

Policy fellow panel discussion

ACCESS assembly 2022



ACCESS

Advancing Capacity for Climate
and Environment Social Science



Aim of the session

- A space for conversation, reflection and mutual learning on what makes for a successful policy fellowship.
- Key questions
 - What does social science impact look like from each side?
 - What are the challenges and opportunities involved when social science knowledge, insight and data is brought to bear inside government?

Overview



- 11.30-13.00
- 11.30-11.45: Introduction:
 - ACCESS perspective – Birgitta Gatersleben & ESRC perspective – Daniel Robinson
- 11.45-11.50: Panel introduction - Birgitta Gatersleben
 - **Christina Demski & Emma Claydon** BEIS
 - **Joanna Hale, Lili Jia, Samuel Jones, & Paula Cani** Defra
 - **Sophie Wyn-Jones & Caryl Williams** Wgov
- 11.50-12.30: Panel discussion
- 12.30-12.50: Q&A with the audience
- 12.50-13.00: Wrap up and close

ACCESS perspective



- Strengthening the (perceived) value of Environmental Social science
 - in research, in teaching, in policy and practice
- Part of WP2
 - Placements, summer schools, ECR College, mentoring
- Building capacity for future generation of academic and non-academic interdisciplinary environmental social scientists

ESRC perspective



- Daniel Robinson – Head of Policy Partnership and Impact - ESRC

ESRC – Policy Fellowships

May 2022

About ESRC

As the UK's largest funder of economic and social science research, we:

- promote and support high-quality research and related postgraduate training across 19 Social Science disciplines
- develop and support national data infrastructure that underpins research
- promote public understanding
- partner with others to improve downstream societal and economic outcomes



Overview

Our **vision** is to find solutions for a more prosperous, healthy, sustainable, and secure society

Our **mission** is to harness the power of social, behavioural and economic research to create real world impact and improve outcomes for individuals, society, and the economy



**UK Research
and Innovation**

ESRC Delivery Plan 2022

Vision

Finding solutions for a more prosperous, healthy, sustainable, and secure society

Mission

We will harness the power of social, behavioural, and economic research to create real world impact and improve outcomes for individuals, society, and the economy

UKRI Objectives

World class people and careers

Talent, Skills and Leadership
Equality Diversity & Inclusion

World class places

Place
Data and Infrastructure
Research Centres and Institutes
International Collaboration
Impact and Engagement

World class ideas

Standard Grants
New Investigators
Secondary Data Analysis Initiative
Large Grants
Horizon Scanning

World class innovation

Innovation, Prosperity and Sustainable Growth

Commercialisation

World class impacts

Net Zero, Environment and Climate Change

Living with Technology

Security, Risk and Resilience

Understanding Behaviour

Health and Social Care

World class organisation

Reforming Our Business
EDI
Environmental Sustainability

ESRC Foundations

ESRC Thematic Priorities

ESRC Operations

Drivers for ESRC's policy work

High demand and need for evidence from local, devolved and UK national policy communities

Growing focus on impact and KE within research communities and organisations

Increasing area of interest for diverse funders in UK and beyond

Complex and rapidly expanding landscape of research-policy initiatives

ESRC's vision – Public Policy

Realise the potential of social and economic research and expertise to inform and shape public policy at all levels, improving outcomes for citizens, society and the economy

- 11 government partners
- 24 Fellowships
- 10 co-funders
- Innovative model to overcome challenges on each side:
 - 3 month inception
 - 12 month placement
 - 3 month knowledge exchange
- Government departments include: 10 Downing Street, Cabinet Office, Home Office, Foreign Office
- Themes:
 - Net zero
 - Behavioural science
 - Data science
 - Inequalities
 - Security
 - Evaluation

Fellowship Programme – Aims

- **Improve the exchange of knowledge between policy and academic institutions**
- Strengthening the relationships between policy and academic institutions:
 - Policy-makers
 - Access to expertise and insights (fellows and their communities)
 - Increased capability to engage with the breadth of academic expertise in the UK
 - Academics
 - Supporting career development of early and mid-career academics
 - Build new connections with peers and policy-makers
 - Increase abilities to engage effectively with policy makers (inc. training)
 - Increase impact of research
 - Co-Design
 - research between fellow and host organisation to inform policy on a priority policy area
- Economic and Social Impact

ESRC perspective



- Daniel Robinson – Head of Policy Partnership and Impact - ESRC

Policy Fellows



- **BEIS**

- Christina Demski University of Cardiff/Bath - CAST
- Emma Claydon Principal Social Researcher, Energy Social Research & Analysis team at (BEIS)

- **DEFRA**

- Joanna Hale Senior Research Associate at UCL Centre for Behaviour Change
- Lili Jia Senior Research Associate at University of Cambridge. I have a PhD in Economics. My research focuses on motivating sustainable behaviours with interdisciplinary approaches.

- Samuel Jones
- Paula Cani

- **WGov**

- Sophie Wyn-Jones Fellow focuses on 'agricultural behavioural insight
- Caryl Williams Head of Strategic Evidence, Environment and Rural Affairs at Welsh Government

Policy fellow panel discussion





Wrap up and close

- Birgitta Gatersleben
 - Daniel Robinson
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- What does social science impact look like from each side?
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