

# Impact Case Studies: writing style and incorporation of evidence

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# Seminar overview



Quick review of Seminar 1

3 types of evidence; contextualization of reach



Analysis of top scoring case studies

Music, Psychology, Clinical Medicine, Earth Sciences and Law  
Good enough evidence  
Writing style



Advisory checklist for authors



Questions

# Summary of seminar 1

## Authors and internal reviewers must be clear about

- The Purpose, Structure and Rules
- Authors must think like a reviewer

## Three types of evidence

- Contribution – the golden thread
- Reach – the proportion of each beneficiary population that has felt the benefit
- Significance – the level of benefit that has been felt

## Logic models can facilitate this shared view

- As an author
- As a reviewer

# The genre's purpose...

**Describe the impact(s)**  
that the quality research (min 2\*)  
has contributed to  
in enough detail and  
with enough evidence  
to allow the reviewer  
to award it the highest possible  
star rating.

Title

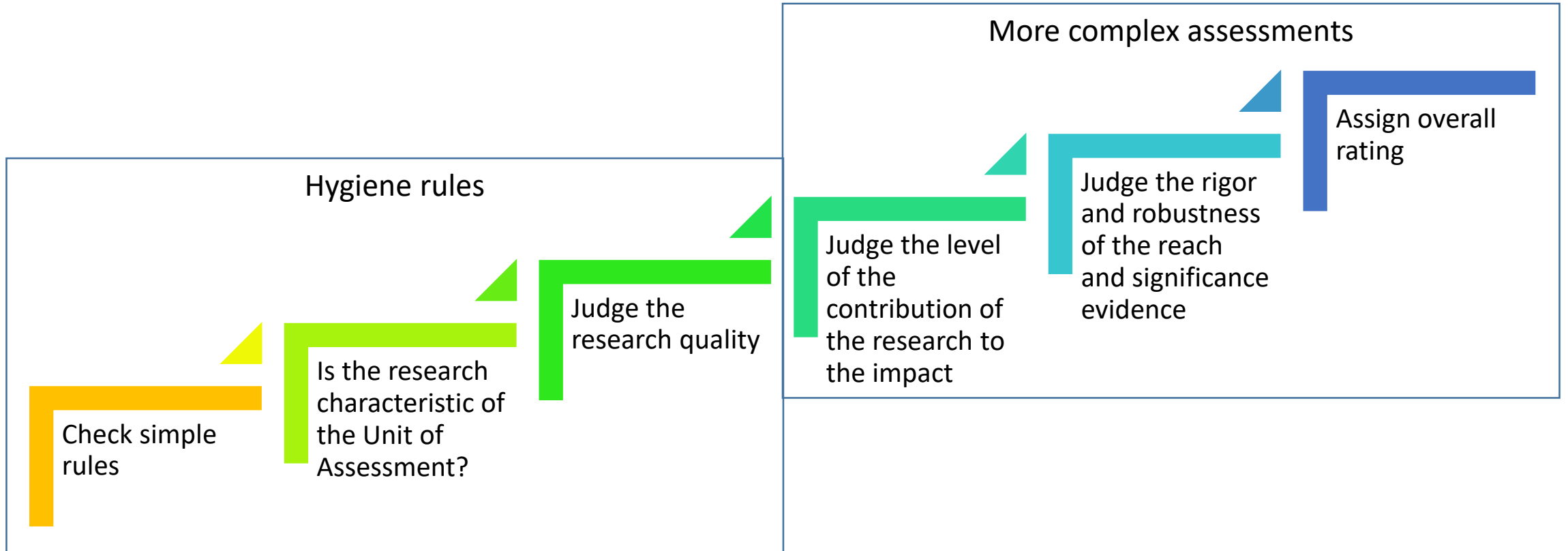
Summary

Underpinning research

Details of impact

Sources to corroborate

# Review process



# Analysing Impact Case Studies

The evidence and the writing style

# Chosen case studies: all 4\*

Unit of Assessment	Titles
Music	Curating new expressions of Mali's musical heritage: Trio De Kali and the Kronos Quartet
Psychology	The impact of hope-based research on practitioners, offenders, patients and their carers
Psychology	New clinical approaches for the effective diagnosis and treatment of obsessive-compulsive and related disorders
Clinical Medicine	Transforming the diagnostic pathway for men at risk of prostate cancer by the introduction of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)
Earth Sciences	Transforming Government assessments of flood risk and resilience through improved understanding of uncertainties in flood risk modelling.
Law	Dealing with the Past in Northern Ireland

# Malian musical heritage: good practice

## 1. Summary of the impact (indicative maximum 100 words)

Durán's four decades of research on music of West Africa led her to form an ensemble of Malian musicians, Trio Da Kali, to revive a pre-colonial style now rarely performed. This ensemble has toured widely in the USA, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. They collaborated with the US-based string quartet, the Kronos Quartet, and the two ensembles released an award-winning album, *Ladilikan*, featuring new materials from further collaborations. **This project generated artistic, educational and economic benefits for the musicians, music producers and audiences involved, with 17,000 album sales, 3,000,000 streams, 25,000 views on YouTube, also reaching nearly 5,000 people through concerts. Scores were downloaded nearly 640 times from the Kronos Quartet website 50 for the Future, securing a performance-based future for the music.**

Summary focuses on impact not research

Indicators of quality: hygiene rules

## 3. References to the research (indicative maximum of six references)

3.1 Durán, L. (2017). *Ladilikan: Trio Da Kali and Kronos Quartet* (CD and LP album). World Circuit Records WCD093. Music production and sleeve notes by L. Durán. Reviewed in *Songlines* 132 (2017), pp. 34–35. Submitted to REF2021. **Album of the Year awards from Songlines and fRoots (2018).**

3.2 Durán, L. (2011). 'Music production as tool of research and impact' (journal article). *Ethnomusicology Forum*, 20(2), pp. 229–232. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17411912.2011.596653>. **Peer-reviewed**

hereditary musicians teaching their children musical skills. **Durán has increasingly prioritized the production of albums as a form of research-based advocacy for Mali's rich musical heritage.** Producing CDs (23 albums featuring leading West African musicians) has become a major strand of her research methodology and outputs, as working with musicians in the studio provides deep insights into repertoire, aesthetics and style [3.2, 3.3].

Engagement with beneficiaries within the research

**Collaborating in this way with celebrated custodians of the pre-colonial repertoires of hereditary musicians, in both the film and CD projects, brought to Durán's attention the potential for synergy between African and Western 'classical' traditions.** These insights led to a series of creative



# Mali musical heritage: good practice

created, performed and recorded new music together. This included two songs by gospel singer Mahalia Jackson, sung in Bambara (Mali's main language). Otherwise their music draws on a repertoire of Malian 'songs of advice' known in Bambara as *ladilikan* [3.4]. This in turn led to the award-winning album *Ladilikan* [3.1].

Research outputs referenced in Details of impact

Clear statement of beneficiary groups: hinting at contextualisation

#### 4. Details of the impact (indicative maximum 750 words)

The impact of Durán's research on African music stemmed from a unique musical collaboration between the Kronos Quartet and Trio Da Kali. This project benefitted a) music performers, principally the world-renowned Kronos Quartet in their first production with Malian music and the musicians of Trio Da Kali, but also other hereditary musicians of West Africa, and other, especially young, string quartets; b) audiences in concert halls and festivals of the USA, UK, France, Spain, Australia and New Zealand; c) other producers, including a TV production company (ROOTS), and Instruments4africa. By bringing together the written and oral traditions of Western classical

and Instruments4africa. By bringing together the written and oral traditions of Western classical and Malian music, the project generated a) economic and professional development benefits to established Western and Malian performers, boosting creative expression among early career and young musicians; b) cultural, aesthetic and educational benefit to international audiences; and c) artistic and economic benefit to cultural producers in Mali and the USA, where global audiences for concerts, CDs, downloads and scores numbered at least 500,000.

Clear statement of impact types

# Mali musical heritage: good practice

Simple but varied evidence types: liberally referenced in the Details of impact section

Majority of page limit for Details of Impact

# Mali musical heritage: possible improvements

world of music I'd never encountered' [5.4b]. In a workshop at the Carnegie Hall (2016), the quartet discussed their experience of working with balafon player Lassana Diabaté and consequent transformations of their playing style [5.6]. Prior to joining the Trio, singer Hawa had

No details about the workshop: attendees / purpose

Text hints at lots of quartets, but only 4 mentioned. Were the 15 performances by different quartets? 640 downloads – all by quartets?

*Artistic benefits to young string quartets through developing and sharing new repertoire*  
As part of their project 50 for the Future: The Kronos Learning Repertoire, Kronos commissioned new pieces from each of the Trio members, which were transcribed as freely downloadable string quartet scores for performance by young string quartets around the world. Balafon player Lassana composed a suite, 'Sunjata's Time', which Durán produced and recorded for the project. In 2016, the Kronos Quartet held workshops on this piece with the Ligeti, Argus, and Friction Quartets at the Carnegie Hall. 'Sunjata's Time' was performed 15 times by young string quartets at various venues by 2020 [5.3d], including by the Ligeti Quartet, alongside works by Stravinsky, Bartók and Adams, among others, and at the Carnegie Hall, New York [5.6]. The scores, including Hawa's composition 'Tegere Tulon' (handclapping songs of Mali), were downloaded nearly 640 times from 2016 according to estimates provided by Kronos [5.3d]. One member of the young Dragon Quartet from the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts, San Francisco, commented on the impact of playing this composition at the Kronos Festival 2018: 'as someone who doesn't listen to . . . music that's not from my own country . . . it really gives you a different perspective to what kind of music there is out there, and what you can use to make and connect other things with it . . . I'm so glad to be part of this' [5.5c].

# Mali musical heritage: possible improvements

## *Increasing awareness and understanding of West African music among audiences*

Overall, through the live concert series in the UK and the US, music by the Kronos Quartet and Trio Da Kali reached almost 5,000 people, in addition to the 17,000 in album sales, 3,000,000 streams and 250,000 YouTube views [5.3a, b, c, d]. The live performances were educational. A member of the Kronos Quartet board described a 'two-way conversation where the musicians are speaking to you directly, and you are responding to them' [5.7]. Kinobe, a US-based Ugandan multi-instrumentalist musician who supported the tour, explained that 'people have the desire to know more about the music so they come to me with all these questions, and I start to feel the desire that people have to get deeper into the music.' He indicated that at concerts by the Trio, up to 90% of the audience bought their CDs or LPs [5.5d]. A Ghanaian film maker at the UK premiere at the Barbican, London (May 2019) described Trio Da Kali as 'revolutionaries', adding that 'the Barbican smashed it tonight and everyone deserves to listen to this music. It's really powerful' [5.8]. Speaking of the album, professional banjo player Lee Knight said he 'had never heard of the trio before' but that 'it was a Kronos CD and it looked appealing to me and I got it and it blew me away. All the sounds and the instrumentals, and the way the Trio blended in with the quartet and of course the lead singer . . . it was exquisite. I've got 30-40 Kronos albums and that's definitely in my top three' [5.5e].

Some reach figures and a few testimonial quotes: two from the performers and two from audience members. Quite weak evidence to back-up this claim. Could any audience survey work have been done?

# Mali musical heritage: possible improvements

Final para is about impact on the Mali players but listed under impact on cultural producers.

Not clear how the written research outputs contribute to the impact: no references in Details section (to any of the outputs)

# Hope-based research: good practice

Title of case study: **The impact of hope-based research on practitioners, offenders, patients and their carers**

## (1) Summary of the impact

In his 15+ years of examining adaptive cognition and resilience, **Ho** has established instruments to measure the cognitive style of hope; these instruments are specific to the Chinese context and have been widely adopted by practitioners in hospitals and NGOs. **Ho** has developed 5 hope storybooks and 2 treatment manuals for hope-based interventions, and was involved in the development of a gender-responsive treatment facility in the largest women's prison in Hong Kong. He has provided training and consultation to over 400 clinicians in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia.

Title and Summary are impact focused

Some cross referencing to research to show contribution

## (4) Details of the impact

**Development of assessment tools for the Chinese population.** **Ho** started his 'hope research journey' in the early 2000s by focusing on the development of validated tools to measure hope cognition according to the model developed by C.R. Snyder. **Ho** developed the Chinese Adult Hope Scale and the Chinese Children Hope Scale, and validated these scales in different populations ([R2] to [R6] above). His Chinese hope scales have been used by occupational therapists and psychiatric

Inclusion of quotes and indicating seniority

*"We mainly use it as pre- and post- measure for adult in-patient psychiatric OT service. A pilot study has been done in 2014-2015 and we were glad to find significant improvement in scores of the Hope Scale rated by our clients. Now, it is routinely used as one of the outcome indicators of our adult in-patient program. Thanks."* (Senior Occupational Therapist, Queen Mary Hospital)

*"I am still using the hope scale since July, 2015 after your authorisation approved. ... simple, easy to understand, spend short time for completing the hope scale that reflected by patients."* (Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber, Kwai Chung Hospital)

# Hope-based research: good practice

## Feedback from clinical psychologists:

- *Showed positive attitude towards treatment.*
- *Applied learnt skills.*
- *Showed better understanding of their positive and*

## Feedback from management and frontline staff:

- *PSY GYM participants became more cooperative & persons in custody.*
- *More positive thinking and improved emotional s PSY GYM participants.*
- *PSY GYM participants' attitude towards staff discipline.*
- *The programme brought positive changes in pa facilities in the long run.*

## Feedback from participants (women in custody):

• *I can enhance my strengths by developing them. "*

Quotes from all parties in the intervention programme

offenders in its policies, and the PSY GYM was particularly named in this honour. PSY GYM itself also received two awards – the *Meritorious Award* and a *Special Citation (Responsiveness to Customer Needs)* under the *Team Award (Specialised Service)* – in the *Civil Service Outstanding Service Awards Scheme 2015*. Since its inception in 2011, 408 women offenders have participated

Awards used as indicators of impact: previously judged/assessed by other independent mechanism

# Hope-based research: improvements

**Development of assessment tools for the Chinese population.** F

journey? in the early 2000s by focusing on the development of val

**Development of hope intervention materials.** A

began the next step of developing the materials and

**New Intervention Model in Correctional Services.**

included in Section 2 [C1].

**Training and Consultation.** As

regular training and consultation

Headings in Details of Impact aren't about impact: activities

to [R0] above). His Chinese hope scales have been  
nurses in at least four major hospitals in Hong Kong,

intervention protocol for children with cancer [C2]. 1000 copies of the storybook have been published.  
Of these, 740 copies were distributed to parents of children with cancer and oncology wards of the 5  
major public hospitals in Hong Kong, namely Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth, Prince of Wales,

Princess Margaret and Tuen Mun, as well as to other paediatric wards, the Red Cross and other special  
schools, and registered participants of the symposiums organised by CCF [C2]. Hong Kong has about  
180 new cases of paediatric cancer every year and the intervention book has benefited 700 children  
with cancer since its publication in 2014. Ho also helped social workers from the Heep Hong Society,

The scale has also been used by practitioners and researchers in mainland China, Taiwan and Macau  
[C1].

Contextualise more: 4 hospitals out of how many (mentions 5 later)? Paediatric cancer: 180 cases per year; helped 700. Could it have helped 900 by the end of the census period?

How many practitioners? Any way of knowing how many people they have worked with?



# Hope-based research: improvements

for parents of children with special needs. The 4,800 copies of the book that have been published can benefit the 15,000 families served by the Society [C3]. Last but not least, Ho served as an advisor to

Can benefit? The reviewer is looking for evidence that is has

Impact census period, in RAE2020, started 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013. How many of the 408 participated after that date?

Service Awards Scheme 2015. Since its inception in 2011, 408 women offenders have participated in the PSY GYM programmes. Feedbacks from clinical psychologists, administrators and participants

Department. A testimonial of Ho's contributions from the Senior Clinical Psychologist at CSD is included in Section 5 [C7].

No quote from this testimonial? Why?

# Hope-based research: improvements

Nothing explicit that demonstrates research is 2 star or higher

Training and consultation section – lots of space but little value.

Evidence mostly post-hoc

# Treat for obsessive-compulsive: good practice

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) affects 1-2% of the population. It is characterised by the presence of either obsessions or compulsions, or commonly both, and is a chronic condition.

Underpinning research has some immediate contextualisation

Details section starts with Research to Impact pathway

Research led by Fineberg at UH has advanced clinical understanding of the neuroscience underpinning OCD and the broader concept of 'compulsivity'. The key impacts reported here stem from improved understanding of a wider group of obsessive-compulsive and related disorders (OCRDs), leading to better diagnosis for patients and improved treatments. This has been achieved through a range of clinical guidelines, direct impact on clinical practice, professional education and raising public awareness.

## The ICD-11: reclassification of obsessive-compulsive disorders improves diagnosis

The UH research that led to publications 3.1 and 3.2 fed directly into significant changes made to the World Health Organisation's global standard for diagnostic health information, the new International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11), which had not been updated since 1994 [5.1].

Fineberg, drawing on 3.1-3.4, was also instrumental in developing new, peer-reviewed international consensus standards of care for specialist assessment and care units for OCD [5.9]. Published in 2016, these standards were a response to the lack of consensus over the key

Lots of examples of direct causal links between research and impact: this is just 2 examples

Clearly stating when the impact occurred

line with findings from the Fineberg-led studies [5.5]. The guidelines were in place from May 2014 to the end of the REF impact assessment period and were downloaded 9,876 times during this time [5.6].

ICD-11 guidelines [5.4]. By studying the responses of 1,717 mental health clinicians to case vignettes, use of the ICD-11 guidelines resulted in more accurate diagnosis of OCD and related disorders compared to the ICD-10 guidelines, particularly in differentiating presentations from one another [5.4].

A peer-reviewed published study used as impact evidence

# Treat for obsessive-compulsive: improvements

related disorders. This work led to the reclassification of obsessive-compulsive and related disorders within the **World Health Organisation's international standard** for reporting diseases and health conditions, resulting in more effective diagnosis and treatment. It has led to revisions of **clinical guidelines and contributed to changes in clinical practice**, which have benefitted patients with debilitating conditions that can be extremely challenging to treat.

The summary doesn't say where the guidelines were change

This seems to suggest the research has only affected their own Centre – none of the other 3. But the 120 could be referrals from the others. Ideally this should be clear.

**Impact on clinical services: the Hertfordshire Obsessive Compulsive Disorders Service**  
The care standards described above form the basis of the clinical practice of Fineberg and colleagues at the Hertfordshire Obsessive Compulsive Disorders Service, based in Welwyn Garden City. **It is one of four NHS England Commissioned OCD services** providing care and treatment to people who have failed to respond to all available pharmacological and psychological treatments whilst under the care of their local NHS Mental Health Trust. According to the Service's website: '*The research expertise in applied neuroscience, provided by our services, in collaboration with the Universities of Hertfordshire and Cambridge, is used ... to drive forward novel and more effective treatment interventions [5.10].*' Over the impact period, the service **has treated 120 of the most treatment-resistant patients from around the UK.**

## Training and CPD for clinicians

UH research also runs through **a pocketbook for clinicians and patients** called 'Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders', co-authored by Fineberg (with two others) and published in 2015. It was Highly Commended in the Psychiatry category of the British Medical Association Book Awards 2016 [5.11]. Fineberg also reviewed and updated the Royal College of **Psychiatrists' online CPD modules on OCD in 2020** based on her ongoing research [5.12]. Fineberg leads a biannual BAP-accredited CPD session for psychiatrists that draws on her UH research and her own practice. **Around 1,500 psychiatrists** have taken this session over the impact period.

This section on training / CPD only has a small amount of reach evidence (that is not contextualised) and no significance evidence

# Treat for obsessive-compulsive: improvements

No indicators for research quality

Most evidence is contribution focused e.g. manifestos, treatment guidelines, etc. No usage figures given and significance evidence is sparse

Most presented evidence is about reach.

# Prostate cancer: good practice

**Title of case study: Transforming the diagnostic pathway for men at risk of prostate cancer by the introduction of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)**

## 1. Summary of the impact

Research at UCL has led to the introduction of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) into the prostate cancer detection pathway which has transformed the diagnosis and risk-stratification of one of the world's most common cancers. MRI is now recommended as standard-of-care in national and international clinical guidelines, resulting in 1-in-4 men (250,000 men in Europe alone) avoiding an unnecessary biopsy. Since its roll-out, detection rates of important prostate cancers have doubled (48% to 93%) and over-diagnosis has been halved (10% to 5%). These two improvements have been achieved with less harm to the patient and reduced costs to healthcare systems.

Title and summary work well together. Summary describes the reach and significance of some impacts but...

Clear problem statement at the start of the underpinning research.

For the last 50 years, men at risk of prostate cancer have been assessed using prostate specific antigen (PSA) as a trigger for biopsy of the prostate. The random deployment of needles through the rectum into the prostate was inaccurate (both missed and misclassified cancers) and resulted in harm (bleeding and sepsis). The UCL research group was first to identify and publish

**Reducing harm for the patients:** The MRI diagnostic approach provides a better patient experience and reduces side-effects associated with biopsy, reducing the need for further engagement with the healthcare system and associated potential loss in earnings. The results from the PRECISION study (R5) give a comparison of the harm profile for MRI-based diagnosis versus systematic TRUS biopsy. Side-effects were reduced significantly: blood in urine (63% reduced to 30%); blood in semen (60% reduced to 32%); blood in faeces (22% reduced to 14%); sexual problems (16% reduced to 11%) and pain (23% reduced to 13%) (R5). Given that approximately 5 million men are assessed each year, these data translate to millions of men avoiding a biopsy-related harm.

Uses own research to extrapolate to the impact after the rollout of the new pathway but...

# Prostate cancer: good practice

There are 7 large scale studies post-rollout that are used as evidence for the majority of claimed patient related impacts

# Prostate cancer: improvements

Title activity not impact focused

No indicators to help research quality assessment

No attempt to estimate the additional GVA for the companies mentioned

Most of the early claims for impact are based on estimates from the research findings: could anything have been done to check this in the real clinical population?



# Flood risk: good practice

## 1. Summary of the impact

Improved flood risk modelling based on research on risk and uncertainty at Lancaster has been applied across the UK to provide the Government and its agencies with a more realistic understanding of inland flood risk, from catchment to national scales. Consequently, applications of these models helped to justify a four-fold increase in temporary flood defences in England since 2015 (total spend GBP12.5 million), whilst also supporting a longer programme to better protect 300,000 homes, representing a GBP2.3 billion investment. This improved understanding of flood risk and resilience has protected life and assets and has positively impacted the well-being of those at risk. These impacts remain at the centre of flood risk management across the UK and have informed the next generation of approaches for catchment management and the inclusion of flood risks in the UK National Risk Register.

Summary describes reach and significance

Clear statement of the problem in reach and significance

## 4. Details of the impact

### 4.1 Practical guidance on uncertainty in flood risk management

Beven and Lamb's research on uncertainty since 2000 has improved flood risk management practice across the UK as evidenced by citations in 30 practitioner or policy reports [5.1], including government strategies for England, Scotland and Wales, evidence reports and policy updates. Of these reports, 12 were co-authored by Beven and/or Lamb. Beven's research (as summarised in [3.1] and [3.2]) drove the development of Good Practice Guidelines within the EPSRC Flood Risk Management Consortium (FRMRC) and reached more than 200 stakeholders through the NERC-funded Catchment Change Network (from 2009 to 2012). Outputs from the FRMRC that cited [3.2] included guidance on assessing uncertainty in flood risk mapping, co-authored by Beven and Lamb, and published in 2014 by CIRIA, widely regarded as an authoritative provider of good practice guidance for the construction and built environment industries (CIRIA Guide C721, included in [5.1]).

## 2. Underpinning research

Recent flood events in 2000 to 2001, 2007, 2013 to 2014, 2015 to 2016 and 2020 have each cost the UK between GBP0.5 billion and GBP4.2 billion in economic damages (adjusted to 2019 prices), and together claimed 27 lives and flooded more than 90,000 households. The Environment Agency (EA, the Government's lead flood management authority in England), estimates that more than GBP1.0 billion should be spent annually over the next 50 years to sustain and improve the country's flood resilience. To be effective and cost-beneficial, this investment must be founded on a robust and realistic understanding of flood risk.

Every impact claimed has a heading in the Details and everyone links back to some of the listed research

# Flood risk: good practice

and to communicate flood risk to the public. Existing versions of NaFRA suffer from being fragmentary in their approach to reconciling risk information from flood models developed at different scales. A letter from the EA [5.2a] corroborates that Lamb and Beven's research (reported in [3.5] and [3.6]) "has underpinned the design of our once in a generation national flood risk assessment replacement (NaFRA2)" was influential in the EA's design for NaFRA2 by "testing of methods and technologies" to overcome this previously fragmentary approach. Although the research in [3.6] did not appear in a journal paper until 2020, [5.2a] confirms that it had already, since 2017, "directly influenced" the EA's thinking whilst designing the NaFRA2 solution, which they describe as "one of our most significant modelling investments", including an GBP8.0 million commercial contract [5.2b].

Regularly weaves in quotes from the evidence for both reach/significance/contribution justification

Used winning of a prize that judged impact as evidence of the impact: 'dear reviewer someone else has done your work for you'

Lamb's work on modelling the joint probability of spatial extremes [3.4] was also combined with surface water flood risk models produced by JBA and incorporated local corrections for epistemic uncertainty discussed above in Section 4.2. JBA combined these models to win the top prize in a Defra innovation competition in recognition of their use of Defra's open data in "innovative ways to tackle flooding focusing on the Eden catchment in Cumbria" through "the use of new data and whole-catchment modelling to generate a much wider range of realistic extreme event scenarios than is normally used" [5.3a]. The winning report [5.3b], co-authored by Lamb and citing [3.4], further influenced Defra's approach to flood risk management in Cumbria and beyond, with the Floods Minister Thérèse Coffey stating [5.3a] "We will now be able to use these new ideas and insight to help better protect not just Cumbria's people, businesses and infrastructure from flooding but communities across the nation".

[5.4] (a) UK Parliament Statement. Written Statement UIN HLWS139 on the National Flood Resilience Review made by Lord Gardiner, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016. Corroborates GBP12.5 million of spending on new temporary (i.e. mobile) flood defences and a GBP2.3 billion investment to better protect 300,000 homes. (b) BBC News Article [Hundreds of key sites in England at Risk of Floods](#), dated 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016 corroborating GBP12.5 million investment means four times as many temporary flood barriers than in 2015.

Most evidence sources have an additional statement about what they are corroborating

# Flood risk: good practice

Includes proxies for  
research quality

Use of LSE press  
release on changes to  
Government practice

All evidence used from  
the public domain: Gov  
publications / reports  
etc.

# Flood risk: improvements

## 1. Summary of the impact

Improved flood risk modelling based on research on risk and uncertainty at Lancaster has been applied across the UK to provide the Government and its agencies with a more realistic understanding of inland flood risk, from catchment to national scales. Consequently, applications of these models helped to justify a four-fold increase in temporary flood defences in England since 2015 (total spend GBP12.5 million), whilst also supporting a longer programme to better protect 300,000 homes, representing a GBP2.3 billion investment. This improved understanding of flood risk and resilience has protected life and assets and has positively impacted the well-being of those at risk. These impacts remain at the centre of flood risk management across the UK and have informed the next generation of approaches for catchment management and the inclusion of flood risks in the UK National Risk Register.

Summary claims whole UK impact but all evidence relates to England. This policy area is actually devolved to the 4 nations that make up the UK, so this claim has no evidence to back it up

# Northern Ireland: good practice

## Summary of the Impact

The combined *significance* of the research of McEvoy, Mallinder and Bryson is its profound, sustained and multi-layered impact upon the legal, policy and public understanding of dealing with the legacy of the Northern Ireland (NI) conflict. First, their local and international research on amnesties, truth recovery and the value added of oral history to transitional justice has directly influenced efforts to deal with the past in NI since 2014. Second, working in partnership with the local human rights NGO, the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ), they have produced a substantial body of policy-focused research which has directly impacted political negotiations in NI (2014-2015), UK draft legislation (2018) and the deliberations of parliamentary select committees in the UK (2017/2019/2020) on legacy in NI. Third, from 2017, their research has directly influenced the political and public debate on a statute of limitations for security force veterans who served in NI. The *reach* of their impact has included the UK and Irish governments, NI political parties, civil society groups (including victims and survivors) and the United Nations.

The best summary of all the examples. Refs significance and reach. Breaks down the impact and includes pathway information.

Clear problem statement with clear scale that contextualises the reach

## Research Context

NI endured an armed conflict (1968-1998) that claimed more than 3,600 lives. In 2017 the Northern Ireland Victims and Survivors Commission reported that 26% of the adult population identified as victims due to harms directly experienced or bereavement. 1,186 murders remain unresolved. In

**Indicators of Quality:** All outputs were published in peer-reviewed journals and are at least 2\* quality. **R1** won the 2009 SLSA Article prize for the best socio-legal article and is heavily cited (454 cites on Google Scholar, 220 Scopus). **R2** was supported by AHRC funding (Beyond Legalism: Amnesties, Transition and Conflict Transformation (McEvoy PI, Mallinder PDRF, AH/E008984/1, £305,000). **R3** was published in one of the top 20 international law reviews in the US (based on citations per 1,000 pp of output) and this research was awarded the 2016 QUB Vice Chancellor's Post-Doctoral Research Prize. **R4** and **R5** were supported by two grants: AHRC (*Amnesties, Prosecutions and the Public Interest*, McEvoy PI and Mallinder CI, AH/J013897/1, £96,000) and *Lawyers in Conflict and Transition* (ESRC, McEvoy PI, Mallinder CI, Bryson PDRF, £490,000). **R6** was the 2019 Lauterpacht Centre for International Law Annual Lecture, University of Cambridge.

A suite of indicators of quality for all the Underpinning Research

# Northern Ireland: good practice

## 4. Details of the Impact

Below are indicative examples of how the team's research has directly influenced debates on legacy since August 2013. It also details the reach and significance of that impact.

Clearly within Census Period

Every impact claim has a link to the Underpinning research

### 1. Impact on Draft Legislation to enact the SHA (2013-2014)

During the negotiations which led to the SHA, the team drew on their research on 'transitional justice from below' [R1] and on the ways to encourage truth recovery and amnesties [R2] to propose models for the negotiating parties on how this could be facilitated in NI. One model they put forward - which suggested limited immunity in return for truth rather than a broader amnesty - was ultimately adopted in the SHA. As the DUP lead legacy negotiator Sir Jeffrey Donaldson said, 'We have met with Kieran McEvoy and his colleagues and listened to what they have to say. We have made it clear both in public and in private that we are opposed to amnesties for terrorist murder. However, limited immunity is a separate concept' [S1]. Following the SHA, there have

influence on civil society engagement on legacy is evidenced by citations of their reports. For example, publicly available responses to the government's consultation on the draft legislation in 2018-19 indicate that 19% (8 of 43) submissions directly cite McEvoy and/or the Model Bill team [S9a]. These include the Green Party, Amnesty International, and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. The latter is the largest civil society membership organisation in NI representing 215,000 members across 34 trade unions. It stated, 'Our allies in the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) and QUB Law have already produced their joint submission to this process, which has our support' and: 'We concur with the points made and concerns raised by the legal experts from CAJ/QUB Law' [S9b]. In the most recent NI Affairs Committee inquiry into NI legacy, 12 (33%) of the 36 non-QUB written submissions cite the team's research including the Methodist Church in Ireland, NI Human Rights Commission and the Wave Trauma Centre [S6b, pp31-33].

Contextualised percentages

# Northern Ireland: good practice

Evidence is all independent and covers whole impact census period. Much of it comes from high profile sources e.g. Minister of State, well known figures from the various parties representing the different communities, etc

Media activities: all outlets are listed with their consumption data (e.g. listeners, readers, etc)

# Northern Ireland: minor improvements

Reconciliation Group (IRG). Draft legislation was consulted on in 2018 and the government committed to passing a legacy Bill in 2020 but this was delayed due to the pandemic.  
*Research Insights and Impact*

Short statement on delay. Ideally the state of the legislation at the end of the census period should be clear. This is quite hard to decipher in the Details section



# Evidence types

- Digital Science analysed evidence used in all REF2014 case studies (Loach et al.)
- 8 broad evidence types:
  1. Testimonials
  2. Reports
  3. Article
  4. Media
  5. Activity
  6. IP
  7. Award
  8. Legal

# These case studies had

Evidence type	Mali	Hope	OCD	Prostate	Flood	NI
Testimonial	9	7	1	1	1	2
Report		1	13	2	3	4
Article				8		
Media	6				4	3
Activity		1				
Award	2	1			1	
Legal					1	6

# Good enough evidence



Individual evidence tends to be simple e.g. testimonials, reports in the public domain, media, etc

All establish the credibility of the source



Usage of the evidence to triangulate argument to reduce uncertainty in claim of impact.



One case study had lots evidence from peer-reviewed academic publications



Tends to be collected as time passes; rather than post hoc

Needs good data management practices to collect / store / categorise



All three evidence types present in all

Some had more reach / pathway evidence than significance.

# Writing style



None require subject expertise: easy to read



Logical and structured

Good use of headings / bold / cross-references  
Reduce reader workload



Hit the genre's purpose and the sub-elements

Majority forget some of the simple hygiene rules  
Focus of majority of text explaining the impact / evidence

# Writer checklist

## Impact claims

- What impact claims am I trying to make?
- Who was involved in the pathway?
- Who or what is the beneficiary and how did they/it benefit?
- What is the ranking (biggest to smallest in terms of reach / significance) of those impact claims?

## Evidence

- Does every impact claim have an array of evidence; reach, significance and level of contribution?
- Is the evidence of the appropriate rigour for the system the research was intended to change / discipline area?
- Is any of testimonial evidence just someone's opinion? Can those opinions be justified with quant/qual evidence?

## Structure

- Is my assessment of the ranking of my impact claims obvious in how I have written the case study?
- Is the contribution of the research obvious to every impact claim?
- Have I got enough room to explain all the impact claims, especially the smaller ones? Spend too long describing the research?
- Have I used too much room to explain the research and justify its quality?

## Reviewer

- Does the text help the reviewer to assess the hygiene rules quickly and efficiently?
- Are the impact claims clearly laid out in the Summary and then in the Details section?
- Is it easy to read and understand or will a reviewer have to put extra effort in?

# Summary

- The best way to learn to write ICS
  - Read that genre: at least 10 different case studies, note their good points and areas to improve
  - Practice implementing those good points and avoiding the mistakes
- In making your author choices (grammar, words, structure, content, etc) always be guided by the genre's purpose and the reviewer's needs.
- Don't get too hung up on the evaluation of impact question
- But do collect simple evidence routinely and use that array of evidence wisely to reduce a reviewer's doubt in the impact claim

# Questions





# References

- Loach, Tamar; Adams, Jonathan; Szomszor, Martin (2016): Digital Research Report: The Societal and Economic Impacts of Academic Research – International perspectives on good practice and managing evidence. Digital Science. figshare. <https://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.3117928.v2>