

## Free Event 12 March: From Research to Policy – Academic Impacts on Government

by Blog Admin

February 21, 2012

**From Research to Policy: Academic Impacts on Government**, a free, half day conference hosted by the **LSE's Public Policy Group/Impact of Social Sciences Project** will be held on **Monday, 12th March** at the **Institute for Government, London**.

That government needs effective research on which to base decisions is obvious. But the link between these two groups has been fragile and key disparities can limit how effective academic research can be for policymakers. Common problems raised are around communication, priorities and openness. Much is known about how the policy-making process happens, what actors are key at each stage and how politics can trumps evidence-based policymaking.

With the incentives for academics to engage with government again strengthened through the REF process, this half day conference will examine the ways in which academic research impacts on government and policymaking, how tried and tested methods as well as newer digital technologies are affecting their relationships and the key touch-points where academic expertise can be of most use on major policy issues.

The full schedule is as follows:

**1.30pm**      Registration and light refreshment

**2.00pm**      **Introduction from the LSE Impact of Social Science Project Team**

Professor Patrick Dunleavy (Chair, LSE Public Policy Group)

Simon Bastow (Senior Research Fellow, LSE Public Policy Group)

**2.20pm**      **The Policymakers' View: How Government Departments can Better Leverage Academic Research**

Adam Cooper (Head of Social Science Engagement at the Department of Energy and Climate Change)

Jonathan Portes (Director of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research)

Professor Bernard Silverman (Chief Scientific Adviser at the Home Office)

Neil Wholey (Head of Research and Customer Insight, Westminster City Council)

3.30pm      Tea break

**3.45pm      The Academics' View: Opening up academic work to policymakers**

Dr Alan Cann (Leicester University)

Professor Vicky Randall (Essex University)

Professor Stephen Hanney (Brunel University)

Professor Huw Davies (University of St Andrews)

4.45pm      Tea break

**5.00pm      Change, evaluation and future-proofing: Academic interventions in the policy process**

Richard Bartholomew (Joint Head of Government Social Research service and Chief Research Officer for the Department for Education)

Professor Edward Melhuish (Director, Impact Evaluation of Sure Start, Birkbeck College London)

Professor Sandy Thomas (Director of the Foresight Programme, Government Office for Science)

**6.00pm      Drinks reception for all attendees**

The conference is FREE to attend but places are limited. *To register for a place, please email [Impactofsocialsciences@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Impactofsocialsciences@lse.ac.uk). For more information about the Impact of the Social Sciences project click [here](#).*

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