In search of **Mode x.y knowledge production**

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Here's where we are ...

Which is not so interesting as where we are headed









So many problems

The South African population will grow by at least another 17 million people in the next 31 years

It is anticipated that (1) it will primarily be an urban-based population, and (2) at least 30 million of the 75 million South Africans (40%) are likely to be living below the Minimum Living Level (MLL)

25% of the population will be below 15 years of age, 31% between 15 and 34 years of age, and 8% older than 65 years of age (double the number we have now)



Demographic modelling and sce

Estimated Population Growth Implications 2018 to 2050:

- 17 million people
- 5 million dwelling units 664 084 hectares of land required for

housing alone (i.e. an area equal to that of the City of Tshwane)

1.04 billion m³ water required for domestic use





The raison d'être of HE has shifted

HE is a truly beautiful thing

Role of HE for economic growth

- To be the focal point of knowledge creation, distribution and application
- To grow a sense of life-long learning
- To contribute to economic growth & development through fostering innovation & increasing deeper skills
- To help increase living standards and well-being
- To respond to specific socio-economic needs
- To develop intellectual talent and capabilities to drive innovation for economic prosperity.

• 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.'

- 'The power of education extends beyond the development of skills we need for economic success. It can
- contribute to nation-building and reconciliation."





HE is a mandate from government, and it requires PhDs

- The situation is far from ideal
 Unemployment rate: 30% women (31.3%), men (27.1%)
- Youth (aged 15–24 years): Most vulnerable in the South African labour market: unemployment rate 55,2% (Q1, 2019)
- Adult (15+) literacy rate from 88.7 % (2007) to 94.4 % (2015)
- In 2017 only 0.05% of 1,483,575 permanent employees in SA's top 500 companies held a PhD

- Target 1: Increase % of academic staff with a doctorate from 34% (2010) to 75% (2030)
- **Target 2**: Produce more than 100 doctoral graduates per one million of the population by 2030
- The **annual production of PhDs** will have to increase from 1420 per annum (2010) to 5000 per annum (2030)
- Expand science, technology and innovation outputs by increasing research and development spending by government and through encouraging industry to do so.
- Build a knowledge-based economy, in which the production and dissemination of knowledge leads to economic benefits and enriches all fields of human endeavour.

Here's the catch

However, generating supply of PhDs must be met with adequate demand from employers (academia, public and private sectors) to absorb PhDs into appropriate positions within the workforce.





Let's define research

- Research as a verb
 - to search or investigate exhaustively a
- Research as a noun
 - A careful or diligent search
 - A studious inquiry or examination
 - An investigation or experimentation aimed at the discovery and interpretation of facts, revision of accepted theories or laws in the light of new facts, or practical application of such new or revised theories or laws
 - The collection of information about a particular subject

'Any creative systematic activity undertaken in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of man, culture and society, and the use of this knowledge to devise new applications' OECD. 2015. Frascati Manual. The Measurement of Scientific, Technological and Innovation Activities. doi:10.1787/9789264239012-en. ISBN 978-9264238800.

















Incentivizing research is not sufficient There are incentives for formal outputs BUT... visibility of the application of research outputs i.e. research uptake increases traffic to formal outputs... ... which enhances image & brand... ... which attracts more funding... ... which provides more resources to do more relevant research. Therefore, VISIBILITY is a critical component of research practice Communication between and among the scientific and user community.

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2. Research uptake

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Let's focus on Research Uptake (RU)

RU:-

The processes by which the knowledge which is generated through research **finds its way to those who need it**, be they practitioners, end-users, policymakers in government and other agencies (DRUSSA, 2012).



The need	for mode 2 knowledg	ge production
motivated by (fundamento	nce. Knowledge production y scientific knowledge alone al research) and not the applicability of its	Mode 2 science. Knowledge is produce for application It contrasts with Mode production of knowledge.
	Mode 1	Mode 2
	Problems are set and solved in a context governed by the, largely academic, interests of a specific community	Carried out in a context of application
	Disciplinary	Transdisciplinary
	Characterised by homogeneity	Characterised by heterogeneity
	Organised hierarchically and tends to preserve its form	Organised more heterarchically and tends to be transient
	Quality control by peer review	Quality control is more socially accountable and reflexive
	*Adapted from Gibbons et al., 1994, p.3	<u> </u>











" I tend to put off writing in favour of other research-related activities and having an environment where there's strong pressure to just sit down and write was very useful."



<section-header>Communicating research is important because ... Description of today is the practice of the future of tomorrow 1. These started with research: new treatments for current and future diseases, living conditions for generations to come and developments in technology 2. We need to be informed to engage and make decisions 3. We need to know about the possible outcomes of research and its applications 3. It informs policies and regulations 3. It can help us to make ethical decisions about research findings and discoveries. 3. Examples: Developments in a genome editing technique called CRISPR-Cas9 can turn designer babies (genetically making up a baby with e.g. the desired eye colour) into reality. But is this something we want to implement? Or do we keep these techniques for incurable diseases only? Where do we draw the line?



Nobody said it is easy

Coming out of the research bubble and into society

- Research Communication is not only about explaining findings in an understandable and concise manner, but about engaging people in your research
- People want to hear stories that affect them, facts that they can relate to and findings that inspire them
- One of the reasons researchers are having such a hard time communicating their research to the public is because it is completely different from reporting research in scientific journals, writing grant proposals, using referencing, tables and figures and experiments with data
- Public engagement through science communication forces the researchers to look at their project in a much broader picture and to formulate the essence of their findings or theories



For researchers to be "good" researchers, they need to be "good" communicators

- It is just part of the job. Whether it is to write scientific articles, get funding, or to teach the next generation their skills and knowledge, **Research Communication** is essential.
- **Grants.** Most grant applications require impact statement as a way for the researchers to demonstrate the wider scientific and societal implications of their projects. Researchers have to show that what they do could have an impact on people's lives or has the potential to help solve societal problems.
- Accessibility of research outcomes.
- Having the skills to communicate research in an effective way has a positive impact on researchers themselves. By making the public understand what they are doing, they can prevent misinformation from arising and help to sustain support for their research.
- It's also an excellent way to connect more with the public and to see one's own research in a new light. Some researchers may even find it motivational to share their findings and thoughts with the public.

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Visibility

- Visibility is about where you are publishing and who is citing your work.
- Various measures have been devised to assess visibility or impact and these are the subject of much debate.
- · Visibility is heightened if one is publishing in international journals, and in the sciences.

Checking your visibility

- Web of Knowledge not only provides traditional search functionality by author, title, keywords etc, but also allows citation searching - who has cited whom, where and how many times. You may check your H-index here. Few SA journals appear in this database. There are 3 collections in WOS: for sciences, social sciences and humanities and arts.
- GoogleScholar beware, citations are often high thought to be due to problematic metadata.
- Publish or perish (harvests Google Scholar data) been developed for the social sciences, humanities. The link takes you to a page that explains the site, provides the download and how to use tutorials.
- · Scopus Social sciences not as well covered as the pure Sciences.

Visibility of journals is often measured by a journal's impact factor: the frequency of citations to articles published in a particular journal. The major tool is JCR: Journal Citation Reports published by Thomson Reuters. This site contains explanations of how journals are evaluated.

	outs and availability fo	r future use	
Share outputs of your research Publications, preprints, conference papers and posters, presentations, research data, video, code are all evidence of your research activity publish in periodicals that are referred to in both of the databases Scopus and Web of Science. Check the journal's impact factor in Journal Citation Reports (JCR) to get an indication of the average number of citations. Sharing research data	Unique author identifier ORCID to distinguish yourself and your work from that of all other researchers	Blogging Research Blogging ScienceBlogs	
Sharing research data Data repositories: F <u>igshare, Mendeley Data</u> , Other sharing: Slideshare,	Research networking communities	Online profile (or a web CV) Google Scholar Google Wordpress YOUTUBE	
https://libraryguides.helsinki.fi/res	searchvisibility/	Tweeting	



Rene's top tips

Tip 1: Consider your audience

Tip 2: Simplify your language

Tip 3: Present your work (attend and listen, then present and learn more)

..... **Tip 4: Be open to sharing** Blogs, YouTube.. Be open to sharing

Tip 5: Keep being creative



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Let's say you were Einstein My research is useful because







