

HOW TO DEVELOP SOCIETALLY RELEVANT RESEARCH QUESTIONS IN DIALOGUE WITH KNOWLEDGE USERS

BLENDLED LEARNING COURSE FOR PHDS AND POST-DOCS

Increasingly academic research is expected to have societal impact. Funders assess expected societal impact when judging research proposals and research assessments committees take generated societal impact into account when assessing past performance. Co-funding by societal actors can be a prerequisite to obtain research funding. In many cases, the foundation for successful societal impact is laid at the start of a research project when developing research questions. Unless these research questions address societal actors' knowledge needs and take the context of use into account societal impact will be hard to achieve. This course will provide you with some practical tools that help you identify and engage with potential knowledge users and develop research questions that are both academically challenging and societally relevant.

WHAT?

Over a period of 8 weeks you will learn how to engage with knowledge users in order to develop societally relevant research questions. The course starts with a five week online programme, offering lectures, background readings and assignments. This enables you to work on the training when it fits your schedule. The weekly assignments relate to your own research and are of immediate relevance to your work. Extensive feedback will be provided by the trainer and two online Q&A's will be scheduled where you can discuss the content of the course with the trainer and your fellow students. One of the tools introduced in this training is a conversation model and technique. It will help you engage with potential knowledge users in order to find out about their knowledge needs. During a half-day meeting in week six you will get the opportunity to practice this technique. Afterwards, in week 7-8 you will apply what you have learnt in an interview with one of your potential knowledge users.

FOR WHOM?

This course is relevant for PhD students and post-docs in the social sciences and humanities who are in the process of formulating research questions. This may be at the start of a project or at the end when the aim is to get a new research project funded. The training is also highly relevant for those who consider a research career outside of academia, working in a more practice-oriented or applied research setting. Adjustments can be made to suit the needs of other target groups as well.

TIME INVESTMENT?

This eight-week blended learning course requires an 18 hour time investment.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

- Week 1: Identifying possible contexts of use and potential knowledge users.
- Week 2: Reflecting on three types of knowledge (systems knowledge, transformation knowledge, target knowledge).
Online Q&A to discuss the content of week 1+2.
- Week 3: What you need to ask your knowledge users and reflecting on normative aspects.
- Week 4: Using clean language for engaging with potential knowledge users.
Online Q&A to discuss the content of week 3+4.
- Week 5: Introduction to the conversation model and more clean language questions.
- Week 6: Half-day meeting to practice the conversation model and clean language questions.
- Week 7-8: Applying what you have learnt in an interview with a potential knowledge user.

MORE INFO?

Are you interested to participate in this course or is your organization interested to offer it as an in company training?

For more information you can contact the trainer and developer Femke Merx, PhD.

"We are very satisfied about this training. Highly recommended."

Stans de Haas, Research support Office, University of Utrecht

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