



The
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Challenges and Best Practice in Co-Production

Hosted by the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Sheffield
The Showroom Cinema & Workstation
15 Paternoster Row Sheffield
S1 2BX

Wednesday 18 May 2016

Co-production is not just about collaborative working to have shared outputs; it is also about working together to share knowledge and ways of producing knowledge. Over the past few years, the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Sheffield has co-ordinated a number of events to address particular issues around co-production, exploring critical questions of exactly what co-production is, what it can achieve, and how it is changing the nature of knowledge production. This third major conference is building on this work to explore best practice in co-produced research more closely, both in terms of what works within an a project, as well as considering different models for establishing effective partnerships.

The aim for this conference is to explore the many different methods and practices of co-production that can be adopted and to understand how research can be relevant to a variety of non-academic partners. This event offers a space to learn how research can be developed and utilised in a wider context, to share ideas and explore examples of best practice, and reflect on how to design and deliver effective co-produced research projects successfully. Bringing together academics, policy makers, practitioners and other experts, this year's conference will explore a number of issues, including:

- Why is co-production important and what does it involve?
- What does 'good practice' in a co-production project look like?
- What does co-production in relationship building look like?
- Valuing knowledge across disciplines and across domains of practice: who uses co-production?
- Why do people not use co-production? What barriers prevent people from using co-production?

As part of this conference papers are invited, although they are not a pre-condition for attendance. Given the theme of the event, joint submissions between academics and partners from outside of the university would be particularly welcome. Papers are also encouraged from practitioners (from organisations of any size or industry background), academics, community workers and other relevant individuals on topics related to any of the key questions identified above, ideally drawing on practical experience of co-production. All abstracts are welcome and encouraged.

Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be emailed to coproduction@sheffield.ac.uk by **Friday 26 February 2016**. Any informal enquiries can be made to Gareth Young or Claire Williams (coproduction@sheffield.ac.uk) in the first instance. Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their abstract by early April at the latest. There is a very limited fund for travel expenses available to non-academic presenters who do not have recourse to other means of support. These funds are discretionary and you should indicate if you wish to be considered for a travel expenses bursary when submitting your abstract.

For event booking, please visit: <http://coproduction2016.eventbrite.co.uk>.

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