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# The Role of Social Science Research Funders in the Rise of Global Impact Agendas

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# Emerging Context

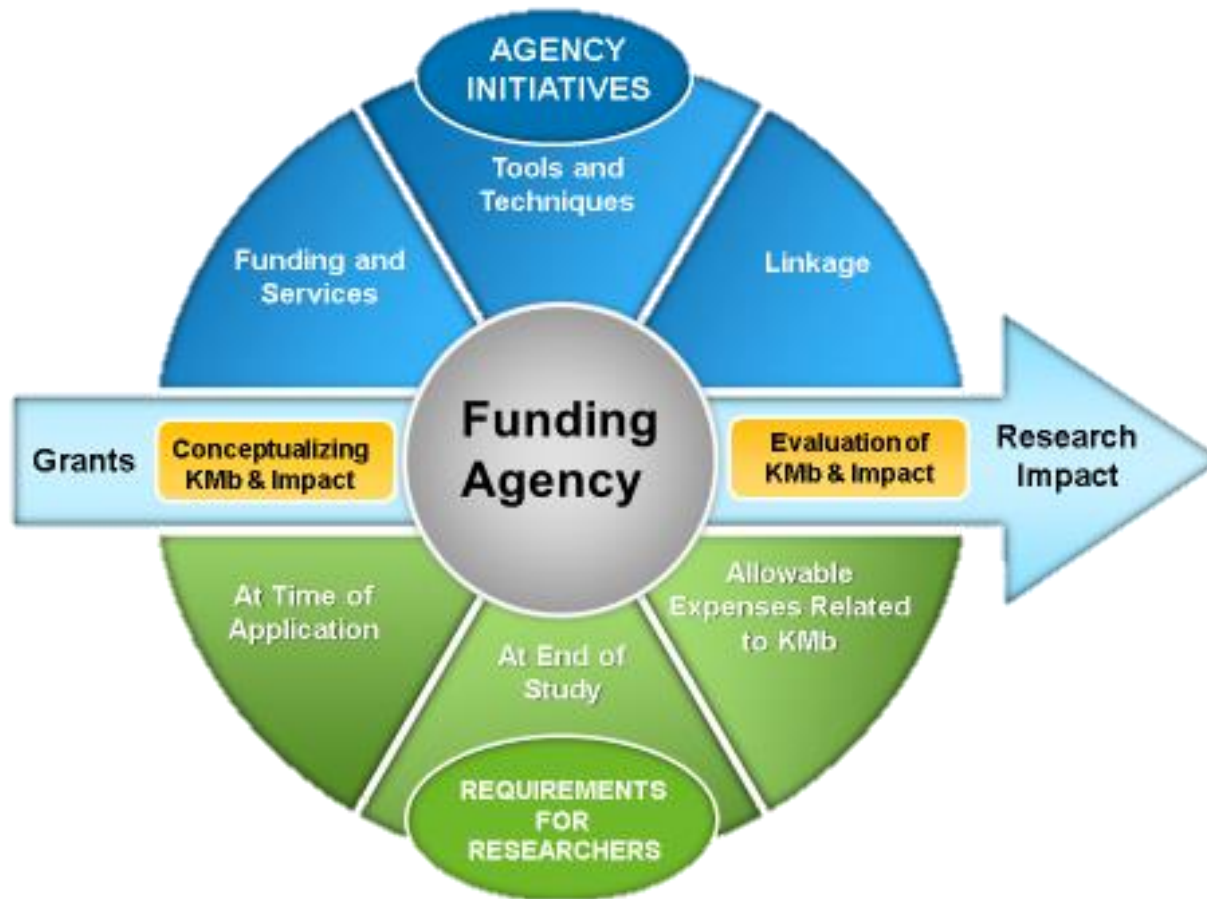
- Funders require KMB and impact plans
- Performance-based research funding systems (i.e. REF)
- Increasing emphasis on engaged scholarship and collaboration with end-users and non-academic audiences



# Research Question

How are social science funding agencies promoting (through requirements for researchers) and supporting (through agency initiatives) KMb and research impact?

# Conceptual Framework



# Research Design

- Phase 1: Data Extracted Websites Using Common Tool
  - 60 discrete elements
  - Sample: 45 agencies from OECD and BRICs countries
  - Document Analysis (Strategic plans, Resources for researchers, Open Access and Data Archiving Policies)
  - Produced ranking as well as detailed profile for each agency (Descriptive stats in Excel, Qualitative analysis in Nvivo)
  - Interrater reliability = 0.81
- Phase 2: Case studies of 3-5 funding agencies

## 1. Conceptualizing KMb and Research Impact

- Explicit or implicit mention of KMb in mission and mandate
- Definitions of KMb
- Definitions of research impact
- Evaluation of KMb or research impact

## 2. Requirements of Researchers

### At time of Application

- Partner with stakeholders
- State bottom line relevance
- Provide lay summary
- Define KMb audience
- Provide KMb plan
- Describe Research Impact

### At End of Study

- Final report
- Publish findings
- Lay summary of results
- Report for decision-makers
- Report on communication activities
- Attend agency workshops

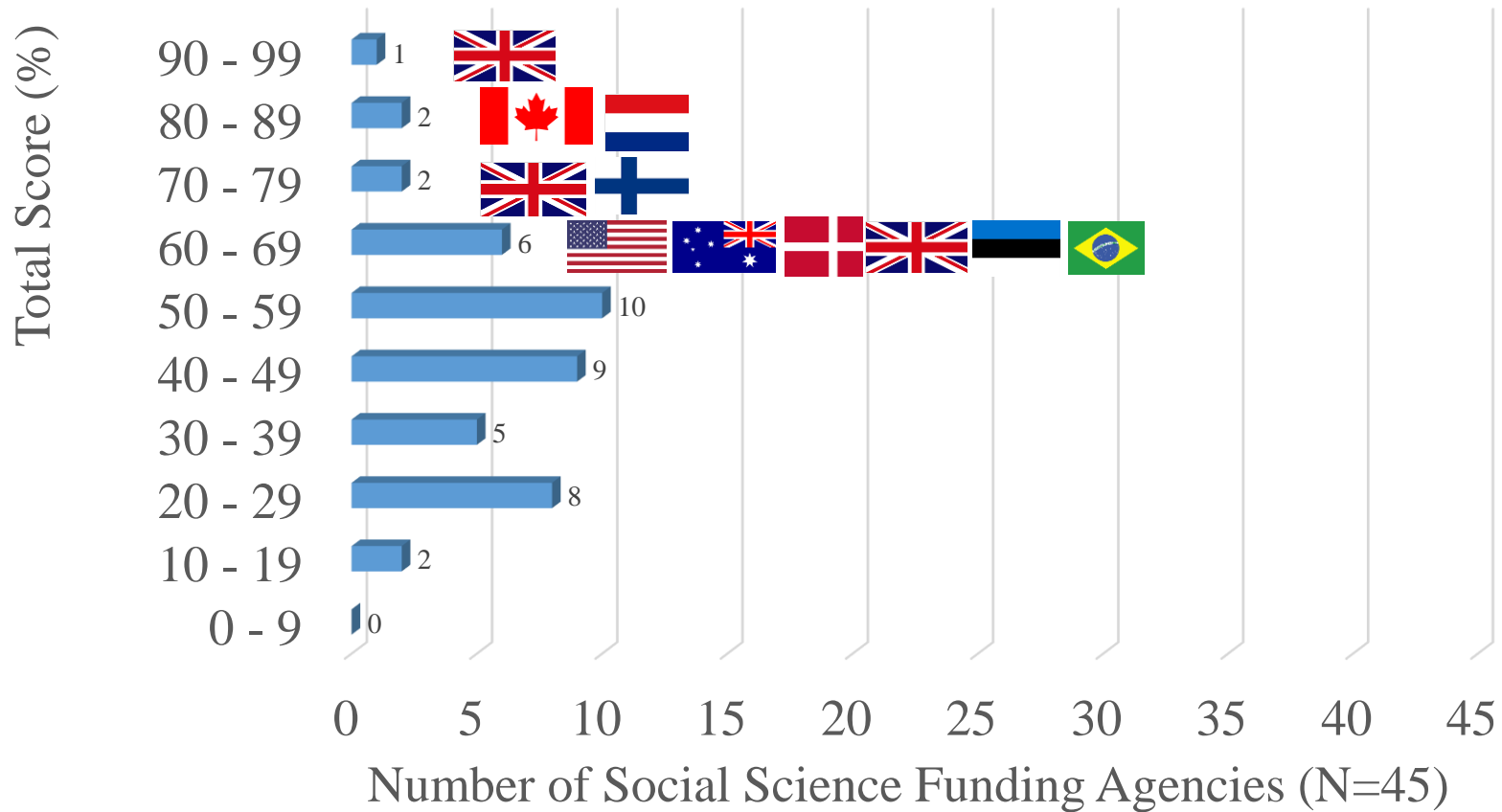
### Allowable Expenses

- Dissemination
- Publication
- Open access
- Web development
- Translation (other language)
- Workshop

### 3. Agency Initiatives

<u>Funding</u>	<u>Services</u>	<u>Tools &amp; Techniques</u>	<u>Linkage</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund targeted workshops</li> <li>• Produce/fund journals</li> <li>• Fund KMb centres</li> <li>• Fund conference grants</li> <li>• Fund teams of investigators</li> <li>• Fund Chairs (KMb focus)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helps researchers with writing, communication with media, etc.</li> <li>• Policy, research synthesis</li> <li>• Fund/organize lectures</li> <li>• Assists with commercial possibilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audience tailored publications</li> <li>• Audience tailored webpages</li> <li>• Lay summaries on website</li> <li>• Use of media/social media</li> <li>• Develops tools</li> <li>• Use of drama</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize video conferences</li> <li>• Create/fund networks</li> <li>• Linkage and exchange</li> <li>• Meta-linkages</li> <li>• Consult stakeholders to set agenda</li> <li>• Programs for decision-makers</li> </ul>

# Most funders get a failing grade...





# Aggregate Scores are low

	Mean		SD
	Score	%	
Total Score (N=60)	28.47	48	11.09
Conceptualizing KMb (N=11)	4.38	40	2.54
Agency Initiatives (N=31)	16.29	53	6.09
- Funding and Services (N=7)	3.78	54	1.57
- Tools and Techniques (N=14)	8.51	61	3.61
- Linkage and Exchange (N=6)	2.56	43	1.32
Requirements for Researchers (N=18)	7.49	42	4.68
- At time of Application (N=6)	2.58	43	1.72
- At end of study (N=6)	1.37	23	1.01
- Allowable expenses (N=6)	3.53	59	2.91

# Commitment high, capacity low

Conceptualizations of KMb and Impact	Frequency	%
Mention of KMb in mission or mandate	40	89
Implicit mention	32	71
Explicit mention	8	7
Open Access Policy	23	51
Other KMb related policies	11	24
Dedicated KMb Roles	19	42
Dedicated KMb/Research Impact Department	18	40
Definitions of KMb or related term	8	18
Research impact definition	6	13

# Evaluation and examples of impact are largely absent

Agencies' Evaluation and Examples of Impact	Frequency	%
Research outcomes listed	30	67
Evaluation of KMb and research impact	13	29
Awards or initiatives for KMb or research impact	13	29
Examples of research impact indicators	12	27
Case studies of research impact	10	22
Best practices for KMb and/or research impact	8	18

# Researchers required to collaborate and articulate impact

Requirements at time of application	Frequency	%
Partner with stakeholders	32	69
Describe Research Impact	31	67
State significance	21	45
Define KMb audience	11	24
Provide a KMb plan	11	24
Provide a lay summary	10	22

# Few required outputs tailored for policymakers or practitioners

Requirements At End of Grant	Frequency	%
Final Report	40	89
Lay Summary of Results	9	20
Attend agency workshops	5	11
Report for Decision Makers	3	6
Report on Communications	2	4

# Diverse funding mechanisms exist

Types of KMb Funding	Frequency	%
Fund teams of investigators	41	91
Fund targeted workshops	35	78
Fund conference grants	31	69
Produce/fund journals	16	36
Fund KMb research centers	14	31
Fund research chairs	7	16

# Few services to support researchers

Services Provided by Agencies	Frequency	%
Fund/organize lectures or seminars	30	67
Funds/assists with commercialization possibilities	14	31
Policy, research syntheses	12	27
Helps researchers with writing, communication with media, etc.	9	20

# Good at communication, bad at capacity building



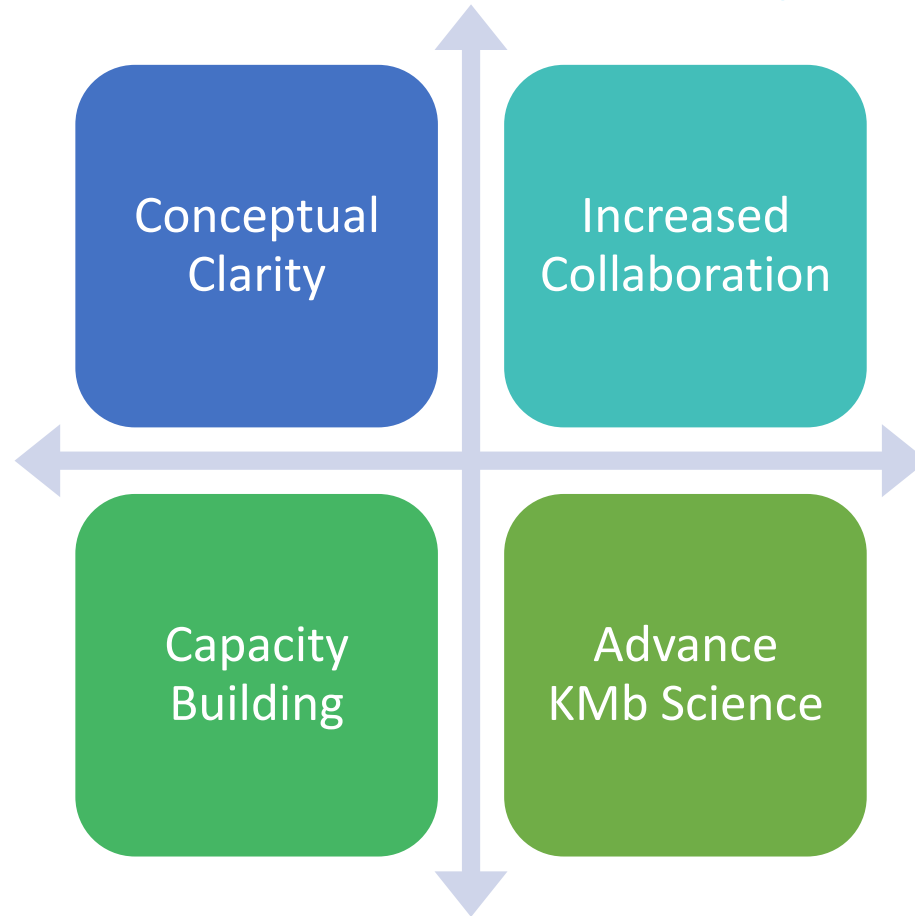
Agencies' KMb Tools and Techniques	Frequency	%
Push mechanisms	44	98
Use of news feeds	43	96
Use of social media	42	93
Multimedia used to tell research stories	33	73
Lay summaries on websites	18	40
Develop tools/resources for researchers	16	35
Audience tailored publications	12	27
Audience tailored webpages	10	22
Use of drama	8	17



## Many linkage mechanisms used, but few require involvement of end-users

Linkage Activities Used by Agencies	Frequency	%
Organize Multi-Stakeholder Events	37	82
Create/Fund networks	35	78
Linkage & exchange	22	49
Consult stakeholders to set agenda	10	22
Meta-linkages	8	18
Program for decision-makers	3	7

# Efforts needed on multiple fronts



# Thank-you!



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