

A weighted menu of evidence supports clearer narratives and fairer assessments of research quality across disciplines.

Developing Evidence-Informed Output Narratives for fairer research evaluation across disciplines

Dr Stuart RF King (ORCID: 0000-0003-4374-3587) | Dr Elizabeth Gadd (ORCID: 0000-0003-4509-7785)

Loughborough University, Loughborough, United Kingdom

s.king4@lboro.ac.uk | e.a.gadd@lboro.ac.uk

INTRODUCTION

- Our research cultures influence research assessment, and vice versa.
- Research assessments still often rely on metrics that are limited and that don't apply to all outputs or fields.
- Internal reviewers (e.g. for promotions) can not always be subject-matter experts.
- We thus need a clearer way to evidence research quality and help assessors to recognise it more fairly and consistently across disciplines.

METHODS

- Used "SCOPE" framework for design (1.).
- Co-developed with researchers, including Arts, Design and Social Sciences & Humanities (SSH).
- Narrative using "menu of evidence" (2.).
- Discipline-specific weightings (3. & 4.).
- Piloted with 10 recently promoted academics from six Schools.
- Evidence-Informed Output Narratives (EONs) tested with a former reviewer too.

RESULTS

- 7 of 10 found EONs easier or as easy to write as past statements.
- 7 of 10 found the menu as or more effective in showing quality and reach.
- SSH researchers rated the menu 'very effective' more often than others.

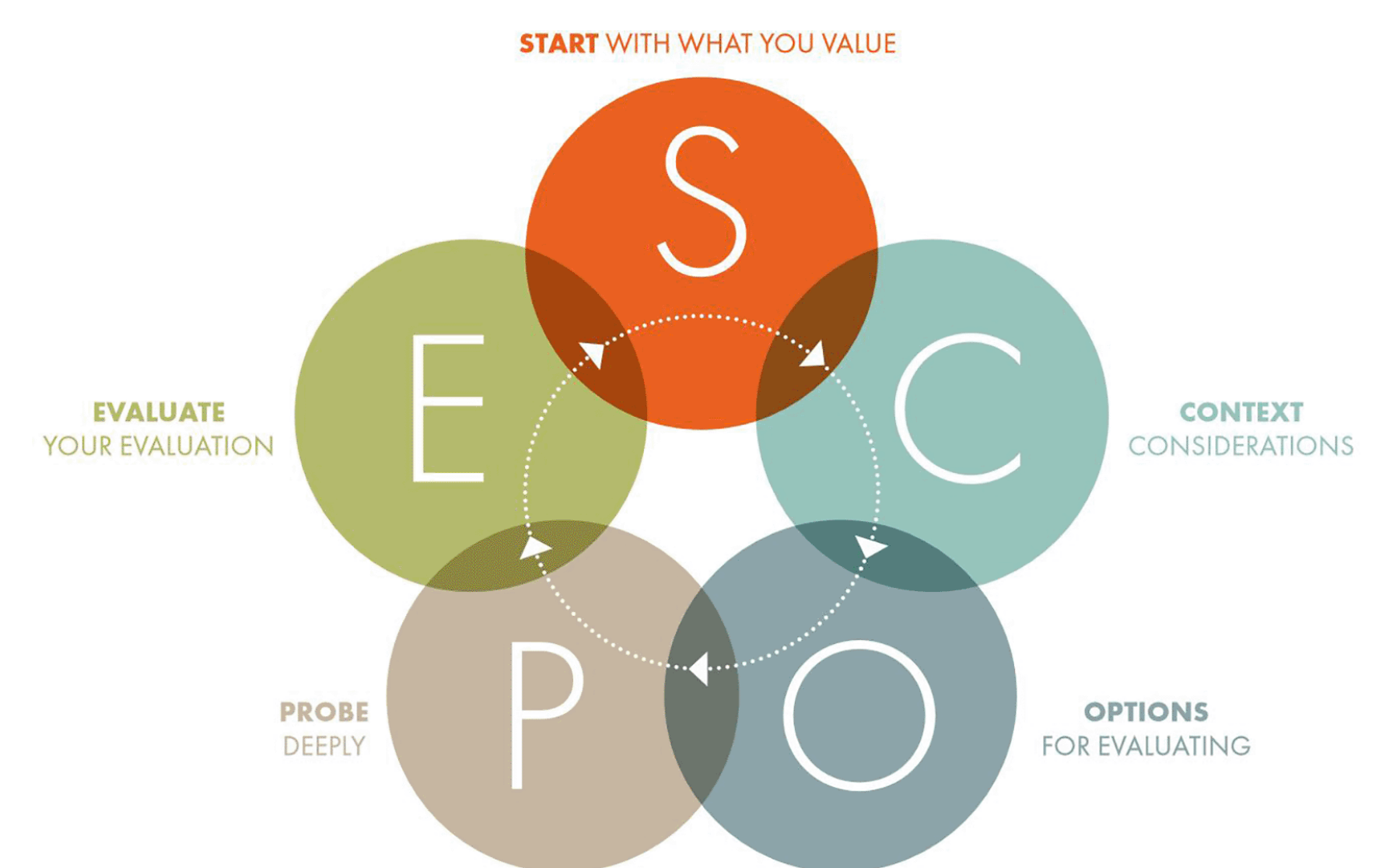
DISCUSSION

- EONs offer a practical model for others to action DORA and COARA principles.
- Following positive feedback, EONs are included in our University promotion information, initially as optional guidance.
- We are now supporting Schools to embed locally and continue to gather feedback.
- We're also exploring use of EONs in other assessments, like annual performance reviews, and to help us identify a broader diversity of outputs for REF consideration.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Prof. Stephen Rice, Prof. Vicky Haines, Jen De Lillo, Associate Deans for R&I, and Human Resources colleagues.

1. SCOPE Framework for Research Evaluation



From Himanen et al. (2024)

<https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.140810.2>

2. Categories of evidence

- Evidence of contribution +
- Evidence of quality/peer validation +
- Evidence of reach/visibility +

3. Weightings of evidence

Less important, valued less in assessments, still of interest
Important in assessments, valued but not always expected
Important in assessments, valued and normally expected
Very important in assessments, highly valued

4. Menu of evidence, weighted by discipline

A grid table showing the weighting of evidence across different disciplines. The table has multiple columns representing disciplines and rows representing different evidence categories. The cells are shaded in various colors (purple, blue, green, yellow) to indicate the relative importance of each evidence type for each discipline.

