

LECTURE SERIES SPRING 2015

How health sciences and health policy interact: theories, challenges and practices



WEDNESDAYS AT 5.15 PM, HS 10

UNIVERSITY OF LUCERNE, FROHBURGSTRASSE 3, 6002 LUCERNE

Introduction

The slogan «what matters is what works» exemplifies how over the past decade, policy-making based on sound evidence has gained in importance, replacing policy-making based on political ideology or prejudice. The notion of evidence-based policy-making indicates that findings from research and practice should be used to inform policy-decisions. It is for example expected that if objective information on the implementation and the outcome of interventions is available, rational decisions on budget allocation and program planning can be made.

Health science is often assigned with the task of delivering this sort of objective information to policy makers and hence to make evidence-based policy-making possible. But does this model really represent reality? What are the theories on the interaction between health sciences and policy? What are the challenges encountered when linking health sciences and policy making? What are the current practices?

These are the main topics of the lecture series in spring 2015. International experts will present and discuss the current state of knowledge on the interaction of health sciences and health policy.

Coordinators of the lecture series:



Prof. Dr. Andreas Balthasar



Prof. Dr. med. Gerold Stucki

Program

March 04, 2015

Making evaluation more relevant and useful in the world of health policy: favoured solutions and uncomfortable realities



Prof. Dr. Nicholas Mays

Professor of Health Policy and Director, Policy Research Unit in Policy Innovation Research, Department of Health Services Research & Policy
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom

There has been a recent upsurge of advocacy from trialists and policy <modernisers> for far more use of RCTs as the basis for health and wider public policy. This is exemplified by the UK Cabinet Office's report <Test, Learn, Adapt> (2012). Mainstream policy makers are now being told that they should make policy by experimenting like scientists. Drawing on experience as an applied health services researcher and policy adviser in government, I will attempt to stimulate reflection on the following questions: how can we explain the timing of this phenomenon; how realistic and helpful is it; and where does it leave the contribution of evaluation in policy?

April 29, 2015

Evidence briefs and stakeholder dialogues: An approach to supporting evidence-informed policymaking



Prof. Dr. John N. Lavis, MD

Canada Research Chair in Evidence-Informed Health Systems
Department of Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics
McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada

Research evidence can do harm when it's not positioned in the context of the full body of knowledge relevant to a particular policy issue. And research evidence needs to be considered alongside the many other factors that influence the policymaking process, including institutional constraints, interest group pressure, and values, among others. Evidence briefs provide a context-specific approach to assembling all of the relevant data and research evidence to clarify a policy problem and its causes, frame options to address the problem, and identify implementation considerations. Stakeholder dialogues (or deliberative dialogue more generally) provide a context-specific approach to putting the research evidence alongside all of the other factors that will influence policymaking. John Lavis will describe the rationale for these strategies, what's known about them, and how they fit into broader efforts to support evidence-informed policymaking.

May 13, 2015

The role of science in Swiss Health Policy – the example of the Federal Council comprehensive strategy Health 2020



Dr. Stefan Spycher

Vice Director and Head of Health Policy Directorate, Federal Office of Public Health, Berne, Switzerland

The Health2020 report was approved by the Federal Council in 2013. The report is based on evidence about current and future challenges in the healthcare sector. At the same time the Health2020 report had to respect that implementation is only possible with the support of the major health-policy stakeholders in a direct democratic system. The lecture will discuss challenges and experiences of the Federal Office of Public Health in integrating scientific knowledge in policy making.

May 27, 2015

How to enhance the interaction between knowledge generation and policy making – the example of Bavaria



Prof. Dr. med. Manfred Wildner, MPH

State Institute for Health, Bavarian Health and Food Safety Authority
Oberschleissheim, Germany

Evidence-informed policy making is a promising proposal for adding value to modern societies. Necessary and valuable structures of evidence generation in the scientific domain – notably in public health – are by themselves often ineffective in knowledge translation. An overview on bridging processes and bridging structures for enhanced knowledge translation in the health field in Bavaria is presented.

Additional lectures:

March 18, 2015

Symposium «Inaugural lectures», University of Lucerne, Department Health Sciences and Health Policy

Prof. Dr. Stefan Boes, Associate Professor in Health Economics

Prof. Dr. Armin Gemperli, Assistant Professor in Health Sciences with a focus in Rehabilitation Services Research

Prof. Dr. Gisela Michel, Associate Professor in Health and Social Behavior

Prof. Dr. Sara Rubinelli, Assistant Professor in Health Sciences with a focus in Health Communication

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Lucerne hosts four inaugural lectures given by professors newly appointed to our department. The event is organized as a symposium where the professors have the opportunity to share their achievements in research and views of the different perspectives of the health sciences. The inaugural lectures are addressed to members of the academic community and the general public.

Thank you for registering by email (ksf@unilu.ch).

Department of Health Sciences and Health Policy

The lecture series is organized by the Department of Health Sciences and Health Policy of the University of Lucerne. The department promotes research and prepares scientists to work in the field of health and disability from a biopsychosocial perspective. The theoretical framework of the department is rooted in the concept of human functioning, as codified by the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health.

Master in Health Sciences

This innovative educational program launched by the Department of Health Sciences and Health Policy of the University of Lucerne is the ideal preparation for an exciting career in health. Students of the Master program in Health Sciences also attend the lecture series. It is an important part of their curriculum to broaden their interdisciplinary understanding of health.

The program offers different majors that will provide students with the unique opportunity to closely work with their supervisors and further develop their expertise in the chosen area of interest. After completion of the first semester, students can choose from the following majors:

Health Communication: Studying the science of using communication to influence health decisions at the individual level, in institutions and in policy.

Health Behavior and Management: Facilitate learning on how health behaviors and health experiences can be addressed and changed with appropriate interventions or changes to the health system.

Health Economics and Health Policy: Providing the foundation and principles of economic thinking and theories of political science to understand complex health systems, and to identify and address future challenges in the health care sector.

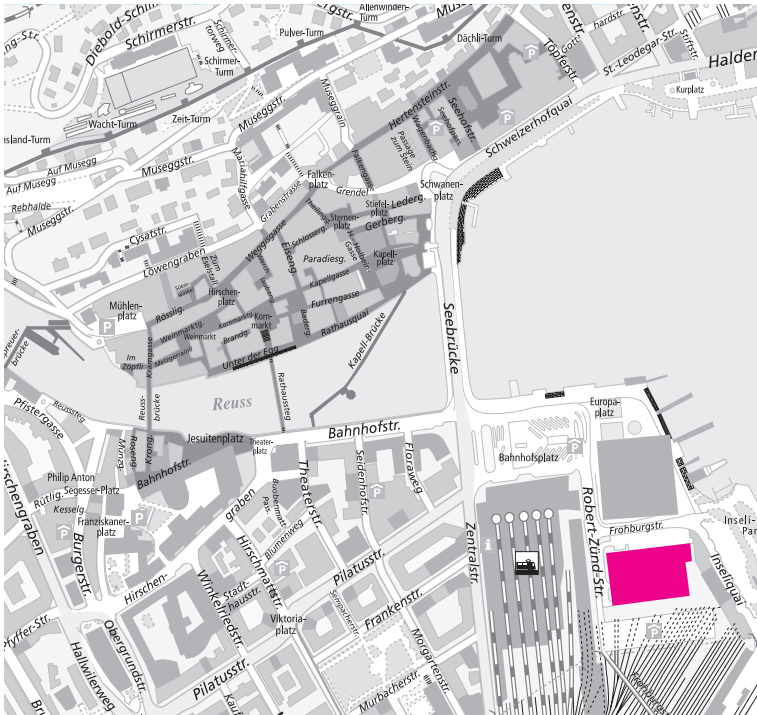
Health Services Research: Get accustomed with different health systems and learn the fundamental tools to develop and assess effective strategies to improve health from an institutional perspective.

Research Methods: Developing skills to aid decision making processes in the health sciences and related fields using state of the art quantitative and qualitative research.

The Master in Health Sciences aims to bring a new dimension into research, health service provision, and healthcare management by pioneering the development and application of a comprehensive approach in the field of health.



www.master-healthsciences.ch



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