

A raison d'être and
reason to doubt public
engagement:
paradoxes of
academics' public
participation (&
impact).

Richard Watermeyer, 11th July 2018



A potted history

- All the way back to Bodmer/PUS
- Beacons of Public Engagement
- Sciencewise & VOICES
- Impact in the REF
 - *Engaged Research*

Contesting the normative

- Situating the state of the art
- Not just 'an inherently good thing'
 - *Lost in the 'third space'*
 - Corrupted or fractured research praxis
 - Ancillary rather than integral
 - Individuals in isolation without affiliation to or protection afforded by a coherent and cohesive academic identity
 - Public intellectuals vs. New Public Management
 - *Institutionalizing public engagement:*
 - "Positional Goods": *The effect(s) of 'Competitive Accountability'*
 - *Evaluators; Stakeholders (Parliamentarians); Engaged Researchers*

The Future (in the UK)

- Impact up to 25%
- A broader definition of the terms of public engagement (REF2021) in the context of Performance Based Research Funding
- Identifying, implementing and supporting an *academic* leadership ecosystem for public engagement
 - HoDDaCC
 - UMMAPE
- Resisting 'cultural conversion'

Thank you for listening

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