Abstract Information

Abstract Title:
Better Evidence for a Better World: Thinking Globally, Acting Locally, Responding as Govt. Analyst

Format:
Symposium

Themes:
unknown

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Abstract:
During 2008, Government Analysts in Scotland began to explore ways in which it may be possible to connect Systematic Reviews produced by the Campbell Collaboration to the policy cycle in The Scottish Government; and to identify opportunities to encourage Government Analysts (Economists, Statisticians and Social Researchers) to take a fresh look at the potential utility of the systematic review in evidence informed policy making. This proposed interactive symposium/workshop session will report on the progress of work on these issues within Government and with the Campbell Collaboration to date, and plans for 2009, including:  
- The positive reaction to Scottish Government membership of the User Group  
- Reaction and dialogue on the potential utility of the Campbell Collaboration 'gold-standard' systematic reviews in the policy process in the UK (including the challenges of 'evidence for policy transfer'; and reflections on experiences of producing CC User Abstracts)  
- Discussion of how Governments in the UK and elsewhere may engage with Campbell Collaboration to identify and support topics of immediate and longer term interest to Governments  
- Invite dialogue from Campbell Collaboration scholars on what could be interpreted as 'heretical' discussion of the 'systematic literature review' and the credibility of 'rapid reviews' to produce evidence to inform policy within six month timeframes  
- Possible use of the ESRC Placement Fellowship Scheme in 2009 to invite Campbell Collaboration scholars to work with us in exploring new territory for knowledge exchange focusing on Systematic Reviews in the second half of 2009  
Using this proposed workshop as 'action research' to inform our contribution on Campbell Collaboration engagement and the above issues at a workshop planned at the UK Government Social Research Conference in July 2009 In relation to the Colloquium theme, The Scottish Government's International Development Policy overarching aims are as follows:  
- To enhance Scotland's contribution to the global fight against poverty through activity which is clearly designed to support the achievement of the MDGs and economic growth in developing countries.  
- To demonstrate Scotland's commitment to play its role in addressing the challenges faced by the developing world, recognising Scotland's identity as a responsible nation. The workshop facilitators would therefore welcome the opportunity to feedback to Scottish Government Ministers on CC's aspirations in this area; and to include discussion of knowledge exchange with the developing world (and the role of CC within that) in the proposed workshop.