

## **ESRC Policy Fellowships Evaluation: Indicative Interview Questions for Fellows**

**Q1.** Very briefly, could you tell us a bit about the project you were doing, and how it felt to be embedded in a policy context?

**Q2.** The ESRC Public Policy Fellowship scheme that you were part of was intended to 'provide research and expert advice on the host's policy priority areas, and to support wider knowledge exchange between government and academia' (ESRC 2021). To what extent do you think it was successful?

**Q3.** To what extent did you (or do you) feel your work had a direct policy impact? Were the impacts, for example, formal or informal, immediate or longer term? Did it alter your understanding of what 'impact' means?

**Q4.** What were the issues that either facilitated or impeded your capacity to provide research and expert advice on the hosts' policy priority areas? E.g. design, structure, processes, training, support, fit, culture, staff turnover.

**Q5.** Thinking about the fellowships as a kind of 'structured serendipity', what were the *unexpected* benefits or opportunities that arose out of the fellowship?

**Q6.** What were the benefits of the fellowship in terms of your personal and professional development?

**Q7.** Thinking about the emotional labour that may be experienced in boundary-spanning, how difficult was it to straddle two professional domains and was this emotionally demanding?

**Q8.** On reflection, do you think that the fact you did a policy fellowship has been valued within your own university and enhanced your career prospects?

**Q9.** What is the really important question that we have not asked you or a critical theme that has not been discussed?