

# Academics vs. practitioners:

Bridging the divide through  
local collaborations

**Kamila Lewandowska**

Science Studies Laboratory, EUROREG  
University of Warsaw

# Research Projects

## 1 Completed

NCN, Sonata, *Between art and research: Evaluation of creative arts in performance -based research funding systems* (2019/35/D/HS5/00009)

## 2 In progress

Excellence Initiative Research University – New Ideas Program (University of Warsaw), *Practice -based research: Closing the gap between research and practice* (501-D203-20-5004310)

## 3 Under review

NCN, OPUS LAP, *Practice -based research: investigating research practices, outputs and impacts in Belgium - Flanders, Poland and Switzerland* – in collaboration with ETH Zurich and VUB Brussels

# Background: My Academic Journey



Photo: Adrian Gryczuk, Source: Wikipedia, CC

# Academic Titles in the Field of Art

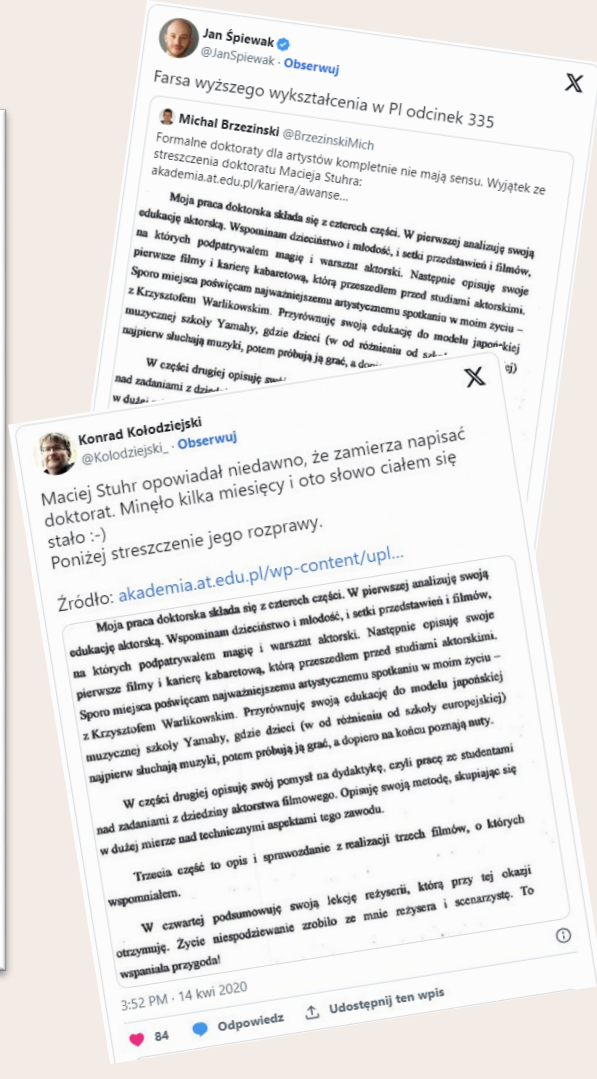
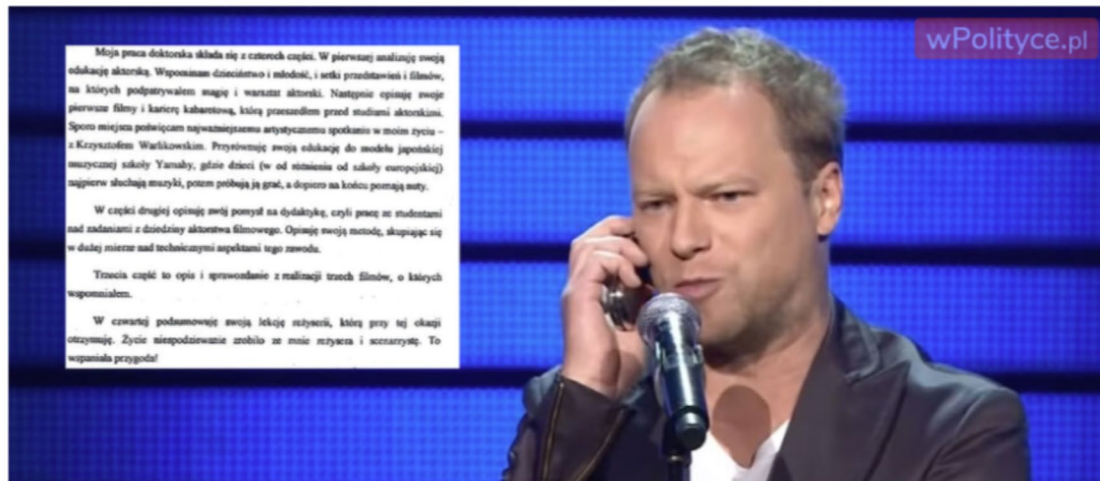
A close-up photograph of a hand holding a paintbrush, poised over a palette. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter. The background shows a palette with various colors of paint, and the hand is positioned as if about to apply paint.

Should academic degrees be awarded  
for professional achievements?



# Kabaret! Maciej Stuhra pisze doktorat. Czym chce zaskoczyć? Znany aktor opowiada... sam o sobie

Lifestyle • opublikowano: 14 kwietnia 2020



# Academization Across Disciplines

## 1950s

The academization process in **Management Studies** and **Education** started in the 1950s, resulting in a shift from professional education to scientific research emphasis.

## 1980s

Fields like **Nursing Sciences** or **Art** began their academization processes in the 1980s and 90s, transitioning from practice-oriented domains to academic disciplines.

## 2000 - ongoing

The ongoing incorporation of specialist colleges into universities and harmonization of higher education have influenced the academization of practice-based fields.

93 Art Faculties  
136,894 outputs

University -based faculties  
produce more journal articles ,  
particularly in international outlets,  
compared to faculties in more  
profession-oriented institutions.

## Academic research evaluation in artistic disciplines: the case of Poland

Kamila Lewandowska<sup>a</sup> and Emanuel Kulczycki<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Aleksander Zelwerowicz National Academy of Dramatic Art, Warsaw, Poland; <sup>b</sup>Scholarly Communication Research Group, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland

### ABSTRACT

This study focuses on the evaluation of artistic disciplines (visual and performing arts) within performance-based university research funding systems. It offers an analysis of the Polish academic research evaluation system and investigates its effects on the scholarly productivity of artists-academics. Poland has adopted a performance-based research funding system that includes evaluation of artistic productions (without considering them as 'research') and developed a comprehensive quantification of artistic achievements. We analyse data from the Polish Current Research Information System on 136,894 outputs submitted by 93 art faculties for two evaluation exercises (in 2013 and 2017). Our findings demonstrate a change in scholarly productivity of artists-academics towards publication practices characteristic for science-oriented disciplines. We also find that art departments located in universities exhibit a greater tendency for changing publication practices than departments located in independent art schools. The findings from this study demonstrate that both: (1) the designs of national research evaluation systems and (2) the structures of higher education

### KEYWORDS

Research evaluation;  
artistic disciplines; higher  
art education; Poland

Table 5. Article publication factors: regression analysis.

	Estimate	Std. error	t value	Pr(> t )
Constant	0.010998	0.186836	0.059	0.953202
Scientific categories:				
A+	1.111790	0.248322	4.477	2.36 e-05***
A	0.310459	0.146805	2.169	0.032888*
B	0.116828	0.131425	0.889	0.376575
Institution type, University	0.522543	0.132087	3.956	0.000159***
Discipline:				
MUSIC	0.117993	0.128100	0.921	0.359635
THEATRE & FILM	0.240120	0.148163	1.618	0.091911
FINE ARTS	0.102830	0.129976	0.791	0.431088
Faculty size	-0.001927	0.001778	-1.084	0.281675

Signif. codes: '\*\*\*' 0.001, '\*\*' 0.01, '\*' 0.05.

Residual standard error: 0.2939 on 84 degrees of freedom

Multiple R-squared: 0.3471

Adjusted R-squared: 0.2849

F statistic: 5.582 on 8 and 84 DF

p value: 1.135 e-05

Table 6. Publication trends: Welch's test for unequal variances.

	Academies of art			University faculties				
	2013	2017	Change	2013	2017	Change	t (df)	p value
Publications (All)	1.24	0.96	-0.28	1.48	1.73	0.25	-2.445(33.485)	0.02
Articles	0.15	0.24	0.09	0.20	0.60	0.39	-3.134(14.533)	0.01
Books	1.09	0.72	-0.37	1.28	1.13	-0.14	-1.104(36.585)	0.28

# Impact of Postwar Science Policies

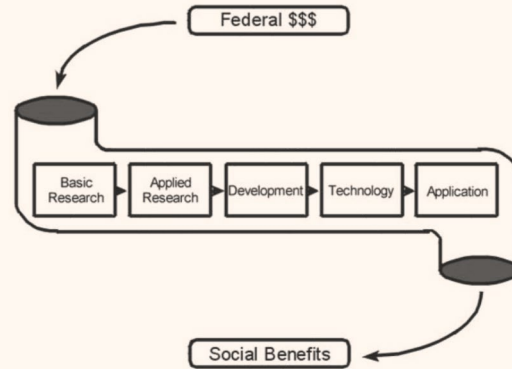
Basic research („research performed **without thought of practical ends**”) is the principal source of scientific and technological advances

V. Bush's „Science – the Endless Frontier” (1945)



# Impact of Postwar Science Policies

Linear pathway of  
knowledge diffusion

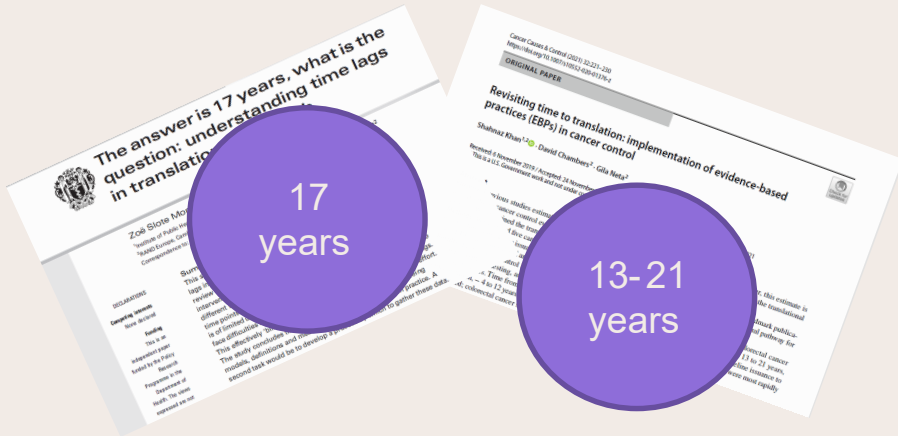


Source: <https://judithcurry.com/2013/05/15/pasteurs-quadrant/>

# Evidence -Based Practice Model



## Research – Practice Gap



## Challenges in Implementation

Limitations of randomized controlled trials (RCTs), such as **limited external validity**, pose challenges in applying research findings to real-world practice settings.

RCTs **focus on effect size** instead of dissemination.

They have **specific designs (e.g. tight exclusion and inclusion criteria, rigorous procedures)**, which are difficult to translate to the reality of community settings.



# Evidence -Based Practice Model



## Challenges in Implementation

RCTs may not be sufficient to evaluate the effects of interventions related to patient care or psychotherapy .

\* This paper has benefited from the comments of the anonymous referees. I thank Egon Zengler, Thomas Gresser, Thomas Kallweit, and the participants at the 2014 European Association of Agricultural Economists Conference for their helpful comments.

# Rigor vs. Relevance Debate: Scholarly Benefits of Rigour

J Bus Econ (2014) 84:99–128  
DOI 10.1007/s11573-013-0692-2

ORIGINAL PAPER

In search of rigor, relevance, and legitimacy: what  
drives the impact of publications?

Miriam Flickinger · Anja Tuschke ·  
Tina Gruber-Muecke · Marina Fiedler

Rigorous research is cited more than  
practice-focused studies.

according to what they draw on insights from the micro and macro levels. In this paper, we focus on the field of how researchers aiming to bestow legitimacy on their own work use "rules of the game". Using meta-analytical techniques, we focus on the field of strategic entrepreneurship and analyze how rigor- and relevance-related characteristics of studies in this field are linked to their legitimacy and therefore to the impact they have in the research community.




Keywords Rigor · Relevance · Legitimacy · Citation rates

JEL Classification M10 · Z1

Research Evaluation, 2022, 1–13  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/reseval/rvac017>  
Article

OXFORD

## Evaluation of the arts in performance-based research funding systems: An international perspective

Kamila Lewandowska <sup>1,\*</sup>, Emanuel Kulczycki <sup>2</sup> and  
Michael Ochsner <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The Aleksander Zelwerowicz National Academy of Dramatic Art in Warsaw, ul. Miodowa 22/24, 00-246 Warsaw, Poland, <sup>2</sup>Scholarly Communication Research Group, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, ul. Międzychodzka 5, 60-371 Poznań, Poland and <sup>3</sup>FRS, Swiss Center of Expertise in the Social Sciences, University of Lausanne, Géopolis, 1015 Lausanne, Switzerland

\*Corresponding author. Email: [kamila.lewandowska@e-at.edu.pl](mailto:kamila.lewandowska@e-at.edu.pl)

### Abstract

This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the evaluation of the arts within performance-based research funding systems (PRFSs). Previous literature on PRFSs has overlooked the arts and focussed primarily on outputs in relation to the sciences and humanities. We develop a typology of how artistic outputs are evaluated within 10 countries' PRFSs, operating in Australia, the Czech Republic, Italy, Lithuania, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, and the UK, and identify three different types of artistic evaluation systems. The study compares evaluation methods and provides a classification of quality criteria used by evaluation panels. We conclude with a discussion of the challenges specific to different types of systems.

**Key words:** performance-based research funding system; research evaluation; the arts; artistic research; research quality criteria

Funding in PRFSs is weighted in favor of  
**rigor** (forming 50-80% of the formula)  
rather than **relevance** (15-25%)

PRFSs and develop a typology of how the arts are evaluated using the information the countries provide on performance-based research (Lewandowska et al., 2020). As a result of those reforms, there have been increasing demands that academics in the fields hitherto dedicated to

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# Bridging the Gap



# Engaging Practitioners in Research

„From evidence-based practice  
to practice-based evidence”



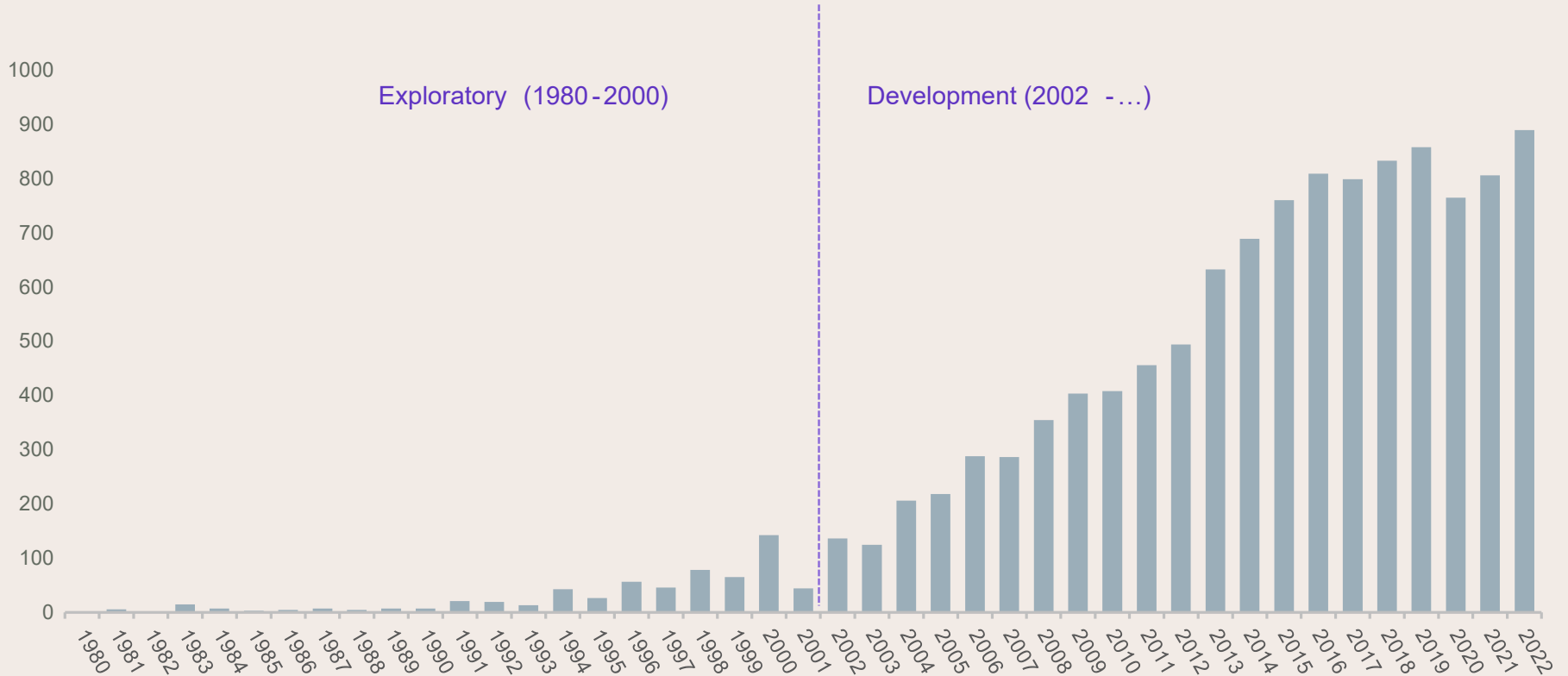
# Engaging Practitioners in Research



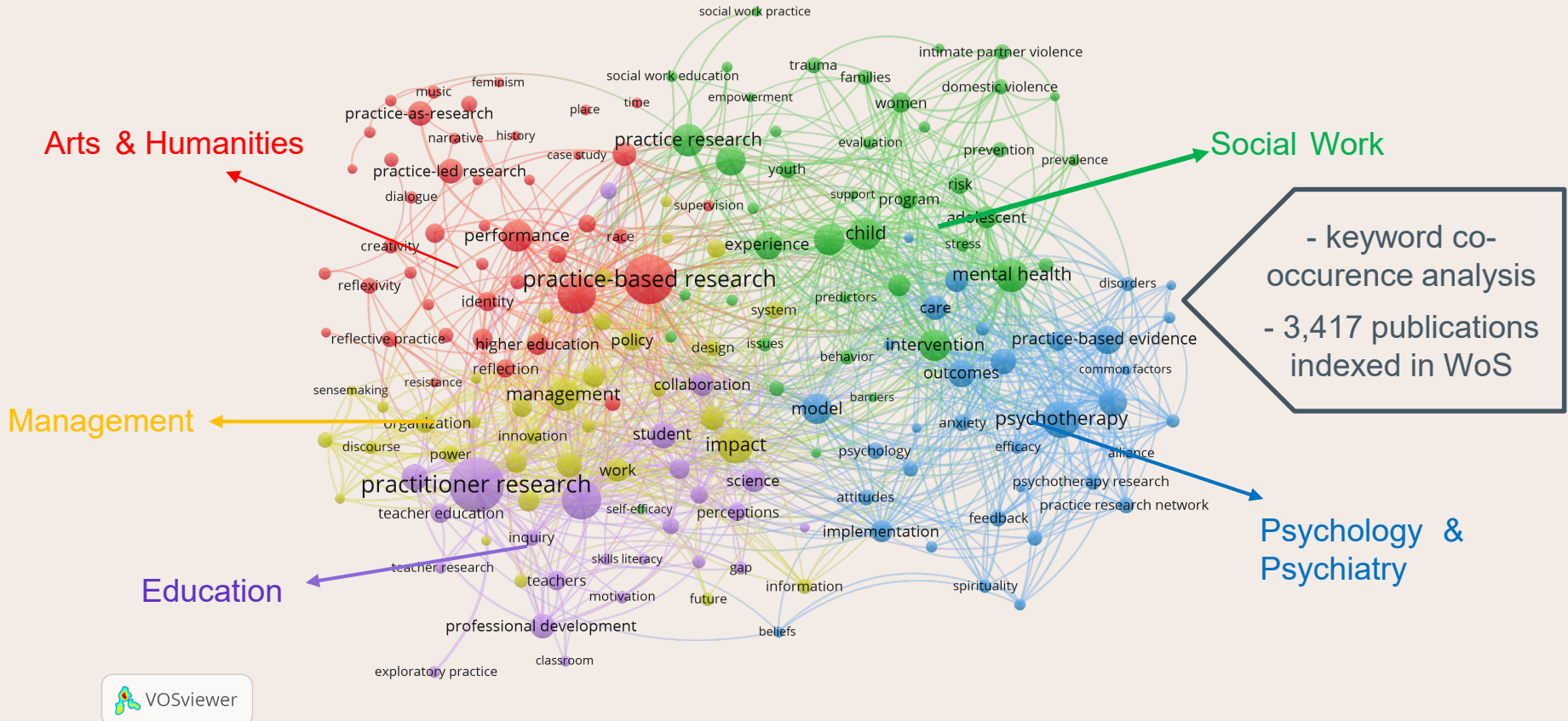
practice-based research  
practice-based evidence  
practice-as-research  
practice oriented research  
practice-led research  
practice research  
practitioner research  
practitioner-researcher



# Trends in Practice -Based Research



# Landscape of Practice -Based Research in SSH



# Scoping review

“practice -based research” OR “practice -based evidence” OR “practice -as-research” OR “practice oriented research” OR “practice -led research” OR “practice research” OR “practitioner research” OR “practitioner -researcher” OR “researcher -practitioner” (Topic) and 1.14 Nursing (Citation Topics Meso) and Article (Document Types) and 2023 or 2022 or 2021 or 2020 or 2019 or 2018 or 2017 or 2016 or 2015 or 2014 or 2013 or 2012 or 2011 or 2010 or 2009 or 2008 or 2007 or 2006 or 2005 or 2004 (Publication Years)

Studies from databases/registers (**n = 1714**)

Nursing Sciences (n = 961)





Educational Research (n=575)

Theatre (n=178)

„Three cultures  
of science”  
(Yair et al. 2022)

Studies included in review (**n ≈ 178**)

# Ideal Types of Practice -Based Research

		Degree of academia-practice collaboration	
		Lower	Higher
Objectives	More research-oriented	 Practitioner-led research (evidence)	 Collaborative research (engagement)
	More practice-oriented	 Practitioner-led research (improvement)	 Collaborative research (partnership)



## Practitioner-led research (improvement)

Conducted by practitioner-researchers to explore and improve their own professional practice.



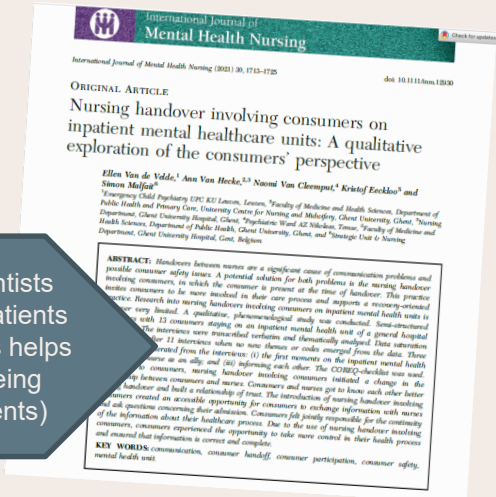
A school teacher introduces boredom regulation strategies during an English class and evaluates their effectiveness through interviews with students.

A team of nurse scientists explores if involving patients in the handover process helps improve their well-being (interviews with patients)



## Practitioner-led research (evidence)

Conducted by practitioner-researchers to respond to a “knowledge gap” and focus on providing evidence which can help address practical issues.





## Collaborative research (engagement)

Collaboration of academic researchers and practitioners; generally initiated and designed by researchers.



Secondary school teachers incorporate research findings provided by an educational researcher into year-long, classroom-based projects.

Two critical care nurses invited a nurse scientist to conduct a cross-sectional study to identify sources of discomfort among critically ill patients.



## Collaborative research (partnership)

Studies are initiated collaboratively or by practitioners, and are also designed in a more collaborative manner.





# Academic - Practitioner Tensions



Academics and practitioners operate from **different logics** when framing research questions, with practitioners often skipping literature reviews at the outset.



**Divergent time horizons** exist, with academics having longer timelines compared to practitioners, causing challenges in aligning work pace.



**Communication discrepancies** arise, as academic conventions may not always translate practically, impacting knowledge representation and research outcomes.

# External Challenges to Practice -Based Research

**Organizational Structures:** Higher education sector organized according to the basic vs. applied research divide.

**Evaluation and Funding Constraints:** Grant funding and research evaluation systems tend to favor conventional academic research.

**Publication Bias:** Academic journals typically focus on articles with academic rigor, which may not always align with the practical perspectives emphasized in practice-based research.

**Educational Shifts:** Less practitioners in higher education due to higher education reforms (e.g. Konstytucja dla Nauki)

# Identifying Collaborations: A Bibliometric Challenge

01

Affiliations provided by authors do not include non-academic institutions

02

Practitioners are not acknowledged by the authors of the study.



# Future Research: a trilateral project



## Scientometric Analysis

A scientometric analysis to map practice -based research publication outputs using ECOOM databases .



## Interviews with Practitioner - Researchers

Interviews with Practice -to-Science grant holders and panel members of Swiss National Science Foundation's (SNSF)



## Analysis of Impact Case Studies

Analysis of 2,661 impact case studies submitted by science and higher education institutions for the national research evaluation exercise in Poland

**Thank you !**