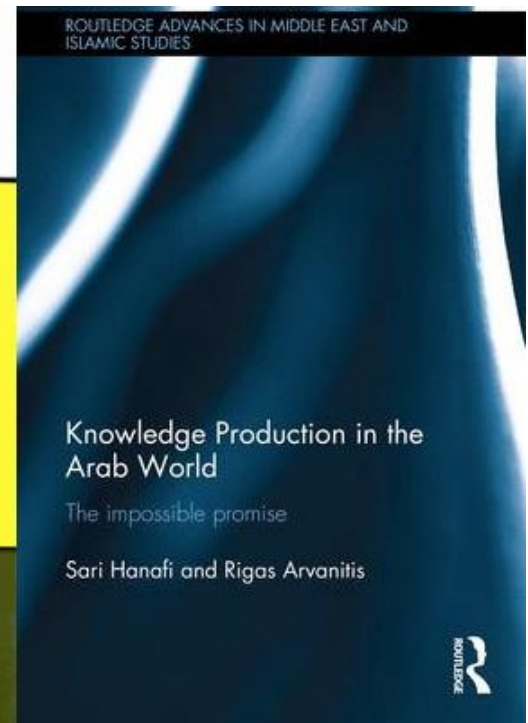


Produced but not Used Research on the Arab World and the lack of Social impact

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Problematic and outline

- Good news and Bad news!
- Relevance of research and (not vs) internationalization
- 3 profiles of academics
- Methodology
- Outline:
 - Difference types of research activities and taking into account the whole cycle
 - Three examples of knowledge translation into public policy

Burawoy's Typology of Research activities: Basic questions

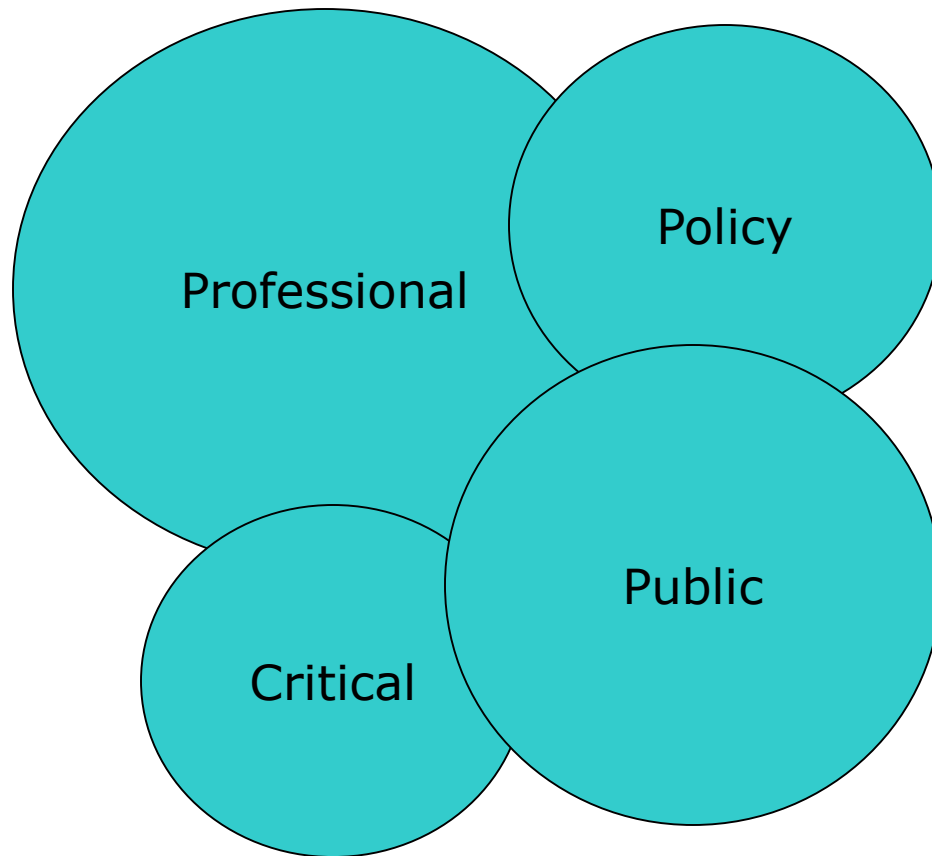
○ Knowledge for Whom?

- Academic Audience: Peers as THE public
- Extra-Academic Audience: public^s

○ Knowledge for What?

- Instrumental Knowledge (Pursuit of means)
- Reflexive Knowledge (Discussion of ends)

SOUTH AFRICA

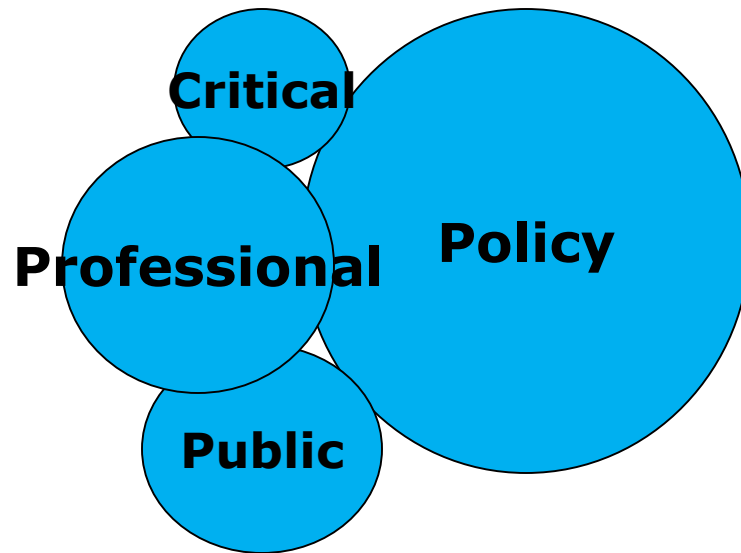




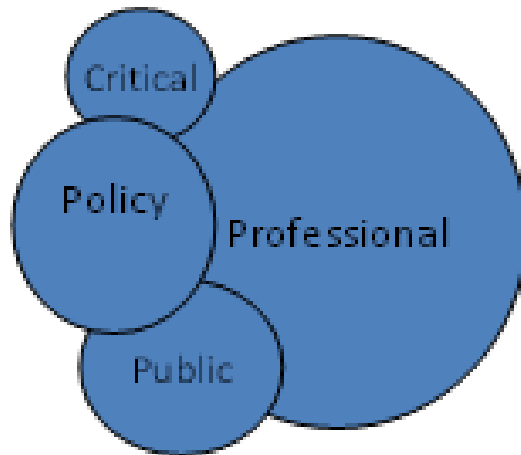
Double delegitimization of the social science

- From the authoritarian state
- From some social groups but particularly some religious authorities

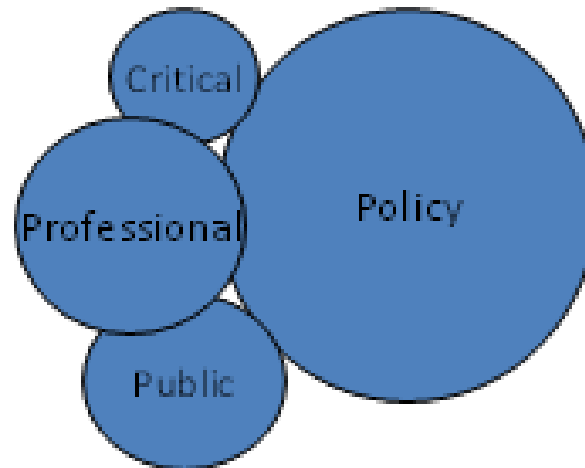
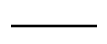
Arab East



Arab Maghreb



Arab East

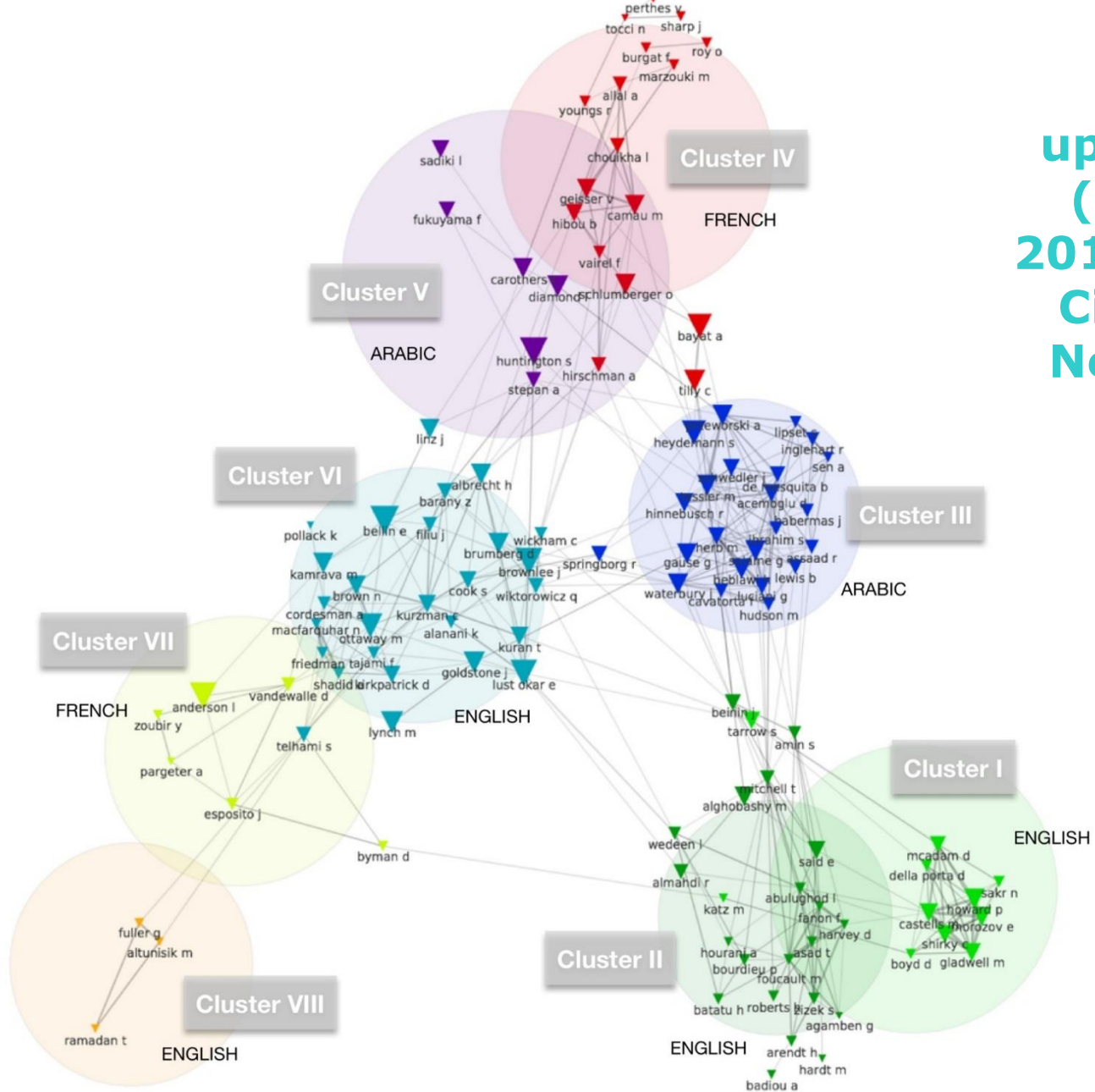


Source of references in the 2009 Arab Human Development Report (UNDP)

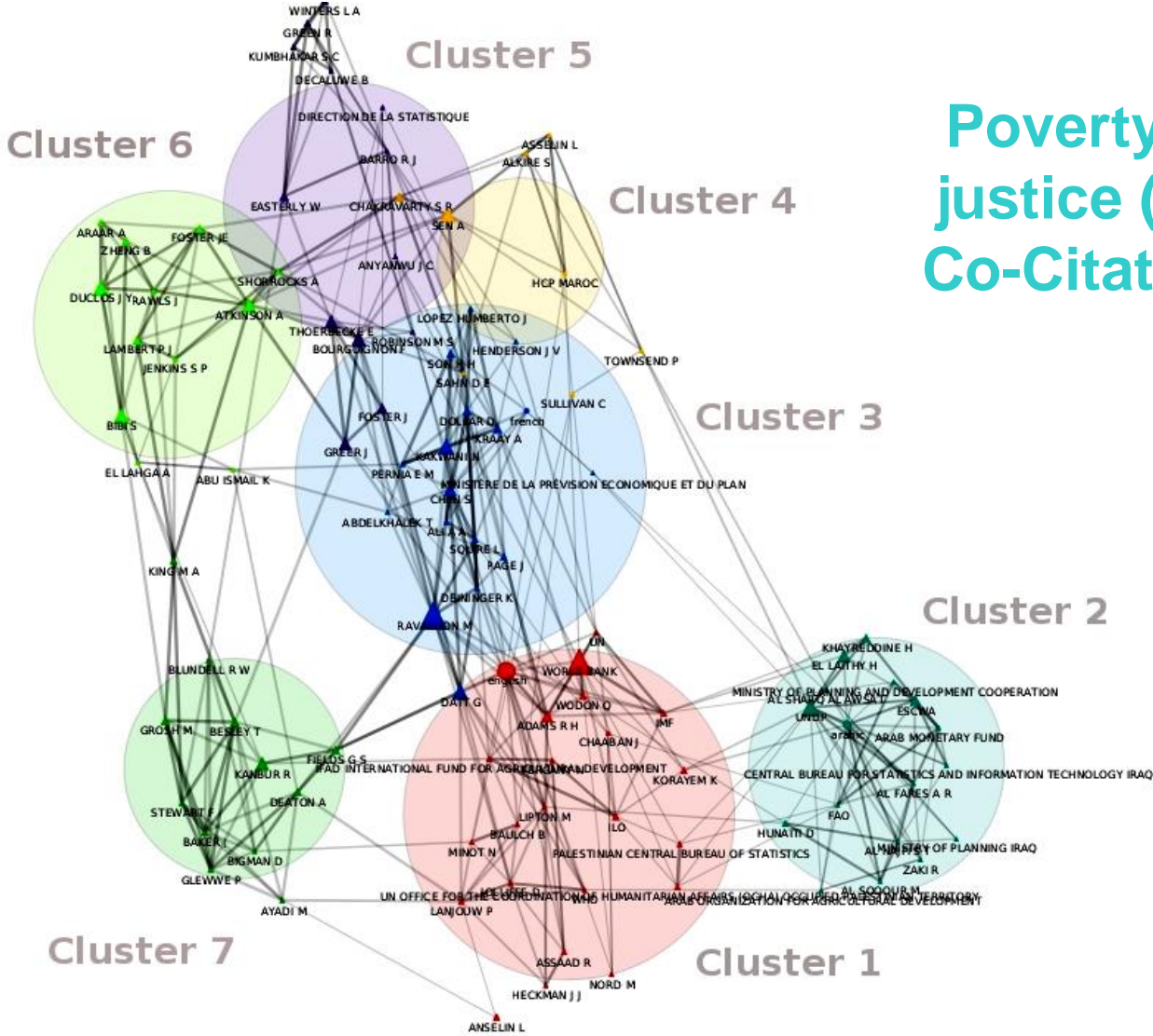
| | N | % |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|
| UN documents | 113 | 47 |
| International organizations | 40 | 17 |
| Internet documents | 30 | 12 |
| Academic publication | 30 | 12 |
| Official documents | 21 | 9 |
| Newspapers | 8 | 3 |
| Total | 242 | 100 |

Arab uprisings (2011-2012): Co-Citation Network Map

NAI



Poverty and social justice (2013-2014): Co-Citation Network Map





Knowledge produced but not used

- different 'policy advisory systems' (white papers, advisory commissions, working groups and consultations)
- Campbell & Pedersen: 'knowledge regimes'
 - American one: competition among a multitude of private knowledge providers
 - European one: rely more on policy knowledge from public and semipublic research organizations and standing advisory bodies

3 examples: one from France and two from Lebanon.

- The 90's Islamic veil
 - Ceremoniality of the white paper
- Lebanon 'garbage crisis'
 - obsolete official process of consultation
 - Civil society's use of scientific research
- The Palestinian refugee issue in Lebanon
 - Knowledge as means of non-policy and delay


Agnotology



- Robert Proctor's agnotology: socially constructed and politically imposed ignorance
- This offers a framework with which to empirically explore the things people are intentionally unaware of, and seek to maintain that lack of awareness (deliberate ignorance) and the things people are aware of, yet would express a similar lack of awareness (professed ignorance)
- Ignorance is not 'a simple omission or gap', but 'something that is made, maintained, and manipulated'

Seven general conclusions

- **Trust in science** is much less related to culture and more closely tracks with the desire of societal institutions to either foster or denigrate that trust
- **Research and science are not neutral**
 - While some scientific results are stabilized over time, much of them are unsettled and this is where we find chains of conflict, controversy, and modalities. Latour tries to show the simultaneous building of a society and its scientific facts
 - For SSH: researchers are more free to interpret. The social theory could be understood not as a collection of verified facts on a given subject, but simply as an interpretation that makes society intelligible; i.e. we don't provide the public with facts and factual categories, but we reveal only their ostensible factuality and present them as merely incomplete answers to sociological questions (Horák 2017)

- 
- The time of preparing the committee reports, **societal debate** (through editorials, mass media and social media) **is part and parcel of the research**
 - Hermeneutics sociology tradition whereby public sociology through dialogue and language is inherent part of the professional sociology
 - The Arab **authoritarian states are not interested in having evidence-based policy**. Or, at most, selecting some facts and disregard analyses that counter a proposed policy.
 - Françoise Héritier: “selective deafness”

- 
- Good **critical research** produced under authoritarianism often **leads to the marginalization of the career** of its authors
 - figure of prolocutor: “the use of ambiguous language so as to mislead”, ie to use “persuasion to capture free-floating disposable loyalties with success dependent upon their rhetorical capacity to present, create, and appeals to new situations”
 - **knowledge production becomes more “socially distributed”**. (Gibbons)
 - , the **Arab university** attempt to connect research into society and private sector **has little impact**.
 - There is a need to think about intermediary institutions who should bridge between professional research and its dissemination into public and policymakers.

Final words

- The world is moving toward more scientization of public policy through different mechanisms
- There is a debate whether this would constitute a challenge for the democracy:
 - Some are rather pessimistic about the expertocracy or “the rise of the unelected”. (Vibert 2007).
 - Other such as Johan Christensen and Cathrine Holst consider evidence-based policy as an inherent part of reasonable conceptions of democratic legitimacy. Even if this later trend is problematic mostly from approaches that regard democracy as aggregative, participatory, and intrinsically justified. It is not if one takes the perspectives of deliberative and epistemically justified democracy.
 - **I am closer to this position which advocates the reduction of the power of politicians and public servants in public policy and makes this policy more inclusive.** Deliberative democracy stresses indeed the importance of public discussions prior to a vote. Citizens’ political will are not considered synonymous with their revealed preferences, but **as the transformed outcomes of processes of argumentation and intersubjective scrutiny**. At the same time, I don’t argue that the ascent of the (organic) academics will be translated automatically into epistemic merits. Only a closer scrutiny would qualify this ascension.



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What's Next?

Portal for Social impact of scientific research Targeting Research in and on the Arab World (PSISR)

PSISR is an open repository which benchmarks the whole life cycle of research including knowledge transfer and public or policy-oriented research activities. It targets research in and on the Arab World. This portal relies on the data introduced by the researchers which include description of their research projects and outputs of their social impact. The "social" is meant in broad sense, which includes economic, political, cultural and conceptual aspects. The search engine can be used by all stakeholders (researchers, institutional beneficiaries, policy makers, the public, funding agencies, etc.). To enter your research project(s) information please [register](#).

البوابة الإلكترونية حول الأثر الاجتماعي للبحث العلمي يستهدف البحث حول العالم العربي أو المجري فيه ((بسيسر))

يهدف بسيسر إلى إنشاء أرشيف مفتوح لمجموع دورية الحياة الكاملة للبحث العلمي، بما في ذلك المعرفة والأنشطة البحثية المتعلقة بالسياسات العامة ونشر المعرفة للجمهور. يستهدف البحث حول العالم العربي أو المجري فيه. يعتمد هذا البوابة على البيانات التي يدخلها الباحثون لوصف مشاريعهم البحثية ومخرجات أثرهم الاجتماعي. والمقصود بـ "الاجتماعي" بالمعنى المتضيق التي تشمل الاقتصادي، السياسي، الثقافي، الفكري. يمكن استخدام محرك البحث كل فئات المعنية بالبحث، المؤسسات المستفيدة من البحث العلمي، صانعي السياسات للجمهور، الجهات الصديقة. (تج) إدخال المعلومات حول مشاريعك البحثية الرجاء التسجيل.

Portail sur l'impact social de la recherche scientifique: La recherche sur ou dans le monde arabe (PSISR)

Le PSISR est un dépôt d'archives ouvertes qui évalue le cycle de vie complet de la recherche, y compris le transfert de connaissances et les activités de recherche à destination des pouvoirs publics ou à visée de recommandation politique. Il cible aussi bien la recherche sur le monde arabe que la recherche basée dans le monde arabe. Ce portail s'appuie sur les données introduites par les chercheurs qui comprennent une description de leurs projets de recherche et des résultats de leur impact social. Le «social» est entendu au sens large, ce qui inclut les aspects économiques, politiques, culturels et conceptuels. Le [moteur de recherche](#) peut être utilisé par toutes les parties prenantes (chercheurs, bénéficiaires institutionnels, décideurs politiques, publique, organismes de financement, etc.). Pour entrer l'information de projet(s) de recherche, veuillez vous [enregistrer](#).

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