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A monthly look at what's new and noteworthy in social science policy

November 18, 2021

- ❑ This Month's HEADLINES

- ❑ This Month's DEEP DIVE: Funding Opportunities from the William T. Grant Foundation

- ❑ This Month's HOMEWORK

This Month's Headlines



CONGRESS

- Infrastructure Bill Complete; Funding Bills Remain
 - More: cossa.org/tag/fy-2022
- ARPA-H Authorization Bills Introduced
 - More: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5585/text>
- David Price, Longtime Social Science Champion, Announces Retirement
 - More: <https://price.house.gov/newsroom/press-releases/congressman-price-announces-he-will-not-seek-re-election>

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- Evidence Advisory Committee Recommends Establishment of a National Data Service
 - More: <https://www.bea.gov/evidence>
- Robert Santos Confirmed as Census Director
 - More: <https://cossa.org/2021/11/09/robert-santos-confirmed-as-census-director/>



EXECUTIVE BRANCH (cont.)

- White House Releases 2021 Data Strategy Action Plan
 - More: <https://strategy.data.gov/2021/action-plan/>
- PCAST Holds Meeting on Climate, Energy, and the Environment
 - More: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/pcast/meetings/>

COMMUNITY

- National Academies Convenes First Meeting of Strategic Council for Research Excellence, Integrity, and Trust
 - More: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/10-25-2021/the-strategic-council-for-research-excellence-integrity-and-trust-meeting-1>
- New Academies Panel on Assessing the Impact of Federal Policies on Health Equity Seeking Nominations
 - More: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/review-of-federal-policies-that-contribute-to-racial-and-ethnic-health-inequities>

COSSA

- “Why Social Science” Matters for AI Research
 - More: www.whysocialscience.com



WASHINGTON UPDATE

Subscribe for more news: www.cossa.org/washington-update

Deep Dive Discussion

Funding Opportunities from the William T. Grant Foundation



Dr. Lauren H. Supplee
Senior Program Officer
William T. Grant Foundation





Turning the lens on ourselves: Researching how to make science more useful and used in policy and practice

Lauren H. Supplee
Senior Program Officer
November 18, 2021

to inform policy and practice
Supporting Research ^
to Improve the Lives of Young People



The N

Can New G Path Around

Congress quashed f
years ago. But an ex
scientist and the “pc
money back.



Administration

Priorities

CO

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

EVIDENCE AND EVALUATION

The Administration is committed to building and using evidence to improve policy, program, budget, operational, and management decision-making. Our vision for effective and efficient government includes ensuring accountability for results, having the necessary analytical tools to measure outcomes and impacts, identifying and investing in effective practices, and transforming data into evidence that informs action. With stronger evidence, we can learn from and improve programs to better serve the American people.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRI
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

July 10, 2019

M-19-23

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: Russell T. Vought
Acting Director

SUBJECT: Phase 1 Implementation of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018: Learning Agendas, Personnel, and Planning Guidance

RON HASKINS AND GREG MARGOLIS

NATIONAL



The answer is 17 years, what is the question: understanding time lags in translational research

Zoë Slote Morris¹ • Steven Wooding² • Jonathan Grant²

¹Institute of Public Health, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB2 0SR, UK

²RAND Europe, Cambridge CB4 1YG, UK

Correspondence to: Jonathan Grant. Email: jgrant@rand.org

DECLARATIONS

Competing interests

None declared

Funding

This is an independent paper funded by the Policy Research Programme in the Department of Health. The views expressed are not necessarily those of

Summary

This study aimed to review the literature describing and quantifying time lags in the health research translation process. Papers were included in the review if they quantified time lags in the development of health interventions. The study identified 23 papers. Few were comparable as different studies use different measures, of different things, at different time points. We concluded that the current state of knowledge of time lags is of limited use to those responsible for R&D and knowledge transfer who face difficulties in knowing what they should or can do to reduce time lags. This effectively 'blindfolds' investment decisions and risks wasting effort. The study concludes that understanding lags first requires agreeing models, definitions and measures, which can be applied in practice. A second task would be to develop a process by which to gather these data.

Bridging the gap between research and practice: a continuing challenge

S Mallonee, C Fowler, G R I

More commitment to deal with the gap between research and practice

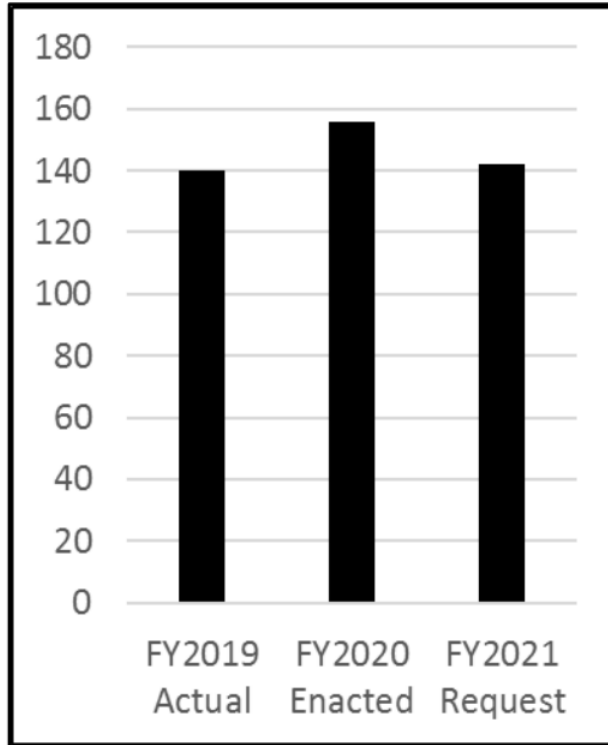
Why don't we do more research in translational research?

By [Paul MacLellan](#) | 9 August 2016



Federal Research and Development Funding, FY2019-FY2021

In billions of dollars



Source: CRS analysis of data from OMB, *Analytical Perspectives, Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2021, Research and Development*, February 10, 2020.

Recent Federal and Foundation Grant Outlays for Child Welfare Research (in Millions)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Foundation	12.0	11.89	10.1	9.8	7.35
Federal	167	179	198	202	230
Total	179	190.89	208.1	211.8	237.35

casey family programs | casey.org

Source: Simon, J., Hong, J., Pecora, P.J., Cloepfil, G., Gillespie, T., Parker, E., Klein, R., Garcia, T., & Hardy, M. (2020). *Federal government and philanthropic funding for child welfare research: A national scan of recent investments*. Seattle, WA: Casey Family Programs, Research Services.

TREND ARTICLE

Why We Must Rebuild Trust in Science

A scientific endeavor that is not trusted by the public cannot adequately contribute to society

February 9, 2021 By: [Sudip Parikh](#) Read time: 6 min



REBUILD TRUST IN SCIENCE



 Pew Research Center

Trust in Medical Scientists Has Grown in U.S., but Mainly Among Democrats

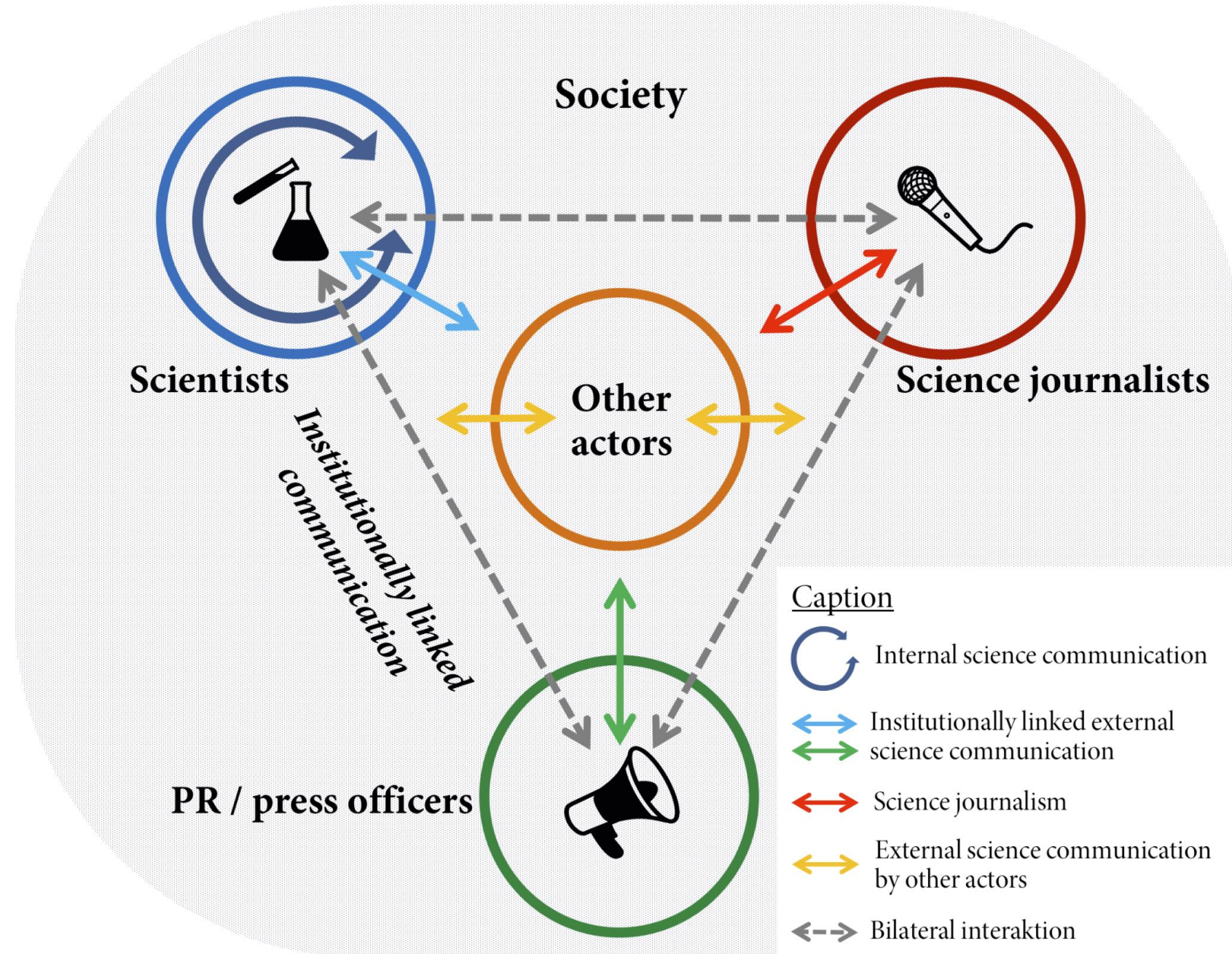
About six-in-ten believe social distancing measures are helping a lot to slow the spread of coronavirus in the nation

BY [CARY FUNK](#), [BRIAN KENNEDY](#) AND [COURTNEY JOHNSON](#)






Communicating SCIENCE Effectively

A Research Agenda



Caption

-  Internal science communication
-  Institutionally linked external science communication
-  Science journalism
-  External science communication by other actors
-  Bilateral interaction



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE



SCHOLARS
STRATEGY NETWORK

We are scientists....

We can study this question!

Improving the Use of Research Evidence:

What have we learned?



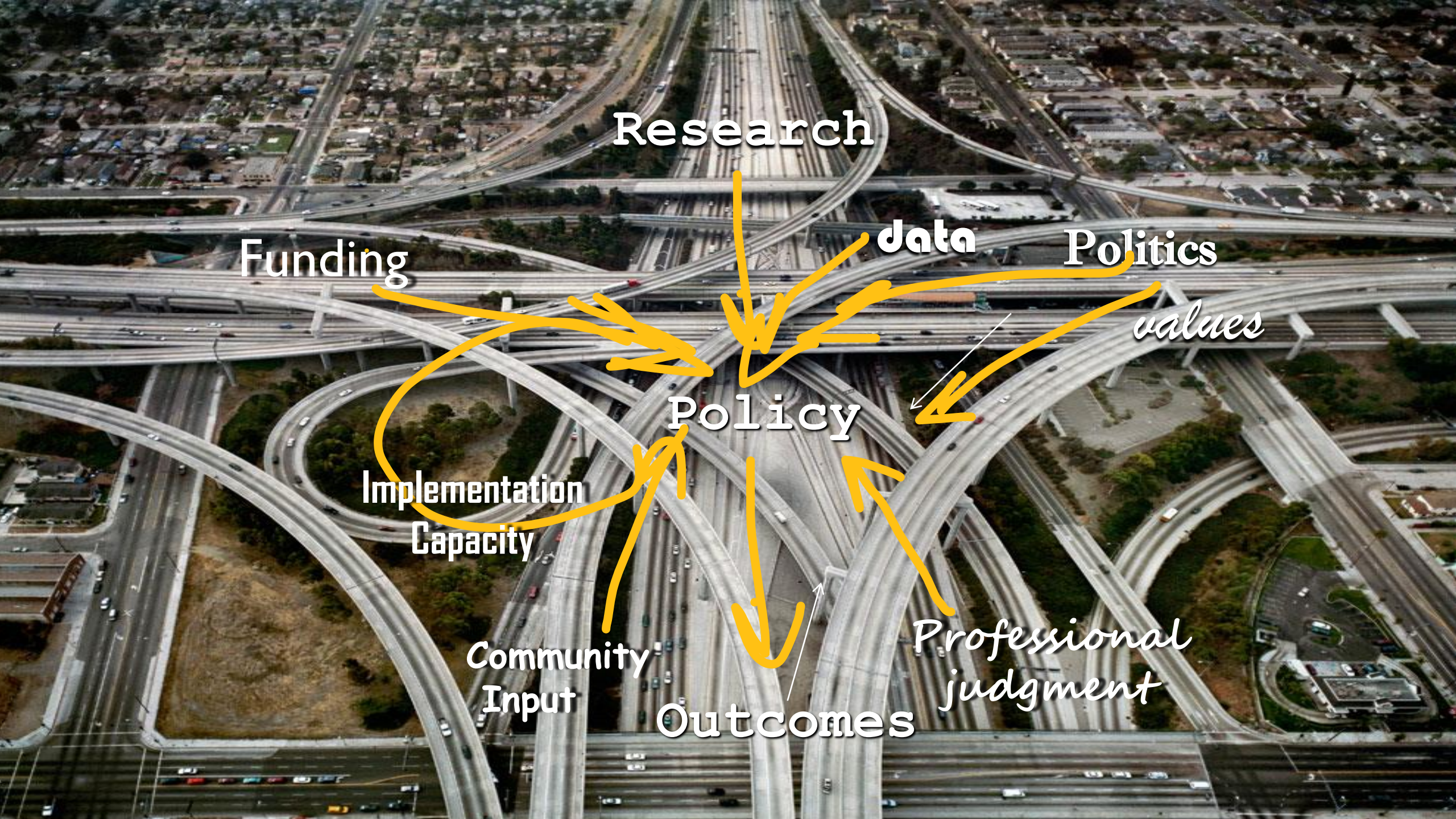


Improve
Outcomes

Communicate
Important Findings

Generate
Important Findings

Research



Research

Funding

data

Politics

values

Policy

Implementation
Capacity

Professional
judgment

Community
Input

Outcomes

Early findings

- Theory
 - Explanatory frameworks
 - Testable propositions

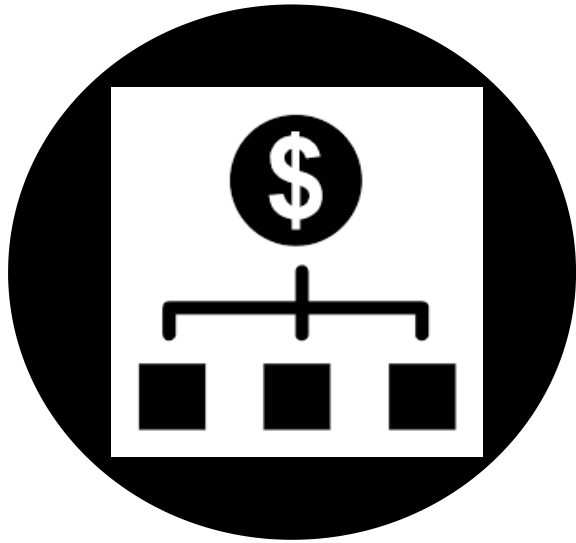
What have we learned about when research is used?

- Responsive
- Routinized
- Relational

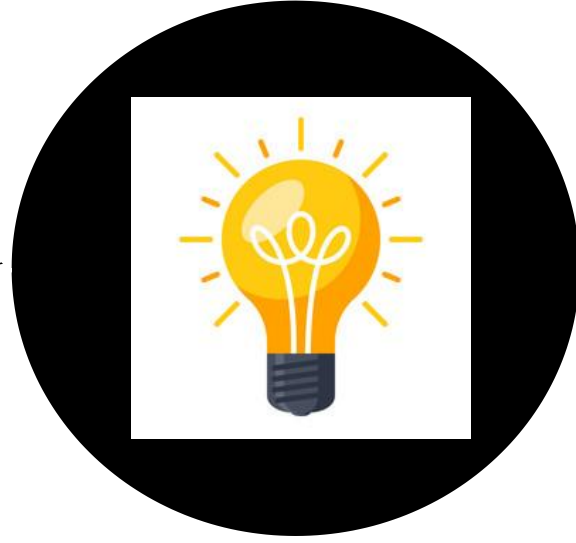


What does it mean to
use research evidence?

Instrumental Uses



Conceptual Uses



Imposed Use



Relational Uses



Can we create the conditions to increase research use?



BROOKINGS

BROWN CENTER CHALKBOARD

ESSA, evidence, and the role of intermediary organizations

Michele McLaughlin · Monday, June 27, 2016



Research-to-Policy
— Collaboration —

William T. Grant
FOUNDATION

Research-Practice Partnerships in Education: The State of the Field

Caitlin C. Farrell
William R. Penuel
University of Colorado Boulder

Cynthia E. Coburn
Northwestern University

Julia Daniel
Louisa Steup
University of Colorado Boulder

Sustainability Science (2018) 13:1175–1183
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11625-018-0550-9>



NOTE AND COMMENT



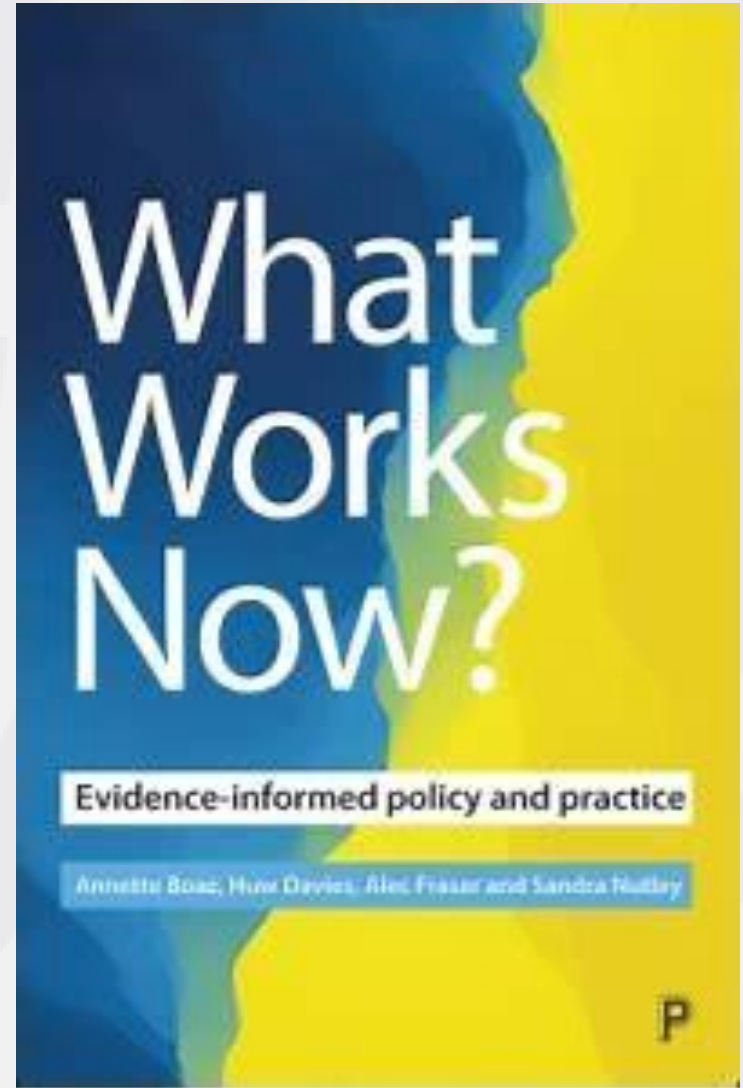
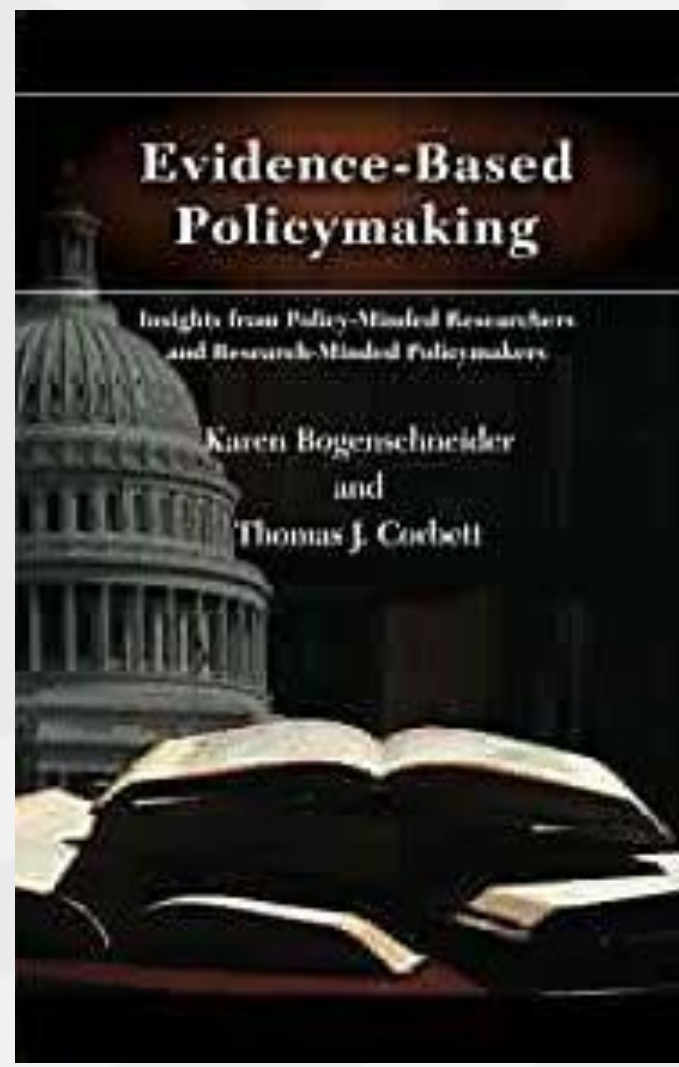
Boundary spanning at the science–policy interface: the practitioners’ perspectives

A. T. Bednarek¹ · C. Wyborn^{2,3} · C. Cvitanovic⁴ · R. Meyer⁵ · R. M. Colvin⁶ · P. F. E. Addison⁷ · S. L. Close¹ · K. Curran¹ · M. Farooque⁸ · E. Goldman⁹ · D. Hart¹⁰ · H. Mannix⁹ · B. McGreavy¹¹ · A. Parris¹² · S. Posner^{9,13} · C. Robinson¹⁴ · M. Ryan^{2,15} · P. Leith¹⁶

Received: 14 November 2017 / Accepted: 8 March 2018 / Published online: 27 March 2018
© The Author(s) 2018

Evidence, Politics, and Education Policy

Lorraine M. McDonnell
M. Stephen Weatherford



What are we doing now?



Improving the Use of Research Evidence

- 1) Strategies to foster more routine and constructive use of research
- 2) Strategies to improve production of useful research
- 3) Whether and under what conditions using research improves outcomes

Types of Studies

- Descriptive studies that clarify the mechanisms for improving research use.
- Intervention studies that examine attempts to improve research use.
- Measurement studies of the use of research evidence that will enhance the work of researchers or decision makers.

Examples of Recent Grants

- ④ Measuring the Effectiveness of Research-Practice Partnerships in Education
- ④ Caitlin Farrell, University of Colorado, Boulder
 - ④ Study is developing measures & protocols to assess when and how research-practice partnerships are effective and can improve the use of research evidence in policy and practice building from the constructs in Henrick et al (2017) framework related to effective partnering
 - ④ Measure will also allow future research to identify & test mechanisms and conditions under which RPPs improve research use to improve student outcomes

Examples of Recent Grants

- ④ A Southern California Regional RPP Network for the Comparative Study of Research Use in Anti-Racist Partnerships
- ④ June Ahn, University of California, Irvine
 - How do different types of partnerships foster research use in anti-racist work? How do intentional dialogue and relationship processes in partnerships facilitate improvements in anti-racist outcomes?
 - Comparative case study to develop deeper theory on using research towards racial justice

Examples of Recent Grants

- ④ The Inception and Impact of Researcher-Policymaker Relationships
- ④ Adam Levine, Johns Hopkins University
 - This project investigates when policymakers wish to connect with researchers, as well as what impact their relationships can have on policymakers' use of research evidence.
 - Using two randomized field experiments the team will be testing light touch methods of conducting outreach to a relatively-understudied population: county legislators.

New Layers

❖ Critical race lens

- *Panel: Critical Race Perspectives on URE*
- *Centering the Margins: Redefining useful Research Evidence*
- *Identifying & Testing Strategies to Improve the Use of Antiracist Research Evidence*

www.uremethods.org

THE USE OF RESEARCH EVIDENCE

A Methods Repository

HOME

BUILD AND ADD YOUR PROTOCOL

RESOURCES

ABOUT US

FAQ

Welcome

The *Use of Research Evidence (URE) Repository of Methods* is an open resource for the URE community to share and learn about research methods used to understand and improve the use of evidence in policy and practice. It strives to be a site of collaboration where researchers can share and build upon the work of others in the community, and is being developed at the Rutgers University Graduate School of Education, generously supported by the William T. Grant Foundation.

This companion site serves as a comprehensive guide and a resource hub for URE researchers interested in participating in this collaborative initiative. We welcome you to explore it as well as the actual repository itself, which is housed in the URE Collection on the Open Science Framework (OSF). You can also search and preview its most recent entries at the bottom of this page.



Build Your Own
Protocol



Explore the
Repository

New Layers

❖ Robust methods and measures

- *Studying the Use of Research Evidence: A Review of Methods*
- *Uremethods.org Methods repository*

Critical Race Perspectives and URE

CRITICAL RACE PERSPECTIVES ON THE USE OF RESEARCH EVIDENCE

Panel Discussion: Power, Possibility, and Equity in Research Practice Partnerships

This June 2021 panel discussion highlighted two RPPs, one in the Boys and Girls Club of San Francisco and one in Seattle Public Schools, that center equity in the design and implementation of the partnership. Panelists discussed strategies to develop equitable partnerships including the necessary relational conditions, reconfiguration of power and hierarchy, the role of the community, institutional dynamics, and sustainability. The discussion attended not only to these existing partnerships, but what they suggest about what is possible for creating truly equitable partnerships moving forward.

Centering the Margins: (Re)defining Useful Research Evidence Through Critical Perspectives

FABIENNE DOUCET, 2019

This essay offers an introduction to critical research perspectives, particularly critical race theory, as they apply to the conceptualization and study of the use of research evidence. Doucet outlines three specific strategies for using critical race theory to inform a conceptual framework for studies focused on improving the usefulness of research evidence, wherein useful is considered from the perspective of the communities most affected by policy or practice.

Identifying and Testing Strategies to Improve the Use of Antiracist Research Evidence through Critical Race Lenses

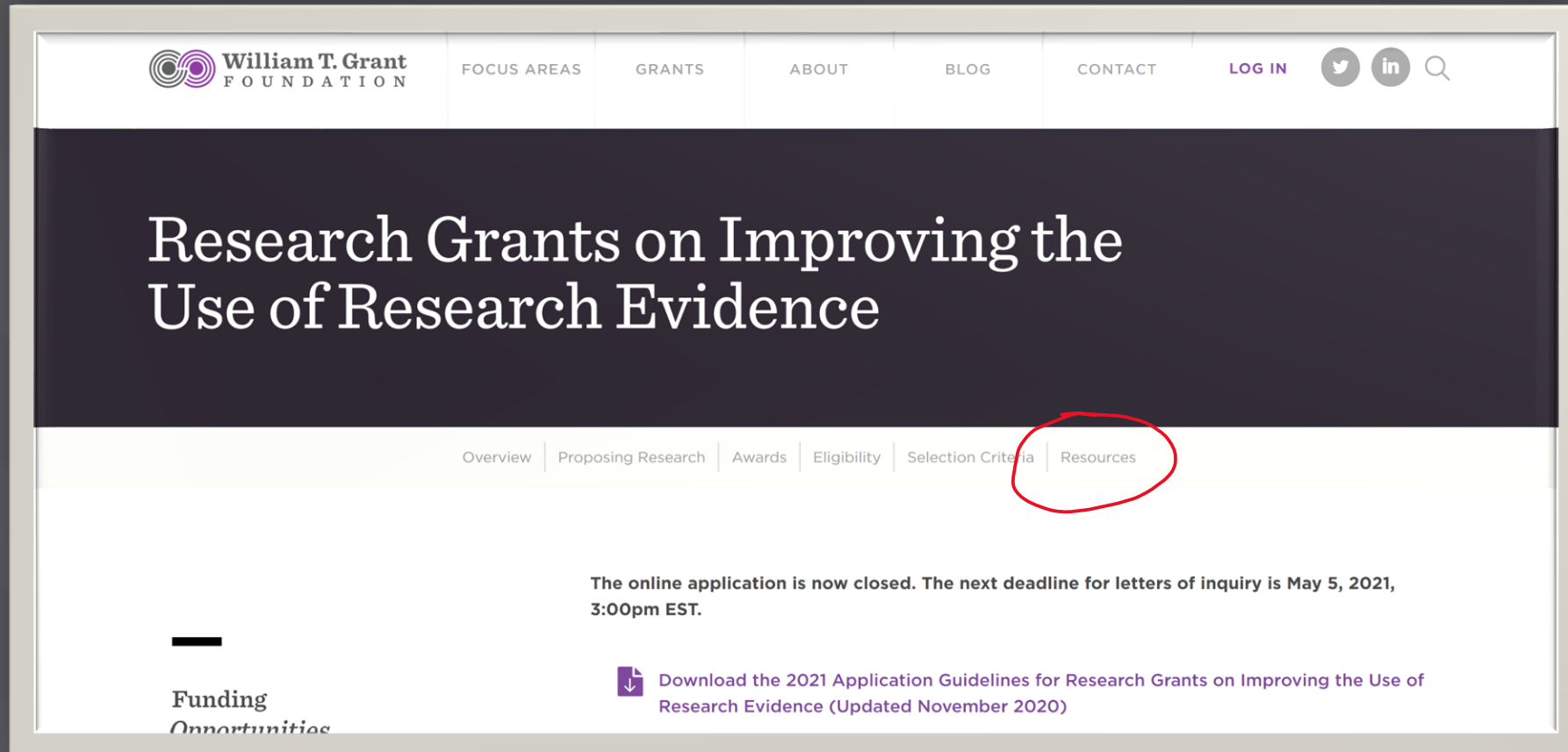
FABIENNE DOUCET, 2021

This essay offers guidance for studying strategies to improve the use of antiracist research evidence in ways that benefit youth of color. Doucet outlines the ways that critical race perspectives can shape all aspects of research on research use, offers insight into how studies to improve the use of antiracist research evidence can be designed, and offers key considerations to improve the usefulness and use of antiracist research.

No Small Matters: Reimagining the Use of Research Evidence from a Racial Justice Perspective

DAVID E. KIRKLAND, 2019

www.wtgrantfoundation.org



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the William T. Grant Foundation website. The navigation menu includes: Overview, Proposing Research, Awards, Eligibility, Selection Criteria, and Resources. The 'Resources' link is circled in red. Below the navigation bar, the main heading reads 'Research Grants on Improving the Use of Research Evidence'. A notice states: 'The online application is now closed. The next deadline for letters of inquiry is May 5, 2021, 3:00pm EST.' Below this notice is a download icon and the text: 'Download the 2021 Application Guidelines for Research Grants on Improving the Use of Research Evidence (Updated November 2020)'. On the left side, the text 'Funding Opportunities' is partially visible.

Questions?

Homework Assignment



- Action Alert Coming Soon!** Tell Congress to finish their work on FY 2022 spending THIS YEAR!
<https://cossa.org/action-center/alerts/>
- Submit nominations for NASEM Review of Federal Policies that Contribute to Racial and Ethnic Health Inequities – **Due tomorrow, Nov. 19!**
<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6596889/Call-for-Nominations-Review-of-Federal-Policies-that-Contribute-to-Racial-and-Ethnic-Health-Inequities>



Recordings of Past Headlines Available @

cossa.org/events

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

December 9, 2021

PAST DEEP DIVE TOPICS:

- October 2021: Basic Behavioral and Social Sciences at the NIH
- September 2021: Updates from the Institute of Education Sciences
- July 2021: Pending NSF Legislation
- June 2021: A National Secure Data Service
- May 2021: Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in STEM
- April 2021: Updates from NSF's SBE Directorate
- March 2021: COVID-19 Relief for Researchers
- February 2021: Biden's First Weeks
- January 2021: COVID-19 Vaccination Communication
- December 2020: 2021 Policy Landscape
- November 2020: 2020 Election



Wendy Naus

Executive Director

Email: wnaus@coffa.org

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