

Research Impact and Evaluation Workshop

A Workshop hosted by the Centre for Policy Research on Science & Technology (CPROST) at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver BC

On June 4, 2008 the Centre for Policy Research on Science and Technology (CPROST) hosted a “Research Impact and Evaluation” workshop at Harbour Centre in Vancouver.

The purpose of this workshop was to present research and to generate discussion concerning the evaluation of formal research networks. The impetus of this workshop came from work undertaken on a SSHRC Presidential Fund Grant research project entitled “The Evaluation of Formal Research Networks” undertaken at CPROST under the leadership of Dr. Brian Lewis, Prof. J. Adam Holbrook and Dr. Brian Wixted.

We were very fortunate to be joined by a number of participants who came from a variety of institutions and organizations including the British Columbia Ministry of Advanced Education, SSHRC, the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, BCNET and The University President’s Council of British Columbia. We were also joined by academic representatives from Simon Fraser University, the University of Victoria, the University of Calgary, Pusan National University (Korea) and Universidad de Guadalajara (Mexico).



Brent Sauder, Assistant Deputy Minister of Advanced Education for the Province of British Columbia addresses the workshop with an overview of the Policy and Evaluation Environment in BC today.

The early part of the workshop consisted of three presentations by CPROST researchers. Dr. Brian Wixted's presentation "A Model and Taxonomy for Research Networks" set the tone for the workshop by reviewing much of the work done in formal research network evaluation addressing many of the problems that CPROST will hope to overcome in developing an evaluative framework for formal research networks.



Dr. Brian Wixted Presenting his research on the Evaluation of Formal Research Networks

Dr. Wixted's presentation was followed by a presentation by Darryl Cressman, a PhD Candidate in the School of Communication at SFU, on using insights and concepts from Actor-Network Theory to better develop an evaluative model of formal research networks. Mr. Cressman was followed by Prof. J. Adam Holbrook who presented his research on "Measures of Returns on Investment on Externally Funded Research in BC".



The workshop concluded with a panel discussion moderated Dr. Brian Lewis. Participants for the panel discussion were Dr. Cooper Langford (University of Calgary), Janet Halliwell (President of JEH Associates and form Executive Vice-President of SSHRC), Peggy Borbey (Director of Evaluation and Analysis, Canadian Institutes of Health Research) and Wayne MacDonald (Director of Corporate Performance, Evaluation and Audit Division, SSHRC).

