

The impact assessment wars in the UK and the Research Excellence Framework

Munich, 2019

David Sweeney

Executive Chair, Research England

‘Politics is the Art of the Possible’

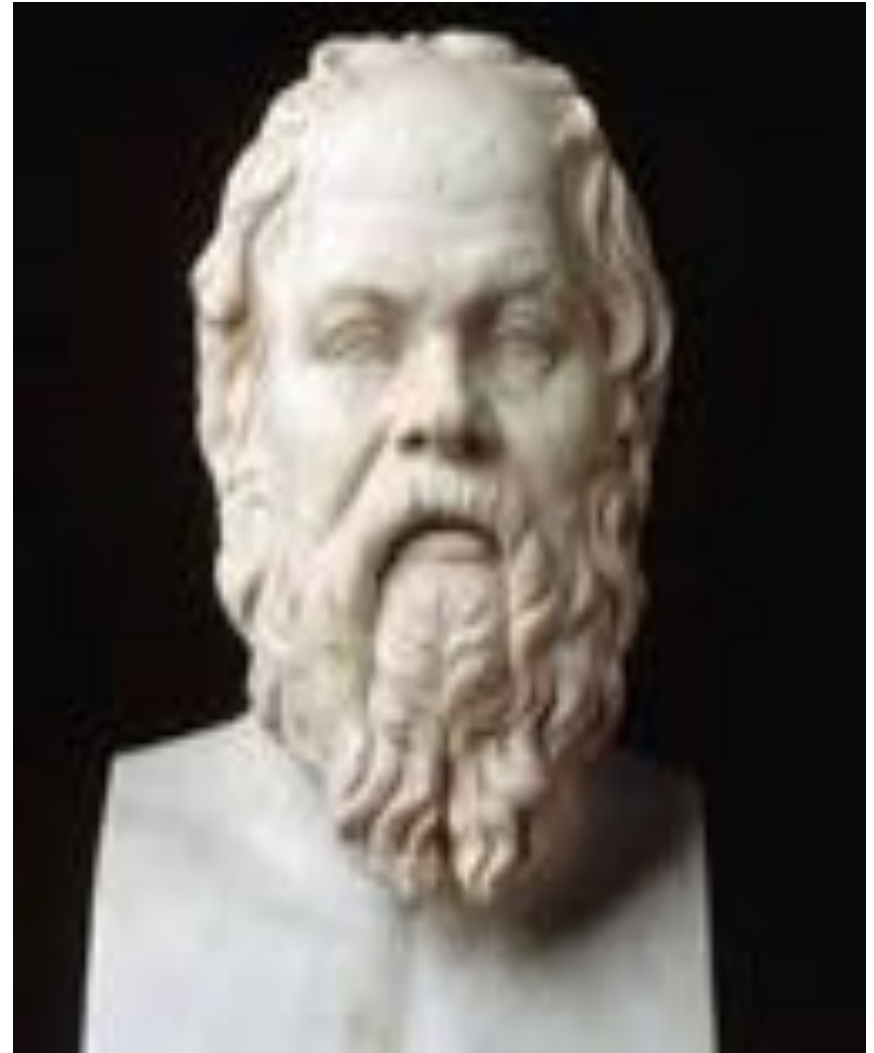
Otto Van Bismarck



Impact is the Art of the Possible



Define the problem



What do people want to know?

What does success look like?

What is possible?

Socialize the problem

- Share ownership of the issue
- Consult widely
- Debate
- Be aware of the counter-argument



Align incentives

- Social impact vs Academic Impact = PROBLEM
- Look for reputational incentives

Values?

What is University for?

- Schwartz and Bowen – ‘Governance Threats to Academic Freedom’
- <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20150217144019692>



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UNITED STATES

Governance threats to academic freedom

Michael Schwartz and William M Bowen 20 February 2015 Issue No:355

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Having recently read of the aborted attempt by the governor of Wisconsin to unilaterally redefine the mission of the University of Wisconsin; having heard the governor of Florida remark that a degree in anthropology is essentially useless in the face of economic development needs; and having heard the US president suggest that a degree in art history couldn't lead to much of a future, one has to wonder about the relationship between college and university governance, from whatever the source, and academic freedom.

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What is University for?



Nov 25 2015
Speech by Professor Craig Calhoun: Knowledge as a Public Good – the role of universities
LSE Internal Communications

Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, RSS, Print

LSE Director Professor Craig Calhoun gave a public speech this year (2 April 2015) entitled 'Knowledge as a Public Good: the role of universities'. The lecture, given to an audience at Hitotsubashi University, Japan, touched on the challenges facing universities today and highlighted the importance of both using knowledge for the public good and being public for the good of knowledge.

"We are in the midst of an era of considerable upheaval in higher education and research, involving challenges to established ways of working that hold both threats and opportunities" Professor Calhoun said. "What is clear is that universities are unlikely to thrive simply by maintaining business as usual... Our task is to be creative in adapting to new circumstances. But in adapting, we should not lose our commitment to making knowledge a public good."

Following publication of the UK government's Higher Education Green Paper this month, and in light of wider discussions on the future of higher education, we share his speech in full here:

- Calhoun – 'The University and the Public Good'
Theme 11
- <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lse/2015/11/25/craig-calhoun-knowledge-as-a-public-good-the-role-of-universities/>

Capturing Impact

- Internal vs external
- Education/Research vs Impact (or 'and Impact')
- 'The impact of Universities (on the UK economy)' -
<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Documents/2014/the-impact-of-universities-on-the-uk-economy.pdf>
- <https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/facts-and-stats/Pages/impact-of-higher-education.aspx>



Capturing Impact

- ‘Health of the Nation’ -
<https://www.medschools.ac.uk/media/1902/health-of-the-nation-the-impact-of-uk-medical-schools-research.pdf>

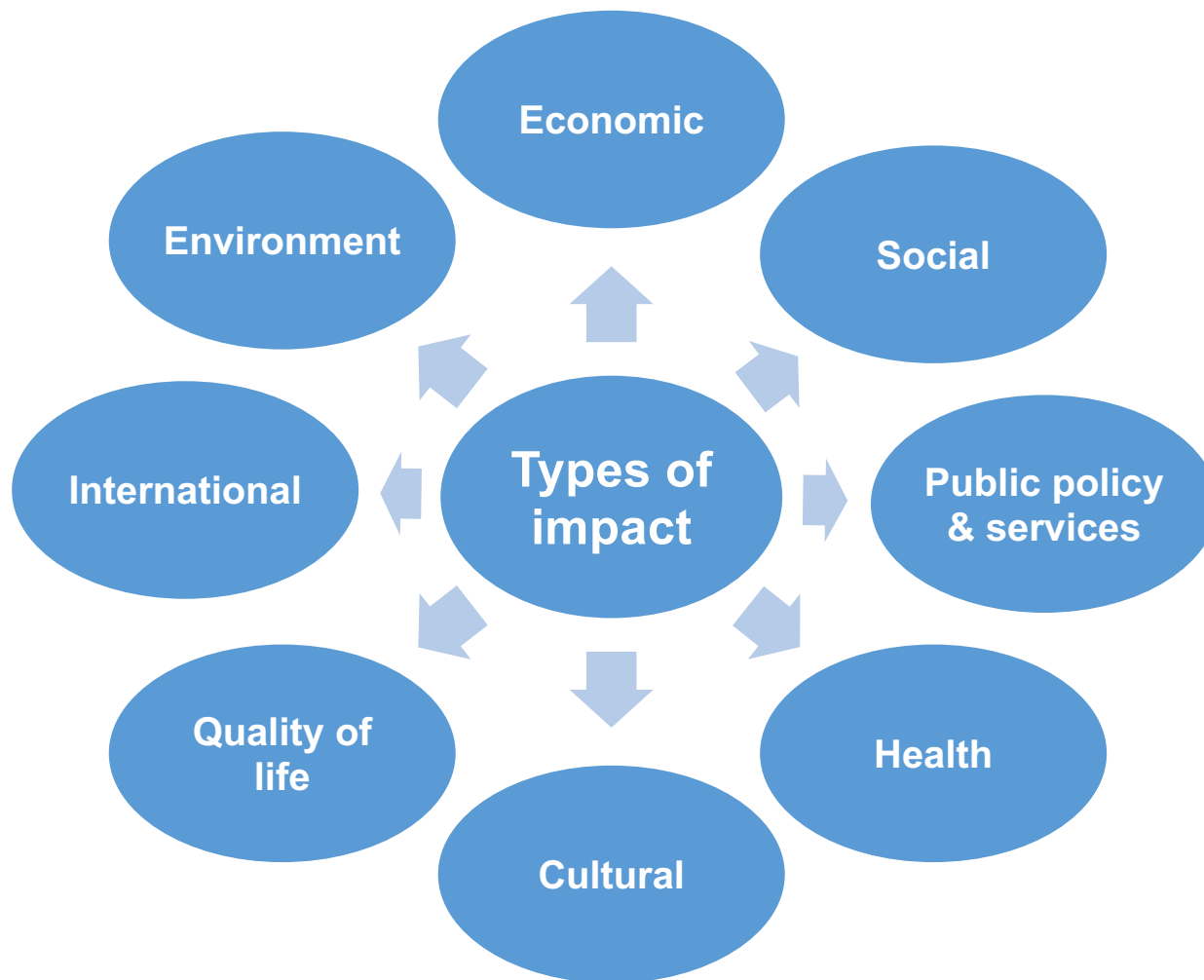


Capturing Impact

- The Russell Group: 'Russell Group in the Community' - <http://russellgroup.ac.uk/policy/policy-documents/russell-group-universities-in-their-local-communities/>
- Oxford Economics: 'The Impact of the University of Birmingham' - <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/university/economic-impact-of-university-of-birmingham-full-report.pdf>
- Southampton and Lloyds: <http://www.ncub.co.uk/sor14/southampton-lloyds.html>
- NCUB: 'Why Should the Taxpayer Fund Science and Research' - <http://www.ncub.co.uk/reports/why-science.html>
- SFI Ireland: 'Broadening the Scope of Impact' – http://www.sfi.ie/resources/SAEI_Impact-Framework_Feb_2015_Issue2.pdf
- RAND 'Capturing Research Impacts: A review of International Practice' - http://www.rand.org/pubs/documented_briefings/DB578.html
- Australian Technology Network of Universities '50 Solutions that Count' - <https://www.atn.edu.au/publications/>

Impact in Research

A wide view of impact



A Impacts on society, culture and creativity:

Impacts where the beneficiaries are individuals, groups of individuals, organisations or communities whose knowledge, behaviours or practices have been influenced

B Impacts on society, culture and creativity

Impacts where the beneficiaries may include individuals, groups of individuals, organisations or communities whose knowledge, behaviours, creative practices and other activity have been influenced

C Impacts on creativity, culture and society:

Impacts where the beneficiaries are individuals, groups of individuals, organisations or communities whose knowledge, behaviours, practices, rights or duties have been influenced

D Civil society

Influencing the form and content of associations between people or groups to illuminate and challenge cultural values and social assumptions.

D Public discourse

Extending the range and improving the quality of evidence, argument and expression to enhance public understanding of the major issues and challenges faced by individuals and society.

D Cultural life Creating and interpreting cultural capital in all of its forms to enrich and expand the lives, imaginations and sensibilities of individuals and groups.

Impact Definition

- Definition: ‘Research impact is the demonstrable contribution that research makes to the economy, society, culture, national security, public policy or services, health, the environment, or quality of life, beyond contributions to academia.’
- REF definition: ‘an effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia’

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