Strategies for accelerating co-creation and impact in SSH

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Background (WP2a)

• Comprehensive review of scientific and policy literatures on the social impact of the social sciences and humanities (SSH).

• 84 scientific papers, 108 policy papers.

• Definitions (incl. drivers - enablers) of social impact and instruments for measuring social impact.

• Input to other work packages: triangulation with WP2b & WP5 a.o.

• Co-investigators Jonas Grønvad & Rolf Hvidtfeldt

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A hot topic in SSH

Assessing the contributions of specific scientific disciplines to industrial innovation

- Activity overview
  - In-depth analysis of interactions (including direction and intensity) between specific scientific fields & economic sectors
  - Identification of scientific fields contributing most to specific sectors
  - Methodologies to enable systematic & cross-country analysis of science-industry links

- Interactions
  - Scientific fields
  - Industry sectors
  - Innovation

- Objectives
  - Provide cross-country evidence on science-industry linkages, including hiring patterns of graduates from different disciplines by different industries
  - Discuss methodologies for best conducting such assessments

RESEARCH QUALITY AND POLICY IMPACT

Quality in research is a highly prioritized, but also a much debated issue in research policy. The Centre for Research Quality and Policy Impact Studies (R-QUEST) constitutes an 8-year commitment to explore the nature and mechanisms of research quality – funded by the RCN FORINNPOL initiative. The centre will address three closely related questions:
You Don’t Need a Breakthrough, You Need a Microshift
Breakthrough impacts vs microshifts

• If you’re stuck in your department, team or unit to identity research impact, it’s probably because you’re waiting for the big bang.

• The breakthrough moment in which all research efforts dissolve and you’re overcome with clarity about “the change” you created.

• Your research’s transformation into practice stands out load and clearly, and you wake up to take credit for the change you created.

• That moment will never come.
Impacts do not occur spontaneously. They are tipping points

- Societal impact occur when collaborative efforts that you have been working on for a period of time, finally get momentum and adds-up.

- These “clicking moments”, the moments when research is taken up, is the result of co-creation, collaboration and knowledge exchange over a longer time (SIAMPI etc.).

- It’s not radical moments of action that give us long-lasting, permeating change – it’s the slow restructuring of practice.
Knowledge Exchange

Specificity of impact

- Research collaboration
- Commissioned research
- Technology transfer, patents (IPR)
- Reports, advice, testimony
- Participation, meetings, seminars
- Inquiries, input and day-to-day feedback

Budtz Pedersen et al. 2018
Humanities Impact Survey 1371 respondents
Knowledge exchange in the humanities

“The survey shows that a large part of humanities scholars at Danish universities actively participate in knowledge exchange and collaboration. 82 per cent of faculty has collaborated with actors and institutions outside academia within a reference period of three years”

82.29%
Productive interactions

• Co-creation

• Skips knowledge dissemination and linear notions of ‘uptake’.

• Continuous involvement.

• No gap to bridge

• Build boundary skills / promote knowledge brokers / organisations
Conceptual diagram outlining the four primary models believed to increase knowledge exchange among scientists and decision-makers (Cyranovic et al., 2015).

(a) Co-production

(b) Embedding

(c) Boundary Organisation

(d) Knowledge Broker
Three lessons for successful co-creation

Relationships based on mutual understanding and trust
- Learning between the partners to align motivations, needs, values & missions.
- Interpersonal, communicative and dialogue skills

Institutional infrastructure and incentives
- Academic reward system
- Funding, organizational infrastructure and institutional culture

Knowledge mobilization & knowledge utilization
- Co-creation leads to dynamic effects rather than one pay-off
- Importance of “organisational champions” / “impact rewards

Budtz Pedersen et al. 2017. ACCOMPLISSH Co-Creation in Pratice and Theory
Reward and infrastructure

- Missing incentives and reward systems can lead to barriers such as a lack of resources spent on impact-related activities.

- Many researchers in SSH and beyond see valorisation and societal impact as separate from methods to assess research quality.
### HOW TO ORGANISE IMPACT PATHWAYS?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Policy priorities</th>
<th>Practices</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>value-for-society of SSH research</td>
<td>Skill sets for impact &amp; co-creation</td>
<td>Timely advise Merit &amp; Incentives</td>
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<td>Related flexibility</td>
<td>More societal allies (industry/policy)</td>
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<td>Independent research</td>
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<td>+ Honest broker</td>
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<td>changes in the e/valuation systems</td>
<td>Keeping diversity in eval. criteria</td>
<td>Train reviewers for epistemic diversity</td>
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<td>Develop Open Indicators / Evaluation</td>
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<td>Transparency – in infrastructure</td>
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<td>(role) models and forms of leadership</td>
<td>Importance of research group</td>
<td>Focus on ‘collectives’ rather individuals</td>
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<td>Diversification of career paths</td>
<td>Learned societies &amp; alliances – more involved in expert groups / statements</td>
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<td>interaction with existing value systems and strategies (SDGs, ...)</td>
<td>Collect better evidence for SSH</td>
<td>Alignment of values, practices, incentives and indicators</td>
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<td>involvement in policy-making (incl. SDG, missions etc.)</td>
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<td>role models and leadership of SSH in mission oriented and participatory</td>
<td>Permanent positions for Honest brokers (science attaches, boundary spanners)</td>
<td>Change agents / brokers / Impact Management</td>
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<td>settings</td>
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<td>Impact literacy</td>
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<td>SSH should make ‘topics’ more relevant for SSH research</td>
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Thank you for the attention

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Contributions from Rolf Hvidtfeldt & Jonas Grønvad

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