



Evaluating Problem Structuring Methods: Developing a Framework to Show the Effectiveness of PSMs in a Regeneration Context

Leroy White

Seminar jointly organised by the **Problem Structuring Methods (PSM) Special Interest Group** of the Operational Research Society, and the **Department of Information Systems** of the London School of Economics and Political Science

LSE, Room H103

4.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. on Thursday 30 June 2005

This seminar will discuss the challenges associated with the evaluation of problem structuring methods. PSMs are seen as complex interventions that seek change and action at many levels, both individual and system. There is now a widespread acceptance that the traditional evaluation approaches are inappropriate for the evaluation of PSMs. The difficulty is compounded when PSMs are used in multi-agency area-based initiatives. Leroy White will propose that evaluation, while pragmatic and situated, must be a theory based exercise. Part of the challenge of evaluation is to provide a narrative of the intervention as well as an agreed assessment.

Leroy White is Head of the Department of Management at the University of Bristol. His main areas of interest are Strategic Partnerships, large group decision-making, democracy and management, public and community involvement, and public sector working, Health service management. He has worked with a range of clients including the Department of Health, local health authorities, Health Trusts, and the voluntary sector in both the UK and abroad. Currently, he is evaluating a number of regeneration initiatives. He is the co-author with Ann Tackett of *Partnerships and Participation* (Wiley, 2000)

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