

Methods and Instruments for Assessing the Societal Impact of Research

6-8 November 2019

King's College London, United Kingdom

AESIS

NETWORK FOR
ADVANCING & EVALUATING THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF SCIENCE

Partners:



- ASSESSING SOCIETAL IMPACT OF RESEARCH -

Introduction

Assessing the societal impact of universities is complicated. The assessments need to account 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.

This course will focus primarily on the question how research institutes may develop their own “Impact portfolio” and how they can create their own assessment systems to serve their strategy. This course will create insight in the currently available information systems and methods to assess impact and how to implement this in your Research Strategy.

Central questions of the course:

- How can you create parameters of impact assessment that are appropriate for local, national and international purposes?
- To what extent do you need to take a shared or differentiated approach of assessing impact between different disciplines?
- How can parameters of impact assessment and research strategies reinforce each other and how can you avoid the risk of perverse incentives?
- What are the differences between assessing output, outcome and impact?
- How can you use existing Research Information Systems for your impact strategy and what are the possibilities to build your own system?

Course advisory committee

The Course will be programmed with the support of the following persons:

Martin Kirk	Operations Director Research & Researcher at King's College London
Bettina Uhrig	Senior Advisor at Norwegian Social Research Institute (NOVA), OsloMet; Deputy Chair of the Policy and Representation Committee of EARMA
Simon Kerridge	Director of Research Services at the University of Kent, EARMA board member and former chair of the board of ARMA
Frank Zwetsloot	CEO of ScienceWorks

Case Study

A Case Study will be part of the course: “Creating your own Impact Strategy”. In the Case Study, we invite the participants to critically assess the landscape of current tools and systems along the spectrum of assessing the impact of research. How can you create a system of tools that fits your public research institute and to what extent are you dependent on the current providers? If you create your own ‘system’ for assessing impact, how does this system relate to existing impact rankings, your internal system of evaluating the performance of your researchers and your accountability towards research funders and strategic stakeholders? And how does your impact strategy relate to the existing research strategy?

Target groups:

Managers and strategists at Research institutes
Funders for scientific research
Users and developers of Research Information Systems
Scientometricians & Librarians

Programme

Wednesday 6 November

An introduction on assessing the impact of science

9.00 **Registration with coffee and tea**

9.30 **Martin Kirk**

Operations Director Research and Researchers, King's College London

Welcome and introduction to the course

9.40 **General introduction by the participants**

- Why are you here, what do you want to take away?
- Where do you sit in the ecosystem of research activity?

9.55 **Jonathan Grant**

Vice-President and Vice Principal (Service), King's College London

The social good of universities

- King's College London's service agenda
- The impact of universities
- Methodological challenges of assessing impact

10.40 - 11.00 Break

11.00 **Frank Zwetsloot**

Director of ScienceWorks and founder of the AESIS Network

Introducing the Case Study, forming groups and assessing the case

In the Case Study 'Creating your own Impact assessment system', we invite the participants to critically assess the landscape of current tools and systems along the spectrum of assessing the impact of research. How can you create a system of tools that fits your public research institute and to what extent are you dependent on the current providers?

11.30 **Ed Noijons**

Deputy Director at the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS), Leiden University

Methods and techniques of assessing societal impact

- Dimensions of societal impact
- Area-based connectedness
- Profiling your research institute

12.30 - 13.30 Lunch

Programme

Wednesday 6 November

Defining and assessing your institute's strength

13.30 Simon Kerridge

Director of Research Services at the University of Kent, EARMA board member and former chair of the board of ARMA

Maximising the societal impact of research: the use of impact indicators

- Institutional impact strategy and responsible metrics
- Snowball Metrics
- Vertigo Ventures

14.15 Bettina Uhrig

Senior Advisor at Norwegian Social Research Institute (NOVA), OsloMet and Deputy Chair of the Policy and Representation Committee of EARMA

Working with impact: a research management perspective

14.30 Q&A with Simon Kerridge & Bettina Uhrig

15.00 - 15.30 Break

15.30 Steven Hill

Director of Research at Research England

Evaluating quantitative and qualitative impact indicators: pitfalls and challenges

- University Impact evaluation through REF; quantitative & qualitative strengths and weaknesses
- Working with Case Studies; quantitative or qualitative indicators?
- Altmetrics for outcome and Impact of university research

16.30 Preparations for the Case Study

The Case Study groups get some time to work on their Impact Strategy and to ask questions related to the Case Study to Steven Hill.

17.00 Reception at King's College



Programme

Thursday 7 November

Integrating impact indicators in research strategies

8.30 **Registration with coffee and tea**

9.00 **Rutger Engels**

Rector Magnificus of the Erasmus University of Rotterdam and Professor of Development Psychopathology at Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences (ESSB)

Defining your institute's strengths and how to relate this to a portfolio of impact indicators

- Why an impact strategy
- Who to convince: partnering and hurdles
- Decisions for creating an impact system in your institute

10.30 - 11.00 Break

11.00 **Alis Oancea**

Professor of Philosophy of Education and Research Policy, Director of Research in the Department of Education and Special Advisor on Research Impact, University of Oxford

Research impact practices and vocabularies across different groups of disciplines

- Impacts in different groups of disciplines – commonalities and differences; Vocabulary, Understanding impacts, Evidencing impacts & Generating impacts - relational analysis
- Framework for deciding on using indicators of impact; Principles & Application
- Thinking ahead: vulnerabilities in organisations

12.30 - 13.30 Lunch



Programme
Thursday 7 November

Create your insight through research information systems and other metrics

13.30 **Preparation of the Case Study in groups**

14.15 **Rachel Herbert**

Senior Research Evaluation Manager, Elsevier

Integrating grand challenges in an institutional research strategy

- Evolving expectations of university research
- Linking research to global policy objectives
- Showcasing impact to the general public

15.00 - 15.30 Break

15.30 **Duncan Ross**

Chief Data Officer at Times Higher Education

University Impact Rankings as a tool for understanding global impact

- The first year of the THE Impact Rankings
- Building a global and international model
- Outputs, outcomes and impact

16.15 **Panel about Research Strategies, Impact and Research Information Systems**

Mark Cox (chair)

Rachel Herbert

Duncan Ross

Simon Porter

18.30 - 22.00 Course dinner



We will enjoy a dinner at **Sarastro Restaurant** with the course participants and speakers. At 20.30, the live music starts!

Address

126 Drury Lane
Holborn, London
WC2B 5SU
United Kingdom

Programme
Friday 8 November

Case Study

8.30 Registration with coffee and tea

9.00 Reine Meylaerts

Vice rector Research Policy at the KU Leuven

Integrating impact in a research strategy

- Defining impact on a general level
- How to combine disciplinary differences in a general strategy?
- Managing conflicting interests of internal and external stakeholders

10.00 Final preparations for the Case Study in groups

The Case Study groups get the chance to integrate the insights shared by Reine Meylaerts in their presentation and to ask some final questions to the members of the jury.

10.30 - 10.45 Break

10.45 Presenting the Case Study for the jury

Reine Meylaerts as ‘a visionary Rector Magnificus’

Martin Kirk as ‘a conservative Vice Chancellor of Research’

Simon Kerridge as ‘an ambitious City Councillor for Education’

12.15 John O’Shea

Associate Director (Creative) at Science Gallery London

Connecting art, science and health to drive innovation

12.30 - 13.30 Lunch and walk to the Science Gallery London

13.30 - 15.00 Optional: Visit to the Science Gallery London

Science Gallery London, part of the Global Science Gallery Network, brings together scientific researchers, students, local communities and artists in surprising and innovative ways. They present three themed seasons every year, incorporating exhibitions, events, performances, live experiments, open discussions and festivals, all with scientific engagement at their core.

