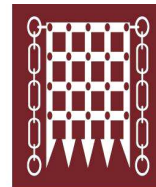


Westminster Higher Education Forum Keynote Seminar:

Ensuring integrity and rigour in UK research: best practice, open data and the impact of the REF

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 7th July 2016

Venue: Royal Over-Seas League, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR



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Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Rt Hon the Baroness Neville-Jones, Member, House of Lords Science and Technology Committee, and former Minister for Security
- 9.05 - 9.50 **The effects of the Research Excellence Framework on the higher education research environment**
To what extent has the inclusion of metrics assessing the vitality and stability of the research environment within the REF generated improvement in university research processes? How justified are concerns that the pressures of increasing competition within the REF and a growing 'publish or perish' culture are disincentivising co-operation and leading to poor research practices? What are the implications of the inclusion of open access requirements in the next REF for research processes and how well is the embargo system working in practice?
Dr Eleonora Belfiore, Professor of Communication and Media Studies, Loughborough University
Dr Lawrence McNamara, Senior Research Fellow and Deputy Director, Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law
Professor Cara Aitchison, Vice-Chancellor, University of St Mark & St John
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.50 - 10.20 **The potential impact of open data**
What are the implications of a move towards open data for research practice and what will be the key barriers to implementing open data policies across the research community? To what extent will open data allow for increased scrutiny of findings and methodologies? In light of concerns about the reproducibility of results and cases of high profile retractions what measures can be put in place to improve the reproducibility of results? What incentives could be introduced to encourage researchers to participate in open data initiatives and how could these be managed?
Dr Elena Simperl, Associate Professor, Web and Internet Science, University of Southampton and Director, ODINE
Dr Matthew Day, Head of Open and Data Publishing, Cambridge University Press
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 - 10.25 **Chair's closing remarks**
Rt Hon the Baroness Neville-Jones, Member, House of Lords Science and Technology Committee, and former Minister for Security
- 10.25 - 10.50 Coffee
- 10.50 - 10.55 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Fox, Director of Group Communications, GKN and Member, House of Lords Science and Technology Committee
- 10.55 - 11.25 **Promoting ethical research practice**
Professor Ottoline Leyser, Director, Sainsbury Laboratory, University of Cambridge and Member, Nuffield Council on Bioethics
Dr Simon Kolstoe, Institute of Biomedical and Biomolecular Science, University of Portsmouth and Chair, Ministry of Defence Research Ethics Committee
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.25 - 11.35 **The challenges for maintaining research integrity in the UK**
James Parry, Chief Executive, UK Research Integrity Office
- 11.35 - 12.25 **Strategies for supporting research integrity within institutions**
What further steps can universities take to support both internal and external peer review processes for research outputs and are additional steps needed to make university ethics boards more effective? To what extent is current training provision for PhD students and early career researchers sufficient to support research integrity and what can be learnt from best practice in this area? What more can universities do to ensure effective research governance within their institutions, including systems for reporting breaches of good practice? How can the sector create a greater culture of openness about research practice both within and outside of institutions? In light of an increasingly competitive funding environment how can universities address concerns from some in the sector about the integrity of corporate sponsored research?
Dr Simon Kerridge, Director of Research Services, University of Kent and Chair, ARMA
Dr Tony Peatfield, Director of Corporate Affairs, Medical Research Council
Dr Rebecca Lumsden, Head of Science Policy, ABPI
Dr IJsbrand Jan Aalbersberg, Senior Vice President, Research Integrity, Elsevier
Questions and comments from the floor with **James Parry**, Chief Executive, UK Research Integrity Office
- 12.25 - 12.55 **Implementing the Concordat to support research integrity**
Dr Steven Hill, Head of Research Policy, HEFCE
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Lord Fox, Director of Group Communications, GKN and Member, House of Lords Science and Technology Committee
Amy Cutter, Producer, Westminster Higher Education Forum