

## The International School on Research Impact Assessment

# Introduction to the discipline of assessing the impact of research

**Jonathan Grant**  
RAND Europe

Organised by:





BARCELONA 2013

**The International School** on Research Impact Assessment

# School programme

## Monday - Theory & Frameworks

Review existing frameworks

Examples of frameworks in action

## Tuesday – Methods and Tools

Available methodologies

Performance management and logic modelling

Datasets & other resources

## Wednesday – Communicating

What do the decision makers want?

How to communicate effectively

## Thursday – Delivering

How to deliver effectively

Open session

Group work



# CAN THE BOFFINS SAVE US?

Vince Cable thinks it's time to borrow. David Cameron insists there is no alternative to austerity. But have our universities found the way to secure long-term growth? Karl West reports



developed a close relationship with Jaguar Land Rover. It has about 500 of the Midlands car-maker's staff on the Warwick campus, developing products with the university.

For example, the rivet and glue technique used to bond the aluminium body of the new Range Rover model was developed at WMG.

"You have to have strategic relationships with companies,"

DAVID CLARK, principal fellow at WMG, believes that the best barometer of how industry views the importance of universities is the amount of cash companies are prepared to invest in research facilities. Glowing references and donations of old bits of equipment are fine, but cash is still king.

By this measure, Jaguar Land Rover must be ecstatic with the work WMG has done. The car maker is partnering the university to open the £90m National Automotive Innovation Campus in March 2015. The centre is being funded by Tata Group, the Indian conglomerate that owns Jaguar Land Rover, and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (Hefce).

Since announcing the venture, WMG has received inquiries from Bosch, which makes car components; the engine maker FEV; and Intel, the computing giant, about setting up their own research facilities there.

"That's what growth is," says Bhattacharyya. "You have to be able to tell companies your idea and let them try it out for themselves. That is really

fund education for the academy 2012-13.

Of this sum, £3.6bn is an assessment of the institution's research. The impact research on jobs economy accounts for of the evaluation process.

As a result, British academic institutions become hard-wired research papers. The aim is to have research published in esteemed academic journals.

Publication in a journal, coupled with citations, is likely to university a better grabbing a bigger research budget.

Bhattacharyya has the system to be reviewed wants 50% of this process to be based rather than the numbers a piece of research receives.

A clearer comment could also stop the from engineering in that has blighted industry for the past the chemists, engineers rocket scientists lured into financial the promise of million pound bonuses. But ment banks are slapping and cutting bonuses Britain's workshop ring from their slum.

Manufacturing in India is no longer as was and companies production from east Domestic factories

on to spin out their own businesses. Britain's top universities are more than capable





BARCELONA 2013

## The International School on Research Impact Assessment

# Advocacy – ‘making the case’ for research

Medical Research:  
What's it worth?

**“Used as evidence as part of the preparation for the spending review and will be in the foreseeable future” – Science Minister**

**“few studies that have made a genuine attempt to objectively assess the economic returns of research” –Nature Editorial**

Health Economics Research Group (HERG)  
Brunel University  
Office of Health Economics (OHE)  
RAND Europe  
For the Medical Research Council,  
the Wellcome Trust and the  
Academy of Medical Sciences  
November 2008

**BIS** | Department for Business  
Innovation & Skills

The Rt Hon David Willetts MP  
Minister for Universities and Science

Our ref: 2010/0080799PODW

23 October 2010

Mr Jonathan Grant  
President  
Rand Europe  
Westbrook Centre  
Milton Road  
Cambridge  
CB4 1YG

Dear Jonathan,

Thank you for your letter of 21 September, updating me about some of your recent work relevant to science research, it provided some very helpful and interesting analysis.

The report on "Medical Research, What's it Worth?" is regarded by BIS Analysis teams as very comprehensive and rigorous. It was used as evidence as part of the preparations for the Spending Review and it will continue to be cited in the foreseeable future. Other research areas would no doubt benefit from a similar approach and analysis.

in published papers — the Nature journals are at present considering urgently necessary ones.

## Unknown quantities

It is in researchers' interests to help funding agencies quantify the economic benefits of their work.

When research agencies are pressed by politicians to quantify the economic value of scientific research, it is only natural that they reach for whatever numbers they can find and then repeat them as well-established fact. Natural, but wrong. The reality is that few of those numbers — typically, assertions that each unit of research investment will yield a certain amount of additional

research plays a substantial role in fostering innovation — by which they mean new technologies, services and business methods. They also have good evidence that innovation is essential for strong economic growth, especially when society faces constraints on key inputs such as labour, capital and materials.

Beyond that, they can't predict which disciplines of scientific research will lead to future innovation — that would require a time machine. Nor, thus far, can they trace how additional research investment will influence a society's ability to innovate.

The problem is that innovation is not a simple, linear system in which basic research begets technology, and technology begets innovation — although that has always been the easiest model for



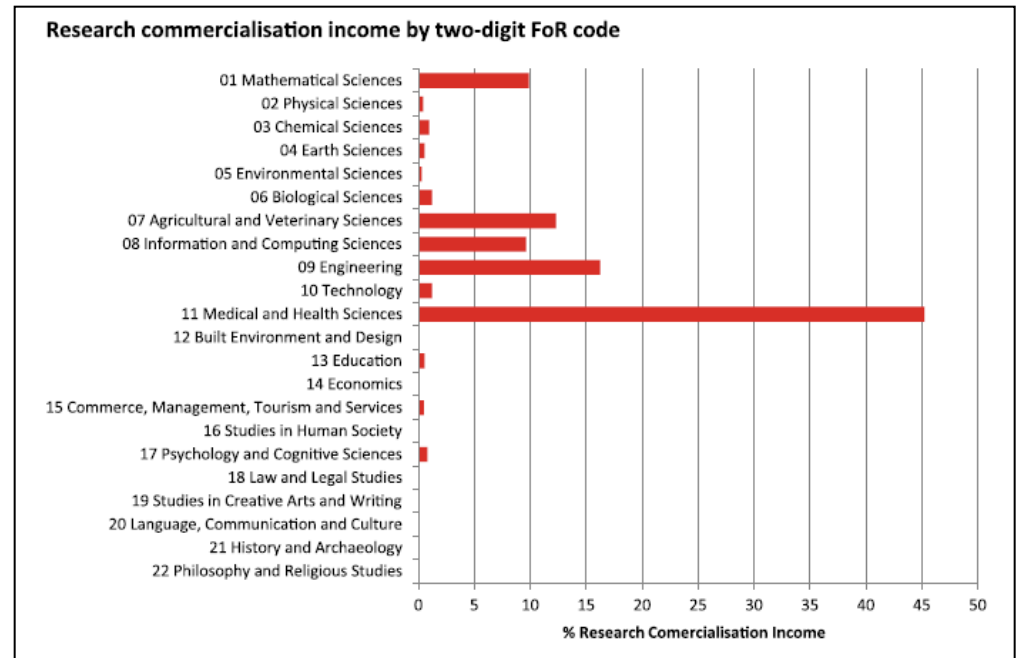




BARCELONA 2013

The International School on Research Impact Assessment

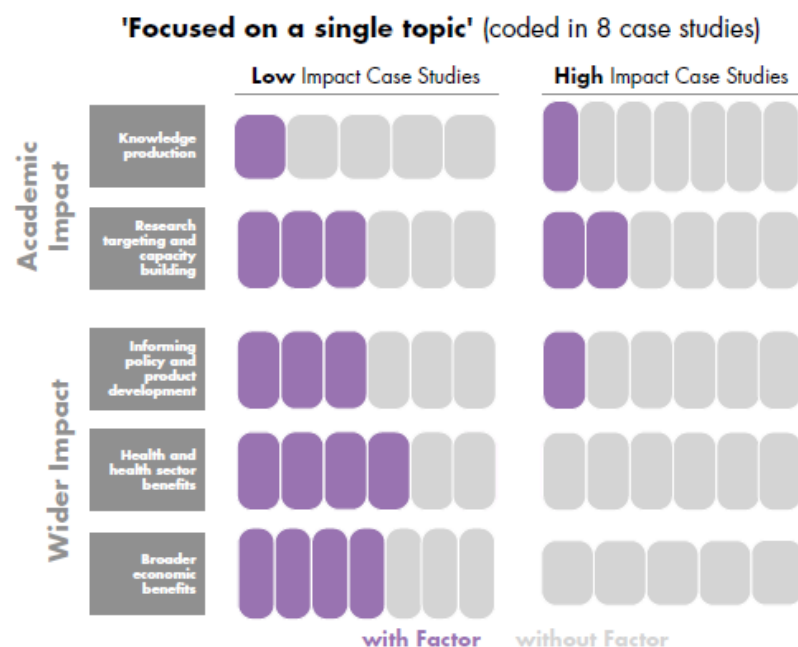
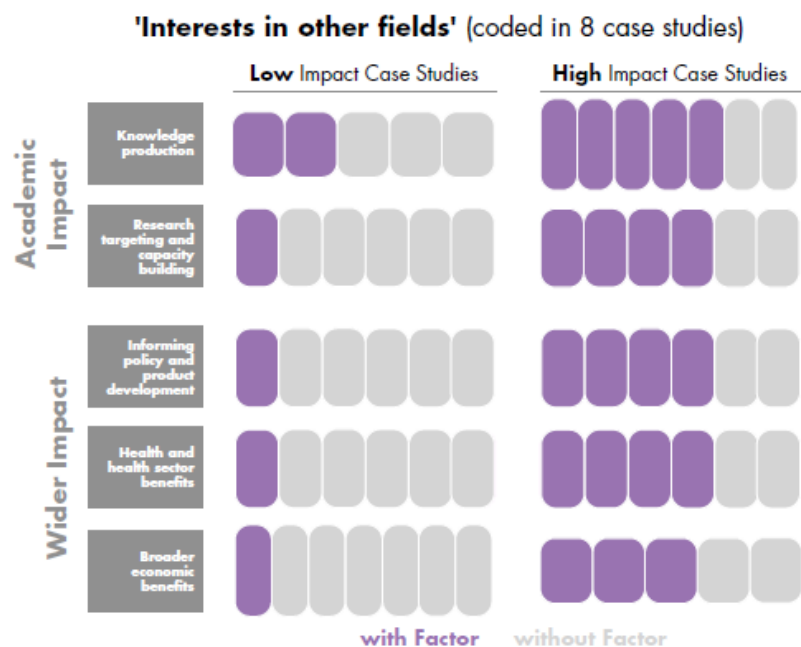
# Accountability – to taxpayers & donors







# Analysis – understanding ‘what works’



*Researchers that show interests in other field(s) have a higher impact and those focused on a single topic have a lower wider social impact*







BARCELONA 2013

# The International School on Research Impact Assessment

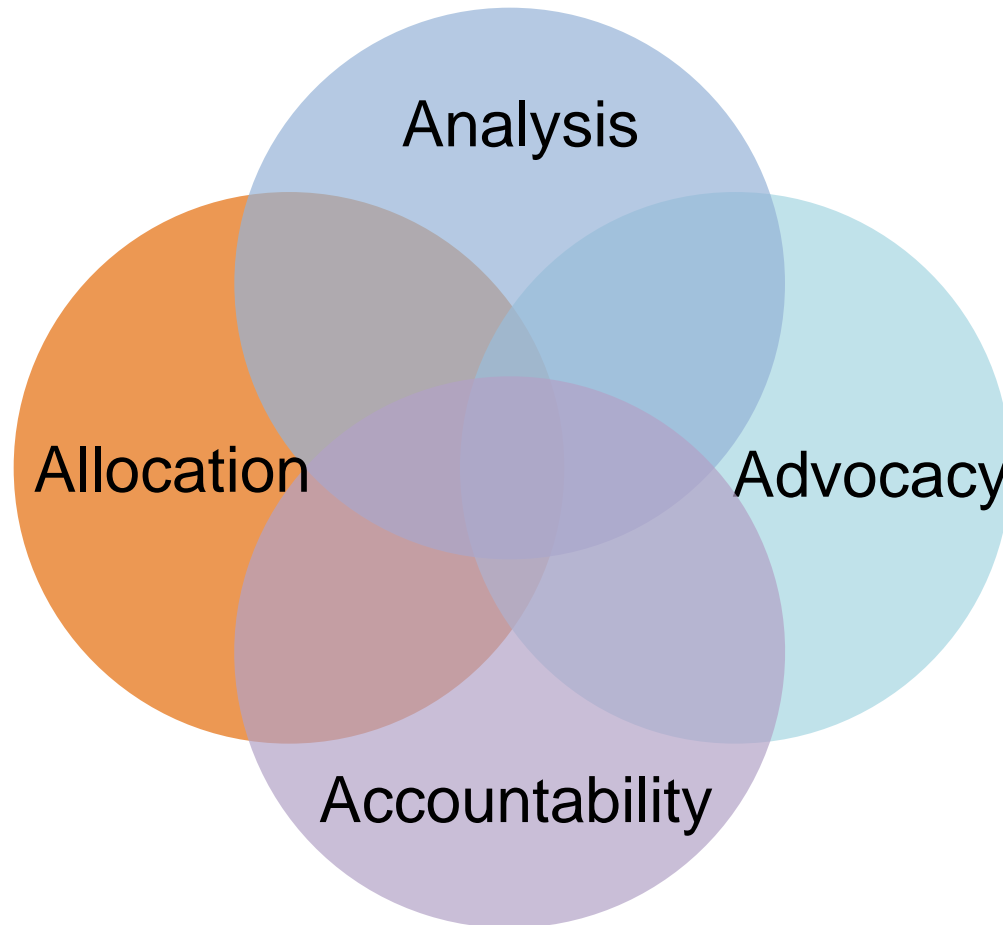
## Allocation – rewarding impact







# Be clear on the primary purpose of your research impact assessment





## Exercise

### 1. In groups of three

1. Briefly describe what you want to work on this week
  2. Think through the primary objective
  3. Think through the secondary objective
  4. Over coffee, mark you programme on you Venn diagram, adding its and your name or initials
- Take about for 10 mins