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## WELCOME

Welcome to the first i2S News of 2018. As always, the News features new additions to the resources on the i2S website (<http://i2s.anu.edu.au>), as well as references to the latest blog posts on the Integration and Implementation Insights blog (<http://i2insights.org>).

We've changed how we present relevant conferences in the News. We will no longer feature upcoming conferences. Instead we now have a permanent list of conferences and links to their websites on the i2S website, to which we are still adding, see: <http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/conferences>. We will occasionally feature one-off conferences and conferences of particular interest to readers in the News.

The i2Insights blog has entered year 3, after a very successful second year. You can see the second annual review at <https://i2insights.org/2017/12/19/second-annual-review/>. Highlights include 80 new contributors from 7 new countries since 2016 and a substantial increase in comments with a median of 7 comments per blog post.

We hope 2018 is off to a good start for all of you.

Gabriele Bammer and Peter Deane

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## FEATURED TOOL

### Context: Five questions for considering the political environment

#### Purpose:

- To stimulate thinking about the political and institutional environment, especially:
  - How it affects the persistence of a particular problem
  - Where reform is most likely to come from
  - Implications for the use of research-based evidence.

#### Description:

This thinking tool has 5 questions.

#### *1. Which branch of government holds the key to change?*

This involves understanding how relevant governments work, what checks and balances are in place and where blockages to change are likely to be. In many democracies, for example, checks and balances result from government being divided into three branches: the parliament, the civil (or public) service and the judiciary, which vary in their policy making roles.

#### *2. Where and how does political debate occur?*

This involves understanding the extent to which political debate occurs in the open or behind closed doors and also how much it is influenced by strong vested interests. This affects which actions will most likely be effective in introducing research-based evidence.

#### *3. What role do informal politics play?*

Informal politics is the term used to describe influence exerted by strong personalities or groups, or by patronage. In order to undertake effective action, is important to understand the relationship between informal politics and formal policy making procedures.

#### *4. Is there really capacity to make change happen?*

This involves reviewing factors such as:

- How strong is the hold on power for the governing political party?
- Do those affected by the proposed change vote?
- How effective is the civil service?

#### *5. How do external forces influence change?*

This involves considering, where relevant, the influence of donors, international trading partners and other international dialogues and processes.

- **Reference:**

- This is one of the tools described in Young, J., Shaxson, L., Jones, H., Hearn, S., Datta, A. and Cassidy, C. (2014). *Rapid Outcome Mapping Approach: A Guide to Policy Engagement and Influence*. Overseas Development Institute (ODI), London, UK. URL: <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9011.pdf> (PDF 1MB) and can also be found on the report's interactive website URL: <http://roma.odi.org/index.html>

**Additional tools can be found at:** <http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/tools>

## LATEST i2INSIGHTS BLOG POSTS

The [i2Insights blog](#) has recently published the following posts:

### **Ten steps to make your research more relevant**

by Christian Pohl, Pius Krütli and Michael Stauffacher

<https://i2insights.org/2018/01/23/making-research-more-relevant/>

### **Four questions to guide arts-based knowledge translation**

by Tiina Kukkonen and Amanda Cooper

<https://i2insights.org/2018/01/16/arts-based-knowledge-translation/>

### **What makes research transdisciplinary?**

by Liz Clarke

<http://i2insights.org/2018/01/09/what-is-transdisciplinarity/>

### **To read or not to read...**

by Gabriele Bammer

<https://i2insights.org/2017/12/19/second-annual-review/>

### **Three lessons from statistics for interdisciplinarians and fellow travellers**

by Gabriele Bammer

<https://i2insights.org/2017/12/12/statistics-and-interdisciplinarity/>

## FEATURED JOURNAL AND JOURNAL NEWS

### **Journal of the Operational Research Society**

The *Journal of the Operational Research Society* (JORS) aims "to present papers which cover the theory, practice, history or methodology" of operational research. The journal also publishes accounts of "good, practical case studies". Examples particularly relevant to i2S include:

- "A wide variety of environments - community OR, education, energy, finance, government, health services, manufacturing industries, mining, sports, and transportation
- Technical approaches - decision support systems, expert systems, heuristics, networks, mathematical programming, multicriteria decision methods, problem structuring methods, queues, and simulation."

The *Journal of the Operational Research Society* is the flagship journal of the *Operational Research (OR) Society*.

- Website:
  - <http://www.theorsociety.com/Pages/Publications/JORS.aspx>

### **GAIA column on 'Frameworks for Transdisciplinarity'**

The journal GAIA has recently published:

Bergmann, M. and Jahn, T. (2017). Frameworks for Transdisciplinary Research: Framework #2 - A Model for the Transdisciplinary Research Process. *GAIA*, **26**, 4: 304.

<https://doi.org/10.14512/gaia.26.4.3>

**Additional journals can be found at:** <http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/journals>

## FEATURED PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

### UK Implementation Society

The *UK Implementation Society* (UK-IS) "is an independent membership organisation and a registered charity connecting those working in implementation science, practice and policy for services for people. The *UK Implementation Society* intends to promote, increase and sustain knowledge and understanding of the science of implementation in public benefit services, and to advance practice in applying this knowledge on the ground, especially in the particular contexts of UK services and systems".

The primary objective of the *UK Implementation Society* is "the advancement of the science and practice of implementation for the public benefit, by:

- championing and promoting knowledge about the importance of high quality implementation for improving outcomes from services
- building understanding of effective implementation by collating, developing and disseminating knowledge resources on implementation science, practice and policy
- building capacity and skills by supporting, organising and hosting learning, training and education on implementation
- establishing mechanisms, structures and networks that facilitate connections and share learning between those working in the field
- supporting the development of the evidence base on effective implementation of services to people
- supporting the mobilisation and application of implementation evidence and knowledge in policy and in practice in other appropriate ways."

Resources produced by the *UK Implementation Society* include a news bulletin (*Implementation Knowledge and News*) and a series of *Implementation Resource Digests*.

The *UK Implementation Society*, launched in 2017, grew out of the *UK Implementation Network* (which was launched in 2014).

- **Website:**
  - <https://www.ukimplementation.org.uk/>

**Additional professional associations and networks can be found at:**

[http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/associations\\_networks](http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/associations_networks)

## FEATURED CONFERENCE

### Science of Team Science 2018 Conference

"The Science of Team Science (SciTS) field is building the evidence base for how to conduct, manage, and support effective and efficient team-based research and ultimately enhance the science it produces.

The SciTS conference is the annual international forum dedicated to SciTS, bringing together thought leaders from a broad range of disciplines and fields, including: communications, management, social and behavioral sciences, information technology, systems science, and translational research. It provides investigators, academic administrators, and funders with state-of-the-art knowledge, strategies, and connections. SciTS scholars, scientists engaged in team-based research, institutional leaders who promote collaborative research, policymakers, and federal agency representatives will be in attendance”.

Abstract submission deadline is March 20, 2017.

The conference will be held in Galveston, Texas, United States of America from May 21-24, 2017.

- For further details see:
  - <http://www.scienceofteams.org/>
- Abstract submission details:
  - <http://www.scienceofteams.org/call-for-abstracts>

**Additional conference information can be found at:**

<http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/conferences>

## ABOUT i2S NEWS

The aim of this newsletter is to provide regular (bi-monthly) updates about new resources added to the Integration and Implementation Sciences website (<http://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources>). These resources are useful for researchers interested in Integration and Implementation Sciences (i2S), which underpins the investigation and tackling of complex real world problems, by:

- Synthesizing knowledge from different disciplines and stakeholders,
- Understanding and managing diverse unknowns, and
- Providing integrated research support for policy and practice change.

In general, each issue features tools (concepts and methods), case studies and/or approaches relevant to i2S - either a useful compilation or one or more examples of note. We also provide information about journals, professional associations & networks and conferences where researchers can learn from others, report their findings and interact with like-minded peers. The newsletter also reports on discussions in the LinkedIn group "Global Network for Research Integration and Implementation":

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4888295/> (when these occur) and new entries on the Integration and Implementation Insights blog: <http://I2Insights.org>.

i2S News is archived at: <http://i2s.anu.edu.au/what-i2s/i2s-publications/i2s-news>.

Useful links:

- i2S website: <http://i2s.anu.edu.au>
- i2S on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/i2sTalks>
- LinkedIn group "Global Network for Research Integration and Implementation": <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4888295/>
- i2Insights blog: <http://I2Insights.org>

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the newsletter go to "i2S News" at <http://i2s.anu.edu.au> or contact Peter Deane at [peter.deane@anu.edu.au](mailto:peter.deane@anu.edu.au). To contribute material please contact Peter Deane at [peter.deane@anu.edu.au](mailto:peter.deane@anu.edu.au).