

Preserving the human factor: Navigating the research-policy-implementation divide

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Purpose of paper: To present an exploration of the interaction of Innovation Networks framework (Ahrweiler & Keane., 2013) and social systems theory with Straus, Tetroe, and Graham's (2013) knowledge to Action Cycle to highlight the significance of effective communication, and particularly the identification of shared vision, in achieving successful implementation.

Synopsis:

Effective implementation of new knowledge and ideas takes place through a complex and time consuming interaction across organisations, systems, and cultures. This paper seeks to highlight key 'human factors' that will assist researchers and implementation specialists to simplify this interaction, through exploring the value of social systems and organisational change theories in achieving knowledge implementation. Innovation requires people and social structures to interact in order to move beyond an idea, though this interaction is often more complex than it needs to be. Social systems theory has the potential to assist researchers and implementation specialists to navigate this complex research to policy to implementation divide, hence adding value to existing knowledge translation frameworks, such as the Knowledge to Action Cycle (Straus et al., 2013).