

NNF konference: Socioeconomic impact of research

Tid: 16-17 januar 2019

Sted: Favrholm Campus

Inviterede: Bevillingsmodtagere fra 9 socioøkonomiske projekter, 1 stand-alone-projekt og 1 professorpakke samt interessenter og udvalgte akademiske eksperter

Few key points:

Research-industry interactions (keynote: Ammon Salter and open discussion; parallel session)

- Move towards a balanced research and policy agenda and keep a greater understanding of engagement failure and keep a more critical perspective towards the potential for 'contamination' of the academic through policy pressure and generic policies
- Be critical and do more causal assessment of government policy efforts in this area. Many policy evaluations are made on ex post determined goals. Do not tell 'fairy tales' of policy leading to impact (avoid cherry picking)
- Beyond pharma and biotech: New forms of evidence of engagement and influence –beyond patents and surveys– towards the mapping of influence in social media, documents etc.
- NNF is in a leadership position: extremely important to be critical when working with impact assessment. Always think about the next steps and why we are doing this!

Research funding and risk taking (keynote: Paula Stephan and open discussion)

- We know little about risk taking in science funding institutions, but there some evidence suggests that the features/mechanisms in the peer-review-processes tend to discourage risk taking
 - Novel research has a "high risk/high gain" profile but a bias against novelty in standard bibliometric indicators – bibliometrics is implicitly or explicitly often part of the review process
- Two components of risk can be defined as known risk (i.e. known distribution of positive and negative outcomes but we don't know when the outcomes arrive) and as unknow risk (uncertainty, i.e. unknown distribution of outcomes)
 - The risk composition of the two components may vary across types of instruments but also across actors. Important for understanding how to design an instrument and the selection process to attain desired outcomes
 - Measuring risk? Discussion of the role of risk and institutions, rewards, and new ways of encourage risk taking from a funders point of view were discussed
- Balance a project portfolio featuring high risk allowing for projects that will lead to changes in how we think about science and what will encourage investigators to take more risks
 - High need for RCT's to study the funding selection process
- Remember that attribution of research to societal outcomes is difficult and that failure in research is common and not necessarily the result of false funding decisions

Feedback:

Paula Stephan, Michigan University:

It is always nice to hear that one's talk was well received and I appreciate the positive feedback. For my part, I very much enjoyed the two days, learning more about the Novo Nordisk Foundation as well as meeting researchers and hearing about very interesting work. And what a great location to hold the event.

I look forward to seeing you, Rikke and Thomas again and continued discussions with you and others at Novo Nordisk Foundation.

Ammon Salter, University of Bath:

It was a pleasure to attend the workshop, which was a very high quality event. Your foundation is funding a very important portfolio of research. Keep up the good work.

Jonathan Grant, Kings College:

Excellent meeting so many congratulations to you and the team.

HC Kongsted, CBS:

Thank you again for hosting such a great event last week! I particularly enjoyed the keynotes, extremely knowledgeable and very much to the point of what this program is all about. It was also an excellent idea to have the poster session to let us hear also from the younger people in the projects. And, of course, excellent food and social program!

Jane Greve, VIVE:

Mange tak for nogle spændende dage på Favrholm. Der er ingen tvivl om, at jeres program i høj grad har været med til at booste forskningen inden for området "impact of research in health and diseases", som tidligere har været et underbelyst og underprioriteret forskningsområde i Danmark.

Moira Daly, CBS:

Just want to reiterate what a great meeting it was last week! I hope you both have a chance to get some well-deserved R&R.

Thomas Blomgren-Hansen, UFM:

Tak for et rigtig godt seminar. Vi nød både det faglige niveau og rammerne.

Line Bjørnskov Pedersen, SDU:

Tak for et rigtig godt arrangement!

Jane Bjørn Vede, CBS:

Tak for en fantastisk workshop. Det var rigtig spændende og produktivt.

Torben Tranæs, VIVE:

Tak for en rigtig god konference!

Mickael Bech, AAU:

Mange tak for en velorganiseret konference.

Ulrich Kaiser, CBS:

Jeg vil gerne lige takke jer for den fortraeffelig workshop i Favrholm.

Det var virkelig spændende og jer kunne ogsaa rigtig godt lide Peter Sommer og hans fantastiske guitarriist.

Anders Hoff, DI:

Tak for et super arrangement onsdag og torsdag. Det var en sand fornøjelse at være sammen med jer. Gode diskussioner. Gode oplæg.

Anders Sørensen, CBS:

Tak for en rigtig god konference. Det var spændende og godt.

