The media and evidence – informing the public debate

REPORT ROUND-UP MARCH 6 2013



Content

- Media play an influential role in education policy and public opinion
- Academic research underused in media coverage of education
- A gap between research and the media: divergent time frames, different languages, different values
- 'Medialogic': hypes, frames, focus on incidents and league tables
- The role of the media in achieving more evidence informed policy and practice

Presentations

• The Scandinavian reception of a Campbell systematic review on bullying and the challenge of communicating research findings in the media

• Eamonn Noonan, The Campbell Collaboration, International

• Problems in knowledge mobilisation: how knowledge changes when it moves between contexts

• James Thomas, EPPI-Centre, Institute of Education, University of London, UK

• The Education Media Centre

o Jonathan Sharples, Institute for Effective Education, UK

The media and research: some issues

- It is hard to control the way the media use research
- Cherry picking takes place: only some findings are highlighted
- When research outcomes are leaving the research domain they become part of a public debate
- What is solid evidence? Who is determining that?
- Can systematic reviews play a role in polarized debates?
- Are researchers responsible for the use of their results in the media?
- Do they need to take part in the public debate?
- If so, strategies are needed!

Future directions in policy

System level

- Independent institute to report systematically on the state of art of evidence and on degrees of solidness
- A dedicated media centre: matchmaking and brokering between reseach and science
- A European network of dedicated media centres

Level of organisations

- A media strategy
- Infrastructure: dedicated unit or official
- Capacity building
- A round table (consisting of various professions) at the point where evidence leaves the academic domain

Future directions in practice

- User friendly summaries
- Engaging in the media arena, becoming media savvy

Guidance for researchers

- Media training for researchers research training for journalists
- Support for researchers
- Recognition: rewards for media impact
- Rationalize the conversation with both policymakers and journalists on the nature of evidence

• Systematic reviews might help

Future directions in research

- Research on research use by the media
 Differentiated to various media audiences
- Inventory of good practices of connecting research and the media
- Analysis of 'medialogic' in the field of education policy and practice
- Two-sided interaction: media as a source of information for researchers
- The opportunities and threats of social media