From Data to Policy

National and Transnational Research In Europe

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Lucerne, LUMACCS, 11th of November 2019
The Production Line of a Social Scientist
The Production Line of a Social Scientist

Society

Data

Research question

Policy
The Production Line of a Social Scientist

- Society
- Data
- Research question
  - *Make the data talk*
- Policy
The Production Line of a Social Scientist

- Society
  - Data
  - Research question
  - Make the data talk
    - Computer Science
    - Statistics
    - Theory
  - Fundamental Research
  - Policy
The Production Line of a Social Scientist
Data Culture

- **Data Supply**
  - Data structure
  - Harmonization for cross-country comparisons
  - Huge scope for improvement

- **Data Demand**
  - Asymmetry & Monopoly power
  - *Trade-off*: Democratization vs. Privacy
  - Replicability is at stake

*(Proprietary data sources)*
The Production Line of a Social Scientist

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Research question

Data Context

Make the data talk

Data

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Policy

Fundamental Research
Data Context

- **Modus operandi**
  - Look at the world through data and algorithms.
  - “You have the data, why should you go?”

- **Context matters**
  - To uncover mechanisms,
  - To ‘humanize’ data and
  - Provide good policy recommendations.

- **Example**
  - *Land Tenure Reform in Ethiopia*
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Data Culture

Make the data talk

Research question

Data Literacy

Data Context

Computer Science

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Theory

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Fundamental Research

Data

Society
Data Literacy

- *No silver bullet* for policy recommendation.
- Most policy recommendation are subtle and hard to communicate.
- Scope for misinterpretation and adverse effects.
- Examples:
  - Gender pay gap.
  - Work-in-data.
Like-for-like
Pay gap between women and men, 2016, % of men’s wages*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pay gap for:</th>
<th>Britain</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Germany</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>all jobs</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jobs at the same level</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jobs at the same level and the same company</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jobs at the same level, company and function</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Korn Ferry

*Full-time pay

Economist.com
Conclusions

- Data *Culture* shapes research possibilities.

- Data *Context* is key for the quality of policy recommendations.

- Data *Literacy* is instrumental for a nuanced policy discourse.