

Workshop: Supporting research impact through meaningful co-production

20th March, 1.00 pm-2pm

Place: Tampere University, City campus, Main building, Lecture room A07

Professor Louise Mansfield (Brunel University, London, UK) and Professor Norma Daykin (New Social Research Programme, Tampere University).

Research impact, defined as 'the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy' (1), is increasingly emphasised by academic bodies and funding organisations. In the UK, assessment of research impact features strongly in academic funding and governance arrangements. Likewise, in Finland, researchers are increasingly required to demonstrate research impacts beyond academia. For example, the review questions for the Academy of Finland's Strategic Research Council's (SRC) funding are societal impact and scientific quality. Researchers therefore need to consider potential impacts of their work beyond academia from the earliest stage of project planning. They also need to build in co-productive processes that underpin impact, including collaboration, knowledge exchange and stakeholder engagement at all stages of research.

Professor Norma Daykin (Tampere University) and Professor Louise Mansfield (Brunel University, London, UK) are currently researchers on the UK 'What Works for Wellbeing' research programme (2), which engages policy makers, professionals, scholars, public citizen groups and service users in identifying effective interventions to promote wellbeing and address societal challenges such as loneliness. Both researchers have extensive experience of developing co-productive research processes to support research impact. They bring a deep awareness of the demands of this way of working, including time, skills and resources, the need for strong institutional support and sensitivity to specific research contexts.

This workshop is for researchers at any career stage who are engaged in developing frameworks for understanding and assessing meaningful impacts. It will offer tangible strategies for conceptualising, delivering and assessing the impact of research on individuals, organisations and nations as well as managing impact risks. It will explore the elements required for successful coproduction including: identifying stakeholders; developing a grounded understanding of stakeholder needs and priorities; creating usable research outputs; and informing field development through continued engagement. There will be an opportunity for individual participants to gain further one to one feedback on specific grant writing activities.

Notes

1. <https://esrc.ukri.org/research/impact-toolkit/what-is-impact/>
2. <https://whatworkswellbeing.org/>