

**Q&A Record from *Strategic Engagement Masterclass Session 1*
3 February 2023, 9:00 - 10:00**

Chair: Professor Tim Vorley (Convenor [Innovation Caucus](#))

**Speakers: Mel Knetsch (Deputy Director of Impact and Innovation, [UKRI](#))
Nick Bassett (Associate Director for Innovation, [BBSRC](#))**

Links Shared in the Discussion:

- If you are interested to find out more about the Innovation Caucus see:
<https://innovationcaucus.co.uk/>
- [How to Engage Policy Makers with your Research](#) book chapter by Mel Knetsch and Lauren Tuckerman: <https://www.elgaronline.com/display/book/9781800378964/book-part-9781800378964-15.xml>
- Syahirah Abdul Rahman: Here is the link to ***Bioscience: Lost In Translation***, our collaboration with the BBSRC:
<https://innovationcaucus.co.uk/app/uploads/2022/10/LIT-SUMMARYV5-1.pdf>
- Melanie Knetsch - ESRC UKRI: SDP = Strategic Delivery Plans - each UKRI council has one linked to the UKRI strategy
- University Policy Engagement Network - <https://www.upen.ac.uk/>
- Enterprise Research Centre (Dr Vicki Belt: You can find out more about what we do here. We are always interested in connecting with people doing research on SMEs/innovation/productivity, and we hold regular events with policymakers. We also offer publication opportunities via our blogs and state of the art reviews. Take a look at our website here -- <https://www.enterpriseresearch.ac.uk/>
- ESRC UKRI: ***Impact toolkit*** gives some introductions to thinking around commercialisation, knowledge exchange and impact:
<https://www.ukri.org/councils/esrc/impact-toolkit-for-economic-and-social-sciences/>
- Nigel Gilbert: A really good way of making connections is through fellowship schemes, where you or someone from business or government spend time in the 'other' organisation.
- ESRC UKRI: There are opportunities within universities, but also places such as the NCCPE have training sessions and online support:
<https://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/>

Questions:

1. Linda McKie: The word "value" can have a range of meanings in social sciences. In approaching innovation could you define this in more depth please?

Answer:

- The growth of academia is obviously really valuable and incredibly important. I use the word value when I talk about impact. When I talk about innovation, I'm talking about breaking out of that sphere and it being used in some way, potentially, to inform some kind of social enterprise or potentially to inform some kind of policy, or commercial opportunity. That's not disregarding the importance of academic know how and the growth of that - the funder's focus is around creating value outside of that.
 - It's about how we articulate what the value of social science is. Helping to shape and reframe questions and challenge the thinking that people have. And that's where, as a funder, we're trying to bring in the value base. Social sciences across many disciplines bring insights to challenges faced by business - that is the value that they bring.
2. Vicki Belt: Where would an ECR find training opportunities - particularly in communicating research effectively?

Answer:

- (Bruce Etherington - ESRC UKRI) In terms of training, many ESRC Impact Acceleration Accounts offer training on a regional basis and not just for their own institution (this can be promoted via any Doctoral Training Partnerships they might be involved in). Also, there are networks such as **Aspect** (<https://aspect.ac.uk/>) which provide resources and training.
- (Melanie Knetsch - ESRC UKRI) Also, introduction to media training is a great way to help to distil messages down