



Evidence and
Implementation
Summit 2023
9-11 October

Melbourne, Australia & Online



Behavioural and Implementation
Science Interventions
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine



Centre for
Evidence and
Implementation

www.eisummit.org

[@EISSUMMIT2023](https://twitter.com/EISSUMMIT2023)

[#EIS2023](https://twitter.com/EISSUMMIT2023)

#255 - Context counts in evidence use eco-systems of Parliaments: Reflections from Uganda and South Africa

Presenting Author(s)*

Josephine Watera

Affiliation

Parliament of Uganda and University of Cape Town

Country of residence

Uganda

Objectives/aims

The audience will gain insight from the views and perspectives of interviews from 30 participants, document review and process tracing of three embedded cases. The study is informed by views from parliament staff and other key external stakeholders as generators of evidence and legislators as evidence users.

Methods

Using a case study approach of the Uganda and South African parliaments, this paper is oriented on a qualitative approach of discovery and inductive logic. This oral presentation will be based on an ongoing doctoral discussion, exploring evidence use in parliaments with a focus on drivers (factors that promote use) and constraints (factors that impede use).

Main findings

Parliaments have the power to create real and lasting change. They allocate resources from national budgets, establish strong policy directions, and debate, shape and enforce laws. Members of Parliament (MPs) are responsible for representing the differences in society, and for bringing those differences or voices of electorates into the policy-making arena. Tracking the results and impact of public action on people's well-being is an important responsibility of governments but more specifically parliaments.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have driven international development towards seeking new and alternative ways to measure and track performance. The new "enabling" SDG 16, which recognizes the importance of strong institutions, including strong parliaments, has created the need for parliaments to evaluate their processes and progress towards particularly targets 16.6 and 16.7.

Research shows that the ability of Members of Parliament to perform their roles effectively along the policy and legislative cycle is significantly shaped by their access



Evidence and Implementation Summit 2023 9-11 October

Melbourne, Australia & Online



Behavioural and Implementation
Science Interventions
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine



Centre for
Evidence and
Implementation

www.eisummit.org

[@EISSUMMIT2023](https://twitter.com/EISSUMMIT2023)

[#EIS2023](https://twitter.com/EISSUMMIT2023)

to and use of authoritative and reliable information. Evidence in parliament predominantly serves the purpose of argumentation, legitimisation or rationalization. Although many studies have documented the complexity of evidence use in the other contexts and how to overcome barriers, there is a limited understanding of the evidence ecosystem in parliaments and how this shapes debate and influences policy decisions.

In the context of parliament, early findings show that electoral systems, political party dynamics, technical support to committees and individual members, the typology of parliament regarding its influence in policy making, executive-parliament power relations dynamics, the functionality of committee systems, the formal or institutionalised work processes, information use culture and public engagements and participation in parliament are key factors that shape the evidence use eco-system.

This paper is wholly geared towards the evidence user and interventions aimed at improving evidence use in parliaments for an inclusive and sustainable world. The discussion will contribute to legislative studies, as least studied institutions drawing from an insiders' perspective.