

BALANCED, BROAD, RESPONSIBLE

A practical guide for research evaluators

WHY DO WE NEED TO SHIFT RESEARCH EVALUATION?

Research assessment is a central aspect of research culture.

Focusing only on shorthand or quantitative criteria favors a narrow view of research.

The way we assess research needs to move forward through trial and evaluation of new ideas, just like research itself!

A MORE HOLISTIC SYSTEM WILL IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SCIENCE, AND REQUIRES EXPANDING THE DEFINITION OF RESEARCH OUTPUT, QUALITY, AND IMPACT!

Six practical tips for fostering a more holistic evaluation process

1

Align your decision making to the strategic objectives and specific criteria of the funding institution or funding instrument.

2

Be clear about the context and limitations of any quantitative metrics used and balance them with qualitative parts of the proposal.

3

Look broad instead of narrow to capture the full range of a researcher's contributions, including activities beyond publications and grants.

(e.g. Open Science, teaching and mentoring, service to the research community, societal interaction, and others)

4

Be aware of unintended biases (e.g. Gender, ethnicity, seniority, affiliation, discipline, or others) that arise from scientific and cultural stereotypes.

5

Foster personal and group accountability for responsible research assessment during evaluation.

6

If you are not sure whether you have a conflict of interest or not, ask the funding institution for guidance.

HOW CAN YOU SPREAD THE WORD AND HELP FOSTER A MORE HOLISTIC EVALUATION PROCESS?

The video can be used as a resource in many ways

FUNDERS

- Supporting peer review guidelines and other funding-scheme specific documentation.
- Sharing in communication with evaluators (reviewers and panel members).
- Screening at panel meetings and other group evaluation events.
- Screening at webinars and information sessions for applicants.

INSTITUTIONS

- Supporting institutional checks for research proposals.
- Supporting internal evaluation processes (e.g. recruitment and promotion).

RESEARCHERS

- Preparing grant proposals.
- Peer reviewing work for recruitment, promotion, and grant funding.
- Sharing with your colleagues.



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