The more the merrier

Why we all should take full advantage of the toolbox of social science methods

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Working Group on Evaluation of Public Policies and Programs (WGEPPP)

Public Policy is the solution of societal problems.

Policy Intervention	→	Problem Causers	→	Societal Problem

Policy evaluation refers to the scientific and empirically based assessment of the design, implementation and effectiveness of public policies, be they measures, programs or projects.

What does that have to do with methods? Four arguments

- We need a smart set of criteria to define whether policy is good or bad.

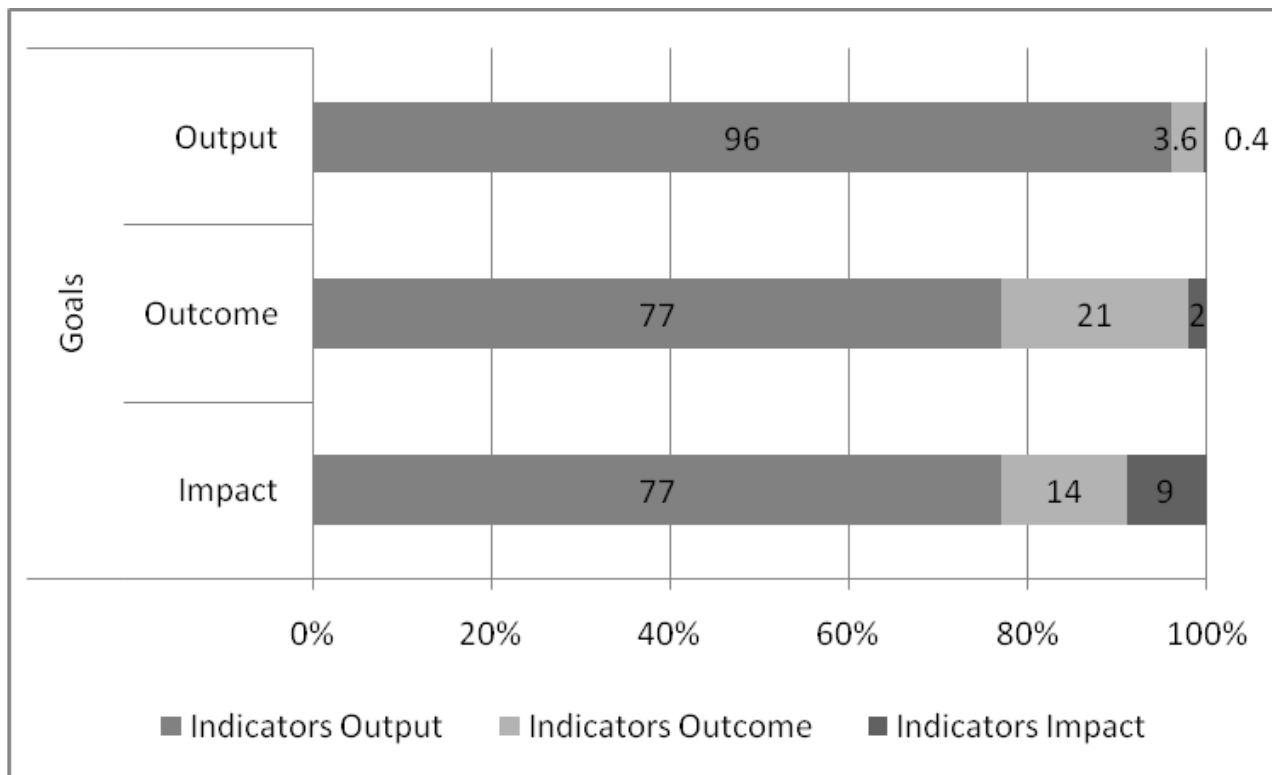- We need sound methods of data collection to measure our phenomena of interest.

- We need a realistic concept of causality to link interventions and effects.

- We need appropriate methods of data analysis to do justice to our normative and causal models.

☑ Criteria

Data collection

Notion of causality
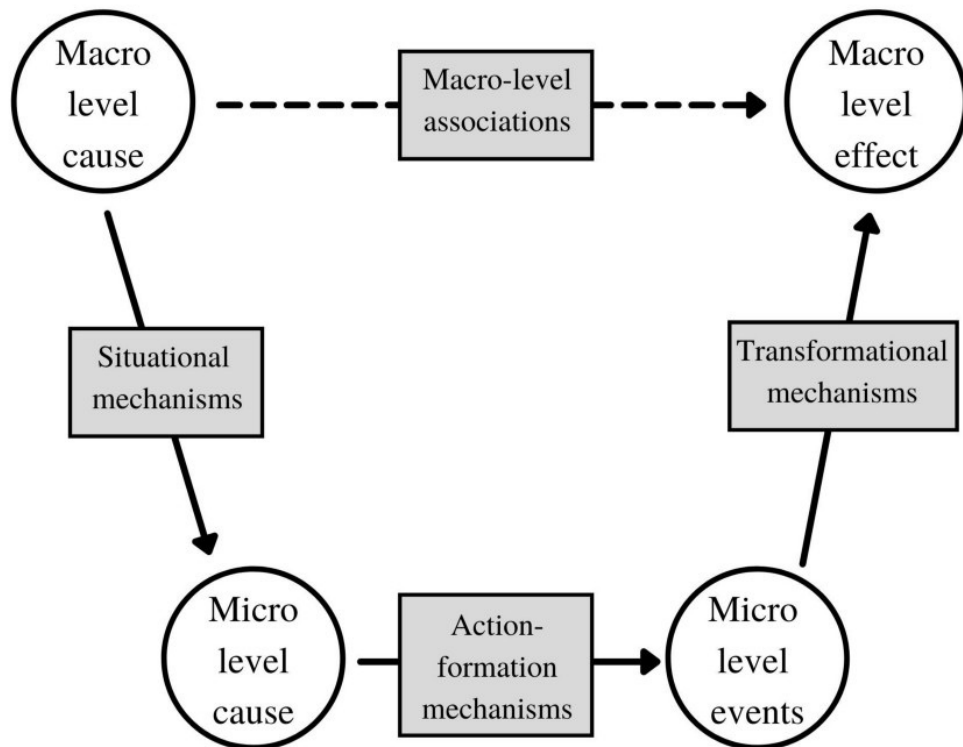
Coleman's Boat (from Foundations of Social Theory, Coleman, 1998, pp702).
Source: https://medium.com/data-driven-fiction/the-future-of-work-is-human-f7cc5532fa3e (2022/09/18)

Methods of data analysis

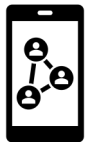Source: nzz.ch

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Source: derbund.ch

Conclusions

- Be serious

- Be open

- Be a methodological pluralist

- Countercheck and triangulate

Thank you!

For your attention and questions