



UiO • **Faculty of Educational Sciences**
University of Oslo

The Finnish research and funding reform from an international perspective

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- How to make research function more effective as a strategic resource for political decision-making and societal development?

Search for the Holy Grail of policy relevant research

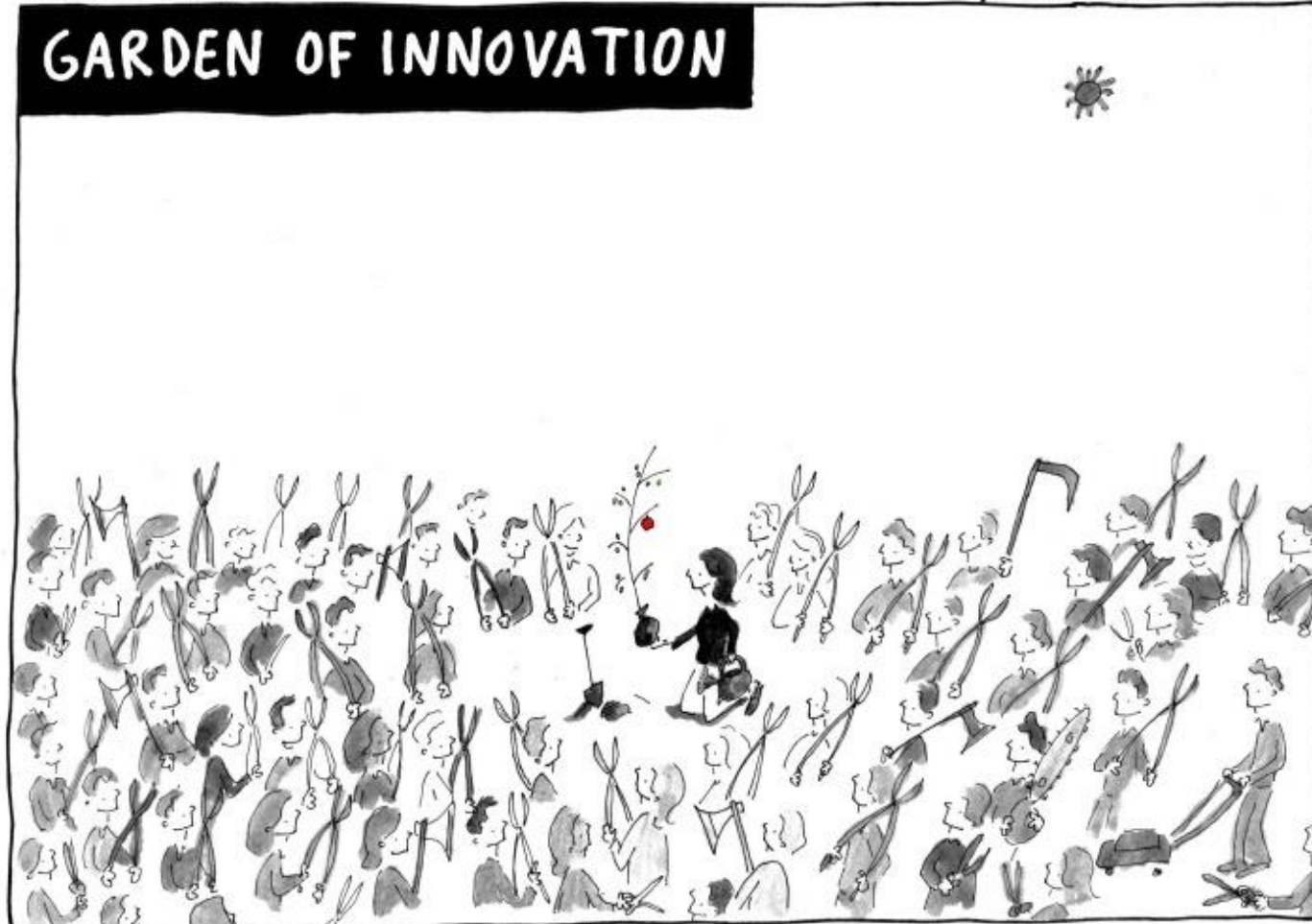


“I got it on eBay.”

Quest for the Garden of Innovation

BRAND CAMP

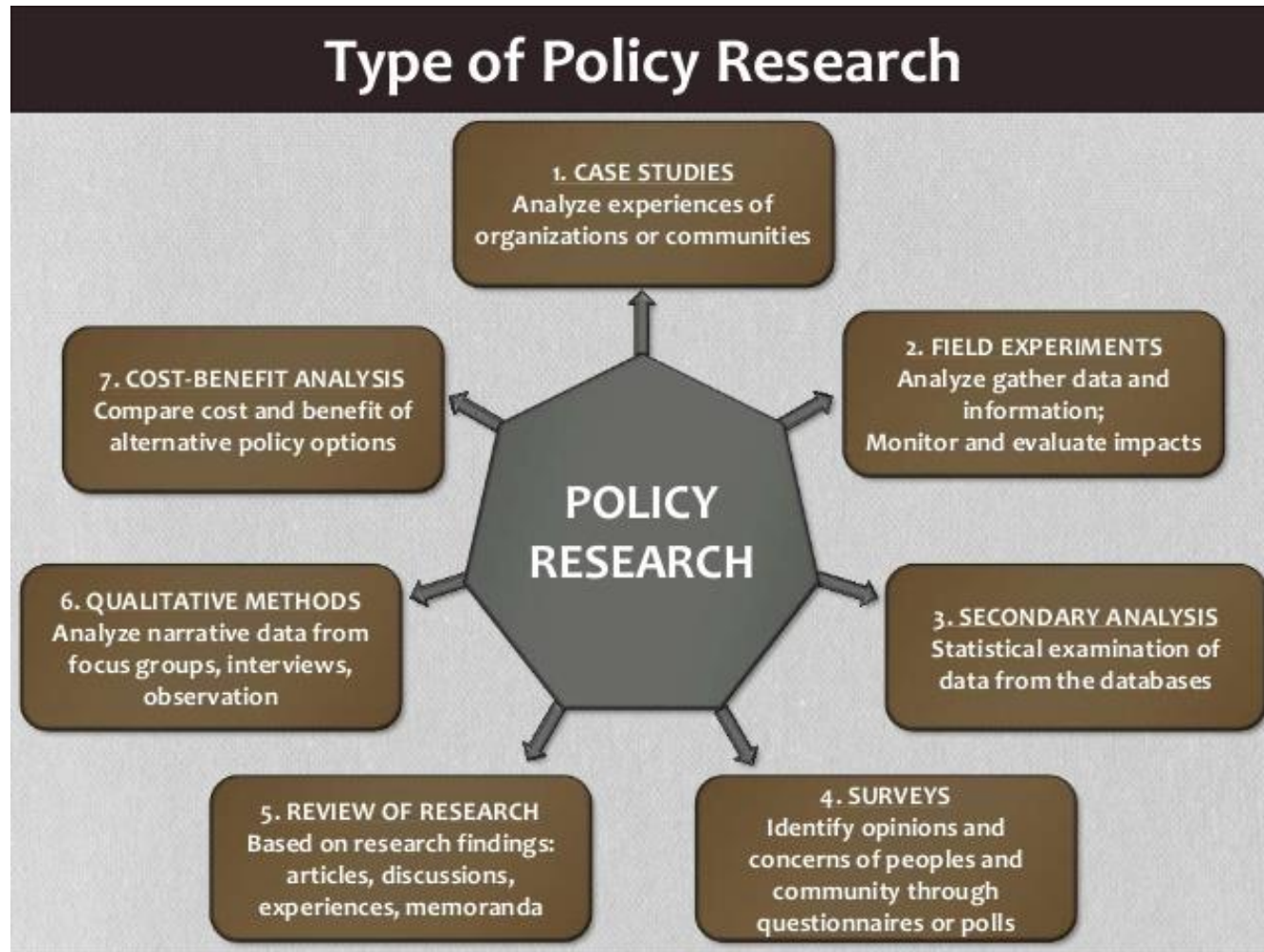
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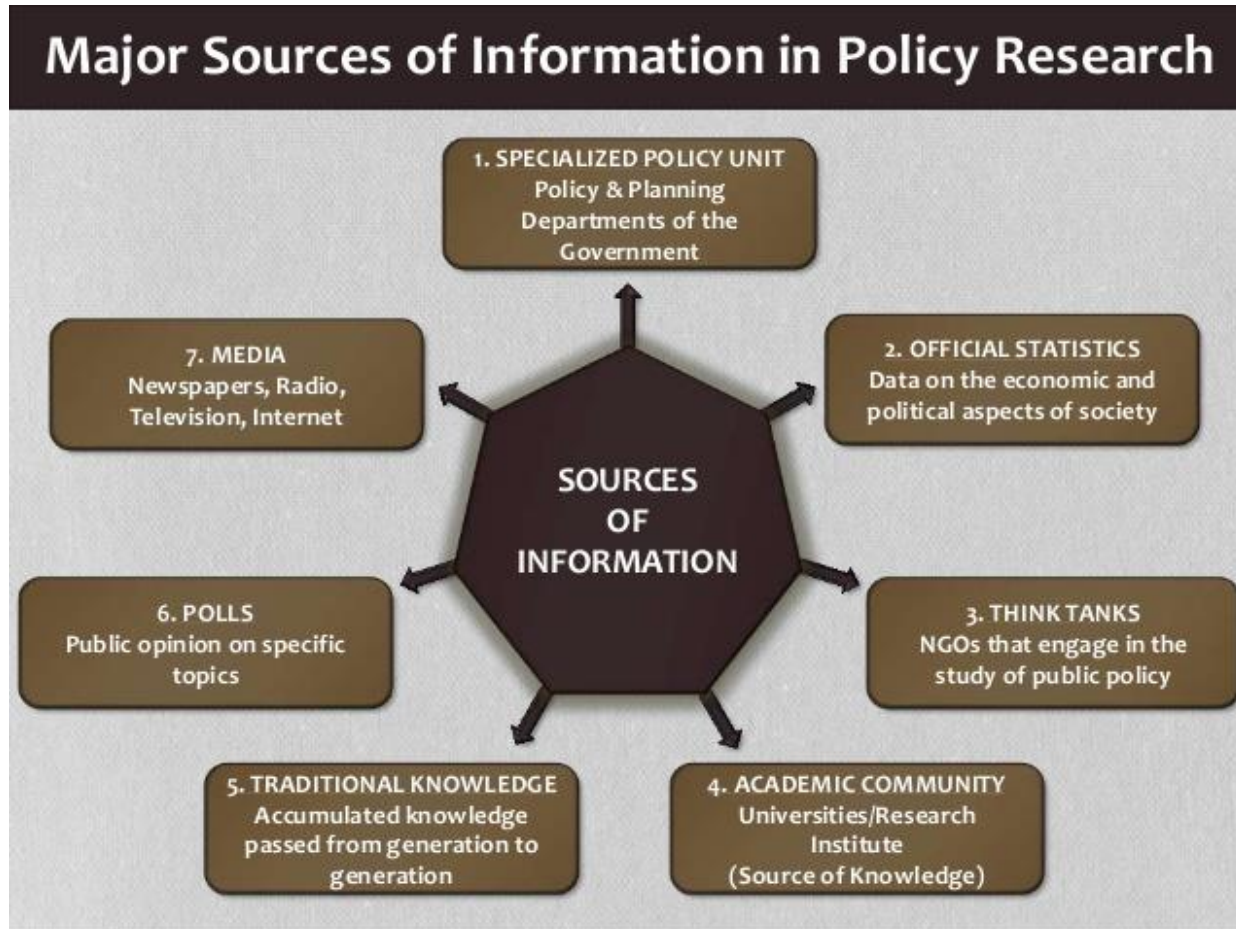
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Efforts to identify a one-size-fits-all approach to policy research



Source: P. Gurung (University of British Columbia)

Efforts to present ideal types of sources of information in policy research



Source: P. Gurung (University of British Columbia)

However...

- What works in the US or the UK does not necessarily work in Finland and the other way around
- Manuel Castells and Pekka Himanen (2002). *The Information Society and the Welfare State: The Finnish Model*.
 - Discussing ‘the Finnish model’ as an alternative to Silicon Valley, being equally dynamic in technological and economic terms, but combining the information society with the welfare state.
- How to do justice to the importance of national contexts in political decision making, and the great variety in quality and diversity of policy ideas and policy alternatives across countries?

Knowledge Regimes (Campbell and Pedersen 2014)

- National origins of political ideas
- Knowledge regime: fields of policy research organizations and the institutions that govern them
 - Knowledge regimes are the organizational and institutional machinery that generates data, research, policy recommendations, and other information and ideas that influence public debate and policymaking
- Policymakers need the information produced by knowledge regimes insofar as the policy problems they confront often involve ambiguity and uncertainty, and they need to make sense of these problems. Knowledge regime is a sense-making apparatus.
- But: During periods of crisis sense-making can take long time and may involve changing the sense-making apparatus itself.

Ideal types of policy research organizations?

- **Four types:**

- Private scholarly organizations («universities without students»)
- Private advocacy organizations («packaging & disseminating the work of others»)
- Research organizations or think tanks affiliated with political parties
- State research organizations (or think tanks)

(e.g.- Smith 1991, Weaver and McGann 2000, Rich 2004)

- **Shortcomings:**

- Not every country has examples of each type
- Often there is considerable blurring among the four types
- There are types of research organizations that do not fit the fourfold typology

(Campbell and Pedersen 2014, pp. 228-229)

National characteristics of 4 knowledge regimes, 2008-09 (Cambell & Pedersen 2014: 217)

Mix of Policy Research Organizations	USA (competitive)	France (Statist)	Germany (Coordinated)	Denmark (Negotiated)
Private: scholarly	Strong		Weak	Strong
Private: advocacy	Strong	Weak	Weak	Weak
Private: clubs		Weak		
Semipublic: permanent		Moderate	Strong	Strong
Semipublic: temporary				Strong
State: executive branch	Strong	Strong	Moderate	Strong
State: legislative branch	Strong			
Party		Weak	Moderate	
University			Weak	Moderate
Major changes	Proliferation of private research organizations	Externalization of research from the state	Accreditation of research capacity	Rising state control over research
	Rising competition and then cooperation	State's partial recentralization of research	Rising competition	Rising competition and expert advising

National characteristics of Finnish knowledge regime?

Mix of Policy Research Organizations	Finland (Coordinated negotiation?)
Private: scholarly	
Private: advocacy	
Private: clubs	
Semipublic: permanent	
Semipublic: temporary	
State: executive branch	
State: legislative branch	
Party	
University	
Major changes	?
	?

Nordic example: Institute Sector in Norway

- **Reflects a practical orientation in state R&D funding that has long historical roots (since mid-1940s)**
- **Institutes have variety of ownership status (Ltd company, Foundation, Ministry owned).**
- **Four types of research institute:**
 - the technical-industrial institutes; the environment institutes; the primary industries institutes; the social science institutes
- **Important role for Research Council of Norway (RCN) in management of Institute Sector:**
 - Evaluation of the institutes and of the fields and disciplines to which they belong
 - Managing the core funding system, including the performance-based element
 - Providing grant funding on competitive terms
 - Monitoring the performance of the institutes through annual reporting and analysis
 - Conducting an annual dialogue with each institute director about performance
 - However, RCN does not have the authority to make wider decisions about the sector and its role or the relative allocation of resources between the institutes and other research-performing organisations (such as universities)

Norway: Core Funding of Research Institutes by RCN

To qualify for RCN core funding, an institute must :

- Undertake research of interest to Norwegian business, government or society
- Maintain disciplinary and scientific capabilities, demonstrated through scientific publication
- Conduct research activities of a sufficient scale to permit the development of significant research capacity within the organisation
- Have a variety of sources of research income and compete in national and international competition for research funding

In social science institute sector share of RCN funding as part of turnover ranges from 2.5% to 23%.

Selected projects in FRIPRO (open competition) basic research program Norwegian Research Council

	Nr. of projects funded (% of total) 2013 (Nok 455 million)	Nr. of projects funded (% of total) 2016 (Nok 980 million)
Institutions		
4 Old Universities	53 (78%)	78 (74%)
University Colleges	0	2 (2%)
Specialized Universities	0	0
4 New Universities	3 (4.5%)	6 (6%)
Research Institutes	12 (17.5%)	19 (18%)
TOTAL	68 (100%)	105 (100%)

Regular evaluation of Research Institutes

**Recent (2017) evaluation of social science research institute sector
(see report)**

Mandate:

- The relevance of the institutes to public administration, business and society
- The quality and capabilities of the institutes
- The institutes' ability to recruit and their contribution to research training
- The institutes' structure and role in the R&D system
- The institutes' international cooperation
- The framework conditions under which the institutes operate

Norway: Future of Institute Sector?

No plan to integrate the Institute Sector wholesale into the higher education sector or to alter their primary role of focusing on the use of knowledge in support of social and economic development

Denmark: Integration of Government Research Institutes (GRIs) in University Sector

- **Governmental Vision: Globalisation Strategy (since 2005)**
 - “Human knowledge, ideas and work effort are key for exploiting the opportunities of the globalisation”
- **The most important policy goals introduced in the framework of the globalisation strategy include to:**
 - raise the public investments in research from 0.75% to 1% of the Danish GDP
 - link the basic public funding of universities more directly to the quality of their activities;
 - integrate the government research institutions (GRIs) into the universities

Denmark: Integration of GRIs in University Sector

- **Evaluation (2009):**
 - Integration overall positive effects
 - New RDI landscape not finished yet
 - Remaining GRIs should preferably also be integrated

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Relevant Issues in further trajectory of Reform of State Research Institutes and Research Funding

- **Importance of a future oriented governmental RDI vision**
- **Understanding of specific nature of Finnish Knowledge Regime (within Nordic, European and Global contexts)**
- **Role and nature of Finnish welfare state (public domain) should be taken into account in an appropriate way**
- **Valid data on performance and competitiveness of Finnish research**
- **Strengthen sectoral profiles**

Performance of Finnish R&D sector in Nordic context, see:
«Forskningsbarometer» Norwegian Ministry of Education and Science
(<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/tema/forskning/innsiktsartikler/forskningsbarometeret/id635788/>)

Performance in ERC: FP7 & H2020

Country	% of total ERC grants awarded	% of total ERC Grants awarded to Nordic countries
Finland	1.6% (FP7) 2.0% (H2020)	18.6% (FP7) 24.4% (H2020)
Denmark	2.0% (FP7) 2.0% (H2020)	23% (FP7) 24.8% (H2020)

Performance in ERC: FP7 & H2020

Country	ERC Grants (total: 7317)	% of Grants in Universities	Number of universities with > 30 ERC Grants (N=44)
United Kingdom	1499 (20.5%)	94.4% (FP7) 94.4% (H2020)	12
Germany	1117 (15.3%)	68.4% (FP7) 62.8% (H2020)	4
France	846 (11.6%)	20.8% (FP7) 23.7% (H2020)	0
Netherlands	688 (9.4%)	88.6% (FP7) 92.6% (H2020)	8
Switzerland	510 (7.0%)	90.2% (FP7) 87.4% (H2020)	4
Sweden	262 (3.6%)	99.9% (FP7) 100% (H2020)	4
Denmark	147 (2.0%)	94.0% (FP7) 98.4% (H2020)	2
Finland	129 (1.8%)	94.0% (FP7) 98.4% (H2020)	2
Norway	71 (1.0%)	97.7% (FP7) 89.3% (H2020)	1



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Expert Cultures and
Institutional Dynamics

Thank you very much for your attention!

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