



IRCHSS

Response: The Perspective of
an Irish Research Council
(Director)

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Background to Response

- Personal views based on:
 - Discussions with researchers
 - Pleasure of reviewing all proposals and evaluation processes
 - Final reports
- Participation in EU groups
- Personal experience as a social policy researcher

The Social Policy Research Proposal

- Rationale for research including pressing societal need justifying research
- Research proposal and methodology
- Dissemination – typically to academic audiences
 - BUT WHAT ABOUT PRESSING SOCIETAL NEED FOR RESEARCH?
 - HOW WILL RESEARCH HAVE IMPACT?

Effective knowledge transfer depends on

- the nature of the research and its utility
- the personal characteristics of both researchers and users
- the links between researchers and users
- the context for the application of the research

Nutley, Walter and Davies, 2007, pp 81 83,
Overseas Development Institute

Professor Annette Boaz presentation 270110

Nature of Research and Utility

- Nature of research outputs
 - Publishing often demands theoretical and methodological focus
 - Researchers spend less time considering contextual application
 - Implication: form of research output has reduced utility for policy makers
 - Emphasis on journal format

Personal Characteristics of Research and Users

- **Motivation**
 - Research motivation
 - Theoretical or methodological driven research
 - Not interested in application of research
 - Career motivation
 - Pressure for publications for career advancement requirements
 - Implications for utility of research and willingness of researcher to engage with users (incl. policy makers)

Links between Researchers and Users

- **Social identity**
 - Stronger social identity with academic community – limited identity with community of research users and stakeholders.
- **Dissemination left until end of research**
 - Run out of time, money, interest...
 - Trust requires regular interaction
 - Missed opportunity for two-way information flow

Institutional Responsibility

- Evaluation and promotion criteria
 - Research
 - Teaching
 - Valourisation
 - How committed are the universities to valourisation?
 - What frameworks can be used to evaluate HSS researchers for knowledge transfer?

RDI 2009 Strand 5 Results

IRe-Use and Archiving of Complex Community-Based Evaluation Research	Dr Jane Gray (NUIM),	Dr Tara Murphy (Tallaght West Childhood Development Initiative)
Regulatory Capacity and Networked Governance	Prof Colin Scott (UCD)	Dr Richard Boyle (Institute of Public Administration)
Delivering a Universal Learning Environment for Digital Humanities Education	Dr John Keating (NUIM)	Joe Hegarty (Intel)
The Post-Caring Experience: An Assessment of the Needs of former Family Carers	Professor Mary McCarron (TCD)	Liam O'Sullivan (Care Alliance Ireland)
Technologies and platforms for historical research, Principal Investigator	Professor Jane Ohlmeyer (TCD)	Bill Kearney (IBM)
Attention and Distraction in Clients with Acquired Brain Injury	Dr Paul Dockree (TCD)	Suvi Korpelainen (Headway)