Developing an impact mindset for research and scholarship

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Blogpost: https://www.shaileyminoche.info/blog/2024/1/26/developing-impact-mindset-for-research-and-scholarship
Examples of impact

(eSTEeM case study): A flexible start to a module
(REF 2021) Cardiff University: Adopting Together Service in Wales
(REF 2021) Birmingham University: Sensing product to transform winter road maintenance decision-making
(C&C): Transforming pain management via PainPad

REF2021: https://archive.ref.ac.uk
Why do we work towards impact?

requirement at the time of bidding
accountability to funders and to the institution
career progression
to strengthen the body of knowledge
to make a difference: e.g., social good
influence policy
The impact of a SoTL inquiry implies demonstrable benefits to learning and teaching that are directly attributable to that project.

**SoTL**: Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
Impact Evaluation Framework (IEF) 2019

SoTL in STEM, Badged Open Course (BOC) on OpenLearn 2020-2021

Impact Evaluation of 16 eSTEeM projects 2022-2023

Impact of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning


Impact of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

Research impact is defined as demonstrable and/or perceptible benefits to individuals, groups, organisations and society (including human and non-human entities in the present and future) that are causally linked (necessarily or sufficiently) to research.

Key aspects of an impact mindset

- Value-driven intent and action
- Purpose-driven thinking
- Stakeholder engagement
- Collaboration and interdisciplinarity
- Planning for and evaluating impact
- Communication and outreach
- Continuous learning and adaptability
1. Value-driven intent and action

The intention-action-impact model is adapted from the book, Quiet Leadership, Julian Stodd, https://seasaltlearning.com/quiet-leadership/
Values of a SoTL practitioner for impactful SoTL

Inquisitive
Open-minded
Ethical
Strategic
Empathetic
Generous

Value-driven intent and action

Self-compassion
- Bring about more good than harm

Honesty
- Accountability

Integrity and Ethics
- Promote the interests of humans who participate in research before the interests of science and society.

Fairness
- Collaboration

Care and Collegiality
- Uphold transparency during the research process

REF2021 and REF2029: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

2. Purpose-driven thinking

Mark Reed defines impact as:

‘At its most simple, we can define impact as benefit. It is surprising how much clarity it brings, when you simply ask yourself “What was the benefit?”’

What is impact? [https://www.fasttrackimpact.com/what-is-impact-subpage](https://www.fasttrackimpact.com/what-is-impact-subpage)
REF2021 defines impact as

‘effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia’

What is REF impact? https://archive.ref.ac.uk/guidance-on-results/impact-case-study-database-faqs
ESRC’s categories of impact

academic impact
economic and societal impact
instrumental impact
conceptual impact
capacity building

From Mark Reed's presentation: What types of impact are there?
https://www.fasttrackimpact.com/what-types-of-impact-are-there-subp

- Understanding and awareness
- Capacity or preparedness
- Attitudinal
- Policy
- Other forms of decision-making and behaviour change impacts
- Economic
- Environmental
- Other social
- Health and Well-being
- Cultural
3. Stakeholder analysis and engagement

- Funders
- Gatekeepers
- Specialist skills
- Specialist IT support
- Participatory role
- Advisory role
- Advocates
- Communications role
- Amplifiers
- Beneficiaries
- Obstructors

Beneficiaries: negative impact

Artificial Intelligence (AI): philosophers, sociologists, data scientists, economists, lawyers, climate change experts, ...

Research on digital health wearables with older people: industry partner, local charities, biomedical scientist, HCI researcher, gerontologist

4. Collaboration and Interdisciplinarity

A STEM panel member reflects on interdisciplinarity, and coping with climate change:

“As a geophysicist, I’ve studied the earth if you like and go look at it, you know, with or without human beings... so the planetary process. .... Climate change is driven by human behaviour. Understanding human behaviour is a humanities and social science thing.”

5. Planning for and Evaluating impact
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theory of Change (ToC) Template</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 situation/problem</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2 context</strong></td>
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<td><strong>3 Aim</strong></td>
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<td><strong>4 stakeholders</strong></td>
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<td><strong>7 resources/inputs</strong></td>
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<td><strong>5-6 time</strong></td>
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<td><em>~ assumptions</em></td>
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<td>~ risks</td>
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<td><strong>5 impact</strong></td>
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**planning**

**intended results**

The various conditions on which the project’s success will rely on.

Risks to activities? Risks to impacts not being achieved, or leading to unintended consequences?

When will you conduct the various activities? When do you expect the impact to be achieved?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inputs</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Outputs</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
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Name: project  
[theme – brief description]
Theory of Change: Question-driven template, Logic Model

- **Question-driven template**: Designed to identify the key information required to develop a theory of change

- **Logic model**: A visual representation of the key information and the links between them

- **Theory of Change (ToC)**: Using the key information (questionnaire) and the visual representation (logic model) identify the key causal pathways for impact

6. Communication and outreach

dissemination - often and widely

blog - individual or a team blog

social media

school, older people in the community

Exhibitions, fairs

government consultations
panels
public debates

participatory research
users of the research on the advisory board

crowdsourcing ideas or feedback
citizen science

REF2029: ‘rigour’ of engagement
7. Continuous learning and adaptability

Humanity-centered design principles (Don Norman), [https://www.interaction-design.org/literature/topics/humanity-centered-design](https://www.interaction-design.org/literature/topics/humanity-centered-design), Interaction Design Foundation.