Four day Course

Generating evidence for policy and practice

How to develop transferable and usable evidence on effective interventions

for policy and practice

July 5-8 2022, London

A course for Experts on policy evidence at:

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

Organised by:

STEPPS
Strengthening & Transferring Evidence
for Policies & Politics Society

ePPI CENTRE

In collaboration with:

Universities Policy Engagement Network

DATA COALITION
An Initiative of the Data Foundation

APPAM
ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS & MANAGEMENT

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Introduction

STEPPS assembles policymakers, policy evaluators, academia, data scientists, knowledge mobilisers and governmental and parliamentary strategists. This member based Network fosters an international dialogue for building and disseminating evidence to stimulate the effectiveness of policies. Worldwide, the momentum for evidence-informed policymaking remains high; the COVID-19 pandemic has generated clear-cut illustrations of the importance of reliable and accessible data of multidisciplinary research to improve the robustness of policymaking. Worldwide, innovations have occurred to improve and professionalise the interaction between research and policy.

This four day Course takes place at UCL, with the support of its EPPI-Centre, which has been working to promote evidence-informed policy and practice since the early 1990s.

Day 1 From Public Research to Evidence

We start with giving insights into the latest developments of research synthesis. We discuss systematic reviewing, rapid and living reviews and its latest developments. The next topic will be on generating reliable evidence. How can we generate the best Randomized Controlled Trials for new and robust evidence? We end the first day by discussing the future of knowledge broker intermediaries.

Day 2 Innovative Methods & Techniques for Generating Usable Evidence

The second day will focus on methods to generate useable evidence. We will first focus on the role of What Works Centres in appraising strong and reliable evidence. Then, we consider the conditions for the most relevant evidence for policymakers. Next, we will shed light on how national statistical organizations use public data for evidence-informed policies. The last session is focused on using algorithms as an innovative technology in supporting policy interventions. A practical example for supporting job seekers getting back to work will be discussed.

Day 3 Generating and Appraising Transferable Evidence

This day emphasizes the transferability of evidence. We will start by discussing the possibilities of transferring evidence internationally. Next, we pay attention to the Art and Craft of Science Advice and the important considerations in that area. In light of the international transferability of evidence, we will discuss the US perspective and experience on this. We will finish this day by discussing policy instruments for appraising the usability of evidence.

Day 4 Practising Your Evidence

On the last day you will get the opportunity to put the acquired knowledge of the previous days into practice. After working on a case study in groups in the morning, you will present your findings before a panel in the afternoon. After the presentation we will evaluate the Course with all participants and close by sharing the lessons we have learned.

DRAFT Program

Time	Monday July 4 – Welcoming dinner (optional)
18:00	Location: TBA

Time	Tuesday July 5 – From Public Research to Evidence
09:00	**James Thomas,** Professor of Social Research and Policy at University College London & Deputy Director of EPPI-Centre, UK **Rebecca Rees,** Senior Lecturer in Evidence Informed Policy and Practice at University College London & Associate Director of the EPPI-Centre, UK **- Introduction** **- Research Synthesis** • Systematic reviewing to map and synthesise existing research • Answering diverse policy questions through research synthesis
10:30	**BREAK**
11:00	**James Thomas,** Professor of Social Research and Policy at University College London & Deputy Director of EPPI-Centre, UK **Rebecca Rees,** Senior Lecturer in Evidence Informed Policy and Practice at University College London & Associate Director of the EPPI-Centre, UK **- Evidence Synthesis** • Systematic reviews and the generalisability of evidence • Activity – appraising systematic reviews • Rapid and living reviews – latest developments
12:30	**BREAK**
13:30	**David Halpern,** Chief Executive of the Behavioural Insights Team & the What Works National Advisor, UK **- Generating reliable evidence** • New urgencies for using international standards for evidence • Trustworthy RCT's for governmental use in different countries • The role of different scientific disciplines and technology • Appraising the transferability of evidence
15:00	**BREAK**
15:30	**Jonathan Breckon,** Visiting Senior Research Fellow at King's College London, UK **- The future of knowledge broker intermediaries** • Definition and positioning of knowledge brokers within academia, government or in business • Different roles for different knowledge brokers • How to create a successful knowledge broker organisation?
17:00	*End of Day 1*

Time	Wednesday July 6 – Innovative Methods & Techniques for Generating Usable Evidence
09:00	**Stephanie Waddell**, Assistant Director Impact and Knowledge Mobilisation at the Early Intervention Foundation, UK **- The role of What Works Centres** • A trusted source of reliable evidence: evidence standards and assessments • Understanding context and ensuring relevance to policy and practice • Supporting the use of evidence in policy and practice
10:30	**BREAK**
11:00	**Kathryn Oliver,** Associate Professor of Sociology and Public Health, UK **- Conditions for the most relevant evidence for policymakers** • Identifying policymakers' needs • Shaping research activities and outputs • Mobilising evidence for use • Ethics and morals of evidence production and use for policy
12:30	**BREAK**
13:30	**Tess Carter and Chris Shine**, Lead and Co-Lead of Strategy and Coordination at the Office for National Statistics, UK **- Using public data of national statistical organizations for evidence-informed policies** • The role of a National Statistics Institute • How to help policymakers make best use of data and analysis? • Lessons from COVID-19 • Making public data more accessible • What can academia add to public data?
15:00	**BREAK**
15:30	**Maurice Guiaux,** Senior Research Analyst and Advisor at the Research and Evaluation Centre of the Dutch Institute for Employee Benefit Schemes (UWV), the Netherlands **- Evidence and algorithms for supporting job seekers getting back to work** • Practical example of a policy intervention • Building a reliable algorithm based on behavioural evidence • Making algorithms verifiable and ready for use • Generating support for algorithms among the professionals that use them • Should we use self-regulating algorithms within governmental services?
17:00	*End of Day 2*

Time	Thursday July 7 – Generating and Appraising Transferable Evidence
09:00	**Sir Geoff Mulgan**, Professor of Collective Intelligence, Public Policy and Social Innovation at University College London, UK **- International transferability of evidence** • Successes and failures with international transferability • Urgencies created by COVID-19 • How other fields handle the challenge of transferability • How to improve the international exchange of evidence
10:30	**BREAK**
11:00	**Matthew Flinders,** Chair of Universities Policy Engagement Network & Professor of Politics at the University of Sheffield, UK **- The Art and Craft of Science Advice** • Contextual pressures – understanding the ecosystem • Increasing emphasis on different forms of knowledge • Knowledge transfer is not a rational process • Competing with other forms of knowledge and short-term irrational interests • Translational skills are key – emotional intelligence and cultural sensitivity • Timing and trust – building relationships and looking for windows
12:30	**BREAK**
13:30	**David Medina**, COO & Co-Founder of Results for America, USA **- International transferability of evidence from the USA** • Federal What Works Clearinghouses in the US • Results for America's Evidence in Economic Mobility Catalogue and Case Studies • The Next Frontier: Defining and Prioritizing Evidence in Government Grant Programs
15:00	**BREAK**
15:30	**Roger Pielke,** Author of "The Honest Broker" & Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder, USA **- Policy instruments for appraising usable evidence** • Different levels for evidence; micro level (intervention focused) vs. global level (global crises) • When is Science able to deliver evidence? • Towards international standards for evidence? • Political priorities vs. science advice; coping with resistance
17:00	*End of Day 3*

Time	Thursday July 4 – Joint Course Dinner
18:00	Location: TBA

Time	Friday July 8 – Practicing Your Evidence
09:00	Putting the acquired knowledge into practice: working on a case study in groups
10:30	**BREAK**
11:00	Putting the acquired knowledge into practice: working on a case study in groups
12:30	**BREAK**
13:30	Presentation in groups before a panel. Invited panel members will be: • **Roger Pielke**, Professor of Environmental Studies, University of Colorado Boulder • **Sarah Chaytor**, Director of Research Strategy & Policy, UCL • **Geoff Mulgan**, Professor of Collective Intelligence, Public Policy and Social Innovation, UCL • **Kathryn Oliver**, Associate Professor of Sociology and Public Health, UK • **Rebecca Rees**, Senior Lecturer in Evidence Informed Policy and Practice, UCL
15:00	**BREAK**
15:30	Evaluation with participants & take away lessons
17:00	*End of the Course*