



4.3 Evaluating Research Coproduction

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Overview

- Traditional, science-centric approaches to research evaluation are poorly aligned to the needs of coproduction evaluation.
- This chapter introduces a novel and practical approach for conducting holistic research coproduction evaluations.
- The Research Quality Plus for Coproduction (RQ+ 4 Co-Pro) approach holds potential for coproducers, funders, universities, and journals who demand better methods for evaluating the work they support.

Research Quality Plus for Coproduction (RQ+ 4 Co-Pro)

- RQ+ 4 Co-Pro:
 - is an approach to defining and evaluating the quality of coproduction;
 - allows tailoring to context, values, and purpose; and
 - can support planning, management, and learning across the lifecycle of a coproduction project, program, or organization.

Key Learning Points

- Mainstream methods of research evaluation are poorly aligned to the values and objectives of research coproduction. This undermines the potential of coproduction and coproducers.
- Reviews of frameworks for doing and managing research coproduction suggest the existing frameworks have limited success in supporting rigorous evaluation. Moreover, they lack scientific testing and grounding for application.
- The compelling Research Quality Plus (RQ+) approach holds three tenets that present opportunities to strengthen coproduction evaluation. These are: 1) context matters, 2) quality is multi-dimensional, and 3) judgements must be empirical and systematic.

Key Learning Points

- In this chapter, the three RQ+ tenets are tailored for evaluating coproduction. The result is a novel RQ+ 4 Co-Pro evaluation framework. The authors outline the framework components, describe potential uses and users, and how RQ+ 4 Co-Pro will be field tested with an international sample of coproduction projects.
- Establishing legitimate methods of coproduction evaluation will require collective action and the participation of many. RQ+ 4 Co-Pro is a promising and practical starting place.