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**How different are social scientists from public health researchers?**

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**Objectives/aims**

In this ignite talk, I present empirical evidence on the differences in publishing practices between social scientists and public health researchers working in international development. The findings help us to understand how the field in which a researcher publishes affects the processes of evidence production and dissemination.

**Methods**

I analysed a random sample of more than 400 impact evaluations, published between 1990 and 2015, of interventions implemented in low- and middle-income countries. These studies all serve a similar research purpose and use experimental or quasi-experimental designs, yet they cover diverse sectors of development with roughly half published in public health outlets and half published in social science outlets. The studies are coded for sector, country, date of endline data collection, date of publication, and the number, sex, and country of affiliation of all study authors. For working papers, I estimate the hazard rate for whether the study was ever published in a journal.

**Main findings**

I find that the publication lag between endline data collection and public availability of the results is nearly two years longer for social science evaluations. The lag is similar between public health articles and social science working papers but is even longer between public health articles and social science articles. There is a non-trivial number of social science impact evaluations disseminated as working papers that are cited but that have not been published in peer-reviewed journals. The average number of authors for public health articles is twice as many as for social science studies. While the share of female authors has improved to slightly under a half over the last two decades, the share of authors from low- and middle-income countries has decreased.