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**Blind-spot analysis and Evidence-Based initiatives: shining a light on methodological innovations**

**Presenting Authors**

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**Objectives/aims**

No approach, tool, method or technique can be expected to be perfect. On the contrary, how they work comes with inherent and predictable limitations, sometimes compounded by how they are used. This panel explores some of the limitations of Evidence Synthesis and Evidence-Based Policy Making, how to reveal them and how to address them. We will find that this approach allows shining a new light on the rationale behind much methodological innovation in the field. We nicknamed this approach “Blind-Spot analysis”.

**Methods**

We will discuss specific examples of blind spots: algorithms inherent in automation (Graziosi); the role of politics and power; (Roche); potential pitfalls of science as an accumulative endeavour (Hill); and their effects and existing countermeasures (Welch and others). We will show Blind-Spot analysis highlighting the need for conceptual and methodological innovations and the value of current advances in producing evidence syntheses and discussions about their use. The final Q&A section will seek to widen the dialogue, which is in itself an essential tool to find and explore blind spots.

**Main findings**

The discussion will reveal common blind spots; how we become blind to heterogeneity, to the unexpected, to power, and to the bigger challenges, and how efficiency even creates blind spots. It will explore the possibilities arising from the Johari window and from getting a perspective (listening to others) rather than taking a perspective (hypothetical thinking). It will discuss how the tension between formal methods and the unpredictability of the world is reflected in the relation between methodological rigor and innovation, as well as incremental versus transformative change.