



Making Better Use of Evidence in Public Policy Making

Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)




...is a forum that encourages debate on a wide range of research findings, with the overall aim of promoting evidence-based policy and law-making within Northern Ireland









KESS 2015-16
Making Better Use of Evidence in Public Policy-Making

Sally Shortall, Jonathan Breckon & Peter O'Neill
Belfast, 2 December 2015

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Introduction

Professor Sally Shortall (QUB)



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The Evidence Ecosystem

**Jonathan Breckon, Director,
Alliance for Useful Evidence**



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Education Endowment Foundation

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Evidence and Data	TEACHING & LEARNING TOOLKIT TOPIC	COST	EVIDENCE	IMPACT
Teaching and Learning Toolkit	Repeating a year	£ £ £ £ £	🔒 🔒 🔒 🔒 🔒	4 months
About the Toolkit	Setting or streaming	£	🔒 🔒 🔒 🔒	1 month
Using the Toolkit	Aspiration interventions	£ £ £ £	🔒 🔒 🔒 🔒	0 months
Early Years Toolkit	Block scheduling	£	🔒 🔒 🔒 🔒	0 months
Families of Schools Data	Performance pay	£ £ £	🔒 🔒 🔒	0 months
Videos and Case Studies				
Publications				
EAL Review				
TA Campaign: Report				

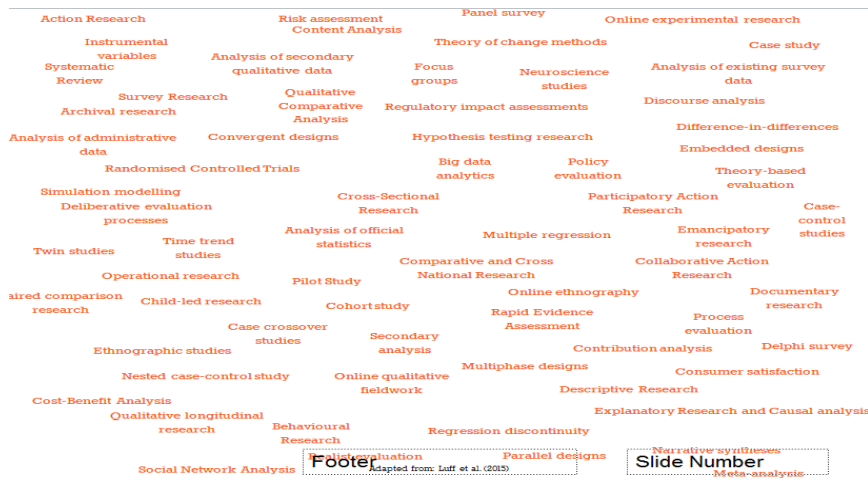
Logos: Queens University Belfast, The Open University, Ulster University, Northern Ireland Assembly.

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What evidence to use?



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Appropriateness - Standards of evidence

Level 5
You have manuals, systems and procedures to ensure consistent replication

Level 4
You have one + independent replication evaluations that confirms these conclusions

Level 3
You can demonstrate causality using a control or comparison group

Level 2
You capture data that shows positive change, but you cannot confirm you caused this

Level 1
You can describe what you do and why it matters, logically, coherently and convincingly

project ORACLE
YOUTH EVIDENCE HUB

Nesta Impact Investments

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How best to use it?


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Our evidence 'Field of Dreams'?


"If you build it, [they] will come"




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'Dissemination is dead'


Arianna Legovini, Head of the World Bank's Development Impact Evaluation programme (DIME) 2011

 Alliance for Useful Evidence

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 The Open University

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Lots of toolkits...

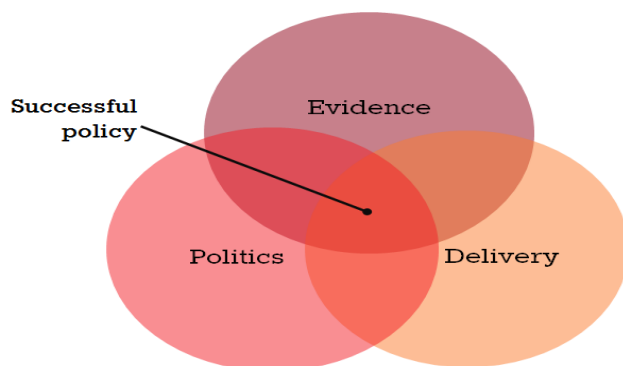
- [Research Uptake Guidance](#) Department for International Development (UK)
- [Communicating research for evidence-based policymaking: A practical guide for researchers in socio-economic sciences and humanities](#) European Commission
- [Guide: Engaging with Policymakers](#) National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (UK)
- [Impact toolkit](#) Economic and Social Research Council (UK)
- [Helping researchers become policy entrepreneurs: How to develop engagement strategies for evidence-based policy-making](#) Overseas Development Institute (UK)

Slide Number



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UK Civil Service Policy Skills



UK Civil Service (2013) "Policy Profession Skills & Knowledge Framework"



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150 cognitive biases in everyday decision-making. E.g...

- **Halo effect:** impression of a person influences how we think about their character e.g. 'I like him!' = 'he make smart decisions'
- **Optimism bias/Planning Fallacy** (HM Treasury '[Green Book guidance](#)) A worldwide study of rail projects, 1969-98, 90% overestimated passenger use
- **Confirmation bias:** Tendency to interpret and search for information consistent with one's prior beliefs
- **Framing effect:** Drawing different conclusions from exactly the same information presented in different ways (e.g., would you prefer a ready meal that's "85% fat free" or "15% fat"?)
- **Meta-cognitive bias:** Belief we're immune from biases!



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What Works in Northern Ireland?

Peter O'Neill, NI Manager








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Finally


Join us!

Web: www.alliance4usefulevidence.org/join
 Twitter: @A4UEvidence
 Email: Jonathan.Breckon@nesta.org.uk







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The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the Alliance for Useful Evidence website. The page features a navigation menu with links for Home, About us, Events, Blog, Publications, Newsletters, and Projects. The main content area highlights a blog post from 21 October 2014, titled "Believe in evidence? Then support demand". The post is by Kirsty Newman, Head of the Evidence into Action Team at the UK Department of International Development. The text of the post discusses how evidence use is shaped by capacity, incentives, and systems, and how suppliers of evidence can influence how their evidence is understood and used. A "Join the Alliance" button is visible on the right side of the post. Below the post, there is a "Related links" section.

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ENDS

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Northern Ireland Assembly



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