

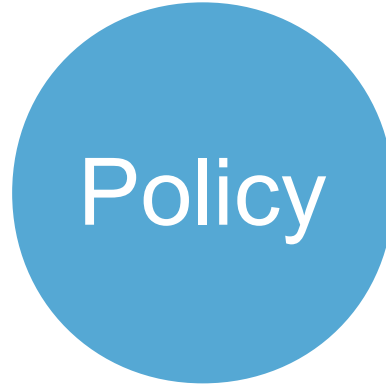
# Challenges for good policy making

*Ljubljana, Slovenia*

*December 2011*

Dr Chris Tyler  
Executive Director  
Centre for Science and Policy

# Policy process



# Policy inputs

# The role of evidence

# Donald Rumsfeld's known unknowns



“Known knowns”

“Known unknowns”

“Unknown unknowns”

UNKNOWN KNOWNS

# Examples

UK approaches to infrastructure

MECHANICAL FAILURES AT THE SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE

UK drugs policy

POLITICAL BARRIERS

EU GM crops

NGO POWER

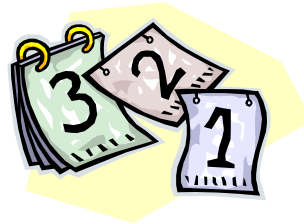
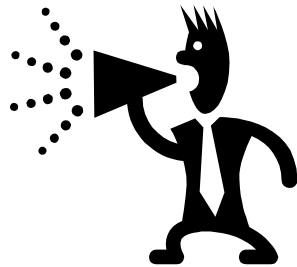
EU fisheries policy

INDUSTRIAL POWER

# Policy constraints

# Institutional barriers

Language  
Knowledge  
Timescales  
Priorities  
Cost  
Regulation  
Culture



# Human barriers

Recourse to hindsight  
Confusing correlation and  
causation  
Argument to moderation  
Genealogical fallacy  
Confirmation bias  
Semmelweis reflex

- | Anchoring
- | Hyperbolic discounting
- | Framing effects
- | Availability heuristic
- | Availability cascade
- | ...

# Bridges

Reports

Workshops/seminars/conferences etc

Chief Scientific Advisers

Science Advisory Committees

Formal connections to research institutions

Training for early career scientists and civil servants

Fostering expectation of “evidence based policy”

People exchange

# Science-policy window

	known to researchers/practitioners	unknown to researchers/practitioners
known to policy makers	good policy, good practice & impactful research	disengaged practice and research
unknown to policy makers	ill-informed policy	

# Key conclusions

Research and practice are important for policy and  
policy is important for research and practice

There is a need for a formal science-policy profession

Knowledge brokers

Policy makers

Researchers and practitioners

There needs to be symmetry on both sides of the science-  
policy divide

# Centre for Science and Policy

*[www.csap.cam.ac.uk](http://www.csap.cam.ac.uk)*

*Dr Chris Tyler*

*Executive Director*

*[cptyler@csap.cam.ac.uk](mailto:cptyler@csap.cam.ac.uk)*

*[twitter.com/cptyler](https://twitter.com/cptyler)*