Virtual seminar

Knowledge Brokering between Research and Government

International best practices on effectively transferring evidence on a regional, national and international level

September 22, 2021
Online, Hosted from London, UK

A conference for Knowledge Brokers at:

Universities
Public Authorities at international, national and regional level
National Statistical offices
Parliamentary research units
Public research entities and thinktanks

On:
Transferring evidence: COVID-19 in a learning government
Best practices for applying and transferring evidence to government
Conditions and capabilities for making connections that work

Organised by:

STEPPS
Strengthening & Transferring Evidence
for Policies & Politics Society

In collaboration with:

Universities Policy Engagement Network

CAPE Capabilities in Academic Policy Engagement

DATA FOUNDATION

IPPO

Policy Commons

APPAM ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS & MANAGEMENT

Background

The urgency to share well substantiated evidence on the effectiveness of policy interventions increases when policy-makers worldwide share the same goals. The Covid 19 Crisis clearly created such an urgency; the underlying ambitions are more structural. In the past decade, momentum has been created by:

- the UK, where "What Works Centers" and "Behavior Insight Teams" have been established and have been copied in many countries

- the USA, by signing the "Foundations for Evidence Based Policy Act" into law in 2019

- Australia and Canada, where Delivery Units have emerged to predict and measure the effects of national political goals

- Scandinavia and the Netherlands we see new ex ante- and Strategic Evaluation methods therewith stimulating evidence informed- and experimental policymaking

In all these processes we see researchers, both from academia and from governmental research bodies, trying to improve policymaking with rigorous evidence. This also takes place within the World Bank, the EU and the UN. This seminar will investigate how we can transfer and apply such evidence, developed in a research environment, into a policy environment.

The emergence of a profession?

The need to substantiate governmental decision making with evidence is as old as governments exist. What is new, is the emergence of intermediaries who translate, disseminate or apply research results in a public environment. The experts include, but may not be limited to:

- Policy evaluators, who assess the effectiveness of policy interventions in different phases

- Academic experts who develop evidence through research, methodologies and RCT's

- Data scientists specialized in creating instruments for government use

- Governmental & Parliamentary researchers and strategists

- Intermediaries on the interface of science and policy

Issues to treat

- **Access to new knowledge for policymakers**
    - Creating your own knowledge base: Data search and access to statistics
    - How to get an effective overview of existing scientific research
    - Organizing expert opinions
    - Access to public research databases (national, international)

- **Creating new policy knowledge**
    - Structuring university-policy collaboration
    - How to connect demand and supply
    - Joint working spaces
    - Value and pricing issues
    - Time management

- **Translating knowledge to policy conclusions**
    - On facts, figures and research outcome: who is drawing which conclusions for whom?
    - When is your policy statement evidence based?
    - Are research outcomes fixed or flexible?
    - From knowledge to strategy and back
    - How to share research outcomes for both policymakers and parliamentarians

- **Translating evidence to politics and the public**
    - Communicating evidence to the public
    - Working with journalists
    - Communicating evidence based policies, who's responsible for what?
    - Involving the public and stakeholders in creating and communicating evidence

All times in BST	Programme

10.00 - 10.50 Plenary opening - Knowledge Brokering within and without the COVID-19 pandemic

10.00	**Opening by the chair: Sir Geoff Mulgan,** Professor of Collective Intelligence, Public Policy and Social Innovation at University College London, UK
10.15	**Annette Boaz,** Co-lead Transforming Evidence, Founding Editor International Journal Evidence & Policy, UK
10.30	**Sir Peter Gluckman,** Chair of the International Network of Governmental Science Advise (INGSA), New Zealand
10.45	**Mariken Leurs,** Head of the Corona Behaviour Unit, National Institute for Public Health, The Netherlands
11.00	**Geoff Mulgan - Key take-aways Knowledge Brokering in COVID-19**

11.05 - 11.30 Knowledge Brokering for Evidence Informed Policy

11.05	**Kathryn Newcomer,** Chair of the Advisory Board of STEPPS, Professor in Public Policy at the George Washington University, Board member of US The Data Foundation., Former President American Evaluation Association, USA *Introduction to the working groups: on Silo's and synergy*
11.20	**Moderated by Chair Sir Geoff Mulgan - Panel discussion and Q&A: Connecting Data Strategy to a government evidence Strategy**

11.30 –12.00 Break

12.00– 13.00 Best practices for applying and transferring evidence to governmental policies

Academia: Knowledge Transfer to government	Governmental knowledge bodies: Making evidence fit for purpose	Transferring data: Access to data for transparent evidence	Political issues: Making evidence strong and reliable
Chair: Matthew Flinders Chair of the University Policy Engagement Network (UPEN), UK **Xinsheng "Cindy" Cai** Director, Model Systems Knowledge Translation Centre, USA **Brian Head** Professor in Policy Analysis, University of Queensland, Australia	**Chair: Catherine Hutchinson** Head of the Evaluation Task Force, Cabinet Office, UK **Karol Olejniczak** Associate Professor at the SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Poland **Robyn Mildon** Founding Executive Director of the Centre for Evidence and Implementation, Australia	**Chair: Louisa Nolan** Chief Data Scientist, Deputy Director Data Science Campus at the Office for National Statistics, UK **Nicolas Seidler** The Executive Director of the GSPI (The Geneva Science-Policy Interface), Switzerland **Sherry Bennett** Chief Data Scientist, DLT Solutions, Board Member Data Coalition, USA	**Chair: Sir Peter Gluckman** Chair of the International Network of Governmental Science Advise (INGSA), New Zealand **Stéphane Jacobzone** Senior Advisor, Public Governance, OECD **Harsha Dayal** Research Director, Departement of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, South Africa

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

* to be confirmed

14.00 -15.00 Conditions and capabilities for making connections that work			
Academia: Connecting academic and political cultures	**Governmental knowledge bodies:** Connectedness and independence	**Transferring data:** Brokering AI-insights to government	**Political issues:** Scientific substantiation of politics.
Chair: Matthew Flinders Chair of the University Policy Engagement Network (UPEN), UK **Roger Pielke** Professor in the Environmental Studies Program at the University of Colorado and the author of The Honest Broker: Making Sense of Science in Policy and Politics, USA **Martin Kirk** Director of Research, King's College London, UK	**Chair: Jonathan Breckon** Visiting Fellow King's College London, Founder of the Alliance for Useful Evidence, UK **Helen Alexiou** Co-Founder Knowledge Brokering Group, Australia **Mariken Leurs** Head of the Corona Behaviour Unit, National Institute for Public Health, The Netherlands	**Chair: Louisa Nolan** Chief Data Scientist, Deputy Director Data Science Campus at the Office for National Statistics, UK **Nick Hart** President of the Data Foundation, Director of the Bipartisan Policy centre's Evidence Project., USA **David Budtz Pedersen** Professor of Science Communication at Aalborg University and Knowledge broker for Algorithms, Data and Democracy (ADD), Denmark	**Chair: Jeroen Kerseboom** Head of Research Department at the Netherlands House of Representatives, The Netherlands **Armin Grunwald** Head of Office of Technology Assessment, German Bundestag, Germany **Wendy Naus** CEO of the Consortium of Social Sciences Association COSSA, Washington DC, USA

15.00- 15.30	**Break**

15.30 - 16.30 Closing panel - On the capabilities of a knowledge broker for policies & politics

Chair **Sarah Chaytor, Director of Research Strategy, University College London and Co-Chair of the Capabilities in Academic Policy Engagement (CAPE) Project, UK**

15.30 - 15.50   Recommendations for the closing panel, presented by the chairs of the parallel sessions

Getting into final recommendations on the capabilities for effective knowledge brokering

Panel Members

David Budtz Pedersen	Professor of Science Communication at Aalborg University and Knowledge broker for Algorithms, Data and Democracy (ADD), Denmark
Kathryn Newcomer	Chair of STEPPS, Professor in the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at the George Washington University and board member of the Data foundation, USA
David Sweeney	Executive Chair of Research England
Catherine Hutchinson	Head of the Evaluation Task Force Cabinet Office, UK

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