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**What Works Centres as intermediary organisations between users and producers of research**

**Presenting Authors**

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**Objectives/aims**

The panel aim is to discuss ***original new data*** on the nature of What Works Centres as intermediary knowledge brokerage organisations and the implications for the planning and evaluation of equivalent bodies. The panel presents ***evidence on an implementation project*** (what works centres as intermediary organisations) ***for using evidence for better policy and practice***. This is of high ***relevance and utility*** for those working with current or planned intermediary organisations, those using the services of such bodies, and those studying the nature of knowledge mobilisation and use.

**Methods**

The panel reports on an ESRC funded research project on the aims and methods of 9 UK What Works Centres (WWCs) that provide a knowledge intermediary function in different areas of social policy. The panel format is: presentation, discussants and open discussion on each of the projects’ 5 main areas of findings. The presenters (Gough and Sharples) are authors of the research study and the facilitator of the discussion (Teixeira) is the Director of a further what works centre (on homelessness -not included in the study). We plan for other WWC directors to also contribute.

**Main findings**

To develop debate about the study’s main findings/results on the commonalities and variation in the WWCs s work in the 5 areas of: (1) Aims and theories of change of the WWCs – what aspect of their evidence ecosystems are they attempting to change and how do they aim to do this?; (2) User roles in the WWCs’ methods; (3) Evidence standards – what is the basis for appraising evidence as appropriate to inform policy and practice?; (4) WWCs monitoring and evaluation of their own work and the use of external research to inform their work; and (5) WWCs as actors within wider contexts and systems.