

Creative Approaches to Open Social Scholarship

Connecting policymakers and researchers for evidence-based policy.

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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Traditionally, academic work has been judged and rated in terms of the impact on knowledge creation – often within the confines of the academy. But increasingly funding bodies want to know how academic research is creating societal impact. While research impact is typically evident in science and technology where patents and new products and services can be counted; it has proved more challenging in the social sciences and humanities. The situation is further challenged by the emergence of artificial intelligence, where answers and information are automatically generated with no attribution to the original source.

How can scholars create impact in the social science and policy worlds, and how can it be measured?

APO is Australia and New Zealand's largest open access repository of policy and research published by organisations such as governments, universities, research institutes, and community organisations. The accessibility and currency of this material makes it an ideal source of research and information to support evidence-informed policymaking.

This talk focuses on how the Analysis & Policy Observatory (APO) can support academics to create impact – now and into the future – by connecting them with policymakers, practitioners, and a public audience, and to measure this engagement for a better understanding of the impact they create.

How APO creates impact now

APO fosters social sciences research development, community building and engagement through:

- an open online platform.
- building engagement with policy and research via various communications channels and 15,000 newsletter subscribers.
- making research more accessible with curated collections and services to build engagement with an evidence base
- tracking engagement and impact.

Future trends and drivers

APO is 21 years old and it is critical that we continue to evolve to meet changing demands in a rapidly changing digital society. There are three specific trends that inform our future directions.

1. Demand for demonstrating societal impact of research.
2. Demand for evidence-based decision-making.
3. The rise of artificial Intelligence and automated decision-making.

How APO will create impact in the future

APO will build on our strengths to deliver new services that connect researchers with decision-makers to create evidence-informed policy and research impact.