

## 2009 International Campbell Collaboration (C2) Colloquium

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### Submitter Information

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### Abstract Information

**Abstract Title:**

Building an evidence dialogue

**Format:**

Paper

**Themes:**

the need for relevant and reliable evidence

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**Abstract:**

It has long been recognised that tying a piece of research evidence to a brick and throwing it through the window of policymakers, practitioners or end point users of services is not the most effective way of getting a message across. On the other hand, creating communities (of citizens/ users/policy makers/practitioners) to identify the right questions to be asked, to identify or create the right studies to answer them, and then to make appropriate use of the findings in initiating, stopping or developing interventions to improve the lives of children and families is hugely time consuming. Moreover in economies dominated by task and result, it can be difficult to find the resources required to carry this out. Making relationships takes time, and time to develop these doesn't look good on a grant application. This presentation, (which could either be part of a symposium, or a paper), will take a discursive, case study approach. Drawing on the Placement Fellows Scheme, jointly funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and a host 'partner organisation' (such as a government department) , this allows social science researchers to spend time in that organisation to undertake policy-relevant research and upgrade the research skills of 'partner organisation' employees and a placement in progress, we will describe the way in which the government department's wish to increase the traction of research (systematic review, cohort study and other designs) and other kinds of evidence, including the lay expertise of children and parents is being approached, and the levers and barriers we are starting to identify. Case studies, as we are well-placed to know, are not at the top of the evidence tree. However, we are also aware of the power of narrative and stories in influencing agendas. As this placement will still have some time to run following the Colloquium, as well as imparting something of what we are learning, we hope to learn from others, including those in low and middle income countries attending the meeting.

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