

Faculti Summary

<https://staging.faculti.net/entrepreneurial-thinking-the-politics-and-practice-of-policy-impact/>

This video discusses the challenges and complexities surrounding entrepreneurship research, particularly the relationship between academic studies and policy-making. Steve Johnson, an academic specializing in entrepreneurial studies, argues that the impact of entrepreneurship research on society may be greater than measurable evidence suggests, yet this also opens up the possibility that the research could have had little to no impact. This video highlights the non-linear and messy relationship between academic research and policy, suggesting that this ambiguity can offer a shield against accountability.

The author raises concerns about how academics can engage with policymakers while maintaining independence and criticality, particularly in a climate where funding often requires collaboration with research users. There is a worry about the risk of compromising academic integrity in pursuit of grants, which could lead to diluting critical voices in research.

The changing socio-political landscape of higher education has intensified pressures on academics, leading to concerns about mental health and precarious employment. This video emphasizes the need for pluralism in research methods and acknowledges that while co-production with research users can be beneficial, it also brings challenges that need careful navigation.

Examples are provided through evaluations of initiatives like the ESRC policy fellows, where academics added value by asking critical questions and contributing to broader systemic improvements in government departments. The author argues for more reflection on the implications of co-production and promotes research leadership as a critical area for development, particularly regarding its impact on equality, diversity, inclusion, and mental health within academic settings. Overall, the text calls for a rethinking of how research is conducted and supported, focusing on maintaining academic independence amidst external pressures.