



Association of Research Centres
in the Social Sciences

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE SEMINAR
Manchester Institute of Innovation Research

The University of Manchester, Harold Hankins Building, Booth Street West, Manchester M13 9QH

3rd June 2005

PROGRAMME

09.00 - 09.30	Registration
09.30 – 09.45	Introduction
09.45 – 10.30	Knowledge Exchange and Social Science Professor Luke Georghiou, a Director of PREST, University of Manchester
10.30 - 11.00	Break
11.00 - 12.00	Three Centre Case Studies Professor Robert Lindley, Director, Institute for Employment Research, University of Warwick Professor Ian Sanderson, Director, Policy Research Institute, Leeds Metropolitan University Professor Mike Coombes, Executive Director, Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies, Newcastle University
12.00 - 13.00	Group Sessions
13.00 - 14.15	Lunch
14.15 – 15.15	Support for Knowledge Transfer Rama Thirunamachandran, Director - Research and Knowledge Transfer, HEFCE Drs. Astrid Wissenburg, Director - Communications and Information Directorate, ESRC
15.15 – 16.00	Round Table
16.00	Tea
16.30 – 17.30	ARCIS AGM
17.30	ARCIS Reception

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE SEMINAR

Knowledge Exchange in the Social Sciences

This seminar will explore ideas, practices and policies relating to knowledge exchange in the social sciences. Whereas the notions of 'knowledge exchange' or 'knowledge transfer' in science and technology provoke fairly clear impressions of what is involved, their extension to the social sciences seems not to be straightforward. Yet when we stand back and consider the various visions of the 'knowledge-based society' they usually encompass some elements that can be applied to the social sciences as much as to other disciplines. Thus it is seen to be desirable that universities and other research institutions transform themselves so as to 'engage' much more with other major producers and users of knowledge, with business and the wider society, with policy communities at regional and local as well as national and international levels, and in extensive forms of continuing professional development. Many social scientists are already 'engaged' in these ways but there is a need to reflect on this experience and to consider the implications for researchers, research centres and host institutions of intensifying such activities. The seminar will be an opportunity for social scientists, research administrators and professionals involved in developing and delivering the 'knowledge exchange agenda' to examine these issues and share their different perspectives.

SPEAKERS

Mike Coombes is Executive Director of Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies (CURDS) and Professor of Geographic Information at the University of Newcastle. His research interests include the definition of local labour market areas and functional regionalisation. His work aims at improving ways of analysing social and economic statistics so as to maximise the 'intelligence', which they can provide to policy-makers and others. Mike has led projects for the UK government to define national Travel to Work Areas. He is also the Research Co-ordinator of the NorthEast Regional Research Laboratory (NE.RRL) within the national RRL.net group. From 2003, CURDS has become part of the University's new Institute for Policy and Practice.

Luke Georghiou is a Director of PREST and has been on its staff since 1977. His research interests include evaluation of R&D and innovation policy, foresight, national and international science policy, and management of science and technology. Recent projects include several studies of industry-science relations, policy for international scientific co-operation, evaluation of foresight, and changes in public sector research institutions. During 1999 he chaired the Strategic Review of the EUREKA Initiative and during 1996 he chaired the evaluation of the European Union's Framework Biotechnology Programmes. He has recently chaired committees on the effectiveness of Direct measures for R&D support on behalf of the European Commission, and the Evaluation of Futur - the German Foresight programme and TEP - the Hungarian Foresight Programme. Other committee memberships include the Finnish Public Research Funding Evaluation Committee, the Medical Research Council Steering Group for the Monitoring and Evaluation of Research Funding Schemes, and the Steering Committee of the EIRMA UK Forum. He is a consultant to several Ministries in the UK, to the OECD, the European Commission, several foreign governments and major companies. His current teaching activities include an MSc unit and associated short course on Evaluation of Science and Technology Policies; the British Council High Level Seminar on S&T Policy and Management; and PhD supervision.

Robert Lindley is the Founding Director of the Institute for Employment Research, University of Warwick and a professor in the Faculty of Social Studies. His principal fields of research are the labour market; the roles of education, training and knowledge production in economic development; and European integration. He also has a special interest in the role played by social science evidence in the policy system. He has served on many UK and EU advisory and related bodies. These include rapporteur to the EU Competitiveness Advisory Group appointed by the Commission President, joint chair of the EU Round Tables on the Social Dialogue, advisor to the Portuguese Presidency of the EU during the development of the 'Lisbon Strategy' and consultant to the Commission on the evaluation of the National Action Plans. He chairs the Association of Research Centres in the Social Sciences and is a member of the ESRC's Strategic Forum for the Social Sciences. He is also a member of the Research Careers Committee, chaired by Sir Gareth Roberts and set up by the Research Base Funders' Forum.

Ian Sanderson is a Professor at the Leeds Metropolitan University, Director of the Policy Research Institute and Associate Dean (Research) in the Leeds Business School. He has a background in applied research and management in both academic and local government contexts. His main areas of interest and expertise are in evidence-based policy making, evaluation, labour markets, regeneration and local governance and he has published widely in these fields. He is currently involved in major national evaluations of New Deal for Communities and the Local Government Modernisation Agenda (for ODPM), and in a range of research and evaluation work for DWP, including the evaluation of the Working Neighbourhoods Pilot and national customer satisfaction survey.

Rama Thirunamachandran worked as Acting Director for Institutions at HEFCE before assuming responsibility for research and knowledge transfer. Formerly HEFCE's Regional Consultant for the South East, he headed the South East Regional Team and had Council-wide responsibility for corporate planning in the sector and for sector strategic issues, such as diversity. He chaired the steering group, which published the good practice guide 'Strategic planning in higher education'. Before joining HEFCE he was Head of Research, Enterprise and External Relations at Royal Holloway (University of London). He has also held posts at the University of Bristol and at King's College London.

Astrid Wissenburg is responsible for overall direction and planning of the Communications and Information Directorate of ESRC. The Communications and Information Directorate leads the development of the Council as a 'Knowledge-Based Organisation' through the strategic development and implementation of effective approaches to knowledge management, communication, exchange and transfer both externally and internally within the Council. The directorate has four main groups, namely, Communications; Knowledge Transfer; Evaluation; and E-Business and Information Systems.