

Web Science Institute: Policy and Impact

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One aim of the WSI is to showcase policy work related to the World Wide Web, the Internet, or other networked digital technologies performed by University of Southampton researchers. To that end, a page has been set up on the WSI website, <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/wsi/enterprise-and-impact/policy.page>, to bring together content and links to policy reports. The page covers two types of content.

White papers

The first page, <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/wsi/enterprise-and-impact/white-papers.page>, links to a series of **white papers** that contain original content, and are published by the WSI, with a template designed using UoS and WSI branding. An initial white paper has been written and posted on the page.

The WSI would welcome proposals for white papers that discuss a **relevant area of policy**. Such a paper might take some published research, and set out policy implications that follow from the results. It may be that such a paper would not in itself be publishable in a peer-reviewed academic journal, and this would be a means for the authors to make an intervention in the policy space. The authors retain the copyright, so the content would be reusable, for example in an op-ed piece in a newspaper, as well as being citable in future papers. The piece would be published under a creative commons licence, making it open access.

A white paper would therefore be a route to **impact**, to disseminate research through non-academic communities, most obviously policymakers. The WSI will tweet about papers upon publication, and make them the subjects of a news posting.

The WSI's policy director, **Kieron O'Hara** (contact details above), is keen to liaise with potential authors about suitable proposals. Multiple authors are fine, as are authors from different academic or non-academic institutions, as long as at least one author is based at UoS. Students' work, of sufficient quality, is especially welcome.

The work should be original, but may bring together material generated elsewhere, e.g. in blogs. There is no set length; a guideline is 10-20 pages, but this is not a hard and fast rule. The WSI will work with the authors to polish the paper, and does not contract to publish the paper until it has reached an acceptable level of quality but the paper will not be peer-reviewed in the technical sense.

Links to reports

On a second page, <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/wsi/enterprise-and-impact/papers-reports.page>, the WSI is also collecting **links to reports** published by other institutions. The page has been populated by a couple of papers written by WSI directors. The WSI is keen to use this page to show the strength, depth and breadth of UoS's policy-relevant research on the Web and associated technologies.

Request for support

The WSI Academic Advisory Board is a **key part of the strategy** to populate the policy pages and to showcase Southampton's research.

Kieron O'Hara would **welcome suggestions** as to which research projects, or groups, or researchers might be willing to write white papers, and/or be willing to post links to their non-academic policy reports on the WSI page.

It would be helpful if AAB members could **make an initial approach**, and 'sell' the idea to researchers in their faculties, of using the WSI website as a means of raising the profile of the policy aspects of their research. Kieron would then make a follow-up approach to discuss options. And of course members of the AAB who would like their own work to feature are encouraged to contact Kieron directly.

Many thanks!