

Academy of Social Sciences and Alliance for Useful Evidence

SOCIAL SCIENCE EVIDENCE AND THE POLICY PROCESS: INTERNATIONAL INSIGHTS

Seminar 1 Competing for policy influence:

The ups and downs of social science evidence

17 October 2013, 13.00-17.30, Nesta, 1 Plough Place, London, EC4A 1DE

Provisional Programme

This seminar explores the core themes of knowledge intermediaries, hierarchies of impact, expectations and time horizons. The presenters will examine the contributions of social science evidence, the ways in which they are shaped by policy contexts, and the alternative sources of advice and information which influence policy outcomes. The aim is that these insights from outside the UK will raise issues for subsequent seminars and identify conditions under which social science evidence can be applied in different contexts.

13.00–13.30 **Registration** and refreshments

13.30–13.45 **Welcome from seminar host** – *Jonathan Breckon* (Alliance for Useful Evidence)

Introduction to the seminar programme – *Dave Filipović-Carter* (facilitator)

Introduction to the seminar topic and presenters – *Chris Caswill and Ashley Lenihan* (seminar convenors and chairs)

13.45–15.15 **Intermediaries, impact, expectations**

Issue One: Intermediaries/brokers—who are the key intermediaries/brokers? How do they function? Who are their audiences? What is their impact? What are the implications of their growth for the research profession?

Issue Two: Hierarchies and combinations—which kinds of evidence carry weight? Are different kinds of evidence ranked or weighted differently? How can evidence based on different types of data be used to maximum effect?

Issue Three: Evaluation and time horizons—how is evidence used to assess the effects of policies or programmes? How do the time horizons and expectations of evidence-producers and evidence-users differ? How can any differences be reconciled?

Presenters: *Debby Lanser* (Programme Leader Education, Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis, The Hague)

Roland Bal (Professor of Health Care Governance, Erasmus University, Rotterdam)

John Marks (formerly European Science Foundation and International Geosphere-Biosphere Program, Netherlands)

Respondents: *Ron Iphofen* (European Commission consultant on ethical standards)

William Solesbury (Centre for Evidence and Policy, King's College)

Phil Davies (International Initiative for Impact Evaluation)

15.15–15.45 **Break for tea/coffee**

15.45–16.45 **Parallel table discussions** (chaired by convenors, respondents as rapporteurs):

1. Intermediaries
2. Impacts
3. Evaluation

16.45–17.30 **Plenary discussion**

17.30 **Close**