a wide range of experiences, you will be able to discuss best practices to find solutions to shared problems and strengthen both research excellence as well as societal impact within your institution. This available knowledge will be converted into practice through a case-study exercise which creates a large pool of sources to enhance your access to (impact-based) funding for the research projects you support. We look forward to welcoming you to this workshop in May!

INTERACTIVE ONLINE EXPERIENCE

After two years of dealing with the pandemic we are all used to meeting online, and painfully aware of the aspects we miss out on in comparison to in-person events. By including additional short breaks, interactive exercises in break out rooms and informal chat opportunities, we try to make this online course as enjoyable and effective as possible. Join our **interactive course** from the comfort of your home and boost your chances of receiving funding for your own institution.

What our past participants say about this online course:

*“Worth it; I want all of my staff working in research development to take it.
And my Vice-President Research, too.”*

“A big energy boost to go for more societal impact”

*“An engaging course by professionals who provide you with tools and conceptual framing
to consider impact within ones domain”*

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

The Network for Advancing and Evaluating the Societal Impact of Science (AESIS) is an international, open community for professionals working on stimulating and demonstrating the impact of science (including SSHA) on economy, culture and well-being. Members come from all over the world, where they are involved in the evaluation of impact, research strategy and policy making, science funding, scientometrics, research administration, business creation, public engagement, and many more. We pursue a multi-stakeholder, system-wide approach on an international level, because we believe that stimulating dialogue between different sectors and regions, beyond the project level, will catalyse further development of effective instruments for evaluating and advancing the societal impact of science.

AESIS

NETWORK FOR
ADVANCING & EVALUATING THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF SCIENCE

In collaboration with:



Course-Coordinators

David Phipps	Assistant Vice-President of Research Strategy & Impact, Office of Research Services, York University & founder of Research Impact Canada (RIC), Canada
Anika Duut van Goor	Director of the Organisation for Advancing and Evaluating Societal Impact of Science (AESIS)
Susan Renoe	Associate Vice Chancellor, University of Missouri & Executive Director of the NSF Center for Advancing Research Impact in Society (ARIS), United States



TUESDAY MAY 23RD

PDT	EDT	
7.50	10.50	<i>Walk-in</i>
8.00	11.00	Introductions
<p>Before we start four days of training the attendees get the opportunity to introduce themselves and meet the speakers. The programme will be laid out and everyone will have the floor to explain what it is they would like to take out of this workshop. This helps our speakers understand the group and will hopefully encourage you to engage more with all the other impact-enthusiasts present, to exchange experiences.</p>		
8.50	11.50	<i>Break</i>
9.10	12.10	Embedding societal impact in your institution
<p>What is societal impact and why do we need to focus on it? Why is it important to assess societal impact on an institutional level? What is the added value of an institutional approach for impact? Introducing the course-exercise: Interactive exercise in groups: laying out the science eco-system and prioritising opportunities</p> <p><i>Anika Duut van Goor</i> Director of AESIS</p>		
10.00	13.00	<i>Break</i>
10.20	13.20	Institutional Readiness and Culture - Part A
<p>Focusing on developing institutional research impact literacy How 'impact literate' is your institution? Institutional Research Impact Literacy</p> <p><i>David Phipps</i> Assistant Vice-President of Research Strategy & Impact, Office of Research Services, York University, Canada</p>		
11.10	14.10	<i>Break</i>
12.00	15.00	Institutional Readiness and Culture - Part B
<p>Institutional Health Check (self assessment tool) Break out groups working one element of the Institutional Health Check Discussion and Q&A</p> <p><i>David Phipps</i> Assistant Vice-President of Research Strategy & Impact, Office of Research Services, York University, Canada</p>		
12.50	15.50	<i>Break</i>

TUESDAY MAY 23RD (continued)

PDT	EDT	
13.10	16.10	Exploring the funding landscape
		<p>Mapping out the funding landscape - what is the role of societal impact</p> <p>Finding synergy between research and financing programmes</p> <p>Wendy Naus* Executive Director, Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), United States</p>
14.00	17.00	End of day 1

WEDNESDAY MAY 24TH

PDT	EDT	
7.50	10.50	Walk-in
8.00	11.00	Implementing for Impact - Part A: Incorporating Monitoring Systems to Track Societal Impact
		<p>Select metrics that matter – understand the ‘What’, ‘Why’ and ‘Who’ of impact</p> <p>Identify monitoring tools for measuring institutional and societal impact</p> <p>Considerations when implementing ‘fit for purpose’ measurement approaches</p> <p>Kathryn Graham Executive Director at Impact Action Lab at Alberta Innovates, Canada</p>
d	11.50	Break
9.10	12.10	Implementing for Impact Part B: Resourcing for Societal Impact
		<p>What are institutions doing to incent, recognize and award societal impact?</p> <p>Understand the types of tools available to embed societal impact?</p> <p>What are the skills sets needed to advance societal impact?</p> <p>Kathryn Graham Executive Director at Impact Action Lab at Alberta Innovates, Canada</p>
10.00	13.00	Break

*to be confirmed

WEDNESDAY MAY 24TH (continued)

PDT EDT

10.20	13.20	Introduction on institutional support for impact
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Strategic context and use of impact-reporting for developing an institutionally responsible impact narrative, and discussing the possibilities for an impact-focused institutional strategy that helps developing communities and ecosystems for co-creation, engagement and transformation.

Steffen Bohni Nielsen* Director, Ph.d in Social Anthropology, The National Resarch Center for the Working Environment (NFA) in Denmark

11.10	14.10	Break
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12.00	15.00	Instigating cultural change
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More information to follow soon

Steffen Bohni Nielsen* Director, Ph.d in Social Anthropology, The National Resarch Center for the Working Environment (NFA) in Denmark

12.50	15.50	Break
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13.10	16.10	Societal impact and science funding
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How to improve access to research funding through societal impact
Taking an active role and positioning your institution in the science eco-system

J. Britt Holbrook* Associate Professor in the Department of Humanities at New Jersey Institute of Technology, United States

14.00	17.00	End of day 2
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*to be confirmed

THURSDAY MAY 25TH

PDT	EDT	
7.50	10.50	<i>Walk-in</i>
8.00	11.00	Impact as an academic responsibility/The changing mission of Higher Education

More information to follow soon

Chris Brink Emeritus Vice-Chancellor of Newcastle University, United Kingdom

8.50	11.50	<i>Break</i>
9.10	12.10	Topic Pending

More information to follow soon

*Melissa Flagg** Founder of Flagg Consulting LLC

10.00	13.00	<i>Break</i>
10.20	13.20	Current and emerging approaches to Impact Evaluation

More information to follow soon

*Melissa Flagg** Founder of Flagg Consulting LLC

11.10	14.10	<i>Break</i>
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THURSDAY MAY 25TH

PDT EDT

12.00	15.00	Topic Pending
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More information to follow soon

Speaker tbd

12.50	15.50	Break
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13.10	16.10	Topic Pending
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More information to follow soon

*Jenny Lewis** Academic Director, Scholarly and Social Research Impact, Chancellery
Research and Enterprise

14.00	17.00	End of day 3
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FRIDAY MAY 26TH

PDT EDT

7.50	10.50	Walk-in
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8.00	11.00	Communicating Impact
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Communicating Impact to different audiences

Impact narratives as a useful tool

Informing stakeholder decision making

David Budtz Pedersen Professor of Science Communication and Director of the Humanomics
Research Centre in Copenhagen, Denmark

8.50	11.50	Break
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9.10	12.10	Assignment preparation (including short break)
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10.20	13.20	Participant presentations (including short break)
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13.10	16.10	Final words and questions
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14.00	17.00	Reception
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