


AHRC and IMPACT




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Research and Impact

- Necessity
 - Opportunities
 - Problems of Language
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What 'Economic' Impact Encompasses

- monetary impacts
 - improvement of public services
 - contribution to public policy
 - 'human capital'
 - contribution to quality of life
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AHRC Definition of Impact

The demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy. Economic impact embraces all the diverse ways in which research related knowledge and skills benefit individuals, organisations and nations by:

AHRC Definition of Impact

- Fostering economic competitiveness
 - Increasing the effectiveness of public services and public policy
 - Enhancing quality of life, health and creative output
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How Arts and Humanities Research Demonstrates Impact

monetary impacts

e.g. creation of new products involving fine artists and designers, such as 'Design against Crime' products, used by pubs and coffee shops (e.g. Starbucks)

How Arts and Humanities Research Demonstrates Impact

improvement of public services

e.g. research feeding into museums, galleries, and other public sector organisations through CDA awards; Shah Abbas exhibition at British Museum; Cambridge philosophers working with BT on 'trust in public life', etc.

How Arts and Humanities Research Demonstrates Impact

contribution to public policy

e.g. House of Commons Select Committee
use of findings from Edinburgh Centre for
Intellectual Property; Home Office use of
research from 'Religion and
Society' programme

How Arts and Humanities Research Demonstrates Impact

‘human capital’


- 535,000 undergraduates and postgraduates studying arts and humanities subjects at any one time
- 145,000 arts and humanities graduates per year
- 75% of AHRC-funded Ph.D.s are in academic posts
- Overseas research students bring in £2 billion per annum to the UK economy

How Arts and Humanities Research Demonstrates Impact


Quality of life

- indirect economic impact
- enhancing intellectual life, divergent thinking and tolerance; building on centuries of heritage, maintenance and growth of UK cultural richness
- Encourages inward investment and tourism

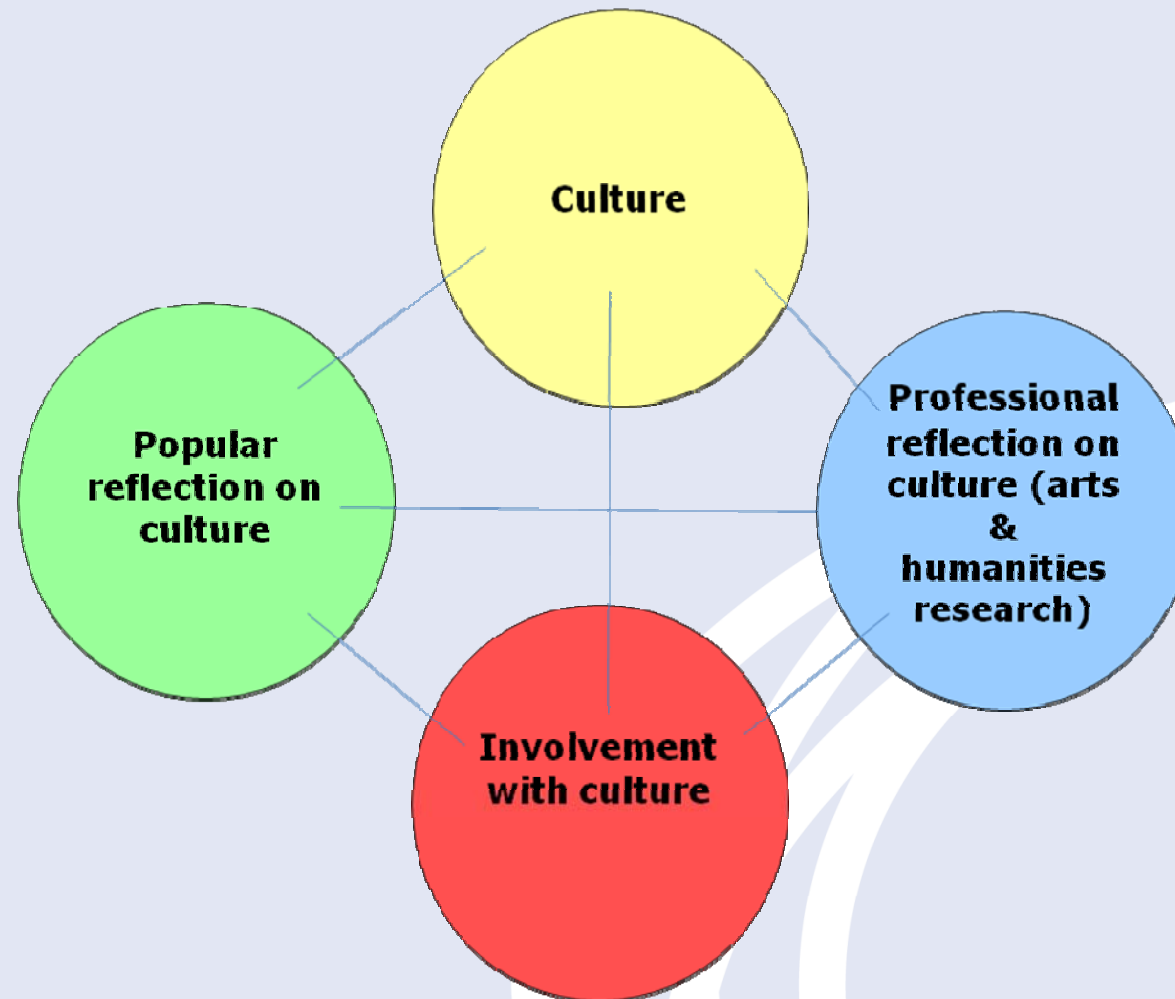
AHRC's Work on Impact

- Impact Task Force report 'Leading the World' launched
 - Innovation report launched and policy briefing developed
 - Launch of British Museum review
 - Impact Workshops
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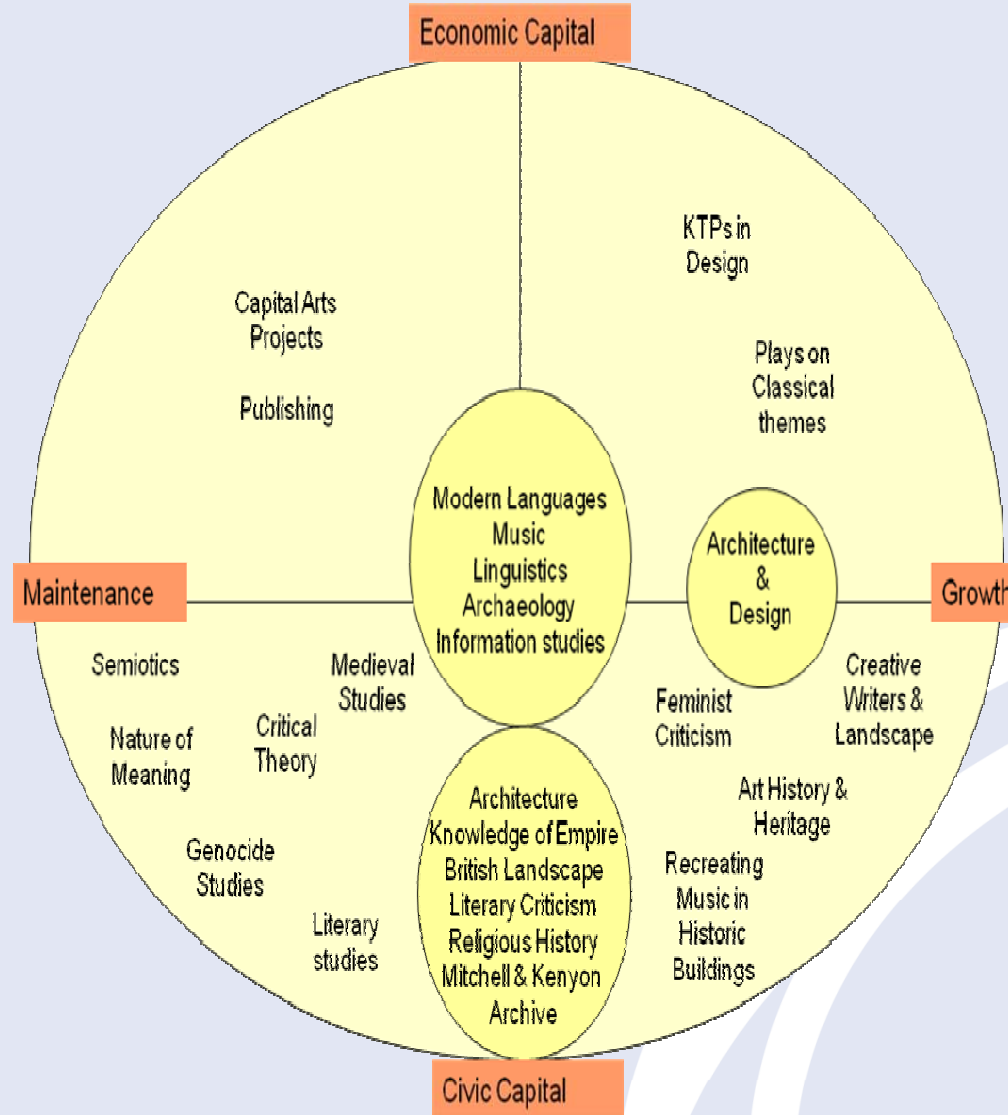
Increasing policy influence

- Developing evidence base of awards with policy influence
 - Raising profile of arts and humanities research with policymakers
 - Brokering connections between researchers and policymakers
 - Developing Policy Fellowships in partnership with ESRC
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'Leading the World': UK's cultural ecosystem



A Model of the Impact of Art & Humanities Research on UK Society & Economy




Ways of Achieving Impact: 'Knowledge Transfer'

The processes by which new knowledge is co-produced through interactions between academic and non-academic individuals and communities.

Recognition that this is often a process of *exchange*


Ways of Achieving Impact: Dissemination

The processes by which knowledge that is generated through academic research is made available to audiences beyond the immediate peer community.

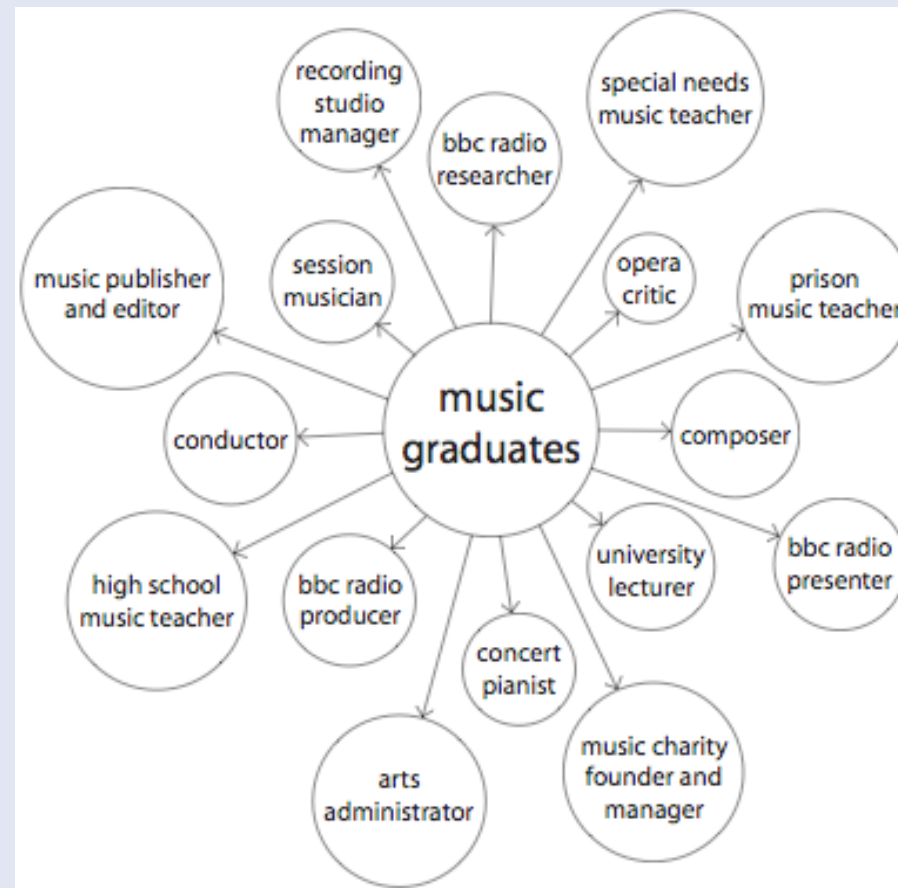


Relationship between these categories

Knowledge Transfer is a mechanism, and dissemination is a process through which economic impact can be achieved



Example of KT, impact and dissemination in arts and humanities



Range of KT partners in the Arts and Humanities

- Commercial
 - Cultural and heritage sectors
 - Performance organisations
 - Broadcasting, film, games and media
 - Public policy
 - Professional practitioners
 - Third sector
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Other examples

David Smith (Glasgow)

Research grant non-territorial cultural autonomy for national minorities in late Austro-Hungarian empire

Impacts

- feeding into public policy on minorities and multiculturalism
- consulted by Romanian and Armenian governments on drafting laws on cultural autonomy

Examples

David Barker (Leeds)

Research grant: practice-led research for exhibition at Killhope Museum, County Durham on history of north Pennines

Impacts: encouraging local community to consider its past/mining heritage; benefiting community cohesion; increasing number of visitors to museum and local area

Examples

Leon Litvack (Queen's Belfast)

Research grant: to produce scholarly edition of *Our Mutual Friend*

Impacts: exhibition at Charles Dickens museum in London; public engagement activities (e.g. interviews of BBC radio and speaker on Thames boat trip)

Examples

Collaboration between Leicester, Bristol and Southampton

Research grant: Neolithic and Early Bronze age ceremonial monuments at Avebury

Impacts: non-academic community archaeologists involved in research, developing skills and social networks; drawing more visitors to Avebury

Examples

Suzanne Romaine

Research grant: extinction crisis in at risk languages

Impacts: working with Conservation International and conservation practitioners; plans for publication aimed at NGOs, human rights professionals and indigenous peoples

Examples

Dirk Obbink

Research grant: Greco-Roman manuscript digitisation

Impacts: use of participants from general public in cataloguing; BBC documentary to be made; Ministries of Culture and Foreign Affairs in Greece funding conferences; team informed discussions in Italian parliament and influencing Herculaneum Villa of Papyri declared World Heritage site

New Section of RCUK Grants Forms

- Impact summaries and statements introduced in all applications as of March 2009
- Training of Peer Reviewers in progress
- FAQ document and Guide for applicants on AHRC website
- Letter sent to 2,000 contacts
- Currently developing supplementary guidance and examples of potential impact for applicants, supported by case studies of good practice

Impact: Beneficiaries and Impact section of grants

- Recognition that impacts cannot always be predicted
- Opportunity to engage with community to grow capacity for non-academic benefits
- Intended to boost the profile of arts and humanities research with other stakeholders and the public
- Not intended to be used as a sanction but to encourage academics to engage with others outside the academic community
- World-class research without non-academic impact not to be disadvantaged