Introduction

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Opening remarks

• Critical friend to the Project
• 2009 article in *Higher Education Policy*: “Reconnecting the research-policy-practice nexus in higher education: ‘Evidence-based policy’ in practice in national and international contexts”
• Reflections on the changing circumstances between 2009 and now
• Things that higher education researchers and policy makers might reflect on
Research and Policy in EDUCATION

Geoff Whitty

with Jake Anders, Annette Hayton, Sarah Tang and Emma Wisby
Things that higher education researchers might reflect on

• How evidence-based is higher education research?
• We are investigating our own world
• We should recognise the limitations of higher education research
• How realistic are our conceptions of policy making and implementation?
• The higher education research and policy communities are not so separate
• How far should this constructive engagement go?
Things that policy makers might reflect on

• A wide range of education research should be encouraged
• There are different pressures on academic researchers
• The linear, rationalist approach to evidence-based policy is unrealistic
• A more indirect, diffuse model is appropriate
• Seeking the highest academic standards when commissioning and undertaking policy research
• How should research findings be communicated in order to have the greatest likelihood of influencing policy-making?