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Abstract Template

TITLE: Knowledge production in neoliberal contexts: Contemporary challenges for international development research

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Start text of Abstract Here (*no more than 200 words with no figures or tables*):

This paper will examine the ways in which research funding and assessment influence knowledge created by different institutional contexts, with particular reflection on challenges produced by neoliberal research systems. The paper will focus on the field of international development, where major changes in government, private sector and private foundation funders have accompanied changes in research institutions. My study considers how the positions and strategies of these institutions have changed in response to neoliberal shifts in research funding and assessment. Based on fieldwork with three research contexts - universities, think tanks and bi/multilaterals - across the UK, US and Australia, the project uses three types of analyses: (i) case studies of 12 institutions (ii) quantitative evaluation of research outputs and (iii) discursive analysis of 72 semi-structured interviews. The project considers how funding and assessment affect the type of research that is pursued, disseminated and translated into policy, and how researchers and institutions position themselves in this context. This paper will provide comparisons across research contexts and countries, and will provide insights relevant to researchers in the Asia-Pacific and Australia. Utilising insights from sociology of knowledge and sociology of intellectuals, the paper elaborates the challenges of knowledge production in a neoliberal age.