There has been a significant effort to increase the use of scientific evidence in policy and practice. Nevertheless, bridging the gap between practice and academic research has been a continuing challenge. Scholars and practitioners have emphasized the shortcomings of “evidence-based practice/policy” models which assume a direct, one-way diffusion of knowledge into practice. At the same time, there has been a growing interest in bottom-up forms of knowledge production which involve practitioners in the research process.

In this presentation, I will discuss different forms of practitioner engagement in academic research and research-practice collaborations. The presentation will address the characteristics of practitioner research across a variety of research fields, as well as implementation and evaluation challenges. The presented research will draw from two research grants: (1) “Practice-based research: Closing the gap between research and practice”, New Ideas Program, Excellence Initiative Research University, and (2) “Between art and research: Evaluation of creative arts in performance-based research funding systems”, National Science Centre (Sonata, 2019/35/D/HS5/00009).

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