

Abstract: The Research-Policy Nexus and Research Accessibility: Insights from Peru Malich, Erika; Research Award Recipient, International Development Research Centre, Canada, emalich@idrc.ca

While the SDGs are global goals, it is understood that responding to these goals will differ depending on local (regional, national, sub-national) contexts and realities. Research, particularly local research, will be fundamental to achieving the SDGs, as it is instrumental to informing the creation of policies and programs suitable to individual country contexts. Greater science-policy linkages are therefore essential to achieving inclusive economic growth and sustainable development. However, many challenges exist for getting research used in policy-making, and these challenges are only compounded for developing countries, including challenges with the local production of research or issues of governance capacities and priorities. Despite these challenges, many actors exist in the research-policy nexus in developing countries, including think tanks (policy research institutes), non-governmental organizations, and universities. Think tanks in particular have been noted for their ability to help increase linkages between research and policy, yet many challenges remain.

In the literature, knowledge translation and increased communications efforts are acknowledged for their importance in increasing research uptake. Yet these are only part of what might help increase the accessibility of research. While accessibility of research is important to understand, it has not been properly unpacked in the research-policy literature. This presentation will offer a conceptualization of research accessibility in the context of policy influence, drawing and building on existing definitions from the information sciences. A broad understanding of accessibility - including its physical, intellectual, and social dimensions - will help to frame the perceptions of research accessibility in the context of Peru. Interviews with local researchers and policy-makers in Peru were analyzed to understand the perceptions of research producers and users, and to highlight opportunities for increased knowledge exchange of research for policy-making.