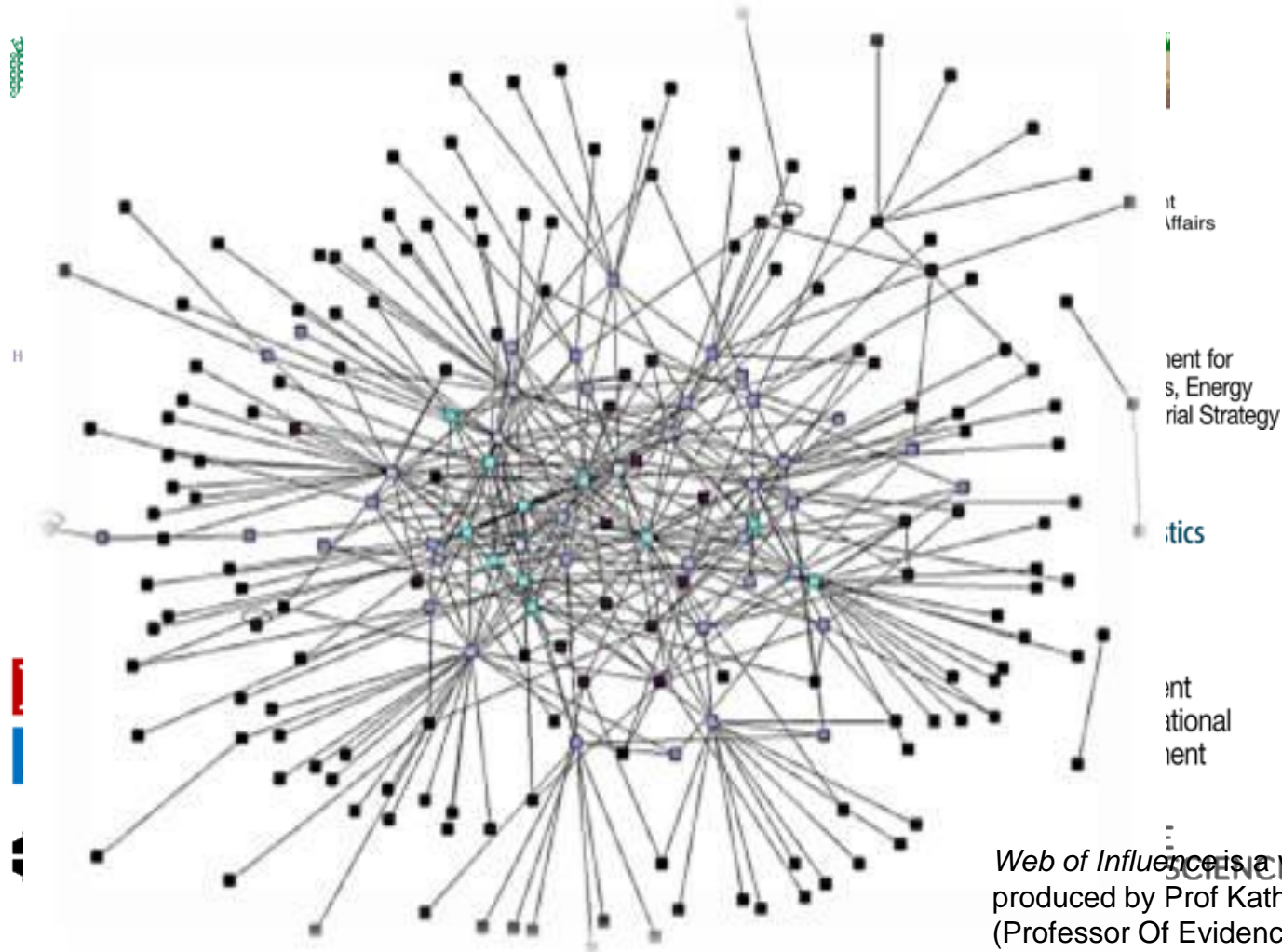


Katherine Welch
Deputy Director Partnerships
UCL Public Policy

Policy
Engagement
for Early
Career
Researchers

UCL
PUBLIC
POLICY

What is Public Policy?



Web of Influence is a visualisation produced by Prof Kathryn Oliver (Professor Of Evidence And Policy, LHSTM) which maps the bodies and relationships involved in developing a single policy.

Why engage in policy?

Better policy

UK Government

“There is an increased recognition by government of the importance of **reliable evidence** to enable the development of effective policy.”

Professor Sir Mark Walport, UKRI Chief executive

More impactful research

Funding incentives

“We must forge strong collaborations, strengthen trust and build understanding, and engage with policymakers to foster strong partnerships and collaborations and ensure our investment can **deliver impact**.”

UKRI Strategic Prospectus

University Missions

“We will spread the word about UCL as a world-class university, both in the UK and internationally. And we will ensure that our **novel insights** and solutions are **shared** with those policymakers and practitioners who can be their champions.”

UCL 2034 Strategy

What's in it for you?

Professional benefit:

- Promote the value and usefulness of your research
- Strengthen the case for research funding
- Showcase yourself, and your institution
- Understand how to make your research more impactful
- Raise the profile of your research
- Build your network and opportunities for career development

Societal benefit:

- Shape further research needs and priorities
- Transfer your knowledge
- Create societal impact
- Shape and change policy

One of the least effective ways to use research for influence is to write a paper and then say 'right, who do I send it to?'

UCL Public Policy Masterclass

How to get started



Build your networks by joining policy relevant groups and networks in your institutions and beyond eg UPEN

Be aware of policy priorities, by keeping up to date with policy developments in your field eg using the ARI database



Be open to, and ready for, opportunities by joining relevant mailing lists eg POST

Broaden your dissemination beyond academic journals seeking opportunities to inform policy eg select committee responses



Dos and Don'ts of Policy Engagement

Do

- Think about your audience and policy context
- Be concise
- Focus on your findings
- Be engaging
- Be open to questions and future engagement
- Be prepared for an iterative process

Don't

- Wait until the end of your project to engage
- Use academic jargon
- Get bogged down in methodology
- Send in academic papers/thesis
- Expect to see immediate impact

Resources

ARI Database

- Searchable database of Areas of Research Interest for Government departments produced by the Chief Scientific Advisors offices.

Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology (POST)

- Produces newsletter with opportunities for engagement including live select committee inquiries

All Party Parliamentary Groups

- Cover a wide range of interests and topics with varying levels of activity but run events and opportunities to engage with MPs

Royal Society Science Policy Forum

- Monthly online meetings often featuring policy makers or knowledge mobilisers discussing their work and opportunities.

University Policy Engagement Network (UPEN)

- UK network for academic policy engagement

UKRI

- Training and Policy Fellowships

Science Policy Exchange Network (SciPEN)

- A network of graduate students and researchers interested in building connections between scientific research and policy

Capabilities in Academic Policy Engagement (CAPE)

- Resources for researchers, knowledge mobilisers and policy makers

UCL Public Policy

- Download the [Public Policy Handbook](#) for more tips