It’s not just econometric analysis, cost benefit or surveys that can do policy work. Social science has a range of other methods that can provide evidenced based policy insights and the aim of this workshop is to showcase what is on offer and how they can help facilitate progressive policy outcomes. Policy makers and students would benefit from greater use of these techniques and so we as social scientists need to increase awareness of them and demonstrate their value. Shortage of time, limited evidence or experience, the importance of value judgements and the power of vested interests all suggest that evidence based policy making is more easily rhetorically demanded than delivered. But that complex reality of policy making has a looser grasp on evidence because it fails to take advantage of the various and robust range of ways that social science offers to approach and understand the world around us. There are new forms of discovery just waiting to be found. They include making more use of Random Controlled Trials, the analysis of Big Data, deliberative tools for decision-making, design thinking, qualitative techniques for comparison using Boolean and fuzzy set logic, citizen science, narrative from policy makers and citizens, policy visualisation, spatial mapping, simulation modelling and various of forms of statistical analysis (such as cluster analysis) that draw from beyond the established tools.

This two-day workshop will provide a showcase of new forms of discovery for policy-making. It will draw on the expertise of some of the world’s leading authorities in public policy analysis including:

Professor John Dryzek (ARC Laureate and IGPA, UC)
Professor Patrick Dunleavy (London School of Economics and IGPA, UC)
Professor Peter John (University College London)
Professor Vivien Lowndes (Nottingham University)
Professor Liz Richardson (Manchester University)
Professor Gerry Stoker (University of Southampton and IGPA, UC)

Together with a range of leading international experts from the Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis at the University of Canberra. In addition, feedback on the methods will be provided by panels comprised of senior practitioners.

A MUST FOR POLICY ADVISORS AND ANALYSTS IN COMMONWEALTH AND STATE GOVERNMENT!
John Dryzek is Professor in the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at the Institute. He was awarded the Australian Laureate Fellowship in 2014. Before moving to the Institute he was Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Australian Research Council Federation Fellow at the Australian National University (ANU). He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, former Head of the Departments of Political Science at the Universities of Oregon and Melbourne and of the Social and Political Theory program at ANU, and former editor of the Australian Journal of Political Science. In a 2010 poll of American political theorists he was listed in their top 20 ‘scholars doing excellent work today whose work will be influential during the next 20 years’ , and was the most highly ranked scholar based outside North America. Working in both political theory and empirical social science, he is best known for his contributions in the areas of democratic theory and practice and environmental politics.

Patrick Dunleavy has just been appointed as the Institute’s latest Centenary Professor. He is currently Professor in Public Policy at the London School of Economics and Director of the LSE Public Policy Group. Patrick became a (founding) member of the Academy of the Social Sciences in 1999 and was awarded a Political Studies Association (PSA) Special Recognition Award in 2012 and the ‘Political Scientists Making a Difference Award’ in 2013. Patrick set up LSE blogs which won the 2012 Times Higher Education award for delivering powerful social science. On 25 January 2012, the LSE Public Policy Group under Dunleavy was jointly named the world’s fourth-best university think tank in a global survey. The rankings, in the annual report of the Think Tank and Civic Society Program of the University of Pennsylvania, compared more than 5,300 think tanks from 120 countries. His blog, British Politics and Policy at LSE, is the highest-ranked university blog in the UK and the second-most read economics blog in the country.

Peter John joined University College London in September 2011 as Professor of Political Science and Public Policy. He was previously the Hallsworth Chair of Governance at the University of Manchester, where he directed the Institute of Political and Economic Governance. He holds a D. Phil from the University of Oxford. He is known for his books on public policy, such as Analysing Public Policy (2nd edition due in 2012) and Making Policy Work (2011). His book with Keith Dowding, Exits, Voices and Social Investment: Citizens’ Reaction to Public Services is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press. He has been working on two large projects. The first is on policy agendas in the UK for which he and his collaborators have collected data on what topics the UK government has concentrated on since 1911: see www.policyagendas.org.uk. He is using these data for two books: one with Anthony Bertelli (USC) on policy investment, a study of how governments approach risk when selecting policies; the other is with Will Jennings and Shaun Bevan, which is on policy agendas in British politics. His second project uses experiments to study civic participation in public policy, with the aim of finding out what governments and other public agencies can do to encourage citizens to carry out acts of collective benefit. This work comes together in a book with Bloomsbury Academic, Nudge, Nudge, Think, Think: Using Experiments to Change Civic Behaviour published on 26 August 2011. He is planning to carry out more randomised controlled trials to test how the provision of social information can influence citizen behaviour.
Gerry Stoker holds a joint appointment as Professor of Politics and Governance at the University of Southampton and at the Institute. Gerry’s main research interests are in governance, democratic politics, local and regional governance, urban politics, public participation and public service reform. He has authored or edited over 25 books and published over 80 refereed articles or chapters in books. Gerry was the founding Chair of the New Local Government Network which was awarded the prize for UK think tank of the year in 2004. His book ‘Why Politics Matters’ won the 2006 book of the year award from the Political Studies Association of the UK and he was awarded an ESRC Professorial Fellowship from 2004-8. Gerry was elected to the Academy of the Social Sciences (UK) in 2010. His latest books are Prospects for Citizenship and Nudge, Nudge, Think-Think: Experimenting with ways to change Civic Behaviour (both London: Bloomsbury Academic).

Vivien Lowndes is Professor of Public Policy. She joined the School of Politics and International Relations in October 2010, having previously been Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) at De Montfort University, Leicester. She has also worked at the Institute of Local Government Studies, University of Birmingham and in the Department of Government, University of Essex. Before becoming an academic, she held research and policy posts in local government and the voluntary sector. Vivien Lowndes has conducted major research projects on citizen participation, partnership governance, local political leadership and central/local relations for bodies including DCLG, Home Office, ESRC, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Audit Commission and Council of Europe. Vivien Lowndes acted as Specialist Advisor to the House of Commons Public Administration Committee for its inquiry into innovations in participation, and was an Advisor to the Lyons Inquiry on Local Government. She has also undertaken work on faith engagement in public policy and local governance and is the co-editor (with Adam Dinham and Rob Furbey) of Faith in the Public Realm (Policy Press, 2009). Vivien Lowndes is currently researching the effects of austerity on local governance with Alison Gardner. She is also working with Roda Madziva on a Leverhulme funded project on the use of evidence in policymaking (looking at migration). Theoretically, Vivien Lowndes is well known for her work on institutionalism, and is co-author (with Mark Roberts) of Why Institutions Matter (Palgrave, 2013). She is a member of the Feminist Institutionalist International Network and is working with Francesca Gains on a gendered analysis of new governance institutions (specifically elected Police and Crime Commissioners). Vivien Lowndes is Deputy Chair of the Politics and International Studies Sub-Panel for the Research Excellence Framework (REF), the UK’s national assessment of research quality. She will be a Distinguished Professor at the Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney, in Spring 2015.

Liz Richardson is Senior Lecturer in Politics and Director of Undergraduate Studies for Politics at the University of Manchester. She co-ordinates the department’s Comparative Public Policy cluster, and is a Visiting Fellow in the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) at LSE. Her previous roles include Co-ordinator of LSE Housing and Communities at the LSE. Liz is co-editor of the journal, Local Government Studies. She is also a Director of a community charity, the National Communities Resource Centre. Her research interests include: civic participation; neighbourhood governance; local politics and local government; public services; and public policy. She has an interest in methodological innovation including participatory research approaches, and experimental methods. Liz’s work includes books on Changing local governance, changing citizens, and Nudge, nudge, think, think: experimenting with ways to change civic behaviour. Her academic work has been published in journals such as the British Journal of Politics and International Relations, Social Science Quarterly, Parliamentary Affairs, and Policy and Politics. Liz’s work is policy- and practice-relevant; her reputation has led to invitations to advise national governments, and a number of British local governments.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT WHAT PROMISES TO BE AN IMPORTANT EVENT.

Registration

MEMBERS: $60.00 ONE DAY / $70.00 TWO DAYS
NON MEMBERS: $80.00 ONE DAY / $90.00 TWO DAYS
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