

The logo for the Centre for Research on Families and Relationships (CRFR) is located in the upper right corner. It features a stylized 'c' shape composed of overlapping red and dark blue circular segments. The letters 'crfr' are written in a dark blue, lowercase, sans-serif font within the central part of the 'c'.

# **ESRC Keywords seminar: partnership**

## **Research partnerships**

**Sarah Morton, CRFR and What Works  
Scotland**



# Background

- 15 years of KE at CRFR
- Case study of research partnership between NGO and CRFR
- Many collaborative projects and practitioner research, evaluation
- Current work with third sector to help use research

# In this session



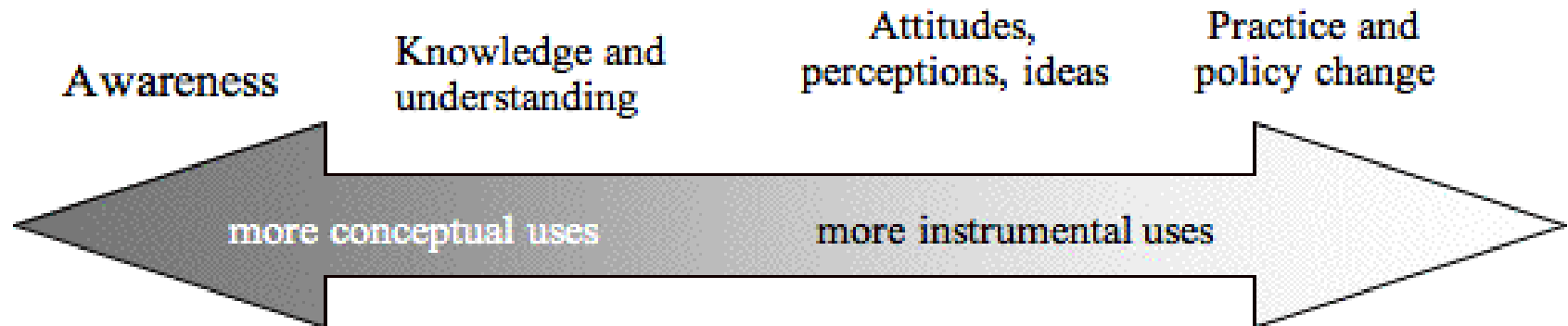
- How can partnerships help research use?
- What is co-produced research?
- What do research partnerships look like?
- Benefits and pitfalls
- “Manifesto”



THE LATEST RESEARCH SHOWS THAT WE REALLY SHOULD DO SOMETHING WITH ALL THIS RESEARCH



A continuum of research use (From Nutley et al 2007)

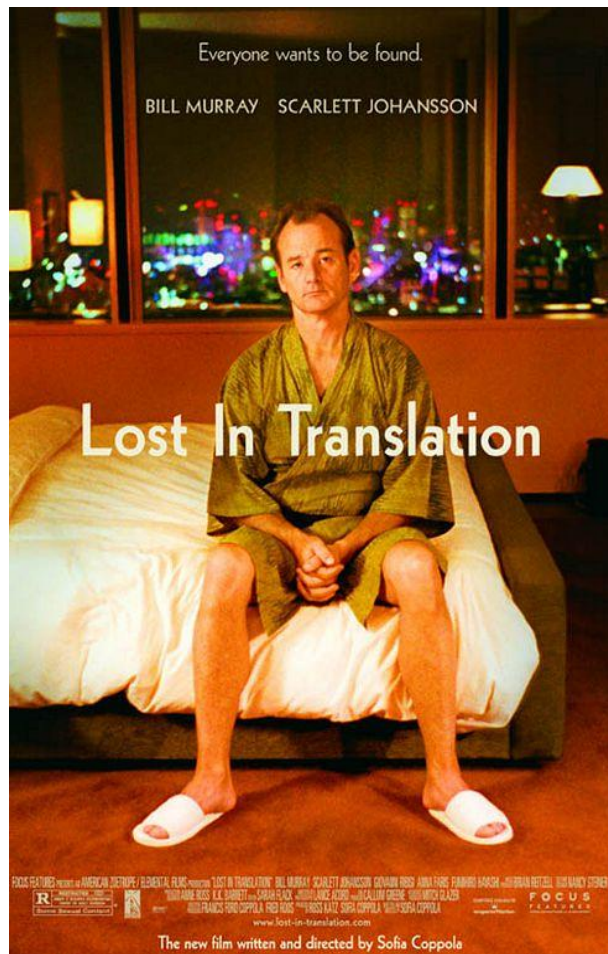




# Challenges of research use: can collaboration help?

Findings from a cross-sector review

Its obvious in many of these that collaborations would help....



## Research must be translated

specifically targeted and open to discussion

*Third sector partners can help with translation*



## Enthusiasm:

individual enthusiasts help  
carry the research

*Networking, creating  
expectations,  
championing the research*



## Contextual analysis :

targeting specific barriers to and enablers of change

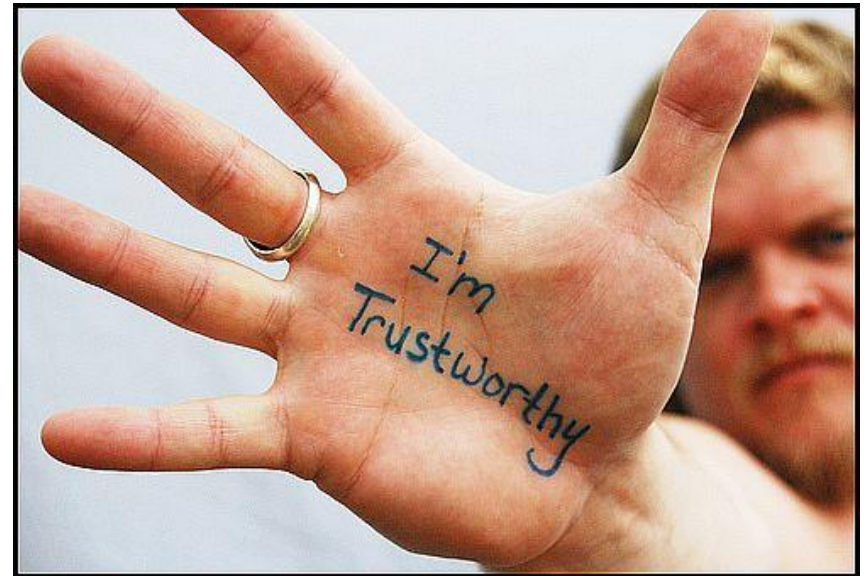
*Partnerships can help increase the available knowledge of context*



## Credibility :

endorsement from  
opinion leaders and  
high levels of  
commitment

*Partnerships can add to  
credibility and trust*





**Leadership:**  
strong visible  
leadership within  
organisations

*Partners can promote  
evidence-based ways of  
working*



## **Support :**

financial, technical  
and emotional  
support – dedicated  
coordinators have  
been core to some  
initiatives

*Partnerships can help  
with press, technical etc*

**Integration** : research impact activities need to be integrated into organisational systems. All key stakeholders need to be involved

*Through partnerships stakeholders are brought into the research*





# Summary of findings from the UK ESRC's impact assessment activities

- The most important drivers of impact are:
  - Established relationships and networks between researchers and research- user communities
  - Involving partners at all stages with research
  - Well-planned engagement and KTE strategies
  - Portfolios of research activity that build reputations with people who use research
  - The involvement of intermediaries and knowledge brokers as translators, amplifiers, network providers

# So partnership helps...

Lets explore  
partnership in  
more detail.....



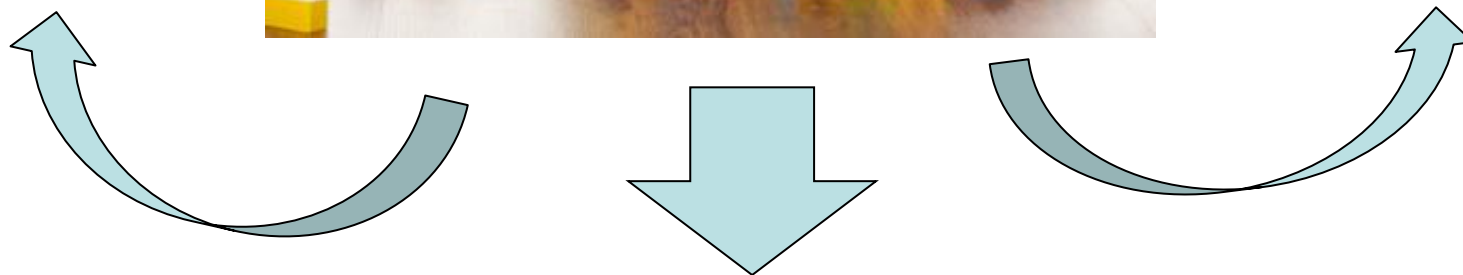


# Collaborative research

Increased understanding of practice issues by academics



Increased understanding of research processes by third sector



Different *kind* of new knowledge created



# Other benefits of research partnerships



- Enable academics to communicate better
- Bring local knowledge into research
- Increase research skills in partner settings
- Higher impact of research findings
- Changing mindsets about what research is and how it can be used
- Creating longer-term collaborations for mutual benefit



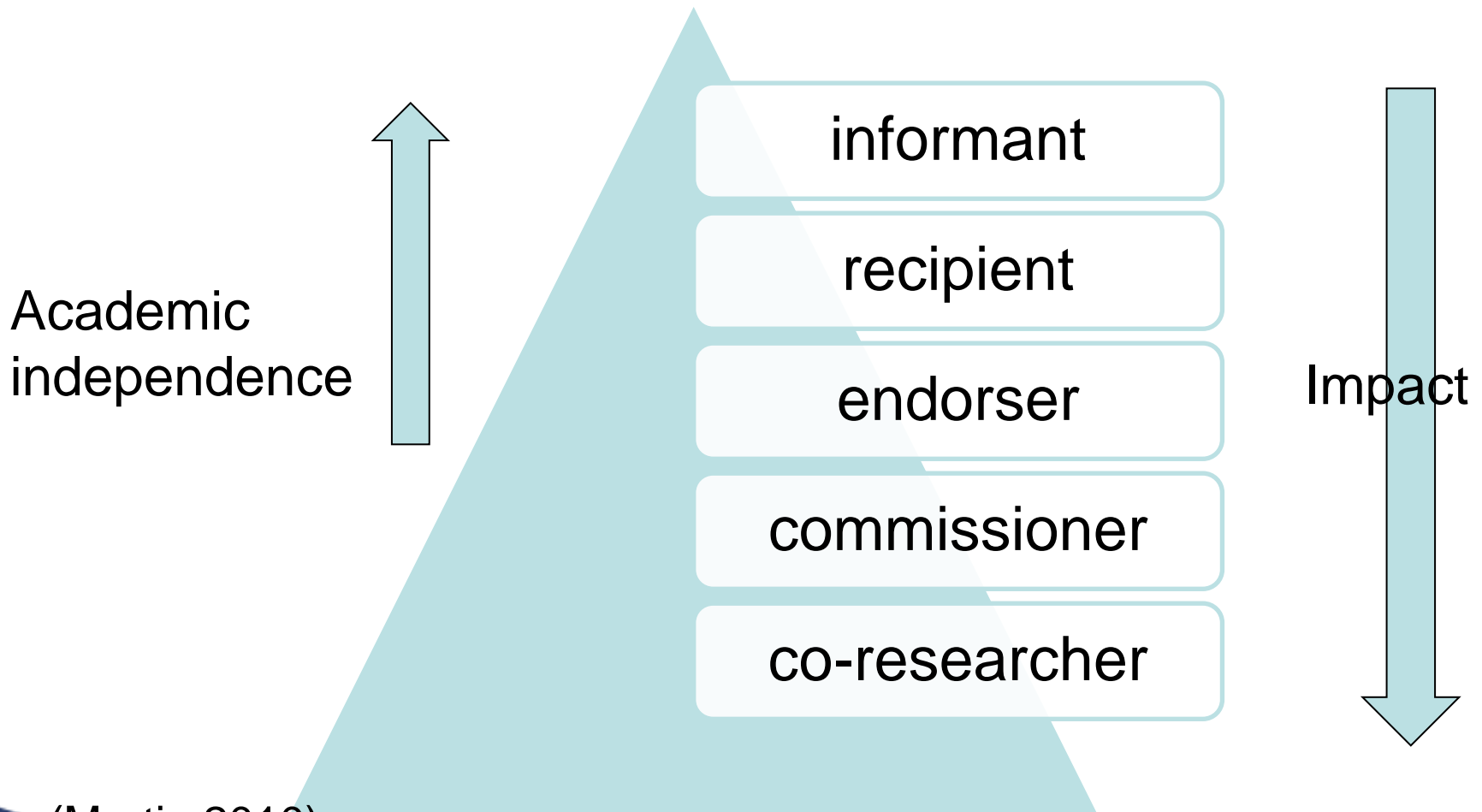
# What do we mean by partnership?

- Co-production, collaboration, partnership?

“when academics and practitioners work together to carry out research” (Orr and Bennett 2010)



# What kind of involvement?



(Martin 2010)

# Co-researchers roles



## Tasks

Develop agenda

Get funding

Define project

Collect data

Analyse data

Engage stakeholders

KE activities

Continued use

(Morton 2012)

# Co-researchers roles



Tasks	Traditional roles
Develop agenda	shared
Get funding	shared
Define project	academics
Collect data	academics
Analyse data	academics
Engage stakeholders	partners
KE activities	partners
Continued use	both

(Morton 2012)

# Co-researchers roles



Tasks	Traditional roles	CRFR/Childline
Develop agenda	shared	shared
Get funding	shared	shared
Define project	academics	shared
Collect data	academics	academics
Analyse data	academics	shared
Engage stakeholders	partners	shared
KE activities	partners	shared
Continued use	both	partners

(Morton 2012)

# Closer partnership:



- Research highly relevant to policy and practice through funding, definition and analysis
- Shared reporting honed relevant messages and increased contacts (more creativity)
- Shared engagement with stakeholders increased credibility

# Partnership issues



- Neutrality v's involvement
- Political issues
- Resources, space, time
- Time to develop trust (without funding)





# What helps research partnerships?

- Agreeing mutually beneficial goals
- Clarification of sharing of roles and resources
- Attention to power dynamics
- Mutual respect of complementary skills
- Trust
- Partnerships of choice, not convenience

# Conclusions



- Partnership research beneficial for both sides and increases research use and impact
- Openness about roles and tasks helps

# Thank-you!



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