Getting your research on the policy agenda – Overcoming common gaps in KT approaches

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Gap 1 – Not considering *all* the relevant actors

- Getting your research on *whose* policy agenda?
- Who makes the public policy decisions that your research could inform?

=== Take a broad view ===

(Contandriopoulos et al., 2010; Morestin, 2015; Smith, 2013a, 2013b)
Gap 1 – Not considering *all* the relevant actors

- Public servants
- Partisan advisors
- Elected members of political opposition
- Policy makers in other jurisdictions
- Other researchers/experts
- Not-for-profits
- The media
- The public

... Should take part in the decision

=> Getting your research on *whose* agenda?
- Relative power, feasibility, congruence, risks...

(Lindquist, 2001; Morestin, 2015, 2017; policy advisors, personal communications, Fall 2016)
Gap 2 – Not putting yourself in their shoes *enough*

- Get a grasp of their *agendas and contexts*
  - Organizations / individuals

  Ongoing monitoring...

- … to inform your KT strategy
  - Participate in *their processes*
  - Relate (as much as possible) to *their framings*

=> Respond to *their* needs

(Policy advisors, personal communications, Fall 2016; Roxon, 2017)
Gap 3 – *Not enough* team work

- Collaboration to **refine** your KT strategy
  - Brainstorming: Your team + collaborators
    => Diversity of ideas
  - Fresh perspectives of new team members

- Collaboration to **implement** your KT strategy
  
  Other allies beyond your collaborators?
  - Outside of / within government
  ⇒ Complementarity of roles

  “Developing alliances across consumers, clinicians, advocates and researchers will always be very powerful. The same proposal from multiple groups gives your argument weight and depth”

  (Nicola Roxon, former Minister for Health, Australia)

(Lindquist, 2001; Morestin, 2017; Roxon, 2017)
A few resources

• Enlightening resources about how political circles view and use scientific evidence
  – Haynes et al. (2011, 2012)
  – Katherine Smith’s work (e.g., 2013a, 2013b, 2014)
  – Paul Cairney’s blog https://paulcairney.wordpress.com/
  – Interview of a former Minister for Health (Roxon, 2017)

• NCCHPP’s Knowledge sharing and public policy project
  http://www.ncchpp.ca/180/News.ccnnpps
  Knowledge syntheses + sets of questions to guide development of KT strategy
  Work in progress... more to come!
  Contact: florence.morestin@inpq.qc.ca
References


- Morestin, F. (2017). *The advisors of policy makers: Who are they, how do they handle scientific knowledge and what can we learn about how to share such knowledge with them?* Montréal and Québec, Canada: National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy. Retrieved from: http://www.ncchpp.ca/181/publications.ccnpps?id_article=1670


