Symposium: “Systematic reviews - Better Policy Implementation?”

Preliminary Agenda

September 13
University of Bergen
Bergen, Norway

Organizing committee at the University of Bergen: Marit Skivenes and the Center for Research on Discretion and Paternalism.

Organizing committee at INSP: Douglas J. Besharov and Neil Gilbert
09:00–09:15  Welcome and Introductions
  *Marit Skivenes*, University of Bergen
  *Douglas Besharov*, University of Maryland
  *Neil Gilbert*, University of California, Berkeley

09:15-10:45  Are Systematic Reviews the Next Step in Evidence-Based Policy Analysis?
  - What are Campbell Collaboration systematic reviews? How are they used?  
    *Howard White*, Campbell Collaboration
  - Other systematic (and non-systematic) literature reviews for policy and planning *Jacob Klerman*, Abt Associates

10:45–11:00  Coffee Break (incl. snack)

11:00–12:15  Are Systematic Reviews the Next Step in Evidence-Based … (cont.)
  - Adding a formal policy analysis *Martin Potucek*, Charles University
  - Establishing National and Regional Centers for Systematic Reviews  
    *Howard White*, Campbell Collaboration
  - Personnel
  - Funding
  - Auspice and structure

12:15  Lunch
  Venue TBA.

13:15  Seminar on Systematic Reviews (optional)
  Seminar room 5 at Faculty of Law, Magnus Lagabøtes Plass 1.
  The Center for Research on Discretion and Paternalism will plan a few touristic activity options for those not attending the seminar

13:15–16:15  Seminar on Systematic Reviews
  - Developing a Protocol *Howard White*, Campbell Collaboration
Selecting a topic and deciding its scope
Search strategy, including software and data bases
Inclusion/exclusion criteria, including methodologies
Quality assessments
Data extraction
Evidence gap maps

Synthesis (Jacob Klerman, Abt Associates)

- Qualitative
  - When appropriate
  - Order for presenting findings (thematicall, chronologically, etc.)
  - Degree of study quality assessment
- Quantitative (Meta-analysis)
  - When appropriate
  - Dealing with heterogeneity (fixed vs random effects)
  - Meta-regressions

Discussion/Analysis (Douglas Call, University of Maryland)

- How the findings fit within the program context (e.g., program theory, program design, implementation, and the possibly changing counterfactual)
- Generalizability to other contexts
- Implications for policy

Publication

- The Campbell process (Howard White, Campbell Collaboration)
- Journal publication (Jacob Klerman, Abt Associates)

1 This talk will also be given at the breakfast seminar on Friday, Sept. 14.