Knowledge and Expertise in Public Policy

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Knowledge and Expertise in Public Policy: MSoG Research Theme

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Background

• Some problems (grand challenges) appear resistant to intervention e.g. climate change
  – Solutions will require a step-change in tackling public policy problems
  – Reinvention of the research-policy interface

• At the same time, universities have become increasingly aware of the costs of specialization
  – Attempts to build bridges between faculties
  – Efforts to encourage engagement with industry and government
Vision

• Vision for this theme: help chart way forward by embracing new tools

• This theme addresses three key questions:
  – What are the emerging ideas, tools and frameworks that will shape the way in which public policy is designed and implemented in the 21st century?
  – How can ‘evidence’ be best utilized in order to support the construction of better public policy and better institutions?
  – How can innovation (methods and media) help bridge the gap between citizens and professional experts?
Recent Developments

• There are some exciting new developments:
  – Emergence of ‘big data’ and egov
  – Appreciation of the need for more sophisticated policy evaluation techniques

• There are a range of interesting examples:
  – Collaboration between philosophers, psychologists and economists on behavioural policymaking (e.g. ‘nudge’)
  – Emerging research programs on neuroscientific basis for antisocial behaviour
  – STAR METRICS data infrastructure designed to assess the impact of science/research funding