



Quality and impact of research in political science in Sweden

A pilot evaluation

Quality and impact of research in political science in Sweden

A pilot evaluation

VR2108
Dnr 3.2-2018-00113
ISBN 978-91-88943-46-0

Swedish Research Council
Vetenskapsrådet
Box 1035
SE-101 38 Stockholm, Sweden

Innehållsförteckning

Innehållsförteckning	2
Vetenskapsrådets förord	5
Sammanfattning	7
Summary	8
Introduction to the expert panel's evaluation report	9
Expert panel	10
Evaluation of Political Science in Sweden 2020-2021 - Expert Panel Report	12
Chair's Introduction.....	13
Executive summary	14
Abbreviations and Concepts	15
1. Political Science in Sweden: Overview and Context	16
1.1 Research Funding and Administration.....	18
2. Components of the Evaluation	22
3. Swedish Political Science according to Standard Global Metrics	25
4. Scholarly and Academic Contributions	28
4.1 The selection process	28
4.2 Scoring criteria.....	34
4.3 Results.....	35
4.4 Variation by institutions in the quality of research.....	37
5. Societal Impact of the Discipline	42
5.1 Subject matter	45
5.2 Range	45
5.3 Reporting	46
5.4 Relation to research	46
5.4.1 Quality of research.....	46
5.4.2 Cross-country collaborations	49
5.4.3 Reports of impact separate from research.....	49
5.4.4 Action research	49
5.4.5 Research outside the submitting unit.....	49
5.4.6 Inter-disciplinarity	50
5.5 Key processes and results	50
5.5.1 Engagement and outcomes	50
5.5.2 Modes of communication and engagement	50
6. The Evaluation Process	52
6.1 Production of the report	52
6.1.1 Main features of the process	52
6.1.2 Future developments.....	55

7. The Panel's Conclusions and Recommendations	59
7.1 Recommendations to government and other funders.....	60
7.2 Recommendations to the SRC	62
7.3 Recommendations to universities	65
7.4 Recommendations to departments	65
7.5 Recommendations to political scientists.....	66
Appendix 1: Methods used for the selection of publications	68
Appendix 2: Instructions for reviewers in the evaluation	70
Assessment criteria	70
Supplementary criteria – level definitions.....	71
Appendix 3: Instructions for case studies	73
Guidelines	73
Describe the following for each case study	74
Appendix 4: Case studies report	77
Försvarshögskolan (FHS) – Swedish Defence University.....	77
General Summary	77
The Case Study.....	77
Göteborgs universitet (GU) – University of Gothenburg	78
General Summary	78
The Case Studies	78
Karlstads universitet (KaU) – Karlstad University	80
General Summary	80
The Case Studies	81
Linköpings universitet (LiU) – Linköping University.....	82
General Summary	82
The Case Studies	82
Linnéuniversitetet (LNU) – Linnaeus University	84
General Summary	84
The Case Studies	84
Luleå tekniska universitet (LtU) – Luleå University of Technology.....	85
General Summary	85
The Case Studies	86
Lunds universitet (LU) – Lund University	87
General Summary	87
The Case Studies	87
Malmö universitet (MaU) – Malmö University.....	89
General Summary	89
The Case Studies	90
Mittuniversitetet (MiUn) – Mid Sweden University	90
General summary.....	90
The Case Studies	91
Stockholms universitet (SU) – Stockholm University.....	92
General Summary	92
The Case Studies	92
Södertörns högskola (SH) – Södertörn University	94
General Summary	94

The Case Studies	95
Umeå universitet (UmU) - Umeå University.....	96
General Summary	96
The Case Studies	96
Uppsala universitet (UU) – Uppsala University	98
General Summary	98
The Case Studies	98
Örebro universitet (OrU) – Örebro University	100
General Summary	100
The Case Studies	100
Appendix 5: Comparison of publications (journal articles and book chapters) with the full list (SwePub)	102
Appendix 6: Comparison of SwePub with the Norwegian List	107
Appendix 7: A graphical and statistical evaluation relations between university size, research output and impact	110

Vetenskapsrådets förord

I regeringens instruktion till Vetenskapsrådet ingår uppdraget att ”utvärdera forskning och bedöma forskningen och dess vetenskapliga kvalitet och betydelse” (§1:6). I enlighet med uppdraget genomför Vetenskapsrådet regelbundet utvärderingar av forskning i Sverige.

Under 2018–2019 tog Vetenskapsrådet fram ett förslag till en modell för nationella utvärderingar av forskningsämnen och tematiska forskningsområden. Det övergripande syftet med utvärderingarna är att bidra till att stärka svensk forskning. Utvärderingsmodellen är utformad för bedömning av forskningens kvalitet och genomslag i ett internationellt perspektiv. Genom att lyfta fram såväl styrkor som svagheter kan utvärderingarna utgöra underlag för att stärka forskningen; åtgärder kan vidtas av relevanta aktörer, såväl av lärosäten som finansierare och regering.

Vetenskapsrådet har inte för avsikt att använda modellen för att utvärdera samtliga forskningsämnen enligt en fastställd utvärderingscykel. Istället handlar den om att välja ut områden där Vetenskapsrådet identifierar ett behov av en utvärdering, till exempel om det finns indikationer på (såväl positiva som negativa) förändringar i kvalitet, omfattning eller förutsättningar. Ett annat skäl kan vara att ämnet eller det tematiska området bedöms vara av stor strategisk betydelse.

Modellen har utarbetats i samverkan med en rådgivande grupp där representanter från Sveriges universitets- och högskoleförbund och en representant från Universitetskanslersämbetet ingår. Den rådgivande gruppen har betonat att de insatser som en utvärdering kräver tar resurser från övriga verksamheter vid lärosätena. Det innebär enligt gruppen att utrymmet för lärosätena att ta fram underlag är begränsat. Vidare har den framhållit vikten av att utvärderingar enligt modellen inte dubblar eller konkurrerar med övriga utvärderingsinsatser nationellt och vid lärosätena, utan kompletterar dessa. Efter diskussioner med den rådgivande gruppen har modellen utformats för att minimera de resurser på lärosätena som tas i anspråk för utvärderingen.

För att testa modellen har en pilotutvärdering genomförts under 2020–2021 av statsvetenskaplig forskning i Sverige. Ett viktigt kriterium för valet av statsvetenskap var att pilotutvärderingen skulle omfatta olika typer av lärosäten i Sverige, såväl universitet och högskolor som större och mindre lärosäten med spridning över landet.

Utvärderingen har utförts av en oberoende expertpanel bestående av sex internationella ämnesexperter och två nationella experter där de senare främst varit inriktade på forskningens genomslag. Panelens rapport presenteras här. Utvärderingsmodellen beskrivs i rapporten och av bilagorna framgår bland annat Vetenskapsrådets instruktioner för sammanställning av underlag och bedömning samt de kvantitativa uppgifter som panelen efterfrågat.

Panelen konstaterar att forskningen i statsvetenskap i Sverige håller hög internationell nivå. Dessutom fastslår panelen att samtliga 14 lärosäten som ingår i utvärderingen bedriver aktiv samverkan utanför akademien inom området statsvetenskap, såväl brett som med särskilt relevanta samhällspåverkande grupper. En intressant slutsats i rapporten är att forskningskvalitet och samhällsbetydelse är starkt kopplade; lärosäten vars forskningskvalitet inom statsvetenskap är hög är också framgångsrika i att nå ut med sin forskning såväl brett som till särskilt relevanta grupper.

En viktig del i panelens rapport är de förslag på åtgärder som kan medföra ytterligare förstärkning av den statsvetenskapliga forskningens kvalitet och betydelse. Panelens råd är övergripande, riktade till olika instanser och nivåer i forskningssystemet. Vetenskapsrådet noterar att panelens råd baseras på ett erkännande av ett i grunden välfungerande system för att få fram god forskning i statsvetenskap. Likväl är de viktiga och väl värda att diskuteras av berörda aktörer för ytterligare förstärkning av forskningen. I rapporten för panelen dessutom värdefulla resonemang om för- och nackdelar med den ansats och metod som tillämpats i utvärderingen.

Avslutningsvis vill Vetenskapsrådet betona panelens betydelsefulla och mycket väl utförda arbete. Panelens rapport är av stort värde såväl för berörda lärosäten som för Vetenskapsrådet. Utifrån rapporten kan Vetenskapsrådet konstatera att modellen fungerar för att ge en nationell bild av forskningens kvalitet och betydelse. Samtidigt är en fortsatt dialog om utvecklingen av modellen viktig. När piloten nu har slutförts kommer därför den dialogen att fortsätta gällande hur vi bäst går vidare med modellen i syfte att stärka den svenska forskningens kvalitet och betydelse.

Stockholm, 31 augusti 2021

Sven Stafström

Generaldirektör, Vetenskapsrådet

Sammanfattning

Den övergripande slutsatsen i expertpanelens rapport är att forskningen i statsvetenskap i Sverige håller en hög internationell nivå. Panelen konstaterar att ur ett internationellt perspektiv är kvaliteten på forskningspublikationerna i allmänhet framstående med hänsyn till de tre bedömningskriterierna vetenskaplig originalitet, betydelse och stringens. Dessutom fastslår panelen att samtliga de 14 lärosäten som ingår i utvärderingen bedriver aktiv samverkan utanför akademien inom området statsvetenskap, såväl brett som med särskilt relevanta samhällspåverkande grupper. En slutsats i rapporten är att forskningskvalitet och samhällsbetydelse inom ämnesområdet inte tydligt kan särskiljas: lärosäten vars forskningskvalitet inom statsvetenskap är hög är också framgångsrika i att nå ut med sin forskning såväl brett som till särskilt relevanta grupper. Utmärker sig mest, med hänsyn såväl till kvaliteten i forskningen som genomslaget den får utanför akademien, gör de större och mer väletablerade lärosätena. Panelen understryker dock att goda resultat inom båda dessa områden också är vanligt förekommande bland de mindre lärosätena.

Två huvudsakliga områden för förbättringar identifieras i utvärderingen. För det första pekar den variation som trots att allt finns avseende både kvalitet och betydelse, enligt panelen, på att det finns utrymme för en generell ytterligare förstärkning inom forskningen. För det andra menar panelen att även om det produceras mycket högkvalitativ forskning i statsvetenskap i Sverige indikerar utvärderingens utfall att det är en relativt liten del av den som är verkligt internationellt nyskapande och innovativ. Panelen lyfter i rapporten fram att samtliga aktörer i forskningssystemet, såväl finansiärer som lärosäten, institutioner, avdelningar och enskilda forskare behöver finna sätt att ytterligare förstärka forskningen.

Panelen konstaterar att utvärderingen utgör ett pilotprojekt gällande möjliga former för att bedöma resultatet av forskning inom olika akademiska discipliner i Sverige, utan att förutsätta arbetsintensiva underlag från lärosätena, som självvärderingar och platsbesök. Istället har andra underlag använts, där grunden utgjorts av extern granskning av ett urval av publikationer och exempel på fallstudier gällande forskningens genomslag, som lärosätena sammanställt. Panelens slutsats är att modellen i pilotutvärderingen kan utgöra grund för framtida utvärderingar, men i rapporten resonerar och reflekterar panelen över för- och nackdelar med olika tillvägagångssätt och ansatser för utvärdering av forskning. Dessutom presenterar panelen i rapporten vissa allmänna förslag och rekommendationer om hur forskning i statsvetenskap i Sverige kan premieras och ytterligare stärkas.

Summary

The overall conclusion of the expert panel is that, in general, research in Swedish political science is performing well. The quality of the average research publication is high, and is recognised internationally in terms of originality, importance, and rigour. Moreover, all 14 departments evaluated within the framework of the study actively engage with the public and with policy-makers. The panel's analysis shows that academic quality and policy impact in political science in general go hand-in-hand: departments whose research quality is high are also successful in disseminating research to the public and to policy-making circles. The larger and more well-established departments stand out in terms of the quality of their research and their societal engagement, but excellence in both dimensions is also found in smaller departments.

There are two main areas for improvement and development identified in the evaluation. Firstly, the variation across departments in terms of both research quality and policy impact indicates that there is room to improve performance across the sector. Secondly, although there is much good research in political science produced in Sweden, only a small proportion is judged as internationally ground-breaking. The panel concludes that the Swedish Research Council, funders, institutions, departments and individual political scientists need to find ways of pursuing continual improvement in performance. These ways include finding methods to encourage research of the highest quality, leading to top-quality activities, publications and innovative research agendas. In addition, the panel emphasises that as far as non-academic impact is concerned, it is important to remember that impact need not be immediate, and may only become apparent after some years.

Regarding the approach used, the panel notes that the evaluation serves as a pilot for how to assess performance of different academic disciplines in Sweden, without requiring labour-intensive contributions from the departments involved, such as self-study reports or site visits. It recognises that other measures have been involved instead. These included peer reviews of articles and chapters generated, quantitative indicators of research quality and output, and finally, in-depth studies of impact cases as supplied by the departments. The panel concludes that the pilot can serve as a model for future evaluations, but presents some ideas and reflections on the process and on the relative merits of different approaches, as well as some more general conclusions and recommendations on how to further improve research in political science in Sweden.

Introduction to the expert panel's evaluation report

The Swedish Research Council has a Government mandate to “evaluate research, and assess its quality and impact” (Förordning (2009:975) med instruktion för Vetenskapsrådet/Ordinance with instructions to the Swedish Research Council, Clause 1:6, (our translation)). In accordance with this mandate, the Swedish Research Council regularly evaluates research in Sweden.

To fulfil the mandate, the Swedish Research Council has developed and proposed a model for national evaluations of research subjects and of thematic (transdisciplinary) research domains. The Swedish Research Council intends to use the model as a tool for systematic evaluations. There is, however, no plan for cyclical evaluations of research at Swedish higher education institutions. Rather, the motivation for initiating an evaluation should be a specific need or an identified concern. This could for example relate to subject areas where there are indications of (either positive or negative) changes in quality, scope, or conditions. Another reason could be that a subject or thematic area is of particular strategic importance.

According to the proposal, the evaluations consist of two main components: review of research quality and of impact. A selection of publications from the higher education institutions (HEIs) involved forms the primary basis for the review of research quality. Case studies are used to evaluate impact, with cases compiled by the HEIs, demonstrating examples of research impact outside academia. Furthermore, the proposed model includes the ambition to collect experience and knowledge of important ways to promote the impact of successful research beyond academia. An external and mainly international panel should do the assessment. In addition to experts on the research subject, the panel should also include members with competence to assess the societal impact of the research.

The model proposed by the Swedish Research Council was discussed with an advisory group including representatives from three Swedish HEIs and from the Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ). The Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions (SUHF) appointed the representatives from HEIs. UKÄ is the government agency with the remit to monitor quality assurance of higher education and research.

The conclusions from the dialogue with the advisory group included testing a revised model for evaluation in a pilot. A fundamental element of the revised

model is that the information and documentation requested from the HEIs should be kept at a minimum. The principal ground for this is the pre-existing administrative workload at the HEIs. The advisory group argued that the HEIs have systems in place for quality assurance of research, and that these are in turn monitored by UKÄ. According to the advisory group, this work makes high demands on resources, and hence, they argue, there is little room left for additional requests for documentation and information from the Swedish Research Council. During the discussions, the Swedish Research Council therefore offered to source the information needed for the pilot evaluation independently from available databases as far as possible. For two items, however, the HEIs still needed to contribute specific documents: firstly, the case studies, and secondly, the publications to be included in the evaluation, as identified by the Swedish Research Council.

In consultation with the advisory group, it was agreed to make political science the subject for the pilot evaluation. An important criterion for the choice of political science was that the pilot evaluation should include Swedish HEIs of various types, universities as well as university colleges, both large and small HEIs, and with a geographical dispersion across the country.

The 14 higher education institutions included in the evaluation:

HEI (Swedish)	HEI (English)
Försvarshögskolan	Swedish Defence University
Göteborgs universitet	University of Gothenburg
Karlstads universitet	Karlstad University
Linköpings universitet	Linköping University
Linnéuniversitetet	Linnaeus University
Luleå tekniska universitet	Luleå University of Technology
Lunds universitet	Lund University
Malmö universitet	Malmö University
Mittuniversitetet	Mid Sweden University
Stockholms universitet	Stockholm University
Södertörns högskola	Södertörn University
Umeå universitet	Umeå University
Uppsala universitet	Uppsala University
Örebro universitet	Örebro University

Expert panel

A panel of mostly international experts was commissioned by the Swedish Research Council to carry out the evaluation. Ahead of the appointments, HEIs were invited to nominate experts to the panel. The concept of a pilot evaluation implied that the panel had a mandate to make a trial implementation of the model. The Swedish Research Council offered to provide information and

documentation that did not require involvement of the HEIs, primarily information available from public databases.

Members of the expert panel

Tom Carlson (Åbo Akademi University)

Peter Ehn (Swedish Agency for Public Management)

Tuomas Forsberg (University of Helsinki)

Miriam A. Golden (European University Institute), Panel Chair May 2020–
March 2021

Madeleine Hosli (Leiden University), Panel Chair April 2021–June 2021

Elisabeth Ivarsflaten (University of Bergen)

Ingvar Mattson (Director of the Swedish Parliament)

Vera Troeger (University of Hamburg)

Albert Weale (University College London)

On 31 May 2021, the panel delivered its final report to the Swedish Research Council. In addition to an assessment of the quality and impact of research in political science in Sweden, the panel further reflected on the assignment and approach in the evaluation. During the second half of 2021, the Swedish Research Council will report its conclusions on the role of this pilot evaluation in future developments of the model for evaluations.

Evaluation of Political Science in Sweden 2020-2021 - Expert Panel Report

Chair's Introduction

On behalf of the Expert Panel, I am pleased to present to the Swedish Research Council (SRC) our report on the Evaluation of Political Science in Sweden. The main activity of the SRC is the allocation of funding across all academic disciplines. It is organized in a series of directorates, of which one is Research Policy, which houses a section on Policy Advice and a section dealing with Analysis and Evaluation. Administrative and logistical support for the present evaluation came from the section dealing with Analysis and Evaluation. Although the evaluation process was supported by SRC staff, the report represents the independent view of the panel who take responsibility for its content.

The panel initially consisted of seven political scientists, representing a broad cross-section of sub-disciplinary expertise. Two further members of the panel were high-level experts from the Swedish policy community, asked to provide advice on research impact. Panel members were asked to indicate potential conflicts of interest in the very beginning of the process; panel composition and assignments were conducted based on this reporting. The original plan was to report within ten months. The Covid-19 pandemic and the difficulties of coordinating activity remotely have meant that our work has taken longer than planned. Partly as a result of this delay, the original chair of the panel, Professor Miriam Golden, was not able to spare the time for the whole exercise. I thank Professor Golden for her work during her time as Chair.

The views contained in this report represent those of the eight-person panel. They do not reflect the views of the SRC or its staff. The SRC aimed to have an independent and unbiased assessment, which is why it sought a panel made up primarily of experts from outside Sweden. However, our work could not have been accomplished without the dedicated support of SRC staff from the Analysis and Evaluation Section, whom we thank sincerely.

The evaluation was commissioned by the SRC in 2019 under a mandate from the Swedish government. Although the SRC is the commissioning body, the scope of the review is such that it is meant to be of interest to a range of funders, stakeholders and the general public. We understand that it is also a pilot study, and we have offered some reflections on the process as part of our review, which we hope will be of interest more generally to those responsible for the maintenance of research quality and impact in Sweden. Naturally, also, we anticipate that it will also be of interest to the political science profession in Sweden and possibly elsewhere.

Madeleine Hosli
Leiden University
May 2021

Executive summary

The assessment contained in this report, conducted by an expert panel, finds that, in general, Swedish political science is performing well. The quality of the average research publication is high, and is recognised internationally in terms of originality, importance, and rigour. Moreover, all 14 departments evaluated in the framework of this study actively engage with the public and with policy makers. The panel's analysis shows that academic quality and policy impact in political science in general go hand-in-hand: departments whose research quality is high also are successful in diffusing research to the public and to policy circles. The larger and more well-established departments stand out in terms of the quality of their research and their societal engagement, but excellence in both dimensions is also found in smaller departments.

There are two main points of improvement and development identified in the evaluation. First, the variation across departments in terms of both research quality and policy impact indicates that there is room to improve performance across the sector. Second, although there is much good research produced in Sweden, only a small proportion is judged as internationally path-breaking. The SRC, funders, institutions, departments and individual political scientists need to find ways of pursuing continual improvement in performance. These ways include finding methods to encourage research of the highest quality and innovative research agendas leading to top-quality publications. In addition, where non-academic impact is concerned, it is important to remember that impact need not be immediate and may only be apparent after some years.

This evaluation serves as a pilot on how to assess performance of different academic disciplines in Sweden. While the evaluation was not labour intensive for the departments involved, as no self-study reports or site visits were required, it involved other measures. These included peer reviews of articles and chapters generated, quantitative indicators of research quality and output and finally, in-depth studies of impact cases as supplied by the departments. The panel concludes the pilot can serve as a model for future evaluations, but presents some ideas and reflections on the process and on the relative merits of different approaches, as well as some more general conclusions and recommendations.

Abbreviations and Concepts

Explanations of abbreviations and some concepts referred to or used by the panel in the report

Block grant: Grants paid direct by the government to the HEIs.

Clarivate Analytics: A company that publishes Web of Science, a publication database with citation indices. When Clarivate Analytics is referenced in the report, this refers to the Swedish Research Council's database for bibliometrics, which is based on the same material as Web of Science.

Formas: a Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development. (Forskningsrådet för hållbar utveckling).

Forte: Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare. (Forskningsrådet för hälsa, arbetsliv och välfärd).

Full time equivalent (FTE): A full time equivalent is the work carried out by one full-time employee during one year. A full-time employee who spends half their time on R&D has carried out 0.5 FTEs on R&D. (Heltidsekvivalenter).

HEI: Higher education institution. Sw. Lärosäte (universitet och högskola).

Norwegian List: The Register for Scientific Journals, Series and Publishers. The register, also known as The Norwegian Register, presents publication channels approved as scientific publication channels. Publication channels are journals, series and publishers. An approved scientific publication channel is a publication channel with level 1 (lowest ranking) or level 2 (highest ranking).

Publications: In the report, the external review of publications (scientific publication) refer to 'journal articles' and 'book chapters'. Monographs are not included. In the bibliometric analyses, the publication types 'article' and 'review' are added together into a common document type. Monographs or other types of scientific publications are not included.

SCB: Statistics Sweden (Statistiska centralbyrån).

SRC (not a formal abbreviation): Swedish Research Council. (Vetenskapsrådet).

UKÄ: Swedish Higher Education Authority. (Universitetskanslersämbetet).

Vinnova: Sweden's Innovation Agency. (Sveriges Innovations myndighet).

1. Political Science in Sweden: Overview and Context

Political science as a discipline is concerned with governmental and non-governmental institutions, processes, personnel, and policies as well as with how citizens and social movements access and interact with such institutions and how governments and organizations interact with each other. It uses a variety of different research methodologies, broadly classified as quantitative and qualitative approaches. Political scientists analyse formal rules as well as the role of informal norms and cultures and political ideas and ideologies. The discipline also incorporates normative reflections on how government ought to act, as well as studies of the history of political thought. The study of international relations is sometimes regarded as a separate discipline, but work in international relations is included in this report. Thus, political science is a broad and heterogeneous discipline, and in addition one that uses a variety of very disparate research tools, methodologies and approaches.

In Sweden political science is a long-established academic discipline. Contemporary political science has evolved from earlier ways of studying politics, and, from this perspective, political science in Sweden can be traced back to the establishment of the Johan Skytte professorship of discourse and politics at Uppsala University in 1622. However, in a more modern sense of the term, it was Erik Svedelius, holder of the Skytte chair from 1862-81, who re-orientated the study of politics to constitutional history and law, leading to a succession of holders of the chair who would become recognised political scientists. Chairs were established at Lund in 1877 and Gothenburg in 1901. In 1935, Herbert Tingsten, a leading behavioural theorist of his day, took up a new chair at the University of Stockholm. In a previous review of political science commissioned by the SRC at the beginning of the twenty first century, the discipline was represented in all of what were then the 10 Swedish universities, as well as a number of other centres of higher education. (For the above history, see Olof Ruin, 'Political Science on the Periphery: Sweden', *Annual Review of Political Science*, 6, (2003), pp. 41-54 at pp. 41-2).

Our evaluation concerns the discipline in 14 of Sweden's higher education institutions (HEIs). Together, they house 319 full-time equivalent (FTE) faculty members in political science¹. Not each of these institutions is limited to the discipline of Political Science, but our evaluation focuses on the FTEs and respective research output in this discipline. When we report FTE numbers in our analysis, the scores for each unit are based on the mean value for each HEI

¹ Statistics Sweden, SCB

during the examined time span of this report (2014-2018 inclusive). The minimum size of institutions included in the evaluation process was determined to be five full-time equivalents of academics holding PhDs in political science. Accordingly, departments with fewer than five FTEs in political science were excluded. The institutions included into the evaluation, according to this process, are shown in Table 1.1. They are listed based on their average (mean) number of FTEs of academics holding PhDs in political science, for the five-year time span analysed.

Table 1.1 Higher Education Institutions included in the evaluation

HEI (English)	HEI (Swedish)	Abbreviation	FTE PhD Political Science (Average 2014-2018 inclusive)
University of Gothenburg	Göteborgs universitet	GU	64
Uppsala University	Uppsala universitet	UU	44
Lund University	Lunds universitet	LU	40
Stockholm University	Stockholms universitet	SU	37
Umeå University	Umeå universitet	UmU	28
Linnaeus University	Linnéuniversitetet	LNU	18
Swedish Defence University	Försvarshögskolan	FHS	16
Malmö University	Malmö universitet	MaU	13
Södertörn University	Södertörns högskola	SH	13
Örebro University	Örebro universitet	OrU	12
Linköping University	Linköpings universitet	LiU	10

HEI (English)	HEI (Swedish)	Abb- revia- tion	FTE PhD Political Science (Average 2014- 2018 inclusive)
Karlstad University	Karlstads universitet	KaU	9
Mid Sweden University	Mittuniversitetet	MiUn	8
Luleå University of Technology	Luleå tekniska universitet	LtU	7
Total			319

Source: Swedish Higher Education Authority.

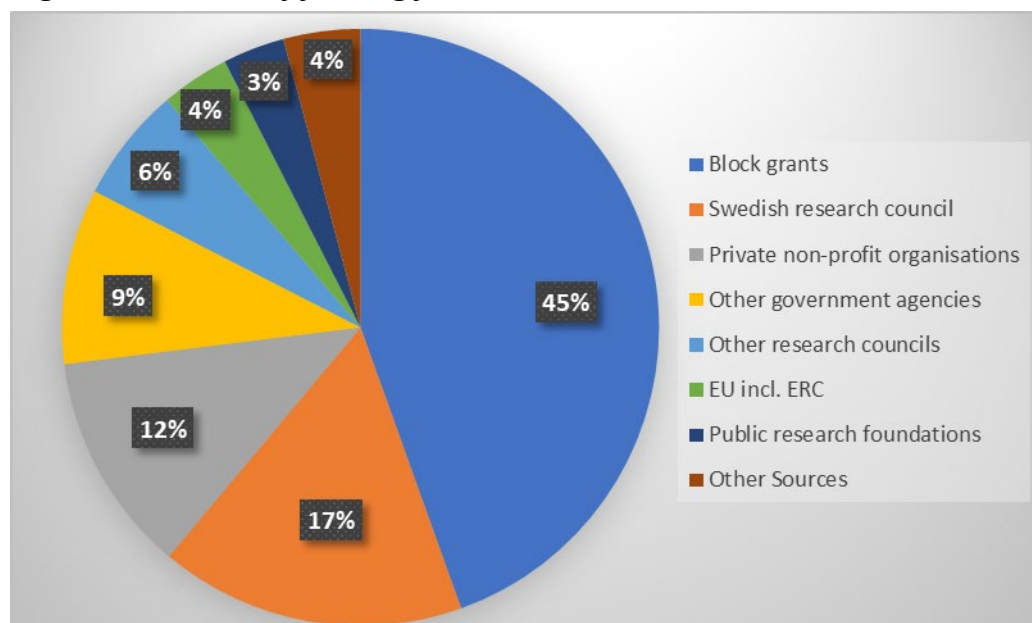
The coverage of the work of political scientists in this report is likely to leave out some others who work in the discipline, including research within political science carried out in interdisciplinary environments or at smaller HEIs such as Högskolan i Halmstad (Halmstad University) and Mälardalens högskola (Mälardalen University) and Högskolan Väst (University West). Moreover, this evaluation does not include a number of think tanks that also produce publications in the field of political science.

This report is a study of research achievement. It does not deal with the teaching of political science at either undergraduate or graduate level. However, we do look at impact or the way in which political science in Sweden contributes to social and public life outside of academia. In the next section we set out the methods and data on which our evaluation relies. In the remainder of this section we look at the administrative and funding context of political science research.

1.1 Research Funding and Administration

In common with other disciplines, political science in Sweden receives funding from a number of different sources. Figure 1.1 show the distribution of the main sources of funding between 2013 and 2019 (to match this with the time span for the evaluation) for political science at the 14 HEIs included in the evaluation. The two single largest sources of funding come directly from government (45 percent), as part of the grant that each institution receives, and 23 percent from the SRC and other research councils (Forte, Formas and VINNOVA), who largely fund research initiated by an academic investigator. Together the government and the SRC account for some 60 percent of research funding.

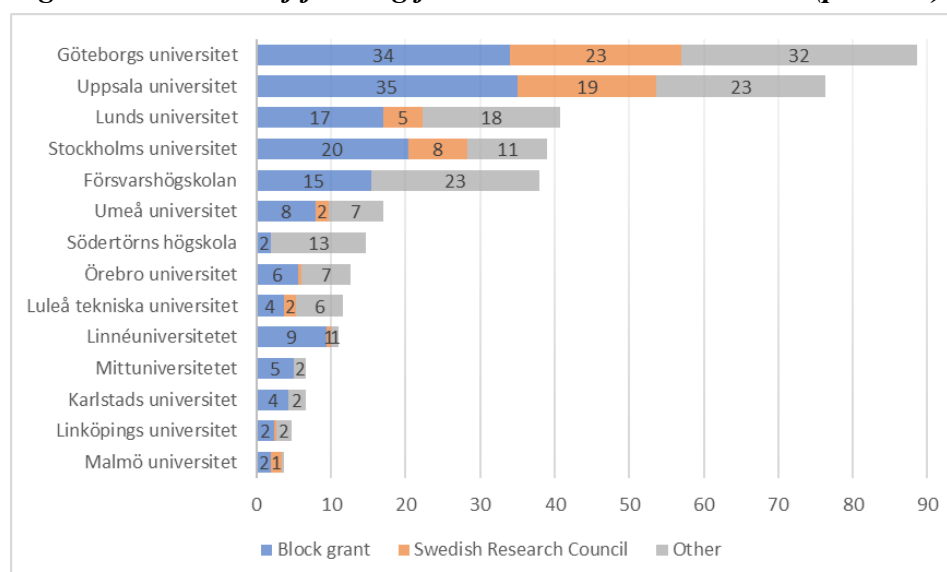
Figure 1.1 Sources of funding for Political Science research in Sweden



Note: Figures are based on the biannual reporting by the HEIs and show the average distribution for 2013, 2015 and 2017; 371 million Swedish Krona (SEK) in total (per year).

The direct government funding to HEIs does not involve the SRC. The major share of this funding is based on the total number of full-time students enrolled. A relatively small amount is based on quality indicators related to research output (such as publication and citation scores of scientific publications) and measures capturing an HEI's ability to attract external funds. A new allocation model based on profile areas has been introduced by the Swedish government very recently; but the specific components of this allocation (and related funds) have not been decided upon yet. It should be noted that funding is allocated to the HEIs as a whole rather than to particular departments or institutions.

Figure 1.2 Sources of funding for Political Science research (per HEI)



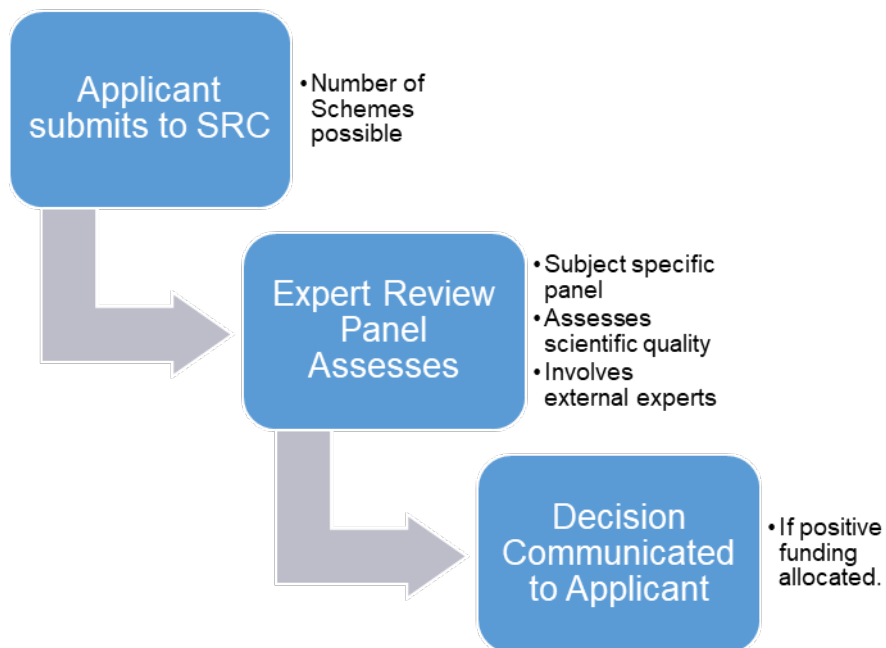
Note: The bars show the biannual reporting by the HEIs and show the average distribution for 2013, 2015 and 2017; 371 million Swedish Krona (SEK) in total (per year). Figures included are rounded off to nearest integer.

Most of the SRC's support is in the form of project grants to researcher-initiated research. In addition, it provides specific grants, such as on environmental protection, support for academic collaboration and Council professor grants. The SRC also supports, on a competitive basis, career grants, international postdoctoral scholarships and grants for established researchers.

The decision process on these schemes is set out in Figure 1.3. As can be seen from the figure, the crucial point of decision is made by an expert peer review panel, which in the case of political science is currently made up of 11 individual members drawn from a cross-section of the discipline. In the first round of selection, three reviewers are involved. The remaining applications in the process are read by all reviewers.

The decision whether to award a grant or not is based on the review panel's joint assessment. The judgment is based on a competitive evaluation as to how the application compares with other applications. The SRC makes the final decision.

Figure 1.3 Outline Decision Process for SRC Grant Funding



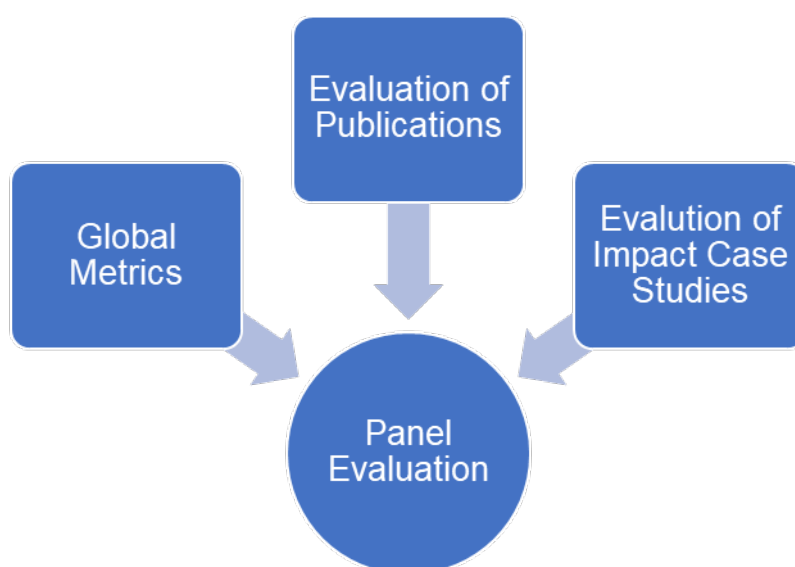
The experts on the review panel for SRC grants are required to act according to their own independent judgement, but it is worth noting that they include academics from seven of the 14 departments under review in this as well as two experts from outside Sweden, currently one from the University of Oslo and the other from Roskilde University. Thus, in making decisions on research funding, Swedish political science is able to benefit from the contributions of the wider Scandinavian community.

The SRC monitors the grant award process as part of its goal to have equality of funding on average between male and female applicants, with respect to acceptance rates.

2. Components of the Evaluation

In coming to its evaluation, the panel relied upon three sources of evidence. These are represented in Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1. Evidence Feeding into Panel Evaluation



The analysis of the output of Swedish political science by reference to global metrics was conducted in-house by the SRC. Their analysis was based upon a comparison based on Web of Science data of the volume of citations of Swedish political science compared with the volume of citations of political science based in eleven other countries. That analysis did not look at comparative citations at the level of institutions, let alone individuals, since the number of publications in these cases in general is too small to form the basis for reliable statistics. The metrics analysis, therefore, provides a broad framing for the overall evaluation. However, it should be noted that researchers in disciplines other than political science, for example sociology or philosophy, will also publish in journals designated a political science journals, just as political scientists will publish in the journals of other disciplines, for example geography or migration studies.

The second type of evidence feeding into the evaluation was the assessment of 285 randomly selected peer-review articles and book chapters published between 2014 and 2018 inclusive (please see appendix 1 to this report for more details). The assessment of these publications was primarily carried out by 34 experts from outside Sweden. All the external reviewers approached provided a

specification of their fields of competence and staff at the SRC classified the publications based on the publication titles and output channels, assigning the publications to the external reviewers according to their field of expertise. The experts were then given the opportunity to reject given publications, based on criteria such as the substantive focus or potential biases in their evaluation. To accommodate this information, publications were reassigned and more external reviewers invited where necessary. As a result, individual reviewers were asked to read anywhere between one and 25 articles. The objective was to have each publication read and assessed by two external reviewers. However, for 23 publications only one review was received. A selection of these was read by the panel members themselves, who also looked at cases where there seemed to be a serious dispute between external experts, as a double-check.

The third stream of evidence flowing into the evaluation was an assessment of policy impact generated by political science in Sweden. The assessment was undertaken by the panel members and was based on brief case studies, to a standard format, from each of the 14 departments. The case studies were read and assessed directly by two members of the panel and the results discussed in full committee. More details about this process are provided in appendix 2 to this report.

We are not the first panel to have been commissioned by the SRC to review political science in Sweden. At the beginning of the new millennium, a four-person panel provided an overview report². However, that panel necessarily was restricted to those who could read Swedish, in order that its members could review a substantial portion of published work. Our report differs from that earlier one in that we did not read a majority of the published work ourselves, but relied principally upon the external expert assessments that had been solicited by the SRC. Moreover, political science has changed between then and the present, reflecting adaptations in institutional as well as substantive terms, as well as greater internationalization. A new element of the current evaluation is a focus on ‘impact’, which was not a dimension of assessment twenty years ago.

To minimize the workload for the institutions involved in this evaluation, the SRC did not request any additional written documentation (such as a self-study report). As a result, the expert panel did not include in its deliberations information about aspects such as departmental research programmes or priorities, the specific content or nature of research undertaken in Swedish political science, interdisciplinarity or information on external research funding acquired. The present evaluation excluded more time-intensive efforts to be undertaken for the institutions involved, such as site visits, a presentation of research strategies or self-studies of departmental research output.

² See Olof Ruin, ‘Political Science on the Periphery: Sweden’, *Annual Review of Political Science*, 6, (2003), pp. 41-54

There is a trade-off between the effort needed by institutions to provide information and the breadth of the evidence that any evaluation panel has available, a trade-off on which we comment in our recommendation. While the format adopted for this evaluation lowered the level of information available to the panel, the elements of metrics analysis, assessment of articles and book chapters, and the reported case studies, in the eyes of the review panel, provided valuable information to conduct its work.

3. Swedish Political Science according to Standard Global Metrics

This section locates Swedish political science in an international context by comparing the citation of papers produced by political scientists located in Swedish institutions with those located in countries where political science is comparably developed. Citations are used in order to provide evidence of the extent to which publications contribute to scholarly work. The assumption is that work that is highly cited is liable to make a greater contribution to the discipline than work that is not so highly cited.

The metrics in this analysis looks at citations as recorded in the Web of Science, which provide the basis for our cross-country comparison. A word of caution is needed, however, in interpreting such a comparison. The Web of Science, on which this analysis depends, is predominantly based on the citation of journal articles rather than book chapters in for example anthologies and monographs. In addition, citation practices are likely to vary across the sub-disciplines of political science, so that a country that has, for example, a high proportion of its work in comparative politics may have more citations than one in which political theory has a strong presence. However, read with suitable caution, the data do provide a way of comparing one element of research performance across countries, giving a snapshot of the international visibility of a country's political science.

Table 3.1 presents data from the Web of Science showing the average citation rate of political science publications from Sweden compared with those from 11 other comparable countries for the time span 2014 to 2018. The countries are rank-ordered according to the total number of publications counted in the Web of Science.

All citation statistics are 'field normalized': the number of citations of a publication is divided by the global average number of citations within the same specific subject in the specific year assessed. In addition, all statistics are based on 'publication fractions': for example, if a publication has five authors where one is from a specific country of interest, that country is assigned 0.2 fractions. Publications attributed to a certain country are publications from researchers with an affiliation (address) in that country. For example, publications from EUI will be attributed to Italy although EUI is an international research institute.

A field normalized mean citation score above 1 means that a country's publications are on average cited more than the world average is. As can be seen from table 3.1, the mean citation index for Sweden is 1.4, implying that

publications are cited, on average, 40 percent more often than the global average of political science publications. Only the Netherlands scores more highly and Sweden ties with Switzerland and Denmark, ahead of the United States, the United Kingdom and Germany. Swedish political science thus has a very strong relative citation rate. This provides evidence, in addition to information on types of journals in which articles are published above, that Swedish political scientists' publications have a relatively high mean citation rate in an international comparison.

Table 3.1: Mean citation rate of political science articles for Sweden and 11 other countries (2014–18)

Country	Number of publications	Mean citation rate	Share in top 10 percent of articles cited
United States	18 372	1.2	12%
United Kingdom	8675	1.1	11%
Germany	3559	1.0	10%
Netherlands	2029	1.5	18%
Italy	1342	1.1	11%
Sweden	1189	1.4	14%
Switzerland	1152	1.4	15%
France	1142	0.7	6%
Denmark	1074	1.4	17%
Norway	978	1.0	9%
Austria	515	1.0	10%
Finland	462	0.8	5%

Note: data are based on Clarivate analytics. Publications attributed to a certain country are publications from researchers with an affiliation (address) in that country. For example, publications from EUI will be attributed to Italy although EUI is an international research institute.

Table 3.1 also reports the share of articles that are in the top 10 percent of articles cited. This records the proportion of a country's publications that belong to the top 10 percent of most cited publications internationally in the same subject and year. As can be seen from table 3.1, fourteen percent of the total of Swedish publications fall into the top 10 percent share.

The available data thus show that the standing of Sweden's political science publications compared with other similar countries is good. Political scientists based at Swedish universities, on average, do a good job producing internationally visible and well-cited research. This conclusion needs to be understood in the context of all the caveats to which we have drawn attention above. Moreover, although the analysis shows that Swedish political science reaches a wide audience, it does not show that the research is of the highest quality, since there is not a straightforward correlation between level of citation and quality of research. To look at the quality of the work produced requires an assessment of published output. To that end, we turn in the next section to the expert assessment of the quality of published output.

4. Scholarly and Academic Contributions

4.1 The selection process

The second stream of evidence in our evaluation is the assessment of the research quality of 285 randomly selected publications from the total of 1864 items. The selection was drawn from lists compiled based on the information available in the Swedish publications database SwePub. SwePub, is administered by the National Library of Sweden and contains references to research publications registered in databases in the local libraries at HEIs in Sweden. It is the researchers themselves who are responsible for the registration of their publications, so that the list may not be completely comprehensive, though we would expect researchers to wish to catalogue the best of their work.

The selection of the 285 assessed items was made as follows. From an initial SwePub list compiled by the SRC, based on a first selection process (for the detailed procedure on this, please see appendix 1 of this report), the HEIs were invited to remove items they considered non-representative for their institution. Monographs were also excluded in the evaluation, although they could potentially provide some valuable additional information (see section 6 of this report). The source list then contained 1864 items of which 1507 were journal articles and 357 book chapters.

To check that the resulting list included publications of a broadly representative standard of research in political science in Sweden, the SRC compared the list of journal articles with information in the Web of Science and found that 942 out of 1507 of these products could be located in that latter database (Web of Science). The mean citation rate of these 942 was 1.3 (a result that is fairly close to what is reported in Table 3.1 above). Table 4.1 provides an overview of the selected publications per HEI. Please note that for this table and those following in this report, the universities are ordered according to the Swedish alphabet (although their English names may be used in the text).

Table 4.1 Selected publications per HEI (based on SwePub)

HEI (English)	HEI (Swedish)	SwePub Publications	Journal articles	Book chapters
Swedish Defence University	Försvarshögskolan	88	69	19

HEI (English)	HEI (Swedish)	SwePub Publications	Journal articles	Book chapters
University of Gothenburg	Göteborgs universitet	426	361	65
Karlstad University	Karlstads universitet	22	17	5
Linköping University	Linköpings universitet	116	100	16
Linnaeus University	Linnéuniversitetet	80	42	38
Luleå University of Technology	Luleå tekniska universitet	53	53	--
Lund University	Lunds universitet	202	139	63
Malmö University	Malmö universitet	48	48	--
Mid Sweden University	Mittuniversitetet	44	35	9
Stockholm University	Stockholms universitet	211	179	32
Södertörn University	Södertörns högskola	69	51	18
Umeå University	Umeå universitet	153	112	41
Uppsala University	Uppsala universitet	287	239	48
Örebro University	Örebro universitet	65	62	3

HEI (English)	HEI (Swedish)	SwePub Publications	Journal articles	Book chapters
Total		1864	1507	357

Thereafter, the SRC checked how the journals in which the publications were published were classified according to a list for classifications often used at Swedish HEIs, the so-called ‘Norwegian list’. This list distinguishes between levels of quality for different journals. The majority of articles included in the current evaluation process were published in journals classified as belonging to this list; only four percent of the 1507 publications were not. From this total, 22 percent were published in prestigious ‘Level 2’ journals, 72 percent in remaining scholarly channels (‘Level 1’) and 2 percent in non-scholarly channels, labelled ‘Level 0’. The 22 percent published in level 2 channels can be seen as a confirmation of the indications given by the Web of Science. In general, channels classified as level 2 include leading publishers that account for about 20 percent of the scholarly publications in their fields. For a comparison of the selected publications with the Norwegian list, please see appendix 4 of this report.

Table 4.2 provides an overview of the articles considered in the evaluation, sorted by their frequency in respective journals. The figures provided are based on the 1507 journal articles in the full list of publications as described above (after each HEI had reviewed and accepted the publications contained in the list). The overview presents journals having at least two publications included in the sample and more than four in the total list. More details on the figures are provided in appendix 3 to this report.

Table 4.2 Overview of articles accounted for in the evaluation

Journal	Total Swe- Pub	Sample	Sample Share of Total
Statsvetenskaplig tidskrift	49	8	16%
Scandinavian Political Studies	33	8	24%
European Journal of Political Research	17	3	18%
Democratization	11	3	27%
Forest Policy and Economics	11	3	27%

Journal	Total Swe-Pub	Sample	Sample Share of Total
Journal of European Integration	10	3	30%
Party Politics	19	2	11%
Political Studies	15	2	13%
Sustainability	13	2	15%
Journal of European Public Policy	9	2	22%
Governance. An International Journal of Policy, Administration and Institutions	9	2	22%
Cooperation and Conflict	8	2	25%
American Political Science Review	8	2	25%
International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics	8	2	25%
European Journal of International Relations	8	2	25%
Acta Politica	7	2	29%
Politics & Gender	6	2	33%
Political Research Quarterly	6	2	33%
The Review of International Organizations	5	2	40%
Society & Natural Resources	5	2	40%
Res Publica	5	2	40%
Journal of Environmental Management	5	2	40%

Journal	Total Swe-Pub	Sample	Sample Share of Total
Comparative Migration Studies	5	2	40%
Journal of Civil Society	5	2	40%

Note: Journals selected are shown compared to the SwePub full list, listing journals having at least two publications in the sample and four in the total list. The total list contained 609 different journals. In the selection, 183 of these were represented.

By way of overview, Table 4.2 demonstrates that most of the articles were in international journals, although a number were published in the Swedish-language ‘Statsvetenskaplig tidskrift’. Among the journals listed are several internationally high-ranked ones, which testifies to the ‘visibility’ of some of the political science research published by Swedish academics: the figures demonstrate that some Swedish academics have published in international ‘flagship journals’ in political science, among them the American Political Science Review or World Politics, the latter represented by two articles in the sample.

Table 4.3 provides the same overview for book chapters (and the respective publishers). Publishers were selected compared to the SwePub full list, showing publication channels that had at least three publications in the full list. In total, 64 publishing channels were included in the full list and in the sample, 20 of these were represented.

Table 4.3 Overview of book chapters accounted for in the evaluation

Publisher	Total	Sample	Share
Routledge	73	11	15%
Palgrave Macmillan	64	11	17%
Oxford University Press	37	3	8%
Edward Elgar Publishing	30	4	13%
Springer	27	8	30%
Cambridge University Press	13	1	8%

Publisher	Total	Sample	Share
ECPR Press	11	1	9%
Ashgate	9	2	22%
Rowman & Littlefield	7	1	14%
NIAS Press	5	1	20%
Policy Press	5	1	20%
Brill Academic Publishers	4	1	25%
Berghahn Books	4	2	50%
Nordic Academic Press	3	1	33%

Note: Book chapters selected are shown compared to the SwePub full list, listing publishers having at least one publication in the sample and three in the total list.

It should be noted that taking a random selection of published items is a demanding test compared to similar exercises carried out in other countries (for example the UK's Research Excellence Framework), where it is normal practice to allow departments to select what they think of as their best items for assessment. Random selection allows for some systematic insights into the quality of overall research productivity across Sweden. However, the exclusion of monographs may have depressed the overall average of the assessment of quality in published output.

The detailed assessment of the 285 items was carried out by 34 experts from outside Sweden. The aim of the external review process was for every article to be evaluated by at least two scholars from outside Sweden, to have as much of an 'unbiased' assessment as possible of their quality (the articles were not anonymized); in the end, all but 23 (8 percent) of the scholarly contributions received at least two external reviews. The scores from these reviews were made available to the expert panel that carried out the evaluation. In total, the panel received 557 reviews of the 285 research items selected. This is a considerable number of reviews, which produced valuable material for the panel, based on 'qualitative' assessments rather than purely 'quantitative' metrics. To receive such a high number of scores that were independent of the panel's own judgement provides a reasonably robust basis for assessment.

4.2 Scoring criteria

The external reviewers were instructed to use the scoring criteria listed in table 4.4.

Table 4.4 Scoring criteria used by reviewers of research publications

Score	Criteria
Unclassified	Quality that falls below the standard of nationally recognised work. Or work which does not meet the published definition of research for the purposes of this assessment.
One star	Quality that is recognised nationally in terms of originality, significance, and rigour.
Two star	Quality that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance, and rigour.
Three star	Quality that is internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance, and rigour but which falls short of the highest standards of excellence.
Four star	Quality that is world-leading in terms of originality, significance, and rigour

Reviewers placed the respective academic output into categories of quality assessment. Of course, the quality descriptions used can be applied somewhat differently between reviewers (next to the fact that some reviewers tend to give higher or lower assessments compared to others). Moreover, it is important to be clear what is being referred to in terms of ‘recognised internationally’ or ‘world-leading’. When a publication is rated as ‘four star’, for example, this does not refer to the degree to which the subject matter is international in scope, but to its academic quality defined in terms of criteria such as originality, significance and rigour – in other words to what extent the piece of research has the potential or should have a scientific impact internationally. An example familiar to political scientists may illustrate this: Robert Dahl’s *Who Governs?* could be described as an English-language study of local government decision making in a mid-sized US city. However, its significance in political science is much greater than this description suggests. What the criteria are intended to capture is the value of the contribution to understanding for political science scholars anywhere in the world. A study of local politics that had broader significance for political science could score highly. Conversely, a poor study of interdependence in the global order could fall below the standard even of nationally recognised work. It is the quality of the research produced and not the scope of reference that matters.

4.3 Results

Table 4.5 shows the distribution of the scores received by external reviewers for the 285 randomly-selected articles and book chapters. Because most items were scored twice, the number of scores is larger than the number of items.

Table 4.5: Distribution of scores attributed to peer-reviewed articles and chapters

Score	0	1	2	3	4	Total
Number	13	110	215	159	60	557
Percent	2	20	39	29	11	100

In the evaluation process, it had to be kept in mind that items in this sample were scored by over 30 outside experts, and several individual publications, as was to be expected, received different scores. Of the 262 articles and chapters that were reviewed by more than one external reader, more than half (154, or 59 percent of the total) in fact received different scores from these reviewers. The diversity of score in part reflects the nature of the political science discipline (and perhaps academic research more broadly), as renowned experts in the field may disagree on the meaning and measures of ‘quality’. It is for this very reason that the SRC has requested more than one assessment of each research output, aiming to avoid assessor bias in the assessment as much as possible. However, even though many individual articles received different scores, most differences were small, as the scores were adjacent on the scale used (2 and 3, for instance, or 3 and 4). Scores were not adjacent for only 32 articles, but they were adjacent for 122. This demonstrates that overall, the external assessments based on reviews of the selected articles and chapters generated quality assessments leading to similar scores on the ‘zero to four star’ scale.

The foundation for the panel’s conclusions is the outcome of the assessment by the external experts. While it is notoriously difficult to assess ‘research quality’ in an objective way, this extensive effort to collect evaluations by external experts in the field has provided the panel with valuable insights into the quality of publication output. In what follows, we report on both ‘scores’, that is to say the set of grades given by each of the external reviewers even when reviewers disagreed on their assessment of a given piece of work, and ‘scored publications’, that is to say the set of grades, averaged where necessary, that were given to any individual item.

Only two percent of the scores attributed by the external experts were a 0, classified as ‘Quality that falls below the standard of nationally recognised work’. One-fifth (20 percent) of the scores given were a 1, ‘Quality that is recognised nationally in terms of originality, significance, and rigour’. Scores of

a 1 reflect academic output that was judged to be of solid scientific quality but not of value to the international scientific community. Work that received a score of 1 is typically academically competent but not very original. Some of these studies are narrowly descriptive, some focus exclusively on Swedish phenomena for a Swedish audience, and all make limited theoretical contributions. Some of these articles and chapters fail to engage potentially relevant concepts or ideas from the internationally-generated literature.

The majority of scores (79 percent) attributed to the articles or chapters judged them to be of an international standard; that is, most scores were a 2, a 3, or a 4. Thus, more than two-thirds of the time, outside experts scored a random sample of peer-reviewed publications in political science as rigorous, scientifically solid, and as making original contributions to knowledge.

Scores of 3 were given in 29 percent of the evaluations, and scores of 4 in another 11 percent of the total. A 3 is a very good score, reflecting ‘Quality that is internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance, and rigour but which falls short of the highest standards of excellence.’

A total of 60 out of 557 (11 percent) of scores were for work judged to be of the highest distinction, ‘Quality that is world-leading in terms of originality, significance, and rigour’. Articles that were awarded scores of 4 have the potential to be very highly cited and to set the research agenda globally. This reflects ‘academic impact’.

If the published item is taken as the unit of analysis, 54 out of the 285 publications (19 percent) obtained at least one 4. Out of these 54, only five publications obtained a score 4 from both (or all) reviewers (two from Uppsala University and three from the University of Gothenburg) and 26 publications obtained one 4 and one 3. The remaining 23 publications attributed with at least one 4, by comparison, received a lower than 3 as a second score.

The 19 percent of publications to which at least one score 4 was attributed, reflect research that is particularly likely to contribute to the country’s international academic standing and reputation. Path-breaking research is difficult to produce, so it is an accomplishment that about one-tenth of Swedish political science is thought to be world-leading in terms of its originality, significance and rigour. Still, more than two-thirds of scores fell short of this high standard. Most political science that is produced in Sweden is deemed very good in such a comparison, but not always ‘world leading’. On the other hand, it is worth noting that in total 93 publications have been assessed with at least one score lower than a 2. Of these, 30 have attained one score 0 and one score 1 or two scores 1.

How does the scoring by the independent experts compare with the global citation metrics discussed in Section 3 of this report? Based on their in-depth qualitative reading, the external experts were assessing a random selection of articles. The citation metrics demonstrate, on average, a good international ‘visibility’ of Swedish political science research. These findings seem to be corroborated when compared with the expert scores attributed to the randomly selected work.

Because the panel itself read only a small number of publications, it can provide only limited information on the substance of work that was judged to be of high quality. Clearly, doing good or excellent work does not require focusing on any particular set of topics or using any particular methodology or approach. Any topic can produce excellent work and any standard, professionally-accepted method may be used if appropriately and thoughtfully applied. Moreover, high-quality research may or may not be solely concerned with Swedish politics.

Although more than a third (39 percent) of the scores that were awarded to the respective research articles or chapters were a 3 or 4, only 60 of the 557 (or 11 percent) were a 4, meaning outstanding internationally. In total, only five publications received scores of 4 from both (or all) reviewers: three from Gothenburg University and two from the University of Uppsala. Accordingly, political scientists in Sweden may be doing well on citation metrics in general, largely by producing work that is methodologically sound, adds cumulatively to the stock of political science understanding in the global scholarly community, and yet is not always regarded as of the highest international standard.

However, even if 22 percent of scores awarded across all 557 readings were a 0 or a 1, only 30 publications (10.5 percent) received two scores lower than a 2. Perhaps of relevance to add is that even some of this work might appear in the citation metrics. A solid and worthy piece of description, for example, may be cited as an empirical source for a more ambitious study.

4.4 Variation by institutions in the quality of research

An overview of the distribution and mean of article scores for each HEI included into the evaluation are given in Table 4.6. Although the data have to be interpreted with caution, they show a considerable range in average scores for HEIs, from a low of 1.50 to a high of 2.55. The average score across all articles and all HEIs is 2.26, meaning that the average standard of an article or chapter demonstrates quality that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance, and rigour. Because the articles were drawn from a random sample, the panel has considerable confidence that the standard research product in political science is thus of very good quality. In particular, the average article engages at an international level with professional political science. It helps keep Sweden on the map, as it were, making the country a site for the production of high-quality scholarly output, while there can

of course be variation in terms of the quality of research across (and even within) individual institutions.

Table 4.6 Scores awarded to articles and chapters for each HEI

HEI	FTE (PhD in political science)	Numbers of papers assessed (random selection)	0	1	2	3	4	Numbers of scores	Mean score
Swedish Defense University	16	13	1	4	13	6	1	25	2.08
University of Gothenburg	64	64	1	19	46	40	21	127	2.48
Karlstad University	9	4	-	2	5	-	1	8	2.00
Linköping University	10	18	2	11	11	9	2	35	1.94
Linnaeus University	18	12	-	8	8	6	1	23	2.00
Luleå Univ of Technology	7	8	-	5	3	6	2	16	2.31
Lund University	40	31	3	7	21	18	6	55	2.31
Malmö University	13	8	1	7	7	1	-	16	1.50
Mid Sweden University	8	7	1	3	6	3	1	14	2.00
Stockholm University	37	32	1	9	15	26	9	60	2.55
Södertörn University	13	11	-	4	11	6	-	21	2.10

HEI	FTE (PhD in political science)	Numbers of papers assessed (random selection)	0	1	2	3	4	Numbers of scores	Mean score
Umeå University	28	23	2	16	21	7	2	48	1.81
Uppsala University	44	44	1	13	39	23	13	89	2.38
Örebro University	12	10	-	2	9	8	1	20	2.40
Total	319	285	13	110	215	159	60	557	2.26

The pattern to be inferred from Table 4.6 is that a high proportion of the output judged as being in the two highest quality categories is attributable to a relatively small number of predominantly large institutions. For example, six institutions account for 85 percent of the 4 grades (or ‘scores’) and 78 percent of the 4+3 grades. In terms of the proportion of the publications, four institutions (Stockholm University, University of Gothenburg, Lund University and Uppsala University) account for 60 percent of the publications. It has to be noted, however, that the number of selected publications for some universities (e.g., Örebro) is low – with this, the margin of uncertainty around the mean score is somewhat higher than is the case for institutions for which more publications were studied. To some extent, as Table 4.6 also shows, the concentration of high-quality scores attributed to a fairly small number of institutions is a function of size: four of the six departments are the largest departments by some degree. Size is likely to help in fostering research output. Large departments can enjoy economies of scale in terms of administrative support and financial management, as well as research funds. These large departments are also the most well-established institutions and therefore inheritors of academic reputations, capable of attracting highly qualified research staff.

However, as the examples of Södertörn University, Örebro University and the Luleå University of Technology show, it is also possible to produce a good proportion of high-quality research outside the ‘big four’. A graphical and statistical analysis exploring relations between size and publication output is provided in appendix 5 to this report. As expected, although with some variation amongst universities, this relation is confirmed by this additional exploration. The appendix also includes a table showing the percentages of each score category awarded to research articles and chapters for each HEI.

The panel did not find it surprising that there should be a difference of research quality among Swedish institutions. Academic strength tends to concentrate. The UK has its Golden Triangle, France its grandes écoles and the US its Ivy League and top private and state institutions. Just as some of the older or more specialist institutions may give priority to developing their research, so others may have different priorities or inherited commitments. However, although there may be differences of mission and priorities, the panel also notes that every institution contains pockets of work that has been judged to be at an internationally competitive level. This suggests that the picture is more nuanced than a simple bifurcation between different types of institutions, one orientated to research and the other not. The policy question, which we touch on in our section of Recommendations, is how to maintain and develop existing research strength whilst fostering the potential for research excellence that exists within the system.

Finally, it is of interest to see how research output and grant application success rates (here for the SRC) might be related. Table 4.7 provides an overview for the HEIs included into the current evaluation. The table shows the success rates of political science applications at the SRC for the time span 2014-2018. Overall rates of funding are given in chapter 1 (table 1.2).

Table 4.7 Success rates of applications to the SRC, by HEI

HEI (English)	HEI (Swedish)	No of applications	Approved applications	Success rate
Swedish Defense University	Försvarshögskolan	11	0	0%
University of Gothenburg	Göteborgs universitet	125	29	23%
Karlstad University	Karlstads universitet	4	1	25%
Linköping University	Linköpings universitet	19	0	0%
Linnaeus University	Linnéuniversitetet	9	0	0%
Luleå Univ of Technology	Luleå Tekniska Universitet	5	1	20%

HEI (English)	HEI (Swedish)	No of applications	Approved applications	Success rate
Lund University	Lunds universitet	69	13	19%
Malmö University	Malmö universitet	18	0	0%
Mid Sweden University	Mittuniversitetet	8	2	25%
Stockholm University	Stockholms universitet	60	14	23%
Södertörn University	Södertörns högskola	22	2	9%
Umeå University	Umeå universitet	45	5	11%
Uppsala University	Uppsala universitet	163	30	18%
Örebro University	Örebro universitet	20	1	5%

Clearly research output levels and grant acquisition success are likely to be related to each other. But as Table 4.7 also demonstrates, smaller universities in Sweden have at times been very successful in terms of grant acquisition rates.

5. Societal Impact of the Discipline

Our third stream of evidence come from an analysis of the non-academic impact arising from research in Swedish political science. To assess the non-academic impact of political science in Sweden (i.e., the societal impact generated by respective research), the expert panel read and scored 46 case studies submitted by the HEIs. In scoring the case studies, the panel members used a variety of criteria.

These included whether the case

- had attracted research funding;
- was covered by the media, including social media;
- was collaborative with or has been discussed with or presented to government bodies;
- was collaborative with or has been discussed with or presented to civil society organizations inside or outside Sweden;
- reported other kinds of public outreach (e.g., a museum installation);
- clearly linked the principal researcher's scholarly work to public impact generated;
- as the potential for additional future impact on society, public policy, or political debates.

To attribute a final score to a case, members of the review panel were asked to weigh each of these various criteria based on their best judgement of their relative importance, given the other information provided in the case study. Thus, cases that were weak on one criterion might compensate with unusual strength on another. Given the difficulties in evaluating societal impact, and the various measures of this that could be constructed, the panel felt that weighing the components flexibly would be most appropriate.

The scale used by the panel ranged from Poor to Excellent, as follows, which also gives a numerical representation as used in subsequent tables:

- Poor (0)**
- Moderate (1)**
- Good (2)**
- Very Good (3)**
- Excellent (4)**

Panel members did not fully agree on all final scores attributed to the case studies but, even when there was disagreement, the scores ultimately awarded were all adjacent on the respective scale. Table 5.1 provides an overview of the distribution of assessments within the expert panel. A total of 26 of the 46 cases

had agreed scores, whereas 20 had divergent scores. The fraction of scores on which there was divergence may be inherent to the complexities related to assessing the quality of ‘impact’ as generated by research.

If the higher of the two scores attributed was taken, the median case was awarded a ‘very good’ (score 3), and if the lower score was adopted, the median score was ‘good’ (score 2). Hence, variation in scoring among panel members generated only a small consequential aggregate difference. Table 5.1 also provides the mean impact scores attributed to correct for the (small) divergence among panel members. No impact case studies submitted were graded as ‘poor’ (score 0). The column that reports score 0 is therefore not included in the table.

Table 5.1 Distribution of Impact Scores

HEI	No of impact cases	Mode-rate (1)	Good (2)	Very good (3)	Excellent (4)	No of scores	Mean score impact
Swedish Defence University	1	1*	1	0	0	2	1.75
University of Gothenburg	5	0	2	3	5	10	3.3
Karlstad University	3	5	1	0	0	6	1.17
Linköping University	4	0	5	3	0	8	2.38
Linnaeus University	3	0	6	0	0	6	2
Luleå University of Technology	3	0	3	3	0	6	2.5
Lund University	5	1	1	3	5	10	3.2
Malmö University	3	1	5**	0	0	6	2.08

HEI	No of impact cases	Moderate (1)	Good (2)	Very good (3)	Excellent (4)	No of scores	Mean score impact
Mid Sweden University	2	2	2	0	0	4	1.5
Stockholm University	4	0	0	5	3	8	3.38
Södertörn University	3	2	2	2	0	6	2
Umeå University	3	0	3	3	0	6	2.5
Uppsala University	4	0	0	6	2	8	3.25
Örebro University	3	1	2	2	1	6	2.5
[•]	46	13	33	30	16	92	[•]

* moderate to good

** one case: good to very good

Note: In two cases (assessments) compromises were applied, implying that for each, one of the two panel members involved scored between the grades in the scale. These cases are noted with * and **, respectively. A more detailed assessment of each impact case study is provided in appendix 2 to this report.

The pattern to be inferred from table 5.1 is similar to the one presented in table 4.6 which referred to the evaluation of the publications: A high share of the impact judged to be in the two highest quality categories is attributable to a relatively small number of (predominantly) large institutions. However, as with the research quality, the outcome is not unambiguous. This will be further discussed in section 5.4 and additional information on such relations is available in appendix 5 of this report.

The lack of case studies graded as ‘poor’ may have arisen because, by contrast with the assessment of publications, departments were allowed to nominate and submit case studies of their own choice, rather than these being selected randomly. However, with that caveat, the impact of Swedish political science suggests a good level of general performance in the cases that were submitted for evaluation. The detailed assessments for all cases are provided in appendix 2 to this report. Finally, while ‘impact’ is notoriously difficult to assess, the case

studies assessed by the panel and found to be at the highest level were considered to be of truly outstanding quality.

5.1 Subject matter

Topics covered by the case studies were varied, but primarily focused on the following themes: foundations and criteria for democratic functioning, including elections, representation and participation; environmental protection governance; gender issues; the role of minority groups in society; the quality of governance, including control of corruption, public sector reform and the provision of public services; political institutions; political parties; sustainability and climate change; peace, security and conflict resolution; foreign affairs and defence.

There was some discussion within the expert panel as to whether the selection of subjects showed a bias towards ‘progressive’ cases. But the panel arrived at the conclusion that the cases represented a reasonable cross-section for a democratic society that is orientated towards the maintenance of high-quality patterns of democratic governance, stability and sustainability. It is also necessary to remember the distinction between value-relevance and value-freedom. Value relevance will often mean that researchers choose topics to study that comport with their own values. The imperative of value-freedom should prevent wishful thinking in the conduct of the study. The good case studies were relevant, for example, to the norms of a democratic society, but their empirical analysis did not reflect wishful thinking in respect of the values underlying those norms.

5.2 Range

Different case studies evaluated by the expert panel demonstrated impact on actors at the international, regional, national and municipal/local levels. At the international level, actors included international organizations (IOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), non-profit organizations, as well as various governments and domestic-level institutions internationally. Among EU institutions benefiting from research insights produced in Sweden, as demonstrated in the case studies, were the European Commission and the Assembly of European Regions. At the national level in Sweden, there was engagement with institutions and actors such as the Riksdag, government ministries, public agencies as well as a variety of civil society organizations and the private sector. There were also a number of examples of impact at the local or municipal level. At a local level, there were two cases where the research appears to have influenced the policy agenda in relation to the Sámi people.

Most departments in the respective Swedish universities demonstrated a willingness to write or conduct interviews for the press or for faculty members to appear on television or in web-based outlets. Although it was not always easy to see how these activities led to specific impact, they clearly did show a desire to

engage with audiences beyond academia. Sweden benefits in this regard from its educated citizenry, which may make it relatively easy for academics to communicate with a larger public and disseminate insights obtained by their research endeavours.

5.3 Reporting

The reports submitted by the HEIs for evaluation were not all equally effective in their depictions of actual policy impact. In some cases, the impact reports seemed to be simply ‘cut and pasted’ from annual reports; some merely summarized research findings without concretely aiming to demonstrate impact. In other words, some of the reports concerned activity rather than impact — for example, holding meetings, making presentations, or serving on specific committees. It is true that impact grows out of activity and the long-term relationships in which they are embedded. It is also true that activity may not be fruitful even when it deserves to be. However, for impact to be seen as having specific consequences for society, researchers need to be able to distinguish it clearly from the standard outward-facing activities in which most academics engage at one time or another. It needs to be demonstrated in which ways specifically the research conducted generated (societal) effects. The impact can be short-term as well as long-term.

There were also variable standards in the specificity of the evidence with which cases were reported. Some cases provided specified data, such as numbers of articles published in the press, workshops held or downloads of podcasts from respective websites. In other cases, however, the evidence was rather vague, referring only to the holding of a number of meetings or the writing of articles. It was helpful to the expert panel to obtain specific figures and data, not least because this constituted evidence of monitoring by the unit into which the research was embedded. The clearer the links between research conducted with actual activities reported by researchers to create ‘impact’, backed up with evidence, the easier it was for the panel to assess and (positively) value such effects.

5.4 Relation to research

5.4.1 Quality of research

Table 5.2 gives the data for impact scores by institution as attributed by the members of the expert panel (for more details on the respective assessments, please refer to appendix 2 of this report). The cases HEIs submitted that the panel judged as ‘strong’ often grew out of long-standing research programs, and these enabled researchers to develop links with policy makers and other relevant bodies, on various levels of government and governance. In some cases, conceptual innovations had proved to be of considerable interest to policy

makers and this was clearly shown in the respective case reports. In other cases, impact was significant because it concerned a part of the world on which research is difficult to conduct. With this, ‘value’ was created by enhancing knowledge in these areas that can benefit practice. Research also was considered to have impact when it provided reliable databases on which next to academics, non-academic bodies could draw to generate results.

Table 5.2 Average scores of case studies reporting societal impact compared to FTE and to quality of research output (for each HEI)

HEI	FTE	Number of impact	Mean impact score	Mean research
Swedish Defence University	16	1	1.75	2.08
Gothenburg University	64	5	3.30	2.48
Karlstad University	9	3	1.17	2.00
Linköping University	10	4	2.38	1.94
Linnaeus University	18	3	2.00	2.00
Luleå University of Technology	7	3	2.50	2.31
Lund University	40	5	3.20	2.31
Malmö University	13	3	2.08	1.50
Mid Sweden University	8	2	1.50	2.00
Södertörn University	13	3	2.00	2.10
Stockholm University	37	4	3.38	2.55

HEI	FTE	Number of impact	Mean impact score	Mean research
Umeå University	28	3	2.50	1.81
Uppsala University	44	4	3.25	2.38
Örebro University	12	3	2.50	2.40

How close is the relationship between the quality of academic research, as judged by the external reviewers, and the extent of societal impact generated, as assessed by the expert panel? Comparing the ranking of departments by their research output scores with their ranking on impact, there is a definite but not perfect correlation. Although those departments that rank highly on research output also tend to rank highly on their impact, there are some departments whose impact is relatively strong without an exact match of strength on research output. Among the departments whose impact is relatively strong without research quality having obtained one of the higher scores, as appendix 5 demonstrates, are Umeå and Linköping. Appendix 5 also provides a graphical and statistical exploration of the relation between research quality and impact.

In some ways, this close association between research quality and impact is an artefact of the scoring system, since an element of the impact scoring required an assessment of the strength of its underpinning research. However, departments that produce excellent research tend to also successfully disseminate that research to policy makers, other relevant stake-holders and to the general public. This is ‘good news’ because it suggests that the best research is diffused and receives public attention. In other words, good scholars build a public for their work or contribute to reaching this public with insights based on research they conduct.

It is an important principle that impact should be grounded in strong research since it would be counterproductive if poor research were to have impact. However, this does not mean that all the research cited in the case studies must be of a type that passes academic peer review. ‘Grey literature’ may be relevant to a specific policy focus or domain even if it is too narrow or ephemeral to warrant publication in a peer-review journal. However, the expert panel had greater confidence in case studies that showed some demonstrated capacity to conduct research of a convincing academic standard, even if other work was also cited.

5.4.2 Cross-country collaborations

Some of the research submitted to evaluate impact was undertaken not only by the submitting unit but in collaboration with other authors, including researchers at academic institutions outside of Sweden. The panel counted this as relevant and regards it as evidence of the standing and embedding into relevant networks of the Swedish-based political scientists involved. Some of the impact was generated for institutions or actors outside Sweden (including international or civil society organizations, as mentioned above).

5.4.3 Reports of impact separate from research

Some of the submitted research was of high quality in itself but did not constitute a basis for the reported impact. For instance, some case studies reported on activities where research findings did not appear to constitute the actual basis for impact. A simple linear model of the relationship between research and impact (findings -> dissemination -> impact is not appropriate. However, if impact is what is being assessed, it is not sufficient to cite research that is generally about the topic but does not serve specifically as a basis for the reported impact. Some cases presented the link between (high-quality) research and impact generated in convincing ways, backing up respective claims by adequate numbers and evidence. Other did less well in this respect.

5.4.4 Action research

Some of the research the expert panel reviewed can be thought of as ‘action research’, in which the researcher does not study a subject purely as an observer but also participates in policy dialogue with those who make decisions. An example are instituting forums for discussion of policy issues by those active in a specific policy area. This form of research can also generate valuable societal impact, although it is of a distinct kind.

5.4.5 Research outside the submitting unit

Some submissions of impact cases did not link the claimed impact to research carried out in the respective unit. Instead, the cases drew on (sound) political science that had been conducted elsewhere. The panel felt it is questionable that this should be counted as impact rather than as a form of general public engagement (acknowledging that public engagement itself is a worthy activity). At least one unit studied by the expert panel acted as a facilitator of research findings for general public understanding rather than basing its impact on research carried out by its own members of faculty. After some discussion on this case, the expert panel judged this to be a valuable service, but could not score it at a high level of impact, as the case draws on other academics’ research. In this sense, it may be worth distinguishing impact from general public engagement (while acknowledging that the latter can also be important). The panel was most positive about the cases where impact had been clearly related to own research generated.

5.4.6 Inter-disciplinarity

The panel noted that the themes on which institutions with an interdisciplinary profile are working are important ones; it might be valuable to protect such inter-disciplinarity, although assessing the disciplinary output is somewhat more complicated in these cases. Nonetheless, it can be possible to study ‘impact’, also in cases that do not follow strict disciplinary lines of inquiry. A similar pattern might apply to publications from the respective HEIs. For institutions focused on interdisciplinary research, the evaluation from the point of view of political science research output could affect their standing in terms of ranking as reported above. This is an aspect that was not explicitly evaluated in the context of this pilot.

5.5 Key processes and results

5.5.1 Engagement and outcomes

Virtually all units assessed by this evaluation showed evidence of serious engagement with some actors, notably policy makers, non-academic organizations, and civil society groups. Sometimes the relationships on which the impact was based were long-standing, but at other times researchers took advantages of opportunities that had presented themselves in an ad-hoc way. This latter engagement sometimes took the form of ‘action research’.

Engagement activities, even when pursued with devotion, however, did not always result in impact. In part, this is because the ‘policy cycle’ is not necessarily synchronized with the ‘research cycle’. However, sometimes the write-up of a case was sufficiently vague that the expert panel could not tell if there was a genuine absence of impact or simply a failure to report impact in a complete and transparent way. On the other hand, some cases clearly demonstrated impact generated via very specific engagement activities and reported their results.

5.5.2 Modes of communication and engagement

The various methods of communication and engagement included attendance of conferences and meetings, writing for the press or for media more generally, the creation of websites, membership in suitable committees or the issuing of reports. Although some of these activities were not particularly innovative and can rather be subsumed under what is usually seen as ‘dissemination’ strategies of research results, a few modes of engagement were impressively novel, including the creation of a museum exhibition, the organization of the ‘Polar Bear Ball’, films or podcasts related to the research activity. Researchers in one institution took the initiative to produce a book aimed at the general public summarising political science research about democracy, which can also be considered a valuable engagement with society. It might be a possible avenue if

the SRC would consider acting as a forum of dissemination for examples of convincing or very 'innovative' forms of engagement. This could also help researchers see in which ways they can chose avenues to generate more 'impact' of the research they conduct.

6. The Evaluation Process

6.1 Production of the report

The evaluation of Swedish political science in which the expert panel has been engaged is the first of its type to have been conducted by the SRC. We have been asked to comment on this ‘pilot project’, to offer our evaluation of the process alongside our evaluation of the substance of research, and to suggest pointers for further development.

The core of the evaluation process consisted of three main elements as follows:

- The analysis of publication metrics reported on in Section 3.
- From the data base held by SwePub, a random selection of 15 percent of the publications (journal articles and book chapters), between 2014 and 2018 inclusive, was selected, according to a process as described in appendix 1 to this report. The selected items were then scored by external experts, as reported on in Section 4
- Each HEI involved in the evaluation was asked to submit a number of written reports of ‘impact case studies’, depending on the size of the institution. Each impact case study was read by two members of the expert panel, who discussed their scoring with one another and provided a collective assessment. The full overview of the impact case assessments of the panel is given in appendix 2 to this report.

The panel itself met online seven times between May 2020 and April 2021.

6.1.1 Main features of the process

A notable feature of the evaluation process of this pilot is that it did not impose large administrative burdens upon individual departments. The production of the global metrics data and the selection of articles and chapters to be individually evaluated were undertaken by the SRC. The production of the impact case studies likely was a burden for the departments, and this may be why some of them resorted to cut-and-paste reports that sometimes made their activity and associated outcomes hard to evaluate. However, in the majority of cases the impact reports provided valuable evidence of interesting and serious outreach beyond academia. The discussions around the selection of articles and book chapters for evaluation also would have been a burden. Compared, for example, to the efforts that departments in the UK have to put in to prepare for their Research Excellence Framework (REF) submissions, the SRC managed a light touch as far as submitting institutions were concerned. We think it an important principle of any evaluation exercise that it should not impose undue administrative burdens on departments, particularly those that are relatively

small, who are likely to feel the pressures of the submission demands most keenly.

To fully judge research potential and output, an additional piece of information to the panel could have been self-reported research strengths and priorities of Swedish HEIs and accordingly, an assessment of the extent to which these had been implemented in practice. But clearly, this would have involved a heavier reporting load by the institutions evaluated.

As a result of the light touch, the panel did not have access to information on such things as departmental research management, a breakdown of sources of funding or departmental strategies. In this sense, the panel was not evaluating the circumstances under which research was produced, but the outcomes of that research. There is a legitimate public interest, particularly in a publicly funded system, to ensure that resources are being prudently managed and expensively trained staff given opportunity to develop their potential. However, this is not the exercise in which the expert panel was engaged, and there are good arguments of principle for saying that this is the responsibility of HEIs and those to whom they are accountable, rather than these being topics on which an international panel can contribute constructively.

Because the primary reading of research output was undertaken by external reviewers, the panel did not form a judgement on the balance of work by sub-discipline and the extent to which Swedish political science has a comparative advantage in any particular area. This is something, however, that future evaluation panels in other scientific areas might consider doing. A high proportion of the work receiving a grade of 4 or 4/3, however, was in the study of electoral behaviour, parties and party systems, and the politics of civic activism, including feminist politics. The innovative work of V-Dem was also used in the highly rated publications. There was also, notably, a focus of research on Africa. And novel applications of political science methods included a study of succession in the authoritarian regimes of medieval Europe, as well as a study of the growth of control of corruption in Sweden in the nineteenth century. However, the panel is not able to make a judgement on particular areas of strength in other than these impressionistic terms. If advice on sub-disciplinary strengths is considered to be useful, then a panel could read and deliberate on a sample of work. This need not be in place of external reviewers, whose expertise and number made for valuable input. However, it would be a matter of bringing together their assessments in a more coherent and collective way. With such an extension, there could be some additional benefits in terms of reporting on sub-disciplinary strengths or particular themes on which political science in Sweden scores high. The drawback of such an assessment, however, is that an expert panel will be limited in terms of sub-disciplinary or specific substantive expertise represented within it and hence, may not do justice to all work that is produced.

Was the process of assessment fair? This is perhaps the basic question that needs to be answered for any such exercise, whatever the particular purpose is that the exercise is being asked to perform (see further thoughts on this later on in the report). One issue is whether citation metrics provide a fair basis for assessment of departmental research output, a matter on which there are conflicting opinions for and against. There are well-known limitations with using citation metrics for the purposes of evaluation, to do with the accuracy of the data, the fact that they are being used beyond their original purpose, the inapplicability to the humanities and social sciences, where citation rates are low, and their exclusion of monographs, which in some sub-disciplines in political science are regarded as the primary means of disseminating the most important work.

Having noted these challenges, we also emphasize that much depends on how the citation metrics are being used. In the present exercise, they were used to supply highly aggregated data on the performance of political science in Sweden as a whole, and so some of the criticisms of their use at lower levels of aggregation, including the level of the individual researcher, do not apply. A more detailed evaluation was conducted by external experts who served as reviewers of a large number of journal articles and book chapters selected.

The citation data also supplied the sampling frame for the evaluation. In the experience of the members of the expert panel, this approach has not been used in comparable exercises in other countries where units being assessed are allowed to nominate their own preferred items. The SRC's approach involves a more demanding test than the usual practice, but it does provide a fair basis for assessment if the question is what the range of performance is that the political science community in Sweden achieves. If a reasonable proportion of the work that is read is judged to be of international standard, that provides some evidence that the positive results emerging from the citation analysis are not entirely unfounded.

The role of impact assessment in research evaluation is contested, and there is a view that it can be over-emphasized as a component of research quality, not least because the extent to which research can have impact in part depends upon the receptiveness of governments, civil society organizations, the media and the public at large to the value of the research that is being produced. Nevertheless, to the extent to which impact is being assessed, the panel knows of no way than by the reading of case studies by experienced academics and practitioners. Panel members from outside of Sweden are obviously less able to understand the significance of a claimed impact than practitioners from inside Sweden, who will know more about context and outcome. On the other hand, if external panel members are impressed by impact, as they were in a number of the case studies that they read, then the SRC has grounds for thinking that claimed impact is significant and should be recognised as such. A number of the impact reports managed to convey a clear sense of their achievements to external readers and,

where there was an inability to convey achievement, there may simply have been less to convey. However, the SRC may wish to consider, if impact is to continue to be an element of assessment, how best to proceed to ensure this is done in ways allowing for fair assessment.

6.1.2 Future developments

The letter of invitation that each member of the expert panel received, inviting participation in this pilot evaluation, said that its purpose was ‘to measure the quality of research in political science in Sweden from an international perspective.’ This is an important goal. However, it is also a general statement of purpose and can potentially be interpreted in a number of different ways. The expert panel, somewhat creatively, drew up a list of possibilities in terms of goals to be attained with such a pilot evaluation, as contained in Box 6.1. With this overview, the panel hopes to stimulate discussions amongst relevant actors in Sweden about what the aims can be of an evaluation as conducted here, since the present study constitutes a pilot that hopefully, provides insights for avenues of evaluation for other disciplines too. The box mentions the SRC as an actor, but evidently, the main stake-holders of the evaluation are the government and the HEIs.

Box 6.1. Suggestions on Possible Aims in Measuring Research Quality (at the Level of the SRC)

- The SRC would find it advantageous from the point of view of its own policies, for example in making decisions on building up centres of excellence.
- The SRC would like to be assured that the research it is funding is at a suitable level of achievement as judged by international standards.
- The SRC is either asked or wishes to be accountable in a broad way to the government and the public at large that the activities it is funding are worthwhile.
- More narrowly, the SRC is under an obligation to the government and the tax-payers to show that it is securing good value for money in its expenditure.
- As an implication of the previous point, the SRC is anticipating tougher public expenditure controls in the future and is looking to build evidence of the value for money that it is providing.
- The SRC and the government feel there is merit in using Sweden’s strong achievements in science to bolster the country’s soft power in the world.

- The SRC may feel that the research community has been doing something well that it did not really know it was doing, and there is merit in articulating that achievement.
- The SRC may feel the need to ‘correct’ the tendencies of the research community to be inward looking, and so is explicitly providing an evaluation that lays emphasis upon impact.
- The SRC may feel that some types of institutions are better at ‘applied’ work than others, and an overall evaluation is a way of bringing that fact out.
- The exercise may be one in academic development. Feeding back to members of the research community where they are doing well and where they are not doing so well is a device for doing that.
- The exercise may provide a guide to institutional heads and governing bodies where the strengths are to be found in their institutions.

Of course, these are not mutually exclusive goals in all cases. However, the expert panel is inclined to think that it makes a difference to the evaluation exercise whether the judgements to be made are ones about the effects of resource allocation by the SRC, in which case the connection between research grants and outcomes is the focus, or whether it is offering a more holistic picture of the state of political science in Sweden. The expert panel is inclined to believe it is the latter and finds the state of political science in Sweden to be reflecting a high quality standard, although improvements are possible and should be pursued.

There are different views among academics about the value of research evaluations, ranging from those who are generally sceptical and think they intrude upon academic freedom to those who think that they are a part of the accountability that academics owe to society at large. Similarly, as an expert panel, we do not have a collective view about what the right sort of evaluation, if any, there is. The question may need to be addressed rather by Swedish society and government, not necessarily by an expert panel. However, we do feel able to offer advice on what form of evaluation is suitable, conditional upon the purpose that is chosen.

The form of the present exercise makes it suitable for some of the purposes shown in box 6.1, but not others. For example, if the purpose is to determine where to build up centres of excellence, the data and materials provided to the expert panel would be a starting point, but more would be needed in terms of

information on management and career developments. On the other hand, purposes (2) to (5) would be served by an exercise of the present sort, provided that results were reasonably positive. Thus, if Swedish political science were performing inadequately, then the exercise would be a starting point, but more investigation would be needed. (Of course, to say that a research community is performing adequately is not to say that it could not perform better, and we address such questions in the next section of this report.) Finally, the present exercise can contribute to purposes (6) to (11), but again more information would then be needed.

There is a separate question as to how frequently such evaluation exercises should be conducted. Given the relative lightness of touch for institutions of the current evaluation, there is no reason why the exercise could not be conducted every three or four years. However, the corollary of the lightness of touch for institutions is the heavy burden on the SRC itself, and this would counsel undertaking the exercise less frequently.

There are a number of seemingly detailed points about the material that is submitted for assessment that it might be useful for the SRC to reflect upon. Firstly, how important is it that SRC is judging Swedish political science rather than work done by political scientists in Sweden? This question affects the extent to which submitting departments are entitled to benefit from work done in institutions elsewhere, in particular the work of staff appointed from posts outside of Sweden. A related issue arises about the extent to which different departments can rely for their assessment on a single piece of work that involved collaboration between staff in those different departments. There is also a question about defining the time of publication of a piece of work, particularly if there is an item that is in the pipeline of production. 'Publication' of academic work these days is not a single event but often consists of a number of process: accepted versions published on departmental web-sites or other locations; the publisher's online version; and the eventually published version. Fairness requires a uniform rule for the period of assessment, but such a rule is hard to define. Although seemingly detailed, leaving the issues unresolved can have implications for the perceived fairness of the process and the incentives that are created for departments and institutions.

Finally, this evaluation only concerned HEIs. To judge the quality of research output and its potential impact in more general ways, it could be considered to integrate into another round of evaluation non-university institutes and think tanks producing research in political science in Sweden. Moreover, in the future, it could be a good idea to include, next to journal articles and book chapters, monographs and edited books into the assessment of quality and of impact. Nonetheless, the expert panel found this to be a process helping it to make some judgments on research quality and impact in political science in Sweden. The box above demonstrates how such a pilot study can be interpreted and what its

relative advantages and disadvantages in this process could be. The expert panel acknowledges the support provided by the SCR and hopes this 'pilot exercise' may be useful for other academic disciplines to be evaluated in the future.

7. The Panel's Conclusions and Recommendations

The expert panel finds, based on the information it had available, that the average research published in Swedish political science is of very good quality. It is internationally recognised by citations, displays rigour and originality, and makes a clear contribution to the store of knowledge. Although some departments evaluated in this study were clearly more research-intensive than others, every department could show research achievement at an international level, defined as 'quality that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance, and rigour', as judged by expert external readers. This assessment is also confirmed by classifying output in general according to the 'Norwegian list', which categorizes publications into quality 'levels' of respective journals. No department failed to produce journal articles in that list that were published in journals ranked as high-level (level 2) according to the classification in the list. Similarly, the proportion of book chapters included in books published by high-quality publishers in the list was generally extensive. Moreover, each department of the 14 considered in this review demonstrates engagement with society and policy makers and actively participates in attempts at broader impact. There is no inverse association between research achievement and impact. Thus, Sweden has much to be proud of as regards the performance of its political scientists.

However, there is no room for complacency. A share of 11 percent of the published output included into the evaluated selection of work was judged to be at the highest standard (i.e., 31 out of the total of 285 publications attributed that received at least one 4 and one 3 in the evaluation). We have no way of knowing in comparative terms whether a similar exercise for another country would produce a higher, lower or similar figure. However, we do note that only five publications of the 285 were attributed two 4s and that these represented two of the institutions involved. This raises the question of whether there may be room for even further ambitions among political science researchers at the concerned HEIs in terms of producing excellent research to be published in high prestige journals.

Research-intensive institutions need to ensure that they are supporting and enhancing the quality of their research to the highest level possible, and the less intensive institutions need to identify and develop their research capacity. There is scope for a continuous raising of standards, encouraging research excellence and promoting work that is both innovative and influential. At all levels – SRC, government, higher education institutions, departments and individual political scientists – we encourage a culture supportive of excellence. This means

congratulating and supporting those who are successful in the competition for funding and publications and, just as importantly, recognizing that a competitive research process in which individuals and groups are striving for the best will often create disappointments.

An important finding in our evaluation is that high-quality research is usually related to high (societal) impact; this is an insight that may be useful to avoid any kind of perceived contradiction between high-quality research and the potential to generate ‘effect’ in a more applied sense.

In what follows, we set out some recommendations (highlighted in boxes below) in the spirit of this search for improvement. The recommendations are based on the finding that in general, Swedish political science is doing well, yet improvements are possible. We will distinguish between recommendations to the Swedish government and to other funders, to the SRC itself and to universities, departments and to individual researchers. Our description incorporates much in terms of recommendations for the SRC, but this should be interpreted in the sense of our approach that the SRC is a crucial actor in stimulating internationally competitive, high-quality research in Sweden, notably via its merit-based, competitive, research grant application schemes.

7.1 Recommendations to government and other funders

The largest share of funding for research in Sweden is based on the block government grants, i.e. grants paid direct by the government to the HEIs, as section 1 of this report demonstrated. As the panel learned, the Swedish government has deliberated on different models for the allocation of funding based on quality measures. The panel understands the model has been applied since 2009 where a minor part of the block grant is allocated according to bibliometric measures, but the government currently considers implementing a new model. The panel does not claim to know how excellence is best achieved through allocation of specific funding patterns, but it considers it important that striving for research excellence and individual visibility of academic work in the area of political science remains a core task for the Swedish government and other funders alike.

Clearly, the patterns of government funding to HEIs constitutes an important element in terms of creating incentives for (internationally) ‘visible’ publication output. The expert panel is not in a position to judge how far an adapted form of ‘selective funding’ or the different forms of funding currently being deliberated will incentivise the best research and encourage a diffusion of research achievement across all institutions. It is well-known that citation data become more unreliable the lower the level of aggregation they are taken at. Moreover, such funding is necessarily retrospective, rewarding past performance. Of itself, this is reasonable if departments that benefit have built up a culture of excellence

that is transmitted to new generations of researchers. In this sense, the block grants constitute an important element in stimulating research quality in Sweden, but care has to be applied to keep the incentives created to achieve high quality of research output in Sweden.

Block grants, depending on their forms of application and selectivity, can constitute an important element in terms of stimulating quality research in Sweden.

The expert panel finds that the average quality of research in political science produced in Sweden at the moment is very good. An important governmental task is to support its further development and improvement. The panel finds that the fact that Sweden, in an international comparison, has a highly educated population can be a reason that the latter is ‘responsive’ to scientific work. The panel encourages the government to further support high-quality, internationally visible research in Sweden. This is not least the case as quality research also tends to be related to the capacity of respective work to make contributions to society, i.e., to generate ‘impact.

Accordingly, the expert panel encourages the Swedish government to acknowledge the close ties that exists between research excellence and societal impact in its various forms.

Finally, we note that, while there is a positive association between research quality and impact, as demonstrated in this report, this is not to say that all high-quality academic research should be expected to produce impact in the short term. A good example is provided by developments in deliberative democratic theory, which were the subject of highly specialist and sometimes esoteric debates in the 1980s and 1990s, but which are now seen as necessarily central to the design of good public consultation, as set out for example in a recent OECD report (OECD iLibrary | Innovative Citizen Participation and New Democratic Institutions: Catching the Deliberative Wave, available at oecd-ilibrary.org). If departments are to be encouraged to be innovative and risk-taking, then the corollary is that results in terms of impact may occur much later than when the original research was conducted. It might also be prudent, however, to avoid political short-term goals providing incentives for researchers to produce results which in the long term fail to advance societal interests. Academic activity, in this sense, should not be ‘captured’ by specific interests, but be beneficial for society in a short-term, medium-term or long-term perspective.

7.2 Recommendations to the SRC

We have already commented upon the pilot exercise in Section 6. Here we draw attention to some possible implications of our evaluation for the general processes of the SRC. We do not have the competence to make specific procedural recommendations, but we offer a set of considerations that the SRC may wish to bear in mind as it reviews its own processes.

Research Quality: The SRC runs an open competition for its grants, without favouring the currently research-intensive institutions. We think it is important that it continues this openness to strong applications from whatever department or institution, whether that be a research-intensive or less intensive department. There are several reasons for this conclusion. Firstly, all departments have shown, as this study finds, that they can produce some research that reaches high standards of scholarly achievement. Second, a bureaucratic concentration of research funds would unduly circumscribe the pool of ideas and innovation. Thirdly, fourteen departments, as considered in this evaluation, is not a large number, and a limitation of access to research funding would inhibit the incentives to do well. Accordingly.

We strongly support the continued access of all members of all departments and universities, no matter how research intensive those departments are, to SRC funding.

Using research funding wisely depends upon the good functioning of the peer-review process³. Research grants attributed by the SRC are allocated in competitive processes. However, it is important that the SRC seek out scholars of experience to review applications and make recommendations on their fund-worthiness. The SRC regularly draws on reviewers from outside of Sweden, in the Scandinavian countries, and this practice should be continued and extended. It might even be recommendable, whenever possible, to draw on external experts outside Scandinavia, to enhance the effect of international feedback and visibility related to research conducted in Sweden. It is important, moreover, that the briefing materials to peer reviewers keep stressing the importance of only recommending excellent work.

Alongside the continued openness to all applicants, we suggest that the SRC continues to review its practices in respect of peer review, to maintain and ensure that reviewers are given guidance in efforts to maintain the search for excellence. Moreover, the SRC might consider relying more on

³ E.g. see: <https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/documents/197/Peer-review-challenges-for-humanities-social-sciences.pdf>

experts in the field from outside Scandinavia, e.g. in the grant review process, where this is practically feasible.

The panel has not considered the performance of the different grant schemes operated by the SRC and so is not in a position to say whether any developments of those schemes could incentivise the very best research that would raise standards at the top. However, we note that with ‘world-leading’ research, which by definition is highly innovative, there is always an element of risk, since an application within an accepted paradigm that has well-formulated hypotheses is likely to be less innovative overall than a more open-ended, but possibly more creative application. There is no way to eliminate this risk, but it can be managed. One way is to ensure that within appropriate streams there is an explicit principle of risk-tolerance, identifying funds that may or may not eventually be productive.

We note that the SRC has an explicit strategy to manage the risks associated with the encouragement of highly innovative research, and such strategy is consistent with our analysis.

No one can control the career choices of successful researchers. The expert panel is not in a position to say whether funding individual research applications according to stringent criteria of research excellence would further concentrate research-intensiveness in Swedish political science or diffuse it. Early career researchers may gravitate to some departments rather than others, and mid-career researchers may use funding success to move towards more research-intensive institutions. Alternatively, ambitious researchers may find it advantageous to develop a profile that marks them out in their existing institution as a centre of excellence. The SRC will naturally wish to monitor the cumulative collective consequences of these individual decisions, but we do not think it feasible to make greater concentration or diffusion of research strengths an explicit object of policy.

We recommend that the focus of funding policy be on the strength of individual researchers or research teams rather than on achieving some national balance of research excellence across the system as a whole.

Research Impact: We have been encouraged by the quality of impact for which many Swedish political scientists are striving. If the SRC wishes to have evidence of the contribution that the social sciences can make to society, it has examples in the current case studies that it can cite in support.

We encourage the SRC to show the value to society and the tackling of global challenges that political science makes by publicising examples of the best of the impact work that has been undertaken.

We understand that the impact agenda is a relatively new one. As the SRC moves forward with that agenda, it has important detailed policy choices to make, for example how far to make research funding dependent upon a sound plan of impact and how best financially to support impact. As political scientists, we feel bound to point out that detailed policy developments of this type are consequential. In this respect, detail matters. For example, it makes a difference whether impact is required to be linked to the specific research that is being funded or whether there is a valuable form of public engagement that academics can pursue based on the work of others. These are matters on which there can be disagreement, and we encourage the SRC to open up a dialogue with government, professional associations and higher education institutions as to what the right balance should be. We note in particular that the best impact, as this study demonstrates, arises from the strongest research. Indeed, nothing would be worse than poor quality research that had high impact.

The SRC should clarify whether impact refers to the public impact of the researcher's own research or whether it is sufficient to show impact to draw exclusively on the research findings of others. The panel encourages the former.

Although many of the impact case studies studied in the framework of this evaluation rested upon engagement with user communities on a regular basis, there is a need to recognise that forms of public communication are changing, and that holding meetings and publishing reports are nowadays only part of a meaningful communications strategy. The rise of social media or the use of performance techniques (for example drama or stand-up comedy) to convey research activity and achievement, while unusual, are examples of what is possible. We note some examples of innovation in this regard in our individual impact reports (see Appendix 3), but the SRC might assume a role in disseminating ideas in this regard.

The SRC could explore whether it can facilitate researchers to experiment with innovative ways, as appropriate, of achieving impact.

7.3 Recommendations to universities

Different universities and institutions will rightly follow different academic priorities. However, our review has identified high quality work across different institutions within the overall Swedish university system. We hope that this report will enable universities to develop their administrative and managerial competence to strengthen elements of good academic research and to foster such research wherever it is found.

We encourage universities to support the upgrading and deepening of academic research skills and expertise. We support their efforts to identify research talent and to encourage respective academics to concentrate on the acquisition of research funding and the publication of internationally visible research.

It remains important to identify research talent and to stimulate internationally visible research.

In terms of impact, universities can greatly facilitate a fair process of assessment by ensuring that departments respond to the questions posed by the SRC in the context of an evaluation such as the present one in the form that is requested.

It is important to acknowledge that high-quality research and societal impact are related and that it is important to inform researchers as to how impact can be accounted for, demonstrated and reported.

7.4 Recommendations to departments

Departments, like the HEIs in which they are located will have their own academic priorities. However, if they are to be supportive of research improvement, they need to be able to recognise and develop research strength. It is not our task to suggest to departmental heads or research directors how they should do this. Much depends on the resources and discretion they have at their disposal. However, we do suggest some general principles.

Preparing a good research application is time-consuming and involves much detail. In applying for funds, individuals, particularly early-career scholars, need ways of being supported in the more bureaucratic aspects of the process, from budget specification to hardware and software needs.

As we have noted above, research funding and attainment is unavoidably a competitive process, which does not operate according to the principle that ‘all have competed so that all must have prizes’. A failure to secure success inevitably leads to disappointment.

Departments can help deal with this disappointment by encouraging researchers to take seriously the criticisms, where they are well-founded, that their application or work have encountered to see where those criticisms are valid and where they are not.

If political science is to promote public value, impact should be an important element of departmental research strategy. It is important to make sure there is a record of impact generated, supported by respective evidence and figures.

We encourage departments to support their staff in their efforts to generate societal impact, but this should always be based on sound research.

It is important to encourage faculty to record and assemble evidence and facts as to how their research may have created (societal) impact. Impact can only be assessed when it is supported by figures and insights demonstrating the link between research output and effects generated.

7.5 Recommendations to political scientists

The earlier review of Swedish political science to which we have already referred⁴ spoke of the danger of an ‘inwardness’ in Swedish political science, and more generally, not in the sense that domestic politics was an object of study but of an ethnocentricity, shown in a lack of willingness to incorporate new methods and a lack of comparative interests. Such ethnocentricity is not characteristic of the highly rated work that has been reviewed, but for any political science community; it is always a danger. The panel recommends that political scientists, also in Sweden, continue to keep abreast of developments in the discipline in an international perspective and to aim to produce research that engages professionally with the best scholarship on whatever topic they work.

The panel recommends that political scientists continue to integrate their scholarship into the global literature, whether that scholarship concerns

⁴ Olof Ruin, ‘Political Science on the Periphery: Sweden’, *Annual Review of Political Science*, 6, (2003), pp. 41-54

Sweden or not and regardless of whether it is published in Swedish or English.

Just as we encourage the SRC and other funding bodies to provide an incentive to innovative research, so we hope that individual scholars and groups take on the challenge of high-risk/high-reward research. This research strategy will not appeal to everyone, nor should it. Perhaps younger scholars will be best positioned to take advantage of new ideas and to explore new paths; conversely, perhaps senior scholars will be emboldened to do so, having already consolidated strong reputations. Not all of these efforts will succeed in generating publications that merit scores of 4 as used in our evaluation, and departments, universities, and the SRC should track to the extent possible the characteristics of the most successful scholarship and most successful scholars.

Although impact-related work is not for everyone, it is clear from our review that there are some individuals and groups that take it seriously and do well. The impact agenda is a new one and scholars are in the process of learning by doing. In this context, we make the following recommendations.

It is worth considering explicitly the form of dissemination that is appropriate for different types of work and its impact. In many circumstances traditional methods of achieving impact (meetings, participation in committees and so on) are appropriate, but there is merit in thinking of innovative ways that may reach different audiences.

In reporting impact, it is helpful if a clear distinction is made between activity and outcome. In the nature of the case, not all worthwhile activity will lead to outcome as impact, but it is useful to distinguish the two.

Political science in Sweden at its best achieves is at a high standard. We encourage individual scholars to continue their striving after high-quality research, knowing that the competition for research funding, in national, European and international contexts, will become fiercer over time.

Appendix 1: Methods used for the selection of publications

A random sample of publications have been read and assessed within the scope of the evaluation of political science. The sample was drawn by the Swedish Research Council from lists of publications. These lists were compiled based on the information available in the publications database SwePub, which is administered by the National Library of Sweden. SwePub contains references to research publications registered in databases in the local libraries at HEIs in Sweden. It is the researchers themselves who are responsible for the registration of their publications.

The lists for the selection were compiled using search and export from the bibliometric interface in SwePub, and subsequently filtered as specified below.⁵

- Date: The search was performed on Feb. 19th 2020.
- Publication years: 2014-2018 inclusive.
- Statistics Sweden Research area: 506 – political science. This classification is based on OECS Field of Research and Development (FORD), second level classification.

This search returned 8006 publications. The following filters were applied, in order to focus on peer-reviewed scientific publications from the included institutions, and in languages and formats accessible to the experts: (Number of publications remaining after each step given within brackets.)

- The higher education institutions concerned, i.e. those included in the evaluation. These are fourteen, in accordance with a previously sent list (7327).
- Peer-reviewed publications (3683). This filter is based on the content tags for publications in SwePub, that is, a categorisation as peer-reviewed, other scientific publication, and other, the last two of which are hence not included.
- Language: English or Swedish (3583).

⁵ <https://bibliometri.swepub.kb.se/bibliometrics>

- Output type: journal article or book chapter (3101). These two categories jointly constitute 87 per cent of the publications left after the previous filters (61 per cent and 26 per cent, respectively). Monographs were excluded from the analysis.

Hence, after applying these filters, 3101 publications remained. The research Council separated these publications into fourteen lists, one for each higher education institution concerned, and sent the respective list to each of these. Thereafter, a random sample were drawn with ten per cent of the publications for each higher education institution. However, the higher education institutions did not regard this sample as representative. Therefore, they were given the option to remove publications from their list. They were offered three grounds for removing a publication from their list, based on whether a publication:

- a) is from a research group in a field other than political science (e.g. from a different department or unit), or is not a scientific publication (e.g. textbooks, handbooks, or memorial volumes),
- b) is not authored by (researchers at) that higher education institution, or
- c) could not be identified.

Subsequently, a new random sample was drawn from the revised lists. This new sample of publications is included in the evaluation. On average, the higher education institutions asked to have just under 40 per cent of the publications removed from the original lists. In addition, the Swedish Research Council removed a few publications identified as teaching material or general introductions to political science, rather than scientific articles or chapters. The revised lists contained nearly 1900 publications. The reduction in the total number of publications enabled for an increase of the size of the new sample, drawn from the revised SwePub-lists, to fifteen per cent.

Appendix 2: Instructions for reviewers in the evaluation

Assessment criteria

Since this concerns assessment of the outputs from the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), we have chosen to adopt the grading scale and assessment criteria used in the Research Excellence Framework (REF). Hence, we ask you to give one overall grade on the scientific quality of each publication according to the scale displayed in Table 1. The grade should be indicated in the Excel assessment template along with a short explanatory comment (one or two sentences).

Table A2.1 Criteria and definitions of starred levels.

Score	Criteria
Four star	Quality that is world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
Three star	Quality that is internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour but which falls short of the highest standard of excellence.
Two star	Quality that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
One star	Quality that is recognised nationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
Unclassified	Quality that falls below the standard of nationally recognised work. Or work which does not meet the published definition of research for the purpose of this assessment.

Scientific quality should be assessed in terms of originality, significance and rigour, defined as:

Originality will be understood as the extent to which the output makes an important and innovative contribution to understanding and knowledge in the field. Research outputs that demonstrate originality may do one or more of the following: produce and interpret new empirical findings or new material; engage with new and/or complex problems; develop innovative research methods,

methodologies and analytical techniques; show imaginative and creative scope; provide new arguments and/or new forms of expression, formal innovations, interpretations and/or insights; collect and engage with novel types of data; and/or advance theory or the analysis of doctrine, policy or practice, and new forms of expression.

Significance will be understood as the extent to which the work has influenced, or has the capacity to influence, knowledge and scholarly thought, or the development and understanding of policy and/or practice. Significance includes but should not be limited to the visibility and reputation of the journal where the work is published and the number of citations the work has amassed. Work may be highly significant even with few citations if, for instance, it has influenced a narrow but consequential stream of research or if it has important implications for public policy.

Rigour will be understood as the extent to which the work demonstrates intellectual coherence and integrity, and adopts robust and appropriate concepts, analyses, sources, theories and/or methodologies.

Supplementary criteria – level definitions

In assessing outputs, the reviewers will look for evidence of originality, significance and rigour, and apply the generic definitions of the starred quality levels as follows:

In assessing work as being four star, reviewers will expect to see some of the following characteristics:

- outstanding novelty in developing concepts, paradigms, techniques or outcomes
- a primary or essential point of reference
- a formative influence on the intellectual agenda
- application of exceptionally rigorous research design and techniques of investigation and analysis
- generation of an exceptionally significant data set or research resource.

In assessing work as being three star, reviewers will expect to see some of the following characteristics:

- novelty in developing concepts, paradigms, techniques or outcomes
- an important point of reference
- contributing very important knowledge, ideas and techniques which are likely to have a lasting influence on the intellectual agenda
- application of robust and appropriate research design and techniques of investigation and analysis
- generation of a substantial data set or research resource.

In assessing work as being two star, reviewers will expect to see some of the following characteristics:

- providing useful knowledge and the application of such knowledge
- contributing to incremental and cumulative advances in knowledge
- a thorough and professional application of appropriate research design and techniques of investigation and analysis.

In assessing work as being one star, reviewers will expect to see some of the following characteristics:

- providing useful knowledge, but unlikely to have more than a minor influence
- an identifiable contribution to understanding, but largely framed by existing paradigms or traditions of enquiry
- competent application of appropriate research design and techniques of investigation and analysis.

Research will be graded as 'unclassified' if it falls below the quality levels described above.

Appendix 3: Instructions for case studies

Within the scope of the pilot evaluation of political science research in Sweden, the evaluation units are to produce written reports of impact case studies when the research has been of importance to society. Included in each evaluation unit are all departments, institutes, and centres who carry out research in political science at a given higher education institution. This implies that the evaluation may refer to more than one department or equivalents at the higher education institution.

In short, impact case studies refer to descriptions of when research has made a difference to society outside academia. The research behind the impact must be carried out at the evaluation unit within the past 20 years.

For this evaluation the Swedish Research Council has decided to use a broad definition of societal impact of research. The impact may refer to a change, influence, or any penetration, breakthrough or effect on society. Processes driving the impact may vary. It is essential to acknowledge both that there can be a substantial delay in the impact of research on society, and that deriving the impact is associated with a high degree of uncertainty. The impact may be deliberate or arise due to unforeseen circumstances. Please note that impact within academia – e.g. on research or teaching – is not included in this evaluation.

The cases are intended as good, instructive examples. The task for the panel is not to give a comprehensive assessment of the impact on and importance to society of the research in political science, but rather to identify good examples which may stimulate progress and learning, when disseminated. This implies that a representative sample of cases is not warranted for this evaluation.

The panel will assess the impact case studies on the following three aspects:

- (i) Reach and significance
- (ii) Contributing research
- (iii) Key processes and factors.

Guidelines

Each evaluation unit is to send in at least one and not more than five impact case studies describing how the research conducted at the unit has impacted on society outside academia.

The number of case studies to be sent in depends on the number of publications registered in SwePub for the years 2014 to 2018 (inclusive). Units with more than 300 publications are to send 3–5 case studies; units with strictly between 100 and 300 publications are to send 2–4; and those with fewer than 100 publications are to send 1–3 case studies.

Table A3.1 Number of case studies to be provided

Number of case studies	Evaluation units / HEIs
3–5	Gothenburg University, Uppsala University, and Lund University
2–4	Stockholm University, Swedish Defence University, Umeå University, and Linköping University
1–3	Södertörn University, Linnaeus University, Malmö University, Örebro University, Karlstad University, Mid Sweden University, and Luleå University of Technology.

Each case study should be at most three pages, excluding references. Please include references in an appendix. Fill in the template for each case study. Please begin each new case on an odd page. The text must be in English, to be comprehensible to an international panel. It is up to each higher education institution to decide on the process for the selection of cases.

Describe the following for each case study

(a) Reach and significance – the referred impact on society:

Describe the referred impact on society, where the contribution of research at the evaluation unit is distinct and substantial.

The impact of research on society may manifest itself in a variety of forms. The Swedish Research Council would hence welcome a diversity of case studies, indicating the impact research has had on separate as well as a multitude of areas of society, e.g. the economy, civil society, cultural activities, politics, public administration, public health, the environment, or quality of life. The impact may involve individuals as well as organisations or groups, and may refer to shifts or changes in activities, attitudes, understanding, behaviours, competences, possibilities, policies, approaches, or processes. Further, the impact may manifest itself locally, or at a national or international level.

For the assessment the panel is to make, it is vital with a clear description of what the impact was, who or what was affected, and how. Please give references

to verify the impact of the research, e.g. references to relevant documents, or contact information to persons with relevant knowledge. The case described must have occurred within the past five years.

(b) Contributing research – the main content of the research that contributed to the impact:

Describe briefly the research outputs from the evaluation unit which distinctly and substantially has contributed to the importance to society described under (a) above. Explain how the research outputs have been essential.

The research carried out at the evaluation unit and contributing to the case must be published within the past 20 years, and the example of impact on society must have occurred within the past five years. The research contributing to the impact may build on work carried out over several years or be the result of an individual project; and it may be carried out by an individual researcher, a group of researchers, or in collaboration with researchers at other higher education institutions.

Enclose in an appendix a list of up to ten key publications authored by researchers who are or at the time were at the evaluation unit. The publications must not be more than 20 years old. On this list of publications all authors must be specified (with the order of authors corresponding to that of the published works and authors from the evaluation unit marked with bold font), title, and publication type as well as year.

c) Key processes and factors – approaches and conditions crucial to the impact

Describe how your processes to promote the impact of your research has contributed to the impact on society described above. You may also include prerequisites you judge as essential for this case.

These are a few examples of conditions that in various contexts have been brought forward as important to the process of enhancing the impact of research: research profile and strategy; extent and type of as well as conditions for research funding; framework for incentives for funding and staffing; the composition, recruitment, career paths and mobility of research staff; gender equality; publication strategies; collaborations within as well as outside of academia, nationally as well as internationally; governance, management and basic values.

We would like to stress that you are free to bring up any processes you deem essential to your work.

Refer to relevant written evidence verifying your description, e.g. documents or persons (including contact information), who can confirm that the procedures

and conditions you bring forward have indeed contributed to the impact of research in the referred case.

Appendix 4: Case studies report

The scale used by the panel ranged from Poor to Excellent, as follows, which also gives a numerical representation as used in subsequent assessments:

- Poor (0)**
- Moderate (1)**
- Good (2)**
- Very Good (3)**
- Excellent (4)**

Försvarshögskolan (FHS) – Swedish Defence University

General Summary

The research subject is clearly of great public importance. However, it is very hard from the submitted report to gauge the impact, as distinct from the activity, of the group's work. Even allowing for the report's not being in the requested form, the section on impact is largely devoted to descriptive material of the EU's processes of crisis management - more logically regarded as a summary of the underlying research. It is hard to infer impact from the report, though there is some evidence that the extensive activities of the Group have borne fruit. More detail on specific activities and their outcomes would have helped the evaluation.

The Case Study

Case 1: The European Societal Security Research Group

Impact: The European Societal Security Research Group, which include scholars from three institutions, reports engaging in a range of outreach activities, including: assisting the EU Commission's mapping of total crisis management capacities; lecturing and advising members of the Commission; arranging conferences and workshops with Commissioners and national ministers; addressing an EU Parliament Committee; and leading the first cross-sectoral EU crisis management exercise. The Group has also worked closely with the European Policy Center, had members posted in 'Brussels' and produced conferences, seminars, briefings and exercises for national governments. There is an ongoing relationship with the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, including the receipt of funding. Unfortunately, insufficient detail is given to assess impact rather than activity.

Contributing Research: It is hard from the report to see the relationship between the research of the programme and the policy impact activity. The most relevant and important publication (Boin et al., *The European Union as Crisis Manager*) is excellent. However, since the work is an analysis of the development of crisis management capacity in the EU, it does not in itself provide the basis for showing the impact of the Group itself. It is work on the crisis management capacity, not work for the development of that capacity. In particular, it would have been valuable to know how far the typology of sense-making, decision making and reference object of protection had played a role in the EU's understanding of its own activities.

Assessment: Moderate-Good/Good (1.5*/2)

Göteborgs universitet (GU) – University of Gothenburg

General Summary

The submissions provided evidence of impact at high levels across a number of projects, some of which can be regarded as truly world-leading. The range of activity referred to was impressive, with case studies including a focus on public goods, gender and representation, the quality of governance, election studies and comparative democracy. All projects showed evidence of engagement with policy makers, legislators and public agencies. Efforts have clearly been made actively to engage with the press and general media.

Much of the reporting, perhaps inevitably, focused upon activity rather than outcome. However, in some cases, evidence was given of output and sometimes of outcome, strengthening the claims that audiences were being reached beyond academia. In some cases, too much space was taken up documenting academic rather than non-academic impact. The use of innovative methods of engagement varies with the specifics of the projects but might be improved in all.

Underpinning research was generally impressive in quality and quantity. Much of the work involved international collaboration, itself a measure of the standing of the Swedish contributions to this work.

The Case Studies

Case 1: The Centre for Collective Action Research

Impact: Despite much information, the impact of the Centre's work is hard to grasp from the report submitted. No research references are given to link research outputs with impacts. The references to news media coverage suggest a contribution to public understanding. Individuals occupy several roles in expert commissions but the significance of this is less clear. The Polar Bear Ball

suggests an attempt at innovation. In sum, good reach, but evidence of impact is more modest.

Contributing Research: The report provided no listing of research that would support the impact that is claimed, which made it hard to assess how the claimed impact was underpinned by the research of the unit.

Assessment: Good/Good (2/2)

Case 2: The Project on Gender, Governance and Representation – Malawi, 2016

Impact: The report notes significant impacts on the public, government officials and other key stake-holders in Malawi, and elsewhere. Also, lessons from the unit's local governance performance index was picked up by the international development community. The significance of the impact is high and it has an international scope. The programme is relatively new, but in five years the project has secured some significant successes.

Contributing Research: The case study provides clear evidence of high quality academic research that is clearly of relevance to society and global development. The research is conducted collaboratively with colleagues outside of Sweden, a plus.

Assessment: Very Good/Excellent (3/4)

Case 3: The Quality of Government Institute

Impact: Impact is verified in an exemplary way. Impressive outreach, internationally and nationally. The significance of the impact is harder to judge, since it is hard to know how increased awareness of the quality of government translates into policy changes, and it is not reported. Forms of public outreach may be rather conventional, but this is work of the utmost significance.

Contributing Research: There is no doubt about the academic quality of the research. It is clearly of the highest standards and is being produced in considerable quantity. The impact is therefore underpinned by strong research.

Assessment: Excellent/Excellent (4/4)

Case 4: Swedish National Election Studies (SNES)

Impact: Outside academia impact takes two forms. The first is science education about electoral behaviour and processes to the Swedish general public via news media and via SNES's own accounts on social networking sites (though we note that Swedish political science benefits from a deliberative political culture that some of us envy). Second, there is an impact on policy makers as SNES researchers participate as experts in state-initiated audits and commissions. The

reach within Sweden is arguably high. However, a lot of the space is taken up with academic impact.

Contributing Research: The academic quality of the work of SNES is widely recognised. However, the submitted report makes it hard to see how the research underpins dissemination and impact to the broader public. The tradition of analysis going back over decades is impressive, but the cited items cannot be clearly related to the impact.

Assessment: Very good/Very Good (3/3)

Case 5: Varieties of Democracy & V-Dem Institute

Impact: V-Dem is a major resource for the comparative study of democratization and autocracy and the report shows evidence of considerable success in disseminating the resources and its findings among policy makers. Research and outputs are significant and have worldwide reach. The research has significance for the development and strengthening of democracy, human rights, and media/civil freedom on a worldwide basis. There is less evidence of dissemination among the public at large, but perhaps rightly this may not be a priority. The report was a model: lots of facts and no padding.

Contributing Research: The impact cited builds upon an impressive body of empirical research, which itself is built upon a clearly articulated empirical base.

Assessment: Excellent/Excellent (4/4)

Karlstads universitet (KaU) – Karlstad University

General Summary

The case studies reflect an ambition actively to reach out to and engage with actors outside academia, in particular with public and political actors, policy makers and stake-holders at the regional level in Sweden (and in one case, in sub-national regions in the EU). The cases report various forms of public engagement in policy relevant areas (climate change risks; gender and power perspectives in regional/rural development; European regions as actors). Two cases aim at introducing critical policy analysis perspectives to policy makers, which is, arguably, not an easy task.

The submission reports in considerably great detail, and more clearly, the public engagement activities by the researchers than about the specific impacts of the engagement. The actual impacts are vaguely described. The academic scholarly quality of the underpinning research varies. There are academic studies published in international peer-reviewed journals and books, but also PhD theses and contributions that are more modest. Concerning public outreach strategies,

workshops, seminars and lectures seem to be the norm. There are few examples of news media engagement and coverage. The third case reports some blogging activities and production of training material.

The Case Studies

Case 1: City Redevelopment and the Politics of Climate Risk Definition and Climate Change Adaptation

Impact: The case deals with how municipal/city redevelopment, focusing on an economic growth imperative, should pay attention to increased climate risks and climate change adaptation. The engagement activities (workshops, presentations, discussions) included public actors and, notably, insurance company staff (the number of events and participants is not reported). The impact of the activities is vaguely described and is not evidenced. The events ‘resulted in discussions’ that ‘mobilized’ actors and stake-holders, but it is not specified who were mobilized in what ways and whether it influenced planning and policies by municipalities, regions, and insurance companies.

Contributing Research: the underpinning research includes academic research of good quality published in international peer-reviewed journals and books. In collaborating with other national research partners, the project has received external funding, among others by a national insurance company.

Assessment: Moderate/Moderate (1/1)

Case 2: Critical Aspects of Regional Development and Growth with Importance for Policymaking

Impact: Through public engagement and dissemination, the researchers introduced a critical perspective on regional and rural development, addressing dimensions of power encompassing gender and urban privilege, to public actors in regions and county councils, and rural NGOs. The outreach activities and the chosen public forums and platforms (reference persons provided) are varied and are potentially able to reach the targeted regional actors nationwide. However, the specificities of the impact of the engagement are weakly reported. It is asserted that the researchers have presented a new perspective to regional policymakers and a new tool for them to implement, but it remains unclear from the documentation how this perspective and tool has been received and possibly adopted by policymakers.

Contributing Research: the case relies partly on three PhD theses completed within the project, but also on Swedish as well as international contributions by mainly one of the senior researchers in the group. The link between the underlying research and the engagement is reasonably clear.

Assessment: Moderate/Moderate (1/1)

Case 3: Subnational Local and Regional Engagement with the European Union

Impact: In this case, the impacts are somewhat more convincingly stated and evidenced, and the reach covers the European, national, and regional/local level. The two researchers, dealing with subnational and regional engagement within the EU, have cooperated with the Assembly of European Regions and repeatedly provided expertise, advice and training for European regional civil servants and politicians (numbers of occasions and participants not reported). Two personal testimonials give some, although limited, evidence for the impact of the engagement. There is also a testimonial of news media engagement at the Swedish regional level.

Contributing Research: The main content of the underpinning research is not described at all, which makes it very hard to assess the link between the research and the engagement/impact. Instead, the section 'Contributing Research' reads like professional CVs of the duo. The reference list displays some international journal articles and book chapters, but also more modest contributions.

Assessment: Moderate/Good (1/2)

Linköpings universitet (LiU) – Linköping University

General Summary

The University of Linköping has submitted four impact cases for assessment. They note that they are not organized into a conventional disciplinary structure and that they therefore have selected from among the most relevant streams of research in several departments (the department of Management and Engineering, the department of Thematic Studies and the department of Culture and Society). The cases repeatedly return to the importance to them of interdisciplinarity. Generally, the cases are a bit short on documentation regarding stated policy impacts and it is recommended in a future exercise that there be more focus on such documentation.

The Case Studies

Case 1: Research into Democratic Aspects of Digitalisation in Public Administration

Impact: The first case is about digital inclusion in administrative services. The stated impact concerns the importance for local and national governments of knowledge about digital inclusion. The case describes several instances of co-production, where stake-holders are involved in forming the research. The impact from the research output is demonstrated through some quotes, where a government official state that they find the work done by the research group

useful. In addition, several instances of successful dissemination e.g., at Almedalsveckan are mentioned.

Contributing Research: The research for the most part appear in what could be described as policy-near or ‘grey’ literature. Much of it is not in journals or outlets that are well recognised or read in the field of political science.

Assessment: Good/Very Good (2/3)

Case 2: Climate Research for the Benefit of Society

Impact: The second case is about climate change mitigation, again the focus is much on collaboration around the research both multi-disciplinary, but also including various stake-holders. The research group hold forth participation in a public inquiry as an example of how the work is being transmitted into national policy preparation. They also mention other kinds of impacts through media appearances, but these are rather loosely and superficially described and make assessment of impact difficult.

Contributing Research: The research for the most part appear in what could be described as policy-near or ‘grey’ literature. Much of it is not in journals or outlets that are well recognised or read in the field of political science. However, articles have also appeared in good subfield-relevant international journals, such as, Climate Policy and Global Environmental Change.

Assessment: Good/Good (2/2)

Case 3: The Academy of the Municipalities

Impact: This case is about local government. Again, the case emphasizes stakeholder involvement in research and through education activities. The case puts forth two persuasive examples of how their research has impacted national policy-making to fight corruption and local government’s thinking about how to approach issues of population decline.

Contributing Research: The research for the most part appear in what could be described as policy-near or ‘grey’ literature. Much of it is not in journals or outlets that are well recognised or read in the field of political science. However, articles have also appeared in good subfield-relevant international journals, such as, Governance and the International Journal of Public Administration.

Assessment: Very Good/Very Good (3/3)

Case 4: Research into the Role Municipalities Play to Promote Sustainable Development

Impact: The fourth case is about sustainability goals in a local government context. As in previous cases, collaboration with stake-holders throughout the

process is emphasized. The impact on policies is rather generally stated. An argument is made that a series of popular scientific reports are well read by employees in municipalities and that this has contributed knowledge about the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Contributing Research: The research for the most part appear in what could be described as policy-near or ‘grey’ literature. Much of it is not in journals or outlets that are well recognised or read in the field of political science.

Assessment: Good/Good (2/2)

Linnéuniversitetet (LNU) – Linnaeus University

General Summary

Linnaeus University has submitted three case studies: Varieties of Political Representation, Governance Ethics and Corruption, and European Studies. As a general observation, all three impact cases could have benefitted from providing more documentation for the claims of policy impact they have submitted.

All three case studies contribute to relevant topics and use own research to generate impact. One case is focused predominantly on Sweden and all contributions could benefit from more international visibility, e.g. in peer-reviewed journals.

The Case Studies

Case 1: Varieties of Political Representation (VPR)

Impact: The Research on Political Representation demonstrates typical impact of this genre. It has had constant presence in mass media particularly before and after elections and the research is of interest to parties and political institutions, also between the elections. This kind of research is vital for every democracy. Although its impact is mainly domestic, some of the research findings have wider relevance from a comparative perspective.

Contributing Research: The societal impact rests on a solid background of original research carried out for a longer period of time. A number of researchers have contributed to this research track. Although a great deal of the research is primarily oriented towards the domestic audience and is written in Swedish, it is justified because it is focused on Sweden’s political system.

Assessment: Good/Good (2/2)

Case 2: Governance, Ethics, and Corruption (GEC)

Impact: The policy impact of the research on corruption is also clear from the outset: in each democracy there needs to be research carried out on this theme and one might suggest that merely the existence of such research may have an impact on corruption. Moreover, the researchers have directly engaged with state authorities and international networks. They have also received media publicity.

Contributing Research: The research input on corruption is clear but it is somewhat thinner and also somewhat less ambitious as regards international peer reviewed publications.

Assessment: Good/Good (2/2)

Case 3: Swedish Network for European Studies at Linnaeus University (SNES-LNU)

Impact: The Network on European Studies has engaged with a variety of topics which led to media presence and engagement with international researchers, civil society representatives and local policy-makers on international cooperation. The actual impact of these activities, however, has been harder to demonstrate.

Contributing Research: European Studies research has produced a number of international peer-reviewed articles over the years but in this area of high competition in Europe, the research profile has not become distinctive.

Assessment: Good/Good (2/2)

Luleå tekniska universitet (LtU) – Luleå University of Technology

General Summary

Luleå University of Technology has submitted three cases studies from its political science unit: wildlife management, mining-related conflicts and environmental collective action. They are all well-stated and exemplary in how the impact is detailed. Cases 1 and 2 represent rather narrow fields of expertise but there has been a clear need of such expertise and the researchers have successfully fulfilled those niches. Case 3 is broader in scope and there the societal impact in terms of concrete outcomes has been more difficult to demonstrate.

The Case Studies

Case 1: An Institutional Change in Wildlife Governance

Impact: The impact of the research on wildlife management on the development on national policy is meticulously and persuasively documented. The research documenting overrepresentation of hunting interests led to a change in the institutions of wildlife governance. The group succinctly summarizes their impact as follows with evidence to back up at each step: (1) raising awareness of governance challenge; (2) contributing to public debate about institutional solutions; and (3) providing critical input to the redesign of institutions. The only critical remark is that the documented impact is limited in scope.

Contributing Research: The research appears thorough and original, and it has resulted in articles in journals that are reputable in the specialized field in question.

Assessment: Good/Very Good (2/3)

Case 2: Increased Understandings and New Deliberative Processes in Mining Governance

Impact: This case, focusing on mining-related conflicts, is an excellent example of where a research group has made effective use of stake-holders in their local surroundings. Through intervention studies using deliberative processes in communities of miners, participants reported a better understanding of others' viewpoint and an improved climate for discourse. In the municipality of Jokkmokk, the research further led to a series of open hearings. Based on the work, a report was produced to the County Administration Board which forwarded it to the national government, and several of the recommendations mind it into the revised Mineral Act. The CAB has also fed-back that the research has helped them to better understand and handle mining related land use conflicts. This is another meticulous and well-documented impact case. Given the generality of the issues addressed, there is also the potential for impact beyond Sweden, but this potential appears to not yet be realized.

Contributing Research: The research appears thorough and original, and it has resulted in articles in journals that are reputable in the specialized field in question.

Assessment: Very Good/Very Good (3/3)

Case 3: Contributing to the Design and Implementation of Climate Policy

Impact: This case deals with the immensely important but complex issue of environmental collective action. The group's expertise is well-recognised as evidenced by invitations to consult with national ministries and even in

international settings, but the concrete results have been more difficult to demonstrate. It appears that the group will need to work hard to retain their standing after having lost a leading figure mentioned in all the examples of government consultation.

Contributing Research: Like the other two cases, the research in this case seems thorough and original. Furthermore, of the three cases, the research for this case appears in the most recognised journals that are reputable in their specialized fields.

Assessment: Good/Good (2/2)

Lunds universitet (LU) – Lund University

General Summary

The documentation provided by Lund University demonstrates consistent public visibility and policy engagement in its political science research. The five cases all report research that has been covered by the press or other media channels and has been either produced in direct collaboration with or presented to Swedish government bodies or societal actors. In addition, all cases have been produced in direct collaboration with or presented to non-academic actors, including civil society organizations.

The materials document a series of socially-relevant research agendas which are actively being pursued by its political science faculty. However, in some cases, the link from the contributing research to social and policy engagement and impact seems somewhat weak. Furthermore, there was variation in the extent to which the research generated impact and how respective effects were documented.

Overall, although precise metrics for policy impact are lacking in some instances, the presented materials demonstrate that its political science group successfully engages with the public and policy makers on multiple topics and that it combines academic research with impact on society in convincing ways.

The Case Studies

Case 1: Reframing Policy Debates on Peace Diplomacy and Gender Inclusion

Impact: This project convinced by demonstrating how research created an impact in practice on respective developments in (international) organizations concerning the practice of women in diplomacy and peacemaking.

Contributing Research: The link to the academic research is well described and strong. Moreover, the project received significant funding, among others in the context of an EU 7th Framework project, and the research has been carried out in collaboration with, for example, European partners.

Assessment: Excellent/Excellent (4/4)

Case 2: Personal Assistance Cutbacks in Sweden

Impact: The dissemination in relevant media (newspapers, television, radio) has been clearly documented. However, although relevant, the account in the case study appears to somewhat exaggerate policy impact, or at least do not provide compelling evidence for impact.

Contributing Research: The project mainly relies on the activities and engagement of one (senior) researcher; for the other cases, groups of faculty members have been involved.

Assessment: Moderate/Good (1/2)

Case 3: Carbon Ruins: An Exhibition of the Fossil Era

Impact: In a similar vein as case 1, the originality of the ‘Carbon Ruins’ project was convincing, by engaging with the public through an interactive museum installation. This case, moreover, demonstrates relevant media coverage and interviews conducted.

Contributing Research: The case is based on research originally conducted by the Environmental Politics Research Group. Publications related to the case have appeared in internationally excellent outlets (including Cambridge University Press).

Assessment: Very Good/Excellent (3/4)

Case 4: Swedish Parliamentary Democracy Today

Impact: The policy impact of the project ‘Swedish Parliamentary Democracy Today’ also appears to be robust and significant.

Contributing Research: The case is based on strong research output, and it is able to demonstrate that the research has distinctly and substantially contributed to social impact, notably by demonstrating to various non-academic stakeholders how Swedish parliamentary democracy works in practice.

Assessment: Excellent/Excellent (4/4)

Case 5: Democracy in Sweden since Joining the EU

Impact: Similar to Case 4, 'Democracy in Sweden Since Joining the EU' could document impact better, by providing clearer indicators and figures. But the case convinces by a clear description of effects of research conducted on Swedish democratic features since the start of its EU membership.

Contributing Research: The social and public engagement of this case is written in convincing ways. The link to academic research conducted and to relevant research output could nonetheless be stronger. In particular, evidence on how original research being conducted by the main researchers on that project and how this was directly informing the outreach efforts could have been demonstrated more clearly. Instead, it rather seemed like research materials generated elsewhere in the political science discipline were assembled and faculty involved in the case then acted as a 'content aggregator' in relations with other actors. Although this is useful in itself, it does not showcase the research activities of faculty at Lund University itself and how this distinctively and substantially contributed to impact.

Assessment: Very Good/Very Good (3/3)

Malmö universitet (MaU) – Malmö University

General Summary

Malmö University submitted three impact case studies for assessment. All three cases show impact of academic work that has been conducted at Malmö University. The first case looks at the role of meetings, the second on gender and climate change policies, and the third on voter turnout and representation of foreign-born Swedes. For all three cases, the description of the impact mostly relates to media publicity and public presentations.

The research that is presented as having contributed to the impact is original research conducted by researchers at Malmö University and their collaborators. However, the academic quality of the underlying work and the publication outlets varies across the three case studies.

Overall, all the cases have been able to show societal impact by creating greater awareness of the issues. The description of the underlying research and resulting impact is summarized but it seems to consist more of the process than of outcomes. The level of abstraction when assessing the impact of individual academic work could be higher.

The Case Studies

Case 1: Media Impact of Meeting Research

Impact: The impact case study relies almost exclusively on interviews with the professor behind the research and newspaper articles about the research. Its basis is collaboration with local policy-makers. The media publicity has been on a respectable level, with the case being able to reach to a global audience via BBC.

Contributing Research: The contributing research has been published in well-known journals in sociology and public administration.

Assessment: Moderate/Good (1/2)

Case 2: Intersectionality and Climate Policy-Making in Industrialized States

Impact: Also in this case, the researchers have engaged with local policy-makers but the link from the underlying research to societal and political impact is not particularly concrete.

Contributing Research: By comparison with the first case, the publications contributing to this case are published in more specialized outlets.

Assessment: Very good/Good-Very good (3/2,5**)

Case 3: Voter Turnout and Representation among Foreign Born in Sweden

Impact: The account of the impact in the first case also holds true for this case, that describes impact mostly by media coverage. In both cases, the media publicity has been on a respectable level. The researchers of the third case study have presented their research in a sub-committee of the parliament and they have also cooperated with municipalities.

Contributing Research: The underpinning academic work seems sound and has been published in sub-field relevant journals dealing with questions of politics and economics of migration.

Assessment: Good/Good (2/2)

Mittuniversitetet (MiUn) – Mid Sweden University

General summary

The case studies showed evidence of a serious attempt to engage in the dissemination of academic research in a way that sought to advance the public

interest. The cases used some innovative techniques for this. The department clearly takes the question of impact seriously. The main weakness of the cases presented was a lack of connection to contributing research undertaken within the department.

The Case Studies

Case 1: Participatory Visual Methods as Means for Reaching Policy Makers and Foster Social Change

Impact: The case study focused on the prevention of gendered violence, with particular attention to raising youth participation and awareness, with a project in which 35 girls of an upper secondary school participated, using innovative participatory visual methods. One practical result was the repainting of a tunnel regarded as unsafe by young women. Four young women in the project also created a podcast. Insights were made available to representatives of the Swedish Public Prosecutor's Office, members of the Police, of the Swedish Migration Agency and of the Swedish Prison and Probation Service among others. However, documentation of the details of the case could have been better.

Contributing Research: It is unclear how the research conducted was linked to the social engagement described, as the references provided include information on work by various authors; only some of the references (and authors) seem to be displaying 'own' work. The quality and scholarly importance of the research that underlies the societal engagement, however, seems to be fair. But the distinctive and substantial contribution of the research to social impact cannot be clearly discerned.

Assessment: Moderate/Moderate (1/1)

Case 2: Snabbtänkt – Reflections from Leading Academics

Impact: The project provided a set of media platforms for some 100 scholars to provide a reflective analysis of the 2018 Swedish election, culminating in a written report. The main output was this report, drawing on the contributions of an international group of colleagues, and made available in both hardcopy and downloadable formats. The group affiliated with Mid-Sweden University played a largely editorial role in the project, but with some own contributions. Information about the project was disseminated via a project webpage as well as via presence in social media and podcasts. The reach of the impact was evidenced by coverage in press, including international press, and television.

Contributing Research: This is mainly based on the report mentioned above. It includes contributions by various other researchers (not only the 'core team' at the own university). There do not seem to be other publications underlying the project that have directly contributed to the outreach activities described above.

Assessment: Good/Good (2/2)

Stockholms universitet (SU) – Stockholm University

General Summary

All four case studies submitted represent research closely connected to fostering a specific political or policy-oriented agenda and to create respective impact on non-academic actors. Research at SU is actively engaged with the legislative and executive sectors as well as other political and societal bodies on the domestic level, in the Nordic context and internationally. The location of the university in the capital may help, but the cases also demonstrate planned activity on the side of the researchers to have research findings be applicable and useful for practice.

The societal impact generated is based on original research; for each of the topics, peer-reviewed articles have been published. The scholarly output is solid. None of the case studies, by comparison, has generated an impact that has led to major contributions to basic theoretical research; but effects on practice and non-academic societal actors has been extensive. The primary scholarly input is largely dependent on a small number of highly active senior researchers, although the size and composition varies between the groups. In most of the cases, there has been explicit collaboration also with non-Swedish researchers. In general, the question can be raised whether the research conducted in favour of a ‘progressive’ policy agenda may have been biased in favour of reforms rather than having taken an ‘agnostic’ or neutral position to start with. However, in research articles, the scholars involved show they are aware of potentially opposing arguments and tackle these at least to some extent.

In conclusion, the overall level of the societal impact presented by the four cases is convincing. Respective research outputs can be considered to have distinctly and substantially contributed to social impact. Notably Case 1 and 4 have also been supported by funding, for example by the Swedish (or the Finnish) Research Council. To some extent, the research agendas contained in the cases generated political influence: there was a clear political constituency in search of research that the respective group of researchers was able to offer. With this, there has been a clear link between academic research and societal impact.

The Case Studies

Case 1: The Rights of the Indigenous Sámi People: Self-determination, Institutions and Voter Behaviour

Impact: The Sámi people and the rights of indigenous peoples is an often neglected topic that in essence, only during the past decades has risen onto the Swedish political agenda. Stockholm University has spearheaded this movement with research that has dealt with the Swedish Sámi polity, elections and the Sámi

Parliament. The respective research, as provided by a group of researchers at the university, has been instrumental in raising the awareness of Swedish policy-makers and the Swedish public concerning basic aspects of Sámi rights and Sámi representation. It has also put this into the context of international trends concerning the rights of indigenous people. Moreover, the research has been particularly important for the Sámi in the process of building their political institutions and identity. The topic, moreover, has international and regional significance particularly in the Northern Calotte area that is shared by Norway and Finland. Many aspects of the research conducted have been funded (e.g. by the Research Councils of Sweden and of Finland). The impact generated by respective research is very well documented and the case study is presented in excellent ways.

Contributing Research: Key research is mainly dependent on one researcher's output either as a single author or with collaborators. But the record is good. Some key outcomes are in Swedish but findings are also published in international peer-reviewed journals.

Assessment: Very Good/Excellent (3/4)

Case 2: The Case of 'New Governance Models in the Public Sector'

Impact: This case study focuses on new administrative governance models (notably the shift from 'results-based' to 'trust-based' governance). It has fostered discussion on management within Swedish public administration and various government agencies. The evidence provided shows that key ideas put forward and supported by research carried out at Stockholm University have found their way to relevant reports and that they have been implemented in the form of administrative reforms and new guidelines. The case study presents the respective work and the impact generated in clear ways.

Contributing Research: The research is very much based on the output of one key researcher. The research stretches from high quality international book and articles to domestic anthologies and reports.

Assessment: Very Good/Excellent (3/4)

Case 3: Science-based High-level Dialogues with the Seafood Industry for Healthy and Productive Oceans

Impact: This case is more explicitly internationally oriented than are the three others cases. The documentation provided demonstrates that the dialogues organized between CEOs of various companies and the researchers involved in this case have led to changes in mindsets, commitments and the nature of interactions, also on the international level. The research is based on transdisciplinary approaches, accounts for various stake-holders and aims to have effects more generally on the ways transnational corporations operating in

the domain of the global seafood industry work in practice, with the research aiming to contribute to the protection of oceans on a global level. Respective impact is well documented in the case study.

Contributing Research: A very good track record of research in science journals. Indeed much of the research is multidisciplinary in character and could have been carried out under the heading of other disciplines too; but this does not diminish its value.

Assessment: Very Good/Very Good (3/3)

Case 4: Gender and Politics

Impact: Research on the theme gender and politics has focused notably on gender quota systems and on the application of a gender perspective in respective policy processes, as well as on sensitization within political institutions. Research conducted by scholars involved in the case study has made this way of creating gender equality in political representation, also in Sweden, more known and it has linked up with respective efforts globally. Moreover, the conducted research has contributed to the creation of a global database on the topic and its influence has been channeled effectively through parliaments, international organizations such as OSCE and think tanks such as the Stockholm-based international IDEA. The respective contributions of the research generated are well-documented and the case study is presented in convincing ways.

Contributing Research: Research is largely based on the output of two people. Key articles have been published in quality journals but research output also covers reports and international surveys of gender quotas.

Assessment: Very Good/Excellent (3/4)

Södertörns högskola (SH) – Södertörn University

General Summary

The cases show that serious efforts have been made to engage with non-academic actors and to ensure that research activities create societal impact. In substantive terms, the work includes research on the Swedish security policy agenda, far-right populism in the Nordic countries (and Europe) and the analysis of leadership ideals within (Swedish) political parties. The projects differ in terms of the extent to which research is linked to societal engagement and whether the cases presented made a distinctive and substantial contribution to practice. They also differ in terms of how much these activities have been documented in the case descriptions.

The Case Studies

Case 1: Threat Politics

Impact: The research has been utilized by some agencies and organizations involved in the Swedish security policy environment. Findings have been important, for example, for security policy analysts and defense policy experts. They were integrated into courses, seminars and other teaching activities. These outreach activities are well documented.

Contributing Research: The research output has been good overall (books, peer-reviewed journal articles and reports). However, much of the research, with the exception of the contribution to the Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics, published in 2020, has been published earlier (between 2001 and 2014); recent output does not seem to match the earlier rate. With this, the distinctive and substantial contribution of the research conducted to practice is not as clear as it could be.

Assessment: Good/Good (2/2)

Case 2: Far-right Parties in the Nordic Countries and Europe: Ideology, Organization and Effects

Impact: The report describes how research has aimed to increase understanding for (and explain) far-right populism in Europe and to assess its effects on political systems and societies. Findings have been reported in Swedish and Finnish newspapers and in the international press (e.g., Financial Times, Le Monde, the Guardian, Liberation and El Pais). Moreover, a podcast on the topic has been created. Results have also been presented in radio and television programs and at events such as organized by political parties and education associations. The policy engagement activities are well documented with respective information and figures (e.g., citations in news media, number of presentations and podcast downloads).

Contributing Research: There is very reasonable research output, which has been steady in the course of recent years. The outreach and policy engagement activities are linked to the research. The distinctive and substantial contribution of the research could still be stronger.

Assessment: Very good/Very Good (3/3)

Case 3: Political Leadership

Impact: The case focuses on leadership ideals and recruitment processes in political parties. Findings have been presented in Swedish media on both national and local levels. There have been outreach activities, for example, to Dagens Nyheter (DN), Svenska Dagbladet (SvD) and Swedish Television Opinion (SVT Opinion) as well as Expressen. However, more precise evidence

on such activities, with respective figures and data, could have been provided to make the case more convincing.

Contributing Research: There is a steady research output, with some (partially co-authored) work in either Swedish or English. The quality and scholarly importance of the research underlying the outreach activities is reasonable, but could be stronger.

Assessment: Moderate/Moderate (1/1)

Umeå universitet (UmU) - Umeå University

General Summary

The submission shows researchers actively interacting and collaborating with local, regional and national public authorities, citizen groups and stake-holders. A distinctive point is that the researchers frequently carry out inquiries that are commissioned/funded by public authorities. The engagement (covering improvement of local government, implementation of collaborative environmental governance, and enhancement of the quality of schools) has clear societal relevance. It is convincingly demonstrated that the engagement has influenced public policies on the local/regional and the national level. On the one hand, there are examples of specific and direct impact from research and engagement on policy outcomes, and on the other of how the researchers' expertise is utilized in collaborations with stake-holders, citizen groups, and practitioners, which led to impacts and research output, thus making the link between research and impact bidirectional.

The underpinning research is often inquiry reports, overviews, case evaluations, and mappings, which is understandable given the frequent commissioned tasks and externally funded projects. Still, there are also references to academic research published in international peer-reviewed journals and books. Sometimes that output elaborates on reports and experiences from the engagements; sometimes it demonstrates the underpinning expertise of the researchers. The public outreach strategies seem traditional. None of the cases reports news media coverage. Case 2 though innovatively incorporates social media, popularized texts and films.

The Case Studies

Case 1: Local Asymmetric Division of Functions as a Reform Strategy

Impact: The case reports a very clear and specific direct impact of commissioned research, carried out by a single researcher, on decisions of a government appointed committee of inquiry on municipal reform. The research obviously had great significance for the outcome. However, the scope of impact is, due to

the type of task, a bit narrow: an undefined number of members of a single committee was influenced.

Contributing Research: The research is limited as it consists of a single, although apparently very well executed inquiry report (in Swedish) providing an original systematic knowledge overview and an evaluation of local municipal asymmetries that ends up in a recommendation for the committee.

Assessment: Good/Very Good (2/3)

Case 2: Collaborative Environmental Governance as a Policy Instrument

Impact: The activities by the Environmental Policy and Governance Research Group have, over time and on the regional and the national level, evidently contributed to significant policy impacts on planning, implementation and policies of collaborative environmental governance. Commissioned evaluation studies led to a governmental decision to make a national nature protection programme permanent. Similarly, studies on collaborative environmental governance within forestry contributed to the design and continuation of the National Forest Programme. On the local level, a state funded project, involving the engagement of local population and utilizing local knowledge of natural resource management, led to a Comprehensive Plan for a Northern municipality.

Contributing Research: A mix of commissioned research efforts (reports, evaluation studies, mappings, etc.) and proper academic research. The direction from research to impact is sometimes not fully clear. The research group is well established and connected to interdisciplinary, national, and international networks. It has received funding from programs and organizations related to the group's research areas.

Assessment: Very Good/Good (3/2)

Case 3: Structure, Culture, Leadership – Prerequisites for Successful Schools?

Impact: The case reports a longstanding and continuing engagement with educational governance and leadership in Swedish schools by the Centre for Principal Development aiming at enhancing the quality and success of schools. It provides convincing examples of how the researchers and their research activities have influenced national policies, training programs for principals and the work of principals. The expertise and work of the group is obviously appreciated by educational authorities.

Contributing Research: A mix of international edited research volumes and less prestigious works in Swedish. Although the referred research apparently 'feeds into' the engagement and impacts, the links and direction between the referred

research and the impacts are not completely clear. The centre is integrated in the international collaborative research project International Successful School Principal Project.

Assessment: Good/Very Good (2/3)

Uppsala universitet (UU) – Uppsala University

General Summary

Uppsala University submitted four impact case studies for assessment. All four cases show the societal impact of original academic work that has been conducted by researchers at Uppsala University.

All four case studies summarize the underlying research well and describe the overall societal and political impact generated. They mostly succeed in showing a direct link from the conducted research to the impact. This link is often very specific and while the impact is clear it remains limited in its scope, especially in Case 3. It remains also unclear (Case 1 and 4) whether research was publicly disseminated and covered by the media – the information is simply missing in the description of the impact.

The underlying research contributing to the impact is original research conducted by researchers at Uppsala University and their collaborators. Most of the work seems to be of high academic quality and has been published in recognised general interest as well as subfield journals of political science and cognate disciplines

Overall, these are very well conducted case studies that show a clear link between original research and societal impact. Moreover, they are well presented and summarized.

The Case Studies

Case 1: Natural Hazard Science and Implementation of a Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy in Sweden

Impact: This is an extremely well outlined case study, specifying a clear link between high-level research publications and projects, policy at the national and international level, civil society engagement and outreach. The only question mark that remains concerns media and social media coverage. It is not clear whether research was publicly disseminated and covered by the media. That information is largely missing.

Contributing Research: The case study links original research on natural disasters to the implementation of a risk reduction strategy in Sweden. Underlying the impact are high-level research publications.

Assessment: Excellent/Very good to (4/3)

Case 2: The reforming of the Swedish National Audit Office 2000–2020

Impact: The second case study is highly policy relevant and helped reforming the Swedish National Audit office. This is a well defined impact case study. Yet, there is not much scope for the involvement of other stake-holders and thus the impact remains somewhat limited. It also remains somewhat unclear whether there is a lot of potential for future impact, perhaps outside of Sweden.

Contributing Research: For this case, original academic work of high academic quality has been conducted by researchers at UU.

Assessment: Very good/Excellent (3/4)

Case 3: Corruption in Kyrgyzstan

Impact: This case deals with corruption in Kyrgyzstan. This is a clear and well defined case of impact. . However, it remains unclear whether there is ongoing involvement.

Contributing research: The link from the conducted research to the impact is clear, but the base of the impact is a doctoral thesis and there is no mention of potential future research and collaboration. The link from original research to political impact remains limited in scope.

Assessment: Very good/Very Good (3/3)

Case 4: Studying and Improving Gender Equality in the Swedish Parliament

Impact: The fourth case study investigates gender equality in the Swedish parliament and offers guidance on how to improve equality. The studies related to this case were commissioned by the parliament. It remains unclear whether research was publicly disseminated and covered by the media. This information is missing in the description of the impact.

Contributing research: Again this study describes clearly defined and very specific impact, yet the link to published research remains unclear. The commissioned work generated research publications, the question is what the direction of impact has been.

Assessment: Very good/Very Good (3/3)

Örebro universitet (OrU) – Örebro University

General Summary

The submission showed evidence of serious and sustained activity to promote impact. In one case impact of the type claimed was intrinsically hard to show. However, in all cases, the researchers were active in seeking to influence public understanding. A commendable feature of this submission was the thought that had gone into case selection and the explanation that the selection reflects the strategic priorities of the department.

The Case Studies

Case Study 1: Standby Citizens – Theory Put into Local Government Practice

Impact: The impact of the research is quite specific, really based on the UNIK project. But that project touches on an important theme. Overall, this makes a good case, though in terms of reach and significance the impact could have been wider. However, it is impressive to see something concrete grow out of good research work.

Contributing Research: The typology of the non-involved on which impact work is based is original, particularly in the notion of standby citizens and was based on a person-centred cluster analysis. As the submission notes, the typology that resulted has been taken up by other scholars, and the supporting bibliography shows evidence of an underlying programme of research underpinning the impact.

Assessment: Excellent/Very Good (4/3)

Case study 2: The Practical Relevance and Impact of Insider Activism

Impact: The project on Insider Activism raises an important set of issues. The report shows how complex the discussion can become, and the underpinning research is strong (see below). However, the report is relatively weak on the specificities of the impact, only citing some newspaper articles. Demonstrating an effect in a general public debate is hard, and so impact is hard to show in a specific way. One can argue that the phenomenon ought to have had more impact, and perhaps over time this will develop.

Contributing Research: The cited research shows the empirical significance of the phenomenon of insider activism, contrasting the role of the insider activist with that of the traditional role of the impartial bureaucrat. The list of key references shows that the phenomenon is one that is recognised within the academic community.

Assessment: Good/Moderate (2/1)

Case study 3: Democratic Innovation

Impact: The scope of the project on which impact is based is narrower than the title (Democratic Innovations) would suggest, being about e-petitions. The take-up seems to have been quite wide. The pathways to impact are principally collaboration and expert advice. The Estonian example is particularly noteworthy. The report makes a good argument for the value of what is being done. There is quite general interest in the field of IT and governance, and this is reflected in the collaborative projects. The team has a clear focus and is active in disseminating its understanding.

Contributing Research: The research places the particular democratic innovation with which the impact is concerned in a broader context of the quality of democratic governance, as well as, interestingly, the role of consultation innovations in non-democratic countries. So, although the specific impact derives from one particular innovation, e-petitions, there is a broader research agenda also being developed.

Assessment: Very Good/Good (3/2)

Appendix 5: Comparison of publications (journal articles and book chapters) with the full list (SwePub)

The following tables provide overviews of the channels of publication (for journal articles and for book chapters, respectively) based on which a selection was made for the evaluation.

Table A5.1 Overview of publication channels represented by more than five publications in the total list of journal articles from which a selection was drawn for this evaluation

Journal	Number of publication channels
Statsvetenskaplig Tidskrift	49
Scandinavian Political Studies	33
Party Politics	19
European Journal of Political Research	17
Political Studies	15
Journal of Common Market Studies	15
Sustainability	13
Scandinavian Journal of Public Administration	13
European Political Science Review	13
Comparative Political Studies	12
Forest Policy and Economics	11
Democratization	11

Journal	Number of publication channels
Review of International Studies	11
International Journal of Public Administration	11
Journal of European Integration	10
Global Affairs	10
Third World Quarterly	10
Government and Opposition	10
British Journal of Political Science	10
Journal of European Public Policy	9
International feminist journal of politics	9
Governance. An International Journal of Policy, Administration and Institutions	9
Surveyjournalen	9
Governance. An International Journal of Policy, Administration and Institutions	9
Environmental Science and Policy	9
Journal of Environmental Planning and Management	9
European Journal of International Relations	8
American Political Science Review	8
Cooperation and Conflict	8
International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics	8

Journal	Number of publication channels
Journal of Politics	8
Acta Politica	7
Energy Research & Social Science	7
Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties	7
Politics & Gender	6
Political Research Quarterly	6
Political Science Research and Methods	6
Political Psychology	6
Energy Policy	6
Offentlig förvaltning. Scandinavian Journal of Public Administration	6
Nordic Journal of Migration Research	6
East European Politics	6
World Development	6
Social Science Quarterly	6

Table A5.2 Overview of publishers represented by more than one publication in the total of book chapters from which a selection was drawn for this evaluation.

Publisher	Number of publications
Routledge	73
Palgrave Macmillan	65

Publisher	Number of publications
Oxford University Press	37
Edward Elgar Publishing	30
Springer	27
Cambridge University Press	13
ECPR Press	11
Ashgate	9
Rowman & Littlefield	7
NIAS Press	5
Policy Press	5
SAGE Publications	4
Brill Academic Publishers	4
Berghahn Books	4
Lexington Books	3
Nordic Academic Press	3
Santérus Academic Press Sweden	2
Westphalia Press	2
MIT Press	2
Westview Press	2
The University Press of Kentucky	2
Instituto Franklin de Estudios Norteamericanos	2

Publisher	Number of publications
Amsterdam University Press	2
Peter Lang Publishing Group	2
Emerald Group Publishing Limited	2

Appendix 6: Comparison of SwePub with the Norwegian List

According to the Norwegian List (The Norwegian Register for Scientific Journals, Series and Publishers), publications are based on journals/publishers according to this scheme:

- Level 2, scholarly channel with particularly high prestige (about 20% of the publications)
- Level 1, status as scholarly channel.
- Level 0, non-scholarly channels. For example, lack of peer review

This list is used internally at several Swedish HEIs as a quality indicator

Publications from SwePub were matched with the Norwegian list to see how many publications were at each level per HEI.

Table A6.1 Journal articles in SwePub list used for selection in comparison with the Norwegian List

HEI	Level 2	Level 1	Level 0	Missing	Total
Swedish Defence University	13%	81%	3%	3%	69
University of Gothenburg	35%	60%	1%	3%	361
Karlstad University	12%	88%	0%	0%	17
Linköping University	8%	82%	5%	5%	100
Linnaeus University	14%	55%	24%	7%	42
Luleå University of Technology	6%	94%	0%	0%	53

HEI	Level 2	Level 1	Level 0	Missing	Total
Lund University	20%	75%	1%	4%	139
Malmö University	6%	69%	2%	23%	48
Mid Sweden University	6%	86%	3%	6%	35
Stockholm University	28%	66%	0%	6%	179
Södertörns University	12%	82%	4%	2%	51
Umeå University	8%	86%	3%	4%	112
Uppsala University	28%	68%	0%	3%	239
Örebro University	15%	82%	2%	2%	62
Total	22%	72%	2%	4%	1507

Table A6.2 Book chapters in SwePub list used for selection in comparison with the Norwegian List

HEI	Level 2	Level 1	Level 0	Missing	Total
Swedish Defence University	84%	16%			19
University of Gothenburg	85%	11%		5%	65
Karlstad University	60%	40%			5

HEI	Level 2	Level 1	Level 0	Missing	Total
Linköping University	63%	19%	6%	13%	16
Linnaeus University	68%	21%		11%	38
Luleå University of Technology	-	-	-	-	0
Lund University	79%	13%	-	8%	62
Malmö University	-	-	-	-	0
Mid Sweden University	78%	22%	-	-	9
Stockholm University	69%	28%	-	3%	32
Södertörns University	72%	22%	6%	-	18
Umeå University	51%	44%	2%	2%	41
Uppsala University	75%	25%	-	-	48
Örebro University	67%	33%	-	-	3
Total	73%	22%	1%	4%	356

Appendix 7: A graphical and statistical evaluation relations between university size, research output and impact

Table A7.1 breaks the scores of Table 4.6 (main text) down into percentages for each institution, based on the external expert evaluations of respective research output.

Table A7.1 Percentage of each score category awarded to research articles and chapters (for each HEI)

HEI	Share of publications	Number of publications	1	2	3	4
Swedish Defense University	5%	13	16%	52%	24%	4%
University of Gothenburg	22%	64	15%	36%	31%	17%
Karlstad University	1%	4	25%	63%	0%	13%
Linköping University	6%	18	31%	31%	26%	6%
Linnaeus University	4%	12	35%	35%	26%	4%
Luleå Univ of Technology	3%	8	31%	19%	38%	13%
Lund University	11%	31	13%	38%	33%	11%
Malmö University	3%	8	44%	44%	6%	0%

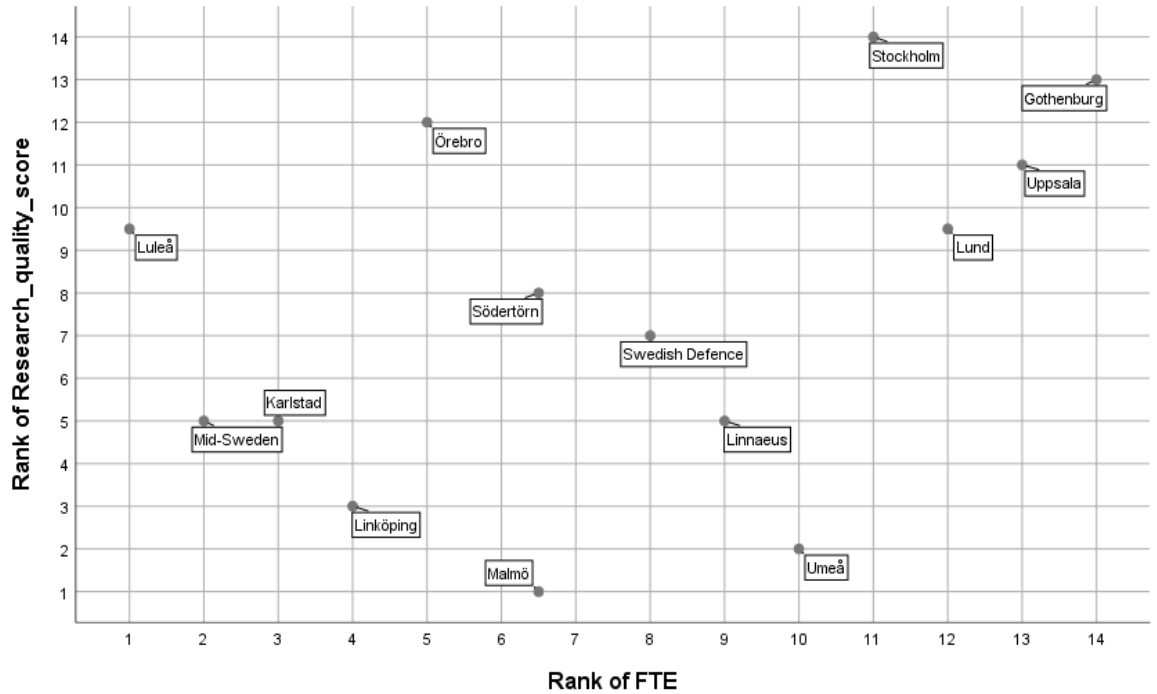
HEI	Share of publications	Number of publications	1	2	3	4
Mid Sweden University	2%	7	21%	43%	21%	7%
Stockholm University	11%	32	15%	25%	43%	15%
Södertörn University	4%	11	19%	52%	29%	0%
Umeå University	8%	23	33%	44%	15%	4%
Uppsala University	15%	44	15%	44%	26%	15%
Örebro University	4%	10	10%	45%	40%	5%

Table A7.1 corroborates results mentioned in the main text to this report: in general, larger institutions tend to score better, on average, for articles and book chapters as evaluated by external reviewers.

We now explore relations described in chapter 4 between university size (number of FTE's in political science) and the quality of research output as well as between research output and impact, based on graphical and statistical explorations.

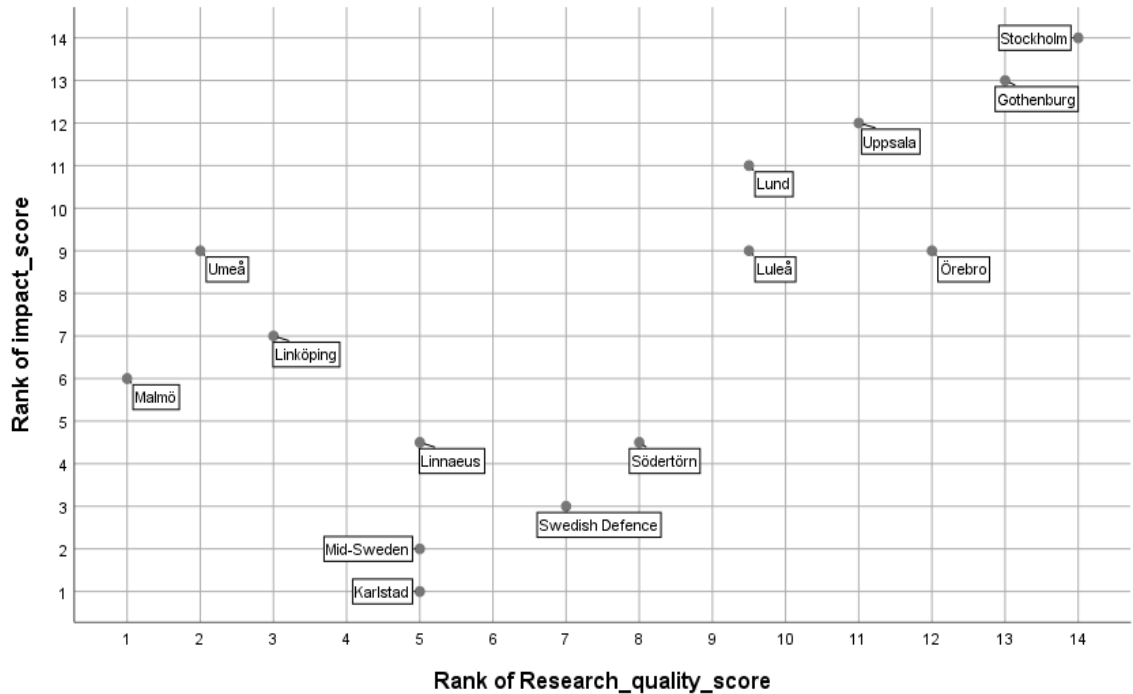
Using the rank of the universities in terms of FTEs and their ranking in terms of research quality on the two axis of the scatterplot given in figure A7.2, it can be seen that results as described in chapter 4 are confirmed. The effect of the 'big four' is visible, with some universities 'punching above their weight' in terms of the quality of their research output. In statistical terms, Pearson's rho is .538 and with this, shows a moderate link between the two variables ($p = .047$). However, while there is an association, the nonparametric correlation coefficient (computed on the ranks of the original values) is not statistically significant (Spearman's rho = .405; $p = .151$).

Figure A7.2 Relations between rankings of universities in terms of size (FTE) and research quality



In terms of the comparison between the ranking of departments on their research output scores with their ranking as regards impact, an additional analysis revealing graphical and statistical relations as shown in figure A7.3 can be helpful.

Figure A7.3 Relations between rankings of universities in terms of research quality and impact scores



In the assessment of the strength of association between the rank of research quality scores and the rank of research impact, Spearman's rank correlation coefficient (ρ) is .653 ($p = .011$), demonstrating a moderate, but statistically significant association between these two variables. This provides further evidence that the quality of research and of impact are related to each other.



Swedish Research Council
Vetenskapsrådet
Västra Järnvägsgatan 3
Box 1035, 101 38 Stockholm
Tel +46 (0)8-546 440 00
vetenskapsradet@vr.se
vr.se