

# CULTURE, COMMUNITY, DATA AND DECISION-MAKING: POLICY WITH AND FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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Regional research conversations: Impact  
South East AHRC Impact Acceleration cluster  
8 May 2024, University of Sussex

# Focus for today

1. Research examining local government authority and arts and cultural sector decision-making.
2. Reflects on relationships with local authorities and their national membership body, the Local Government Association, through *several* projects.
3. Impact success as aligning with and shaping partner's priorities and approaches.
4. Impact challenge in understanding 'down the line' impact for a those who partners work with/for.

# The thread: constellations, connections, and conversations

- **Constellations**

Considers how Research can exist across several different projects. This can be framed by a “university” logic (i.e., a funded project leading to outputs). However, the research is encountered by partners/research beneficiaries in different ways.

- **Conversations**

Highlights the relationships and conversations needed to reflect on and revise a “university” framing or logic.

- **Connections**

Highlights the further work need to translate research so it meaningfully connects with a partner/research beneficiary.

# Constellations

- Research examining local authority and arts and cultural sector decision-making.





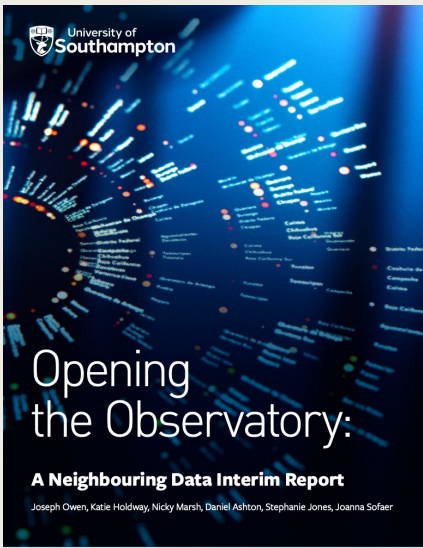
# Cultural strategies and futures

Professor Daniel Ashton and Makanani Bell



## Bridging the Gap: Connecting local government with creative freelancers

## Freelancers and Government



## Opening the Observatory: A Neighbouring Data Interim Report

Joseph Owen, Katie Holdway, Nicky Marsh, Daniel Ashton, Stephanie Jones, Joanna Sofaer

# Constellations

- Research examining local authority and arts and cultural sector decision-making...

... with local government authorities and their national membership body, the Local Government Association, through *several* projects.



We are the national voice of local government, working with councils to support, promote and improve local government.



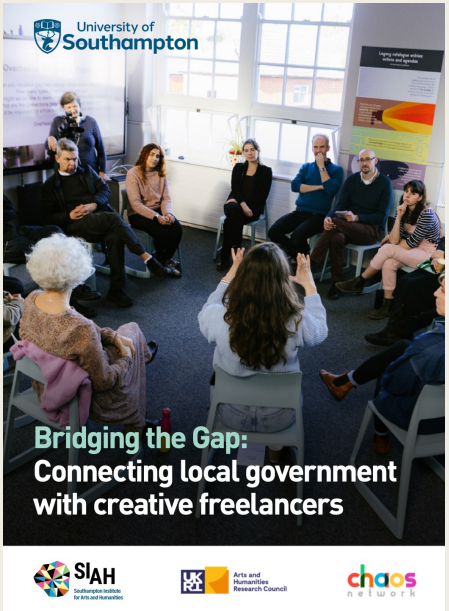


Shared research findings/reports with membership and networks



Various local authorities

Participant in project and/or knowledge exchange events



# Conversations: “a really inspiring chat” ... and impact

- Example, a conversation with a London Borough council in which recommendations from the *Cultural Strategies* report are explicitly shaping their practice and approach...



## 7. Policy and position

...across a variety of years and places.

We recommend cultural strategies go beyond providing a reference list of policies and strategies that are referred to and create a matrix or table that includes all the policies and strategies referred to and indicates when they were published, if they are timebound, and how long they remain in alignment.

## 10. Continuity and evaluation

...engagement in a greater variety of ways.

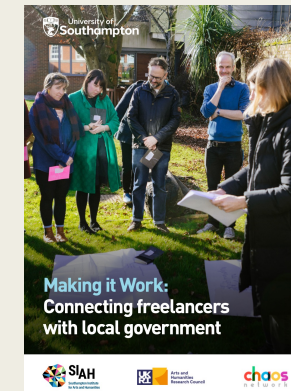
We recommend new cultural strategies, where applicable, reference relevant past strategies to reflect and evaluate on the status of their aims, and going forward establish a way for aims to be regularly reflected on and evaluated.

# Connecting conversations

- The conversation about this ...



- Moves on to discuss ...





# Connecting conversations

- The conversation about this ...
- Moves on to discuss ...
- There is a bunch (constellation) of connected ideas and suggestions



# Connecting conversations

- The conversation about this ...
- Moves on to discuss ...
- There is a bunch (constellation) of connected ideas and suggestions ...
- Which for impact case studies require delineating (e.g., authors; Units of Assessment)



# Possible discussion point...

- The (necessary?) challenge of articulating how a specific report or recommendations are impactful ...

... when it might be the **relationship** (“inspiring chat”) or the **holism and blend** which is most impactful.



# Connections with concerns

- Impact success as aligning with and shaping partner's priorities and approaches. For example ....



From PDF report to  
blog think piece

## Culture and devolution: a series of think pieces

Following on from the publication of Cornerstones of Culture, the final report of our Commission on Culture and Local Government, we have launched a series of think pieces exploring the future of local publicly-funded cultural services and devolution.



About ▾ Political ▾ Our support ▾ Case studies Parliament ▾ Topics ▾ Publications Events ▾

Home > Topics > Culture, tourism, leisure and sport > Culture and devolution: a series of think pieces

## Lived experience and decision-making: an applied approach to using, connecting and representing qualitative evidence

Nicky Marsh, Joseph Owen and Daniel Ashton from Southampton Institute for Arts and Humanities, University of Southampton, explore the role of cultural data and how we can use it to improve our local area.

# Connections in “co-designing” concerns

Not just aligning to existing concerns but iterative and part of the relationship

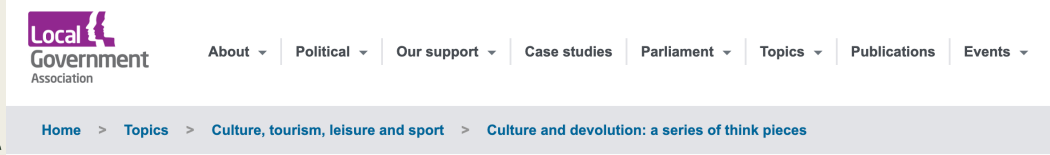


Participant in project and/or knowledge exchange events



**Culture and devolution: a series of think pieces**

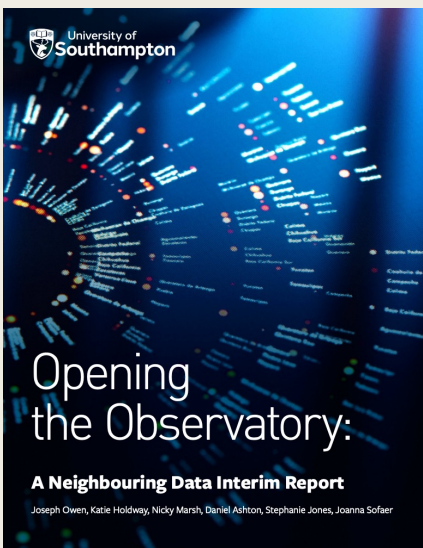
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**Lived experience and decision-making: an applied approach to using, connecting and representing qualitative evidence**

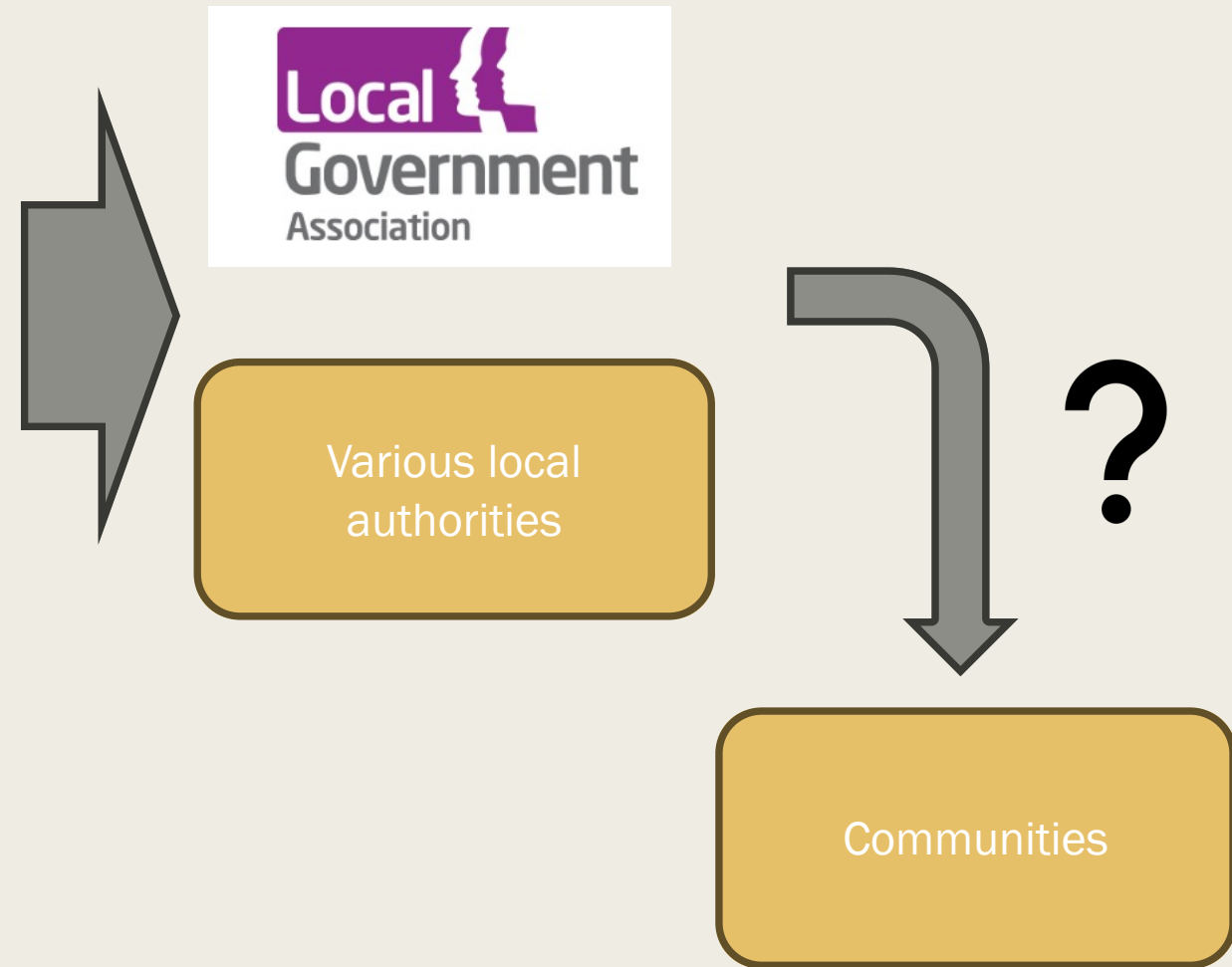
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# Challenges

- Challenges in understanding 'down the line' impact for a partners' users.





# Challenges

- Challenges in understanding ‘down the line’ impact for a those who partners work with/for.
- Sometimes this can be **explored together**, especially at Knowledge Exchange events.
- Other times, the impact of the impact remains unknown.



# Challenges

- The impact of the impact remains unknown.
- For example...



## 7. Policy and position

We recommend cultural strategies go beyond providing a reference list of policies and strategies that are referred to and create a matrix or table that includes all the policies and strategies referred to and indicates when they were published, if they are timebound, and how long they remain in alignment.

## 10. Continuity and evaluation

We recommend new cultural strategies, where applicable, reference relevant past strategies to reflect and evaluate on the status of their aims, and going forward establish a way for aims to be regularly reflected on and evaluated.

Communities



# Possible discussion point...

- Understanding the impact for/with a specific organisation on their approaches and practices...  
  
... and the ongoing but indirect impact on others from those changes in approaches and practices.



# Summary and possible discussion points...

- Working with a **constellation** of projects which can interlink through ongoing **conversations**. This can lead to authentic and meaningful impact – especially when **connected** with (co-designed) concerns and agendas.
- *The (necessary?) challenge of articulating how a specific report or recommendations are impactful when it might be the **relationship** (“inspiring chat”) or the **holism and blend** which is most impactful.*
- A **challenge** of working with organisations (e.g. local authorities) and then understanding if/how the changes in their practices and approaches have been of further benefit ‘down the line’?
- *Understanding the impact for/with a specific organisation on their approaches and practices **and** the ongoing but indirect impact on others from those changes in approaches and practices.*