



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
Institutes for Transdisciplinary Scholarship

Impact Assessment

TD Week

April 28, 2025

The University of Calgary, located in the heart of Southern Alberta, both acknowledges and pays tribute to the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta (Districts 5 and 6).



Speakers

- Dr. Kathryn Graham, PhD, Impact Assessment
- Dr. Stephanie Warner, PhD, Manager, Knowledge to Impact
- Dr. Robin Yates, PhD, Deputy Provost

Research Impact Assessment

**Transdisciplinary Research as a Pathway to Optimizing
Economic and Societal Impact**

TD Week 2025

Kathryn Graham (PhD FCAHS), RIAL

April 28, 2025

Today...

1. The Science of Research Impact Assessment
2. Transdisciplinary research/teams as a pathway to societal impact
3. Future shaping



The Research Impact Assessment Lab (RIAL)



- We are a “**living learning lab**” and collaborate with ecosystem players to embed impact strategies and systems to generate solutions that tackle societal challenges. We develop, test, implement, scale and assess to understand what works, doesn’t work, why and under what conditions to ultimately **optimize real world impact with and for our communities**.
- We partner to **amplify and activate** the economic and societal impact of R&I Innovation investments
- We are launching a Global Research and Innovation Impact **Network** (GRIIN) of experts and practitioners

How We Do It...

Conduct
Research on
Research

Innovate

Manage &
Assess

Build Capacity

Network of Networks

Collaboration between scientists, experts, practitioners and communities to tackle real-world economic and societal challenges

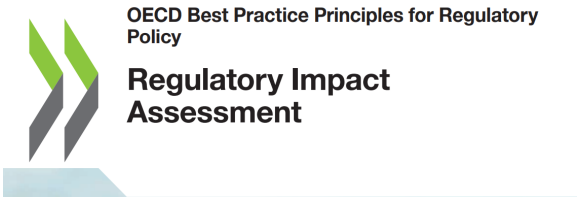
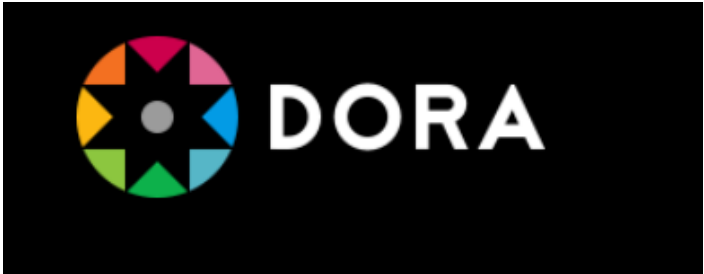
A Transdisciplinary Fellowship & Affiliate Model



Working together to realize more impact at scale and accelerate progress on some of Canada's and the world's most difficult economic and societal problems

1. The Science of Impact Assessment: Guidance

ISRIA



Continuous monitoring, evaluation and improvement It is important to validate the real impacts of adopted regulations sometime after their implementation

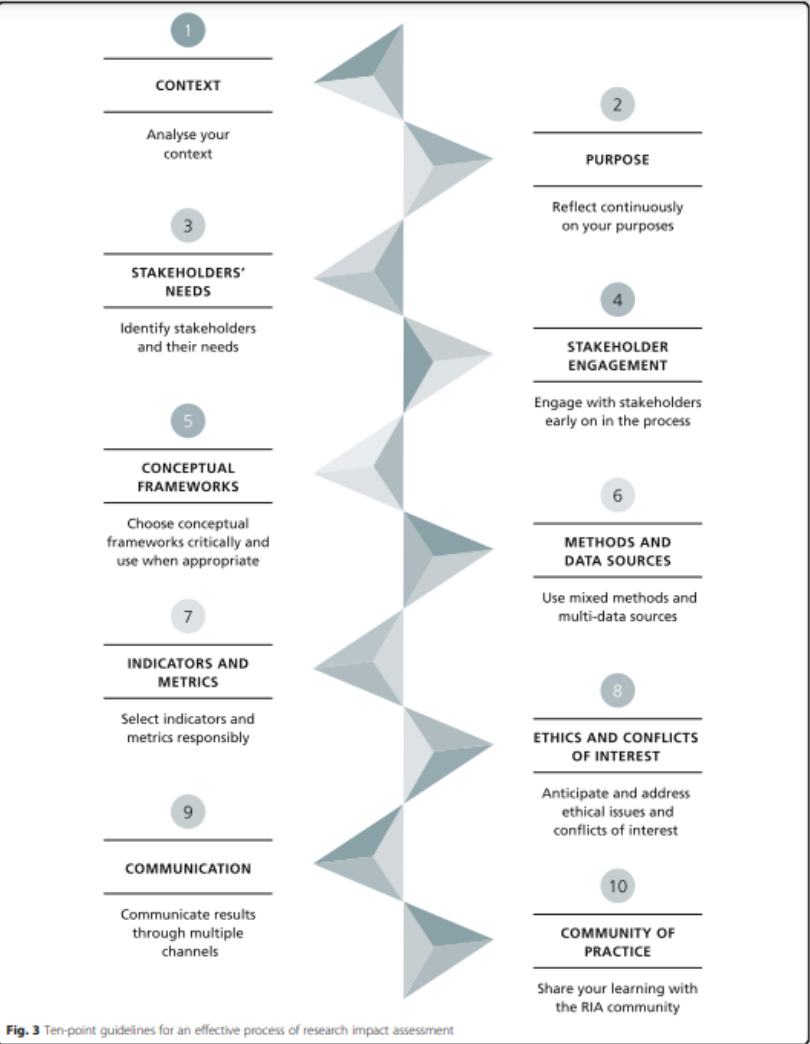


Fig. 3 Ten-point guidelines for an effective process of research impact assessment

Perennial Challenges of Impact Measurement

Time lags



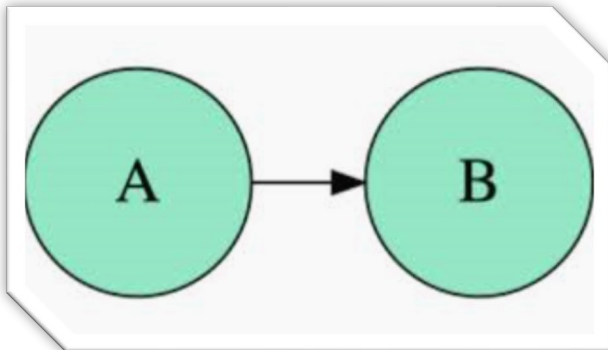
Transaction costs



Data quality



Attribution and Contribution



Unit of assessment



Establishing the Counterfactual

Global Research Excellence & Impact Assessment Frameworks

- Canadian Academy of Health Science (CAHS), Canada



- Research Excellence Framework (REF), UK



- Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA), AU



- Productive Interactions (SIAMPI), EU



- Broader Impacts (NSF), USA



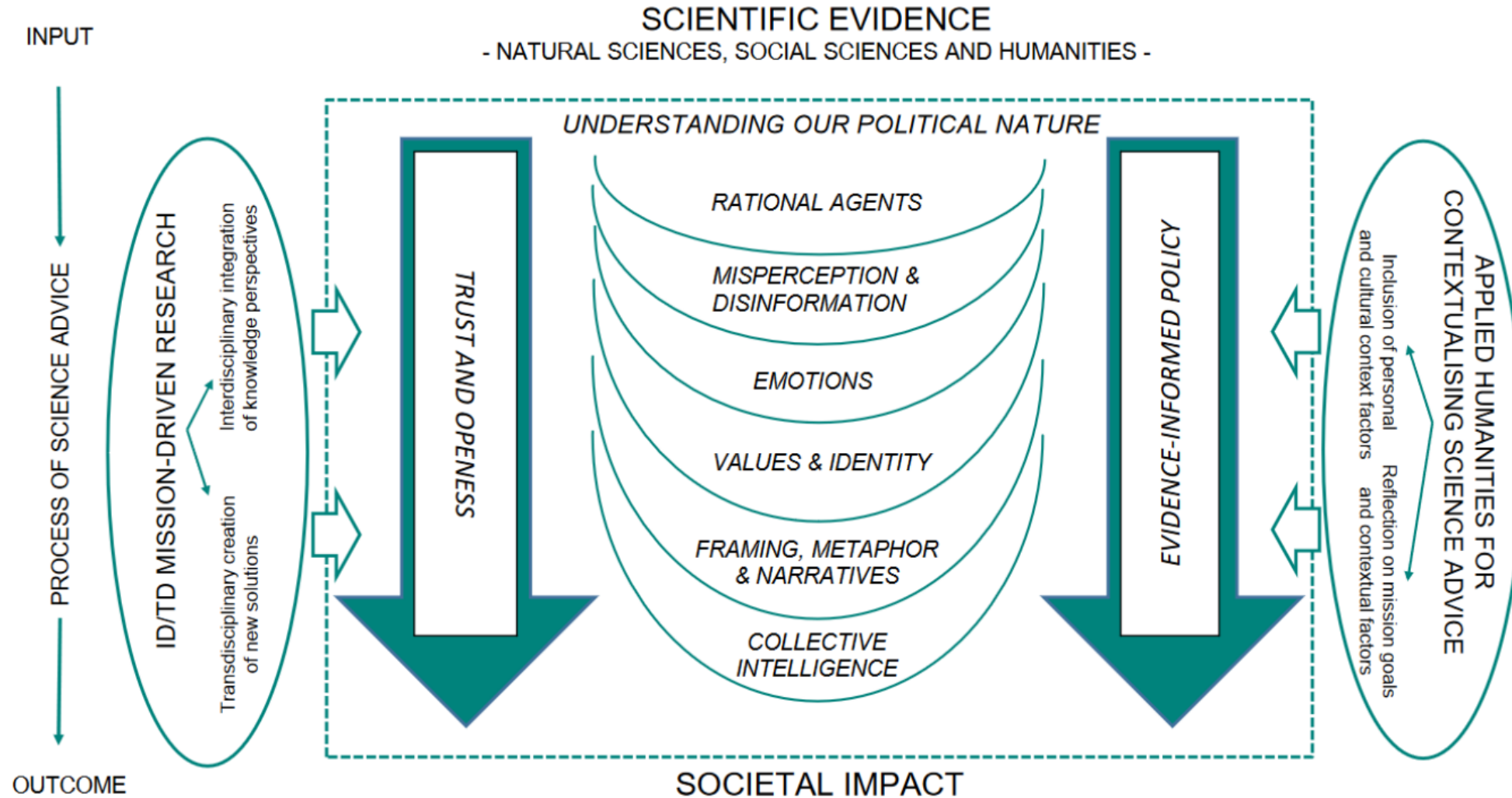
New Type of Measures

Example of Social Inclusion Measures

SOCIAL INCLUSION	Existence and extent of democratic governance practices	Presence and diversity of stakeholder groups on boards; invitation to and attendance at operational, governance and evaluation meetings
	Participatory management	Voting rights; participation in planning, measurement, delivery, etc.; collective bargaining practices; opportunities to voice concerns and ideas
	Experience and benefits of participation by disadvantaged groups	Range and numbers of disadvantaged groups included in participatory management practices, activities and interventions; sense of empowerment; perception of ability to participate; change in confidence
	Organisational cohesion	Solidarity among members; mutual trust and co-operation; capacity for self-management
	Community cohesion	Social connectedness; perceptions of stakeholder groups; tolerance of local differences
	Integration of disadvantaged groups	Accessibility and use of activities, services and products developed by the social economy entity; official recognition of disadvantage factors in the public system; reduced dependency on welfare transfers; improved access to public health, education and other basic services

Source: Measure, Manage and Maximise Your Impact | OECD

2. A Conceptual model for maximising the impact IDR/TDR on society

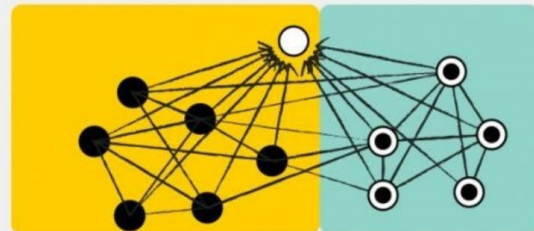


Big Tent and Transdisciplinary Research Teams for Impact

TRANSDISCIPLINARITY - A DEFINITION

Transdisciplinary scholarship is directed towards a complex issue or problem, most often one with a social dimension. Because of the complexity of the issue or problem, it is best addressed by teams of researchers from multiple disciplines. To address the social dimension of the question, transdisciplinary scholarship incorporates knowledges from outside the university, through theoretical or creative approaches to societal issues, and ideally by including societal actors who are implicated in the issue or problem in question.

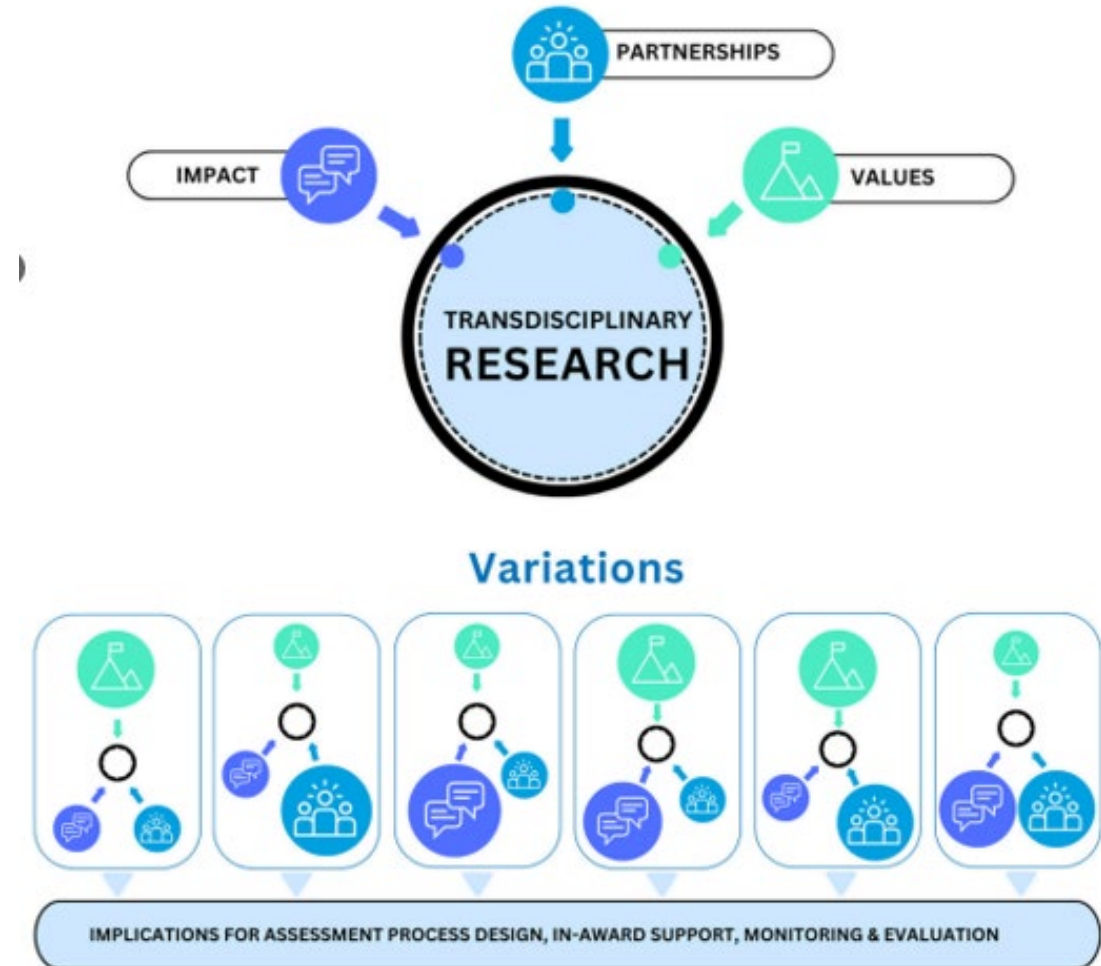
<https://research.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/1/2024-07-14-TD-Defining-Exec-Summary-Web.pdf>



TRANSDISCIPLINARY

- Crosses disciplinary and sectorial boundaries
- Common goal setting
- Develops integrated knowledge for science and society
- Draws from and contributes to 'interdisciplines'

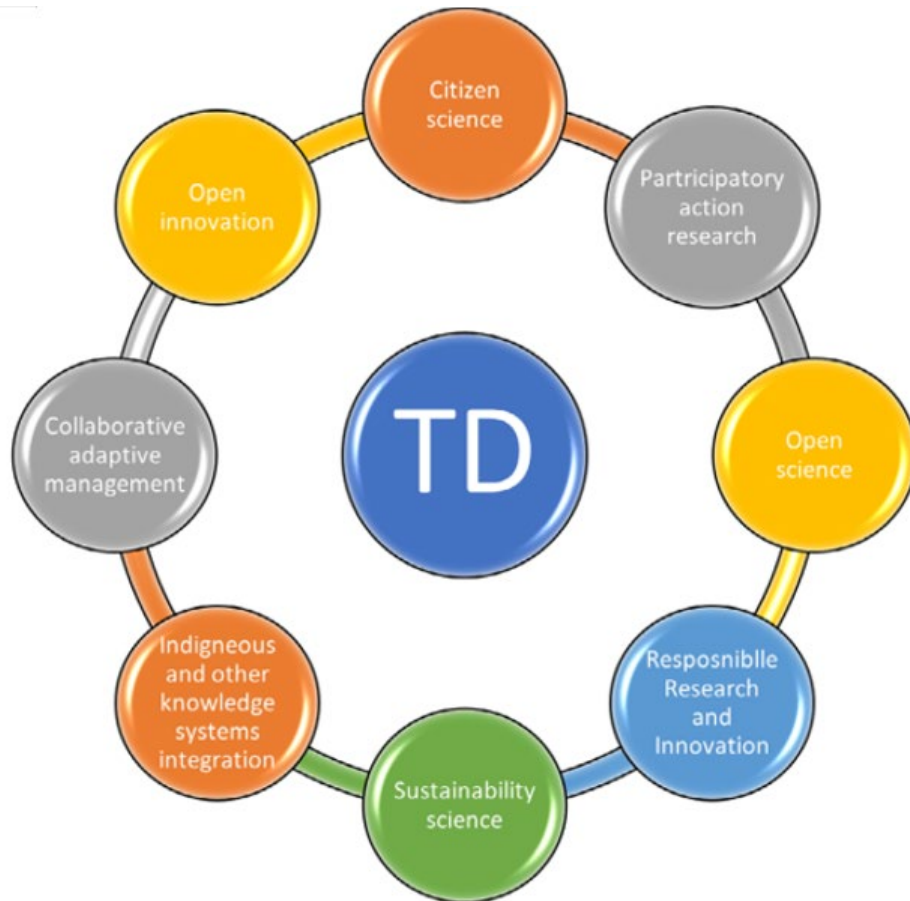
[https://research.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/1/Transdisciplinary/Schematic%20representation%20of%20transdisciplinary%20research.%20Adapted%20from%20Morton%20et%20al.%20\(2015\)%2C%20originally%20from%20Tress%20et%20al.%20\(2005\).jpg](https://research.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/1/Transdisciplinary/Schematic%20representation%20of%20transdisciplinary%20research.%20Adapted%20from%20Morton%20et%20al.%20(2015)%2C%20originally%20from%20Tress%20et%20al.%20(2005).jpg)



[RoRI Insights - Funding Transdisciplinary Research.pdf](#)

Trandisciplinary Research and Teams

Transdisciplinary related schemes of scientific research



Source: file:///C:/Users/kathryn.graham1/Downloads/2023-04-26Futureoftransdisciplinaryresearch%20(3).pdf

Learnings from Team Science

1. Trust
2. Vision
3. Self-awareness and emotional intelligence
4. Leadership
5. Mentoring
6. Team evolution and dynamics
7. Communication
8. Recognition and sharing success
9. Conflict and agreement
- 10. Navigating and leveraging networks and systems**

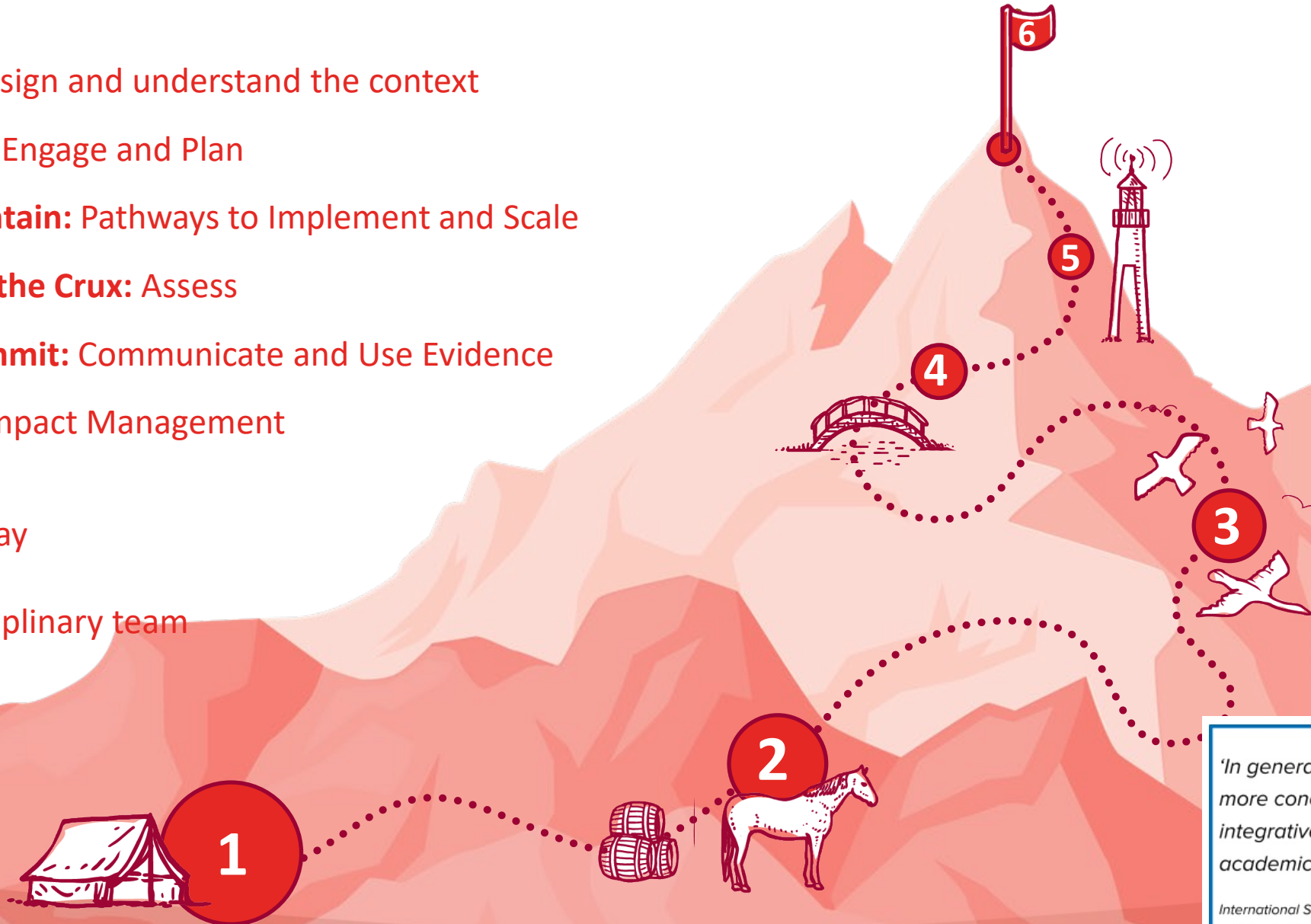
Source: Collaboration and team science: Top ten take aways – Integration and Implementation Insights

3. Future Shaping: Stages and Steps for Optimizing Impact

1. **Basecamp:** Co-design and understand the context
2. **Fellow Travelers:** Engage and Plan
3. **Scaling the Mountain:** Pathways to Implement and Scale
4. **Progressing Past the Crux:** Assess
5. **Reaching the summit:** Communicate and Use Evidence
6. **At the summit:** Impact Management

NEW INTEGRATION

- Relational Pathway
- Integrated plan
- Impact Transdisciplinary team



'In general, the funders will need to be more concerned about process and integrative networking, than about academic outputs such as publications.'

International Science Council (2023) Looking at the future of transdisciplinary research

THANK YOU

Kathryn.graham1@ucalgary.ca

Knowledge to Impact

Impact Assessment in Transdisciplinary Scholarship

TD Week 2025

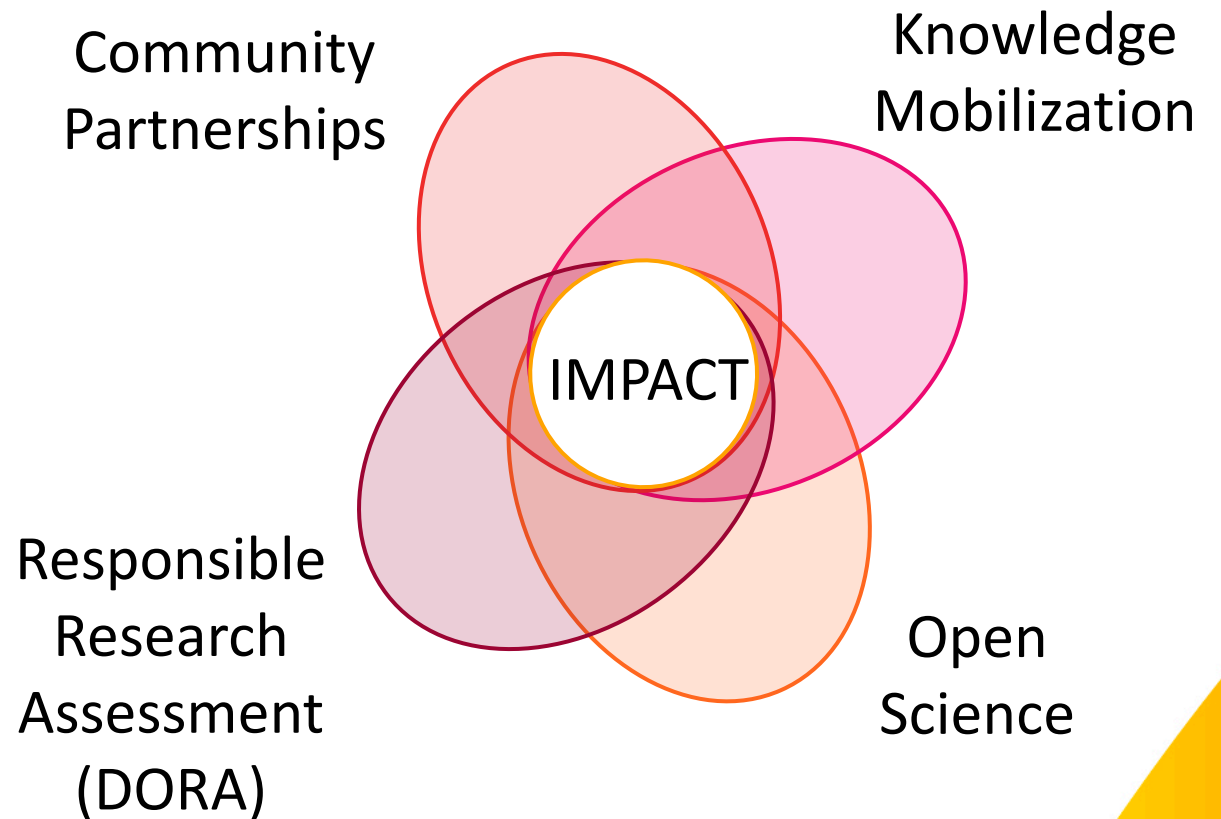
Stephanie Warner (She/Her)
Manager, Knowledge to Impact
Research Services, University of Calgary

April 28, 2025

The **Knowledge to Impact team** supports collaborative efforts to **maximize and recognize the positive impacts of research** for the benefit of our local, national and international communities.

Impact is at the centre of all that we do.

 ucalgary.ca/knowledge-impact



What is research impact?

The higher-level and ultimate long-term **effects or changes** resulting from an “intervention”. Such impacts can be **intended and unintended, positive or negative**.

Impact is a journey, and we recognize **diverse pathways to impact**.

(Source: adapted from OECD-DAC, 2022)

Impact goes beyond what research has, does & produces—
to the **difference it makes downstream, and for whom**

Research Impact Assessment

- Why are you assessing research impact?^{2, 6}

Advocacy

Accountability

Acclaim

Analysis

Allocation

Adaptation

Diverse pathways to research impact (framework)

Input

Resources, funding, etc.



Activities

- Relationships
- Engagement
- Co-creation
- Innovation
- Knowledge mobilization
- ...

Outputs

Primary research products

Outcomes

Uptake/use of findings

- *Advancing scholarship*
- *Building capacity*
- *Informing policies and practices*

Impacts

Long-term benefits

- *Health*
- *Social*
- *Economic*
- *Cultural*
- *Environmental*

Responsible and Inclusive Research Assessment

University-wide commitment to societal impact and diverse contributions



Consider a broader range of outputs and impact measures

Focus on content of paper/output, not on journal-based metrics (JIF)

Mix of quantitative and qualitative indicators of both **quality** and **impact**

Criteria transparent to those being assessed



 ucalgary.ca/dora

Evolving practices in Canada

DORA at the Tri-Agencies:

- Broadened lists of accepted contributions
- Granting councils transitioning to a new narrative-style CV template
- Tri-Agency CV to be phased in gradually, replacing Canadian Common CV

Tri-Agency Announcement

Tri-Agency CV

Tri-Agency CV FAQs

DORA at UCalgary

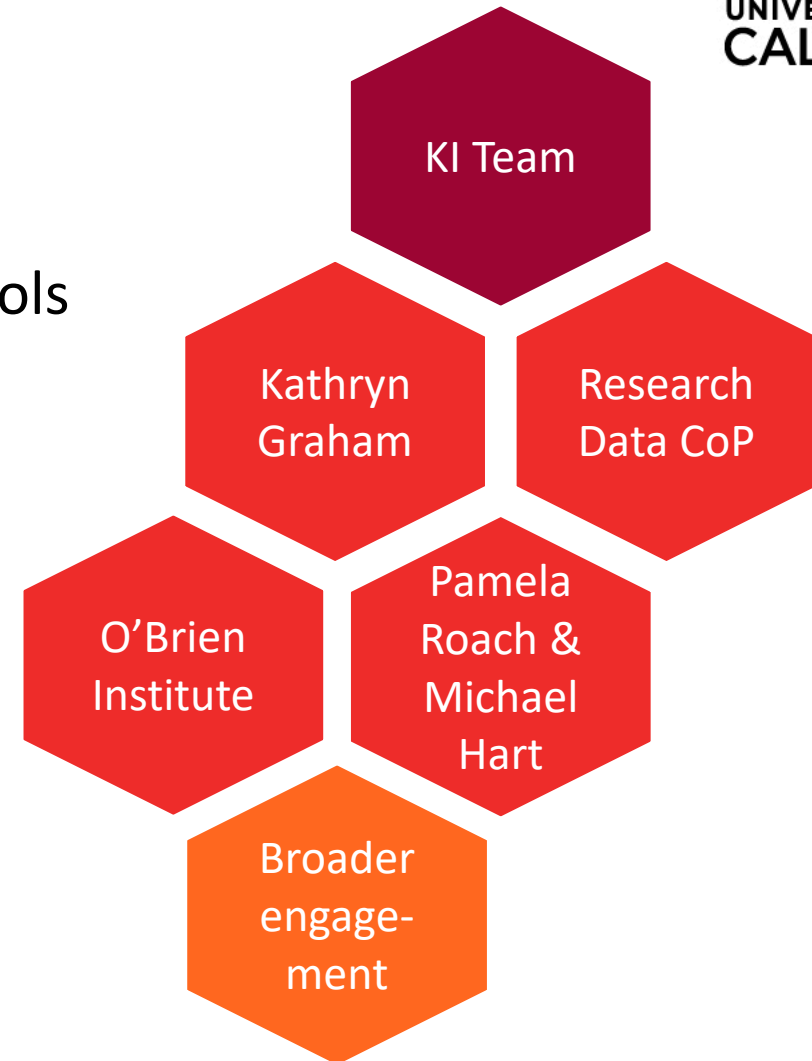
- Progress:
 - GFC Academic Staff Criteria & Processes Handbook (2023)
 - Faculty Guidelines updated
 - Academic Selection Toolkit includes DORA-aligned hiring practices

Projects and Initiatives

Work together to better demonstrate, recognize and support research impact through easily accessible tools and evidence.

1. Research impact/contribution framework
2. Menu of indicators
3. Impact narratives (including narrative CV)

- General guidance, customizable to context
- Guides, examples, highlights, workshops
- Individual or unit level
- **Seeking input, feedback, or co-creation**



Knowledge Engagement Impact Assessment Toolkit

- Two-part Toolkit (Matrix + Portrait) to assess **engaged scholarship**
- Assess from **shared/community perspective**
- Adaptable to your needs
- Based on REAP Model (Uni of Bradford, UK):



Reciprocity



Externalities



Access



Partnership

Download the Toolkit and
learn more at
ucalgary.ca/ke-toolkit



START WITH WHAT YOU VALUE

Begin evaluation by stating your personal values about the subject, avoiding external influences or relying solely on available data sources to prevent the "Streetlight Effect."



CONTEXT CONSIDERATIONS

Consider the context in your evaluation by focusing on the specifics: identify who you are evaluating (considering entity size and discipline) and why you are conducting the evaluation.



OPTIONS FOR EVALUATING

When evaluating, explore both quantitative and qualitative options. Exercise caution when using quantities to represent qualities.



PROBE DEEPLY

In your evaluation, consider potential discrimination, gaming of the approach, unintended consequences, and weigh the cost-benefit.



EVALUATE YOUR EVALUATION

Evaluate your evaluation by assessing whether it achieved its goals, considering both formative and summative aspects. Use SCOPE as a framework for evaluating your evaluation.

Summary and next steps

- Canadian research assessment landscape is evolving
- Knowledge to Impact team is collaboratively developing tools and resources
 - Iterative approach, based on best practices, engagement and input
 - Co-creation with Faculties, units and groups
 - Putting community and knowledge users at the centre of assessing impact
- Transdisciplinary scholarship requires broad, inclusive methods for research impact assessment

Thank you

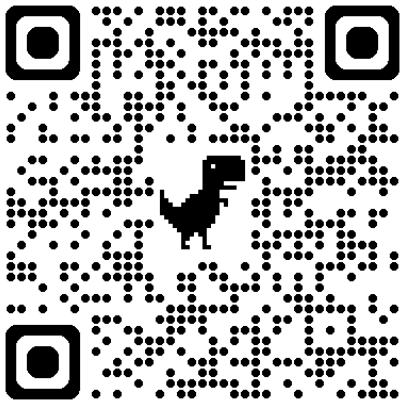
ucalgary.ca/knowledge.impact
knowledge.impact@ucalgary.ca

Alternative Ways of Assessing Impact

Dr. Robin Yates, PhD, Deputy Provost

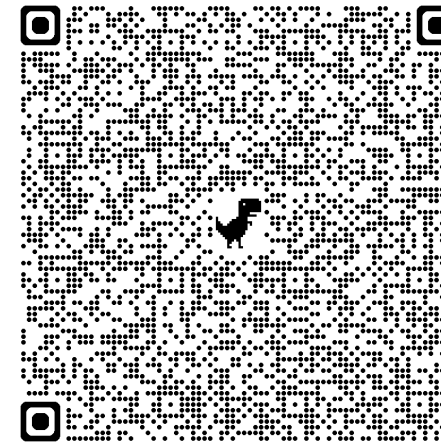
Stay connected with ITS!

Scan the QR code below to subscribe to our **bulletin**



Learn more at: research.ucalgary.ca/transdisciplinary
Contact us: transdisciplinary@ucalgary.ca

Scan the QR code below to join our **Transdisciplinary Online Hub (Teams)**



Use the code **qp1wsti** to join the Teams Hub