

Draft Programme for the interactive course on

Implementing Strategy for National Impact Assessment & Stimulation

21 - 23 April 2021

Online

AESIS

NETWORK FOR
ADVANCING & EVALUATING THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF SCIENCE



Implementing Strategy for National Impact Assessment & Stimulation

In the past years, experts have worked to improve the process of measuring and communicating the impact of science on society around the world. New methods have been developed to better evaluate societal impact of scientific research by science funders and research institutions. These impact assessment tools and methods have served as a means (never as an end in itself) to aid science funders and research programme designers in maintaining an effective and efficient science funding system, while justifying the importance of investing in scientific research towards society. There are rising pressures to demonstrate economical and societal returns on these investments on governmental and non-governmental science funding organisations; therefore, our 2021 Spring Course will focus on **Implementing Strategy for National Impact Assessment & Stimulation**, and explain impact evaluation processes in the broader context of society as a whole.

Diverse stakeholders — from researchers, policymakers, research councils, to local municipalities and beyond — are now included in research with societal impact, as well as different causal logics, expectations for impact, varying timelines, and different scale effects. Increasingly, research councils are asking for more than just the promise of impact in new research ideas, but also stakeholder engagement plans. In this regard, it is necessary for societal impact assessment and stimulation to be pragmatic, focused on a direct causal chain of likely impact, and within a sphere that can be measurable. The level of feasible change from one research project or research to the other may not always be mutually applicable, and funders' expectations should be managed accordingly. As a result, together policymakers, research councils, and other stakeholders have to co-develop effective systems to develop or adapt national or regional frameworks for impact and guide coordinated actions involving academic and non-academic actors.

Target audience

Members of ministries of science, research councils and research foundations

Regional, national and international policymakers

Experts in innovation or scientometrics

Any professionals involved in promoting or assessing the impact of science

This interactive online training seminar brings together international leading experts in innovating research funding approaches, to discuss their experiences and provide insights on how national or regional research impact strategy can be organised. Participants are able to put their training into practice at the end of the seminar with a case-study assignment.

Main Themes:

- ◆ Best practices for developing an impact strategy from international perspectives;
- ◆ Qualitative and quantitative assessment of research impact;
- ◆ Connecting societal impact in national research strategies;
- ◆ Gaining support for impact from universities and researchers;
- ◆ Tailor made approaches; comparing Impact Strategies for different scientific disciplines

Implementing Strategy for National Impact Assessment & Stimulation

Open to Delegations and Individuals

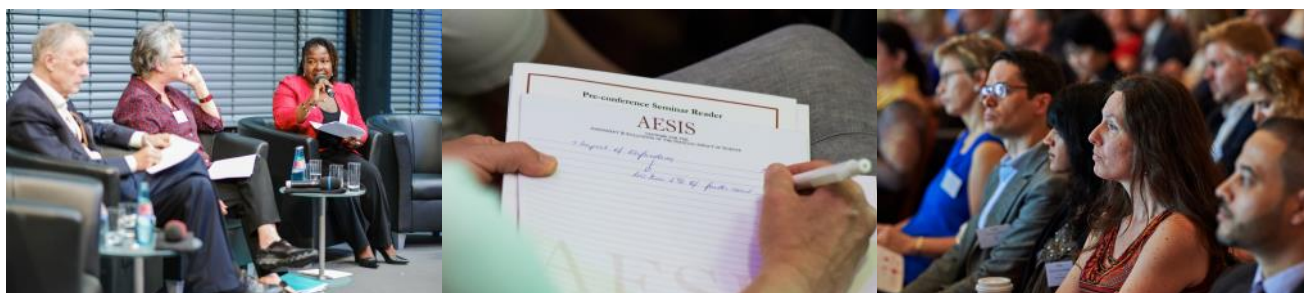
Any development or implementation profits from group-effort, especially when there are so many stakeholders involved with their own perspectives, language and needs. Therefore we invite you to register to this course with a team of colleagues inside and outside your organization, for maximum effect of the expert insights that will be shared. Furthermore, by bringing together delegations of several countries this course offers a platform for discussion and knowledge exchange of a vast variety of experiences.

Every delegation at the course will receive the opportunity to share the biggest challenges they face with AESIS, so that these topics can be included in the programme for maximum output. You will also receive your own slot to present your case and have both speakers and participants provide ideas and feedback to your team. This way we aim to have you return to your workplace fully prepared to take immediate steps towards developing and/or implementing your national impact assessment and stimulation strategy further and more effectively.

We look forward to meeting you!

AESIS Advisory Board

Koenraad Debackere	General Manager at K.U. Leuven, Belgium
Beverley Damonse	Executive of Science Engagement and Corporate Relations, National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa
Luke Georghiou	Vice-President for Research and Innovation and Professor of Science and Technology Policy at the University of Manchester, United Kingdom
Barend van der Meulen	Professor Institutional Aspects of (Higher) Education, Director CHEPS, Twente University, the Netherlands
Andrew Plume	Senior Director of Research Evaluation at Elsevier, United Kingdom
Susan Renoe	Assistant Vice Chancellor, University of Missouri & Executive Director of the NSF Center for Advancing Research Impact in Society
Toby Smith	Vice President of Policy at the American Association of Universities, USA
David Sweeney	Executive Chair, Research England, United Kingdom
Paul Wouters	Dean of Social and Behavioural Sciences & former Director of CWTS, Leiden University, The Netherlands



Wednesday 21 April
SETTING THE IMPACT AGENDA

8.30 - 8.50 Walk-in

8.50 **Word of Welcome by AESIS**

Speaker Presentations

9.00 **National Impact Strategy**

- ◆ Policy Frameworks that enable research impact
- ◆ Research Excellence Framework (REF) developments

***David Sweeney** Executive Chair, Research England, United Kingdom*

10.30 - 10.45 Break

10.45 **Eco-System for Successful Impact**

- ◆ Engagement and Impact Assessment (ARC)
- ◆ Impact at national-, regional-, and project-level

***Sarah Howard** Branch Manager, Research Excellence, Australian Research Council, Australia*

***Chris Curran** Director, Research Excellence, Australian Research Council, Australia*

11.35 - 11.50 Break

11.50 ***Sarah Howard & Chris Curran continued***

12.40 - 13.30 Break

Delegation Presentation

13.30 **South African delegation**

From the National Research Foundation

- ◆ Finalising and implementing a National Impact Framework
- ◆ Clarifying pathways to impact, spheres of control, influence and interest and how best to advance impact
- ◆ Grasping and communicating the concept of impact assessment using qualitative and quantitative measures

13.50 **Feedback by experts, and Q&A**

14.10 - 14.25 Break

all times in CEST (GMT+2)

Wednesday 21 April (continued)
SETTING THE IMPACT AGENDA

Interactive discussion, exercise & conclusions

14.25 How to align national objectives with science-ecosystem for long-term effect

15.15 – 15.30 Break

15.30 Challenges to assessment of impact as incentive
Performance-based research funding

David Sweeney Executive Chair, Research England, United Kingdom

16.30 End of Day 1

Thursday 22 April
QUALITATIVE & QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

8.30 - 8.50 Walk-in

8.50 Recap of Day 1 & Introduction to Day 2

Speaker Presentations

9.00 **Responsible Research Evaluation & Impact Assessments**

- ◆ Operationalising impact for different sectors and disciplines
- ◆ Limitation of metrics in mapping interaction vs impact
- ◆ Assessment criteria: Quantitative or Qualitative indicators

Paul Wouters Professor of Scientometrics & Dean of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Leiden University, the Netherlands

10.30 - 10.45 Break

Thursday 22 April (continued)

QUALITATIVE & QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

10.45 **Methods and Tools for Assessing Impact**

Sarah Morton *Director & Co-Founder of Matter of Focus & Honorary Fellow, University of Edinburgh, Scotland*

11.35 - 11.50 Break

11.50 *Sarah Morton continued...*

12.40 - 13.30 Break

Delegation Presentation

13.30 **Spanish delegation**

From Euskampus Fundazioa

- ◆ Measure and estimate the social value generated from knowledge hubs
- ◆ Obtaining evidences of the generated value for each stakeholder in order to lead strategic decisions, improving the communication of generated value and ensuring its sustainability
- ◆ Capture qualitative changes and implement impact-directed management

13.50 **Feedback by experts, and Q&A**

14.10 - 14.25 Break

Interactive discussion, exercise & conclusions

14.25 **Assessment of impact at the institutional and national level
& Obstacles to effective impact assessment**

15.15 - 15.30 Break

15.30 **Designing Research Funding Programs to Increase Research Impact**

- ◆ How research funders can embed impact in their call for applications

David Phipps *Assistant Vice-President of Research Strategy & Impact, Office of Research Services, York University, Canada*

16.30 End of Day 2

all times in CEST (GMT+2)

Friday 23 April
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR IMPACT

8.30 - 8.50 Walk-in

8.50 **Recap of Day 2 & Introduction to Day 3**

Speaker Presentations

9.00 **Enabling Impact through Policy**

- ◆ Policy changes in Hong Kong in light of the Research Assessment Exercise
- ◆ The effect of impact policy changes on universities in Hong Kong

***Joshua Ka-ho Mok** Vice President and Lam Man Tsan Chair Professor of Comparative Policy,
Lingnan University, Hong Kong*

10.30 - 10.45 Break

10.45 **Stakeholder Involvement**

- ◆ Mapping stakeholders in the science eco-system & partnerships with private and public sectors
- ◆ Engagement with higher education institutes to achieve shared goals
- ◆ The Role of Open Science

***Paul Wouters** Professor of Scientometrics & Dean of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural
Sciences, Leiden University, the Netherlands*

11.35 - 11.50 Break

11.50 ***Paul Wouters continued...***

12.40 - 13.30 Lunch Break

Individual Attendee Q&A

13.30 **Individual Attendee Introductions: current context, goals, and obstacles of**

13.50 **Feedback and Q&A**

Friday 23 April (continued)

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR IMPACT

14.10 - 14.25 Break

Interactive discussion, exercise & conclusions

14.25 **Promoting Impact Strategies for Universities**
Institutional Health-check

15.15 – 15.30 Break

15.30 **Break out groups**
Sharing tools and results; developing an intervention to improve

David Phipps *Assistant Vice-President of Research Strategy & Impact, Office of Research Services, York University, Canada*

16.20 **Final words by AESIS**

16.30 Online Reception



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The Speakers

Sarah Howard



As a Branch Manager at the Australian Research Council (ARC), Ms Sarah Howard leads the ongoing implementation of the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) program, and the development and implementation of a new national assessment of engagement and impact of Australian university research. Ms Howard also oversees the management of the longitudinal datasets for these evaluation programs and the provision of policy advice on research evaluation and the state of the Australian university research landscape more broadly.

Ms Howard's career in the Australian Public Service has included a number of roles at the ARC, in the areas of research evaluation, research policy and research funding, through the National Competitive Grants Scheme, as well as previous roles in the Department of Industry. Ms Howard has maintained strong links with the research sector throughout her career, as a researcher and as Associate Director at the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Joshua Ka-ho Mok



Professor Mok is no narrow disciplinary specialist but has worked creatively across the academic worlds of sociology, political science, and public and social policy while building up his wide knowledge of China and the region. He has published extensively in the fields of comparative education policy, comparative development and policy studies, and social development in contemporary China and East Asia. Before joining Lingnan, he was the Vice President (Research and Development) and Chair Professor of Comparative Policy of The Hong Kong Institute of Education, and the Associate Dean and Professor of Social Policy, Faculty of Social Sciences of The University of Hong Kong. Prior to this, Professor Mok was appointed as the Founding Chair Professor in East Asian Studies and established the Centre for East Asian Studies at the University of Bristol.

The Speakers

Sarah Morton



Sarah has been working on evidence to action for 19 years. She is internationally recognised for developing innovative approaches to ensure decision-makers have access to the best evidence for taking organisations, policies, and practices forward. Sarah pioneered a participatory approach using contribution analysis to understand impact, and this is the basis of her company Matter of Focus. She cut her KE teeth at the pioneering Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, broadened understanding of the interaction between research, policy and practice through research and practice work with UNICEF, What Works Scotland and others, and worked alongside organisations to use evidence for improving services for the families and communities they serve. Sarah developed a research impact assessment framework based on contribution analysis and has used it to carry out 7 independent impact assessments, including 14 case studies, of research centres and initiatives across 8 countries around the world. Sarah's background is in social sciences and participation with a degree in Sociology, Masters in Community Education and Social Policy by Research, and a PhD in Social Policy- looking at research impact and how it can be assessed. Prior to KE work she held networking, policy development and research roles in the voluntary sector and spent ten years tutoring adult learners in community settings and with the Open University. She worked in Knowledge exchange at the University of Edinburgh from 2001-2017.

David Phipps



Dr. Phipps is the administrative lead for all research programs and their impacts on local and global communities at York University (Toronto, Canada).

He has received honours and awards from the Canadian Association of Research Administrators, Institute for Knowledge Mobilization, International Network of Research Management Societies and the EU based Knowledge Economy Network. He received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his work in knowledge mobilization and was named the most influential knowledge mobilizer in Canada.

David sits on knowledge mobilization committees around the world and is Network Director for Research Impact Canada.

The Speakers

David Sweeney



After gaining First Class Honors in Statistics at the University of Aberdeen, David worked at two BBSRC research institutes, as a statistician consultant before developing mathematical models of plant growth. His work on the computer aspects of this led into broader applications of IT in education and research, and was Director of Information Services at Royal Holloway, University of London, before moving into university leadership as Vice-Principal (Communications, Enterprise and Research) in 2004. In this role he was responsible for research strategy and for developing Royal Holloway's research-led commercial and consultancy activities. He joined HEFCE in 2008 as Director (Research, Innovation and Skills) and led the development and implementation of the first Research Excellence Framework including the new impact agenda element. He was responsible for research policy and funding, knowledge exchange and university/business relations. In May 2017 he was appointed the first Executive Chair of Research England, a new council established as part of UK Research and Innovation, alongside the seven disciplinary Research Councils and the UK Innovation Agency. Research England is biggest research funder in the UK with responsibility for university block-grant funding for research and knowledge exchange. In UKRI he has particular responsibilities for Place (Regional Funding), Commercialisation and Open Science.

Paul Wouters



Paul Wouters is professor of scientometrics and dean of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences at Leiden University. He has a Masters in biochemistry (Free University of Amsterdam, 1977) and a PhD in science and technology studies (University of Amsterdam, 1999). He was Principal Investigator of several European research consortia, among others ACUMEN on research careers and evaluation of individual researchers. Paul was coordinator of the Dutch STS Graduate School Science, Technology, and Modern Culture (WTMC) together with Annemiek Nelis (2001-2005). From 2014 until 2019 he was chair of the WTMC board. In 1999, he helped create *Onderzoek Nederland*, a leading professional journal on Dutch science policy (part of Research Professional) and has since published in the journal. He has published on the history of the Science Citation Index, on and in scientometrics, and on the way the criteria of scientific quality and relevance have been changed by the use of performance indicators. He has also studied the role of information and information technologies in the creation of new scientific and scholarly knowledge. In this area, he was appointed as leader of 2 research programmes by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences: Networked Research and Digital Information (Nerdi) and The Virtual Knowledge Studio for the Humanities and Social Sciences (VKS).

The Speakers

Christopher Curran



Dr Chris Curran is Director, Research Evaluation in the Research Excellence Branch at the Australian Research Council (ARC). In this role, Chris manages policy development and stakeholder engagement for Australia's national assessments of the quality, engagement and impact of university research—Excellence in Research for Australia and the Engagement and Impact assessment. Chris has been working on research evaluation since joining the ARC in 2013 and took a lead role in the development and implementation of the inaugural Engagement and Impact assessment. Prior to working at the ARC, Chris held several positions across the Australian public sector. Chris holds a PhD in International Politics from Aberystwyth University in Wales.

The Delegations

National Research Foundation (NRF) is an independent statutory body established through the National Research Foundation Act in South Africa. As a government mandated research and science development agency, the NRF funds research, the development of high-end Human Capacity and critical research infrastructure to promote knowledge production across all disciplinary fields. The goal of the NRF is to create innovative funding instruments, advance research career development, increase public science engagement and to establish leading-edge research platforms that will transform the scientific landscape and inspire a representative research community to aspire to global competitiveness.

- Finalising and implementing a National Impact Framework
- Clarifying pathways to impact, spheres of control, influence and how to best advance impact

Euskampus Fundazioa (Foundation) acts as a catalyser for interdisciplinary and multi-agent collaboration with the aim to enhance the co-leadership of our trustees in higher education, research and innovation. Euskampus operates as facilitator for the connection of universities, research centres, companies, public administrations and civil society organizations to boost cooperative actions that engage their communities of students, academics, professionals and citizens. Euskampus promotes the co-creation of challenge-driven programs and projects of higher education, research, knowledge transfer and dissemination activities, which, by our tailor-made interventions, contribute to tackle major global challenges and maximize the social impact of science and technology.

- Measure and estimate the social value generated from knowledge hubs
- Capture qualitative changes and implement impact-directed management

