

CSaP Annual Conference and Reception 2023

Science, evidence and public policy – the role of research in policymaking

6 June 2023

The Royal Society



**Capabilities in Academic
Policy Engagement**

Programme

09:30 ARRIVAL & REGISTRATION

10:00 WELCOME: [Dr Robert Doubleday](#), CSaP Executive Director

10:15 SESSION 1 (Wellcome Trust Lecture Theatre): Revitalising UK productivity: The power of investment – chaired by [Dame Kate Barker](#), UK Government Adviser, Governing Council, The Productivity Institute

In this session Professor Jagjit Chadha, Director of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) and Philip Duffy, Director-General for Growth and Productivity, HM Treasury will discuss how underinvestment has contributed to the UK's productivity problem and how investment may provide a way forward.

- [Professor Jagjit Chadha](#), Director, National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR)
- [Philip Duffy](#), DG for Growth and Productivity, HM Treasury

11:15 BREAK

11:45 SESSION 2: Parallel seminars x 3

Seminar 1 (Kohn Centre): Innovation policy for societal challenges: Discussion led by [Dr Eoin O'Sullivan](#), Director, Centre for Science, Technology & Innovation Policy (CSTI), Institute for Manufacturing, University of Cambridge

This session will begin with a discussion on how societal challenges feature in the UKRI/BA 2022/23-27 Strategies. There will also be a discussion on the importance of working with other countries to tackle global challenges.

- [Dr Molly Morgan Jones](#), Director of Policy, the British Academy
- [Dan Shah](#), Director of Investment Strategy and System Insight, UKRI

Seminar 2 (Wolfson room 1): What makes a good policy question?: Discussion led by [Professor Magda Osman](#), Head of Research and Analysis, Centre for Science and Policy

Understanding what makes a good policy question depends on three elements: Context, Function, Audience. To inform the discussion, findings from research conducted by CSaP on quality question crafting is used as a springboard to explore ways of maximising opportunities for better engagement with research to help support policy.

- [Vanna Aldin](#), Deputy Director and Lead Analyst, Business Strategy, DWP
- [Dr Carrie Heitmeyer](#), Head of Social Science, Government Office for Science
- [Alex Tasker](#), ESRC Policy Fellow, Cabinet Office

Seminar 3 (Wolfson room 2): Toolkits for Academic Policy Engagement: resources from CAPE – chaired by [Dr Amy Beckett](#), Interim Programmes and Impact Manager, Capabilities in Academic Policy Engagement (CAPE)

The Capabilities in Academic Policy Engagement (CAPE) project has brought universities and policy partners together to generate some toolkits to help policy professionals engage with evidence and expertise. At this session, toolkits on Engaging with Evidence (for policy professionals), Co-production in Academic-Policy Engagement and Hosting Policy Fellows will be presented and discussed.

- [Nicola Buckley](#), Associate Director, CSaP, and Parliamentary Academic Fellow, POST
- [Dr Ine Steenmans](#), Associate Professor in Futures, Analysis and Policy, UCL
- [Dr Olivia Stevenson](#), Deputy Director, Public Policy, UCL

13:00 LUNCH

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

14:00 SESSION 3 (Wellcome Trust Lecture Theatre): Learning lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic

In this session, Richard Gleave (UK Health Security Agency) and Professor Sharon Peacock (Department of Medicine, University of Cambridge) will discuss the wider implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, reflecting on the evolving role of scientific advice in times of public crises.

- [Richard Gleave](#), Director of Science Strategy and Development, UK Health Security Agency
- [Professor Sharon Peacock](#), Professor of Public Health and Microbiology, Department of Medicine, University of Cambridge

15:00 BREAK

15:15 SESSION 4: Parallel seminars x 3

Seminar 1 (Kohn Centre): Ground transport decarbonisation – chaired by [Emily Farnworth](#), Director, Centre for Climate Engagement, Hughes Hall, University of Cambridge

This panel will discuss the UK's strategy for decarbonising ground transportation on its path to net zero. Each panellist will delve into the challenges and opportunities they foresee for their respective sectors, with a focus on infrastructural needs and impacts on various stakeholders. Finally, as transport is not an isolated sector, the panel will explore how this strategy interacts with fast-developing technologies within the sector.

- [Richard Bruce](#), Director of Transport Decarbonisation, Department for Transport
- [Professor David Cebon](#), Professor of Mechanical Engineering, University of Cambridge
- [Dr Jane Dennett-Thorpe](#), Deputy Director Net Zero Transition, Ofgem

Seminar 2 (Wolfson room 1): Making Britain well: closing the chasm between evidence and policy in behaviour change for health – chaired by [Halima Khan](#), Affiliated Researcher, Bennett Institute for Public Policy, University of Cambridge

This session will focus on closing the gap between scientific evidence and policy making in public health. Speakers will explore how to ‘make Britain well again’ and discuss food safety and the role of taxes and prices in changing behaviours in public health.

- [Professor Dame Theresa Marteau](#), Director of the Behaviour and Health Research Unit (BHRU), Department of Public Health and Primary Care, University of Cambridge
- [Dr Tim Leunig](#), Senior Policy Adviser to the Secretary of State, DHSC; and Senior Visiting Researcher, London School of Economics
- [Darren Bhattachary](#), CEO, Basis Social

Seminar 3 (Wolfson room 2): Capabilities in Academic Policy Engagement – regional engagement structures and opportunities – chaired by [Dr Sarah Chaytor](#), Director of Strategy and Policy, UCL

This session will focus on processes for academic engagement with Combined Authorities and other regional structures, sharing learning from the CAPE project in several regions and local authorities in England.

- [Dr Louise Kempton](#), Director, Insights North East (INE)
- [Dr Peter O’Brien](#), Executive Director, Yorkshire Universities

16:30 BREAK

17:00 SESSION 5 (Wellcome Trust Lecture Theatre): Climate & resilience – chaired by [Professor Emily So](#), Director, Cambridge University Centre for Risk in the Built Environment

This session will focus on three areas: mitigation vs adaptation; places and people; and engagement, politics, and behaviour.

- [Chris Stark](#), Chief Executive, Climate Change Committee
- [Rebecca Willis](#), Professor in Energy and Climate Governance, Lancaster University

17:50 Closing remarks

18:00 DRINKS RECEPTION