

ARMS 2024 CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

Theme: Professional Research management as an embedded practice

Title: Genuine Consultation Practices for Research Strategy and Policy Development

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Abstract:

Organisational strategy and policy are meant to be the hymn sheet from which we all sing. But, as research managers developing projects, how do we ensure that our research community identifies with, understands, or even knows about the plans and policies that apply to them? The answer must be genuine and meaningful consultation at the design and development stage.

Drawing on principles from complementary sectors, including public policy, this workshop will help participants to develop an understanding of both the theory and practice of consultation for strategic and policy projects.

In this engaging, interactive workshop the presenters will work alongside participants on real examples in order to:

- Understand motivations for consultation, drawing out how our reasons for consultation will shape our methods.
- Identify key consultation principles, including inclusivity, accessibility and accountability.
- Consider common concerns about consultation.
- Articulate project end-state and the role that consultation will play in shaping it.

Building upon these principles, participants will have the opportunity to develop a draft consultation plan, incorporating stakeholder mapping, timelines and touchpoints and consultation tools and methods. Participants will consider approaches to processing information gathered through consultation, as well as ways to 'close the loop' with stakeholders in order to maintain their trust in the process.