

# Moray House School of Education and Sport 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lecture Series

## Education: Making a difference in the World

Presented by  
Dr William Smith and Professor Sarah McGeown



# Welcome

## Looking Back: Dr Smith

- Expansion of Education
- Effects of Education on Society
- Importance of Context

## Looking Forward: Professor McGeown

- Research-Practice Partnerships (RPPs)
- RPPs in Moray House
- Enablers for RPPs



# Research-Practice Partnerships in Education



# Research-Practice Partnerships in Education

Collaborative research aimed at improving children and young people's educational experiences and outcomes, which draws upon the knowledge, expertise and experience from both research and practice.

Growing interest in the use of research-practice partnerships within education<sup>1</sup>, with examples primarily from the US, but developing elsewhere.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Coburn, C., & Penuel, W. R. (2016). Research-Practice Partnerships in Education: Outcomes, Dynamics, and Open Questions. *Educational Researcher*, 45, 1, 48-54.

<sup>2</sup>Sjolund, S., Lindvall, J., Larsson, M., & Ryve, A. (2022). Using research to inform practice through research-practice partnerships: A systematic review. *Review of Education*, 10:e3337.

# Benefits and methodological considerations

## **Benefits**<sup>1</sup>

Potential to narrow the gap between research and practice

Research informed by the full breadth and depth of knowledge, experience and expertise available

Supports researchers and teachers professional development

## **Methodological considerations**<sup>1</sup>

Different priorities in research and practice

Potential for projects that satisfy neither those in research or practice

Require us to work in atypical ways

<sup>1</sup> McGeown, S., Oxley, E., Love to Read Practice Partners, Ricketts, J., & Shapiro, L. (2023). Working at the intersection of research and practice: The Love to Read project. *International Journal of Educational Research*, 117, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijer.2022.102134>



# Research practice partnerships at Moray House



# Looking forward: Enablers for research-practice partnerships

Open Dialogue<sup>1</sup>, with contributions from:

Professor William Penuel

Dr Simon Sjolund

Ms Megan Dixon

Mr Robin MacPherson

Professor Courtenay Norbury

Dr Emma Vardy

Professor Laura Crane

Professor Maggie Snowling

Edited by Andrew Holliman



<sup>1</sup> McGeown, S. (2023). Research-practice partnerships: Why we need a methodological shift in how we do research. *Psychology of Education Review*, 47(1), 6-14.

# Looking forward: Enablers for research-practice partnerships

## Funding

Infrastructure

Training

Time

Incentives

Accountability

Initiate & sustain RRP  
Distributed appropriately  
Evaluate RRP





# Looking forward: Enablers for research-practice partnerships

Funding

**Infrastructure**

Training

Time

Incentives

Accountability

National and local  
Long-term and project specific  
Values-led approach



# Looking forward: Enablers for research-practice partnerships

Funding

Infrastructure

**Training**

Time

Incentives

Accountability

Methods, skills and dispositions  
Across career stages/professions



# Looking forward: Enablers for research-practice partnerships

Funding

Infrastructure

Training

**Time**

Incentives

Accountability

Essential to consider



# Looking forward: Enablers for research-practice partnerships

Funding

Infrastructure

Training

Time

**Incentives**

Accountability

REF Engagement and Impact  
Incentives for those in practice?



# Looking forward: Enablers for research-practice partnerships

Funding

Infrastructure

Training

Time

Incentives

**Accountability**

What is the purpose of research?  
Who is research for?  
Who judges the quality of research?  
What outcomes are used to measure success?



# Looking Back and Looking Forward

- Education has been a force for positive change and has had a transformative impact globally.
- Research-practice partnerships have considerable potential to contribute to positive change.



Thank you for listening

Opportunity for questions, reflections and discussion  
and perhaps a little celebration too!

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