

**The University of Bath
International Centre for Higher Education Management
Seminar Series**

**Towards a Cartography of Impact: Analysing the
Process of 'Impact' Peer Review in the REF**

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Abstract

This presentation is based on the author's empirical and conceptual research into an 'impact agenda' for Higher Education in the UK and 'impact' as a new indicator of research excellence. It focuses on how adjudications of the socio-economic impact of research are made in the peer-review context of the UK's Research Excellence Framework (REF) and, therefore, peer-review of impact as a new facet of performance assessment with significant bearings on Higher Education research cultures and praxis. It reveals what senior-academics and user-group assessors, with responsibility for making such assessments, recognise and reward as excellence in the review of their disciplines' impact claims; the process they undertake in making these decisions; and the influences (extraneous and indigenous) that shape these decisions

Biography

Richard Watermeyer is a Senior Lecturer in Higher Education at the University of Surrey and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He is, by training and orientation, a sociologist, with specific interests in academic identity, practice and the contemporary and future reconfiguration of the university and Higher Education sector. Richard was formerly Principal Investigator of the Programme for Impact and Engagement Research within the ESRC Centre for Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics at Cardiff University and the first social scientist to be seconded to the Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser for Wales.