



Doing Research about Research

What Local Analysis of Research Systems can tell us about the State of Social Sciences in Developing Countries



BOLIVIA

**CENTER FOR THE STUDIES OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
REALITY**

DOING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

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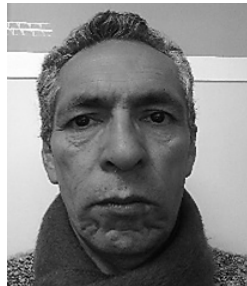
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DOING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

BOLIVIA

- **+10Y** of booming growth: commodity exports, infrastructure and industrialization projects.
- Detachment of the State from the economy that functions out of the influence of the natural resources logic.
- Correcting the course of current policies that will address institutional reforms across the whole system.

**Identifying research capacities,
mapping the research institutions,
discussing the ability of actors to
make use of evidence-based results.**



SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH SYSTEM

ACTORS AND RESPONSIBILITIES



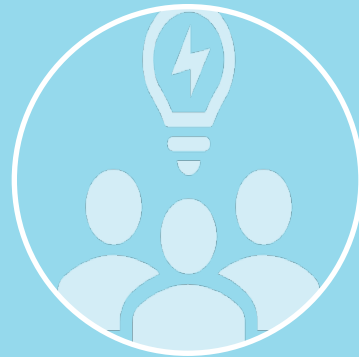
Higher Education Institutions

- Private
- Public



Government and Funding Agencies

- National ministries
- Regional governments
- Local governments
- Research units
- Public donors
- Private donors



Civil Society

- NGOs
- Non-profit think tanks
- Media



Private Sector

- For-profit think tanks
- Consultancies



RESEARCH STAKEHOLDERS

PRODUCTION OF SSR

IMPACT FACTORS

FACTOR	Actors			
	Higher Education	Private Sector	Civil Society	Government and Funding Agencies
ATTRACTIVE OPPORTUNITIES	✓	✓	✗	✓✗
SOCIAL RECOGNITION	✓	✓	✓	✗
FINANCIAL REWARDS	✗	✗	✗	✓✗
JOB STABILITY	✗	✗	✗	✗
CAREER ADVANCEMENT	✓	✗	✓	✓
PROFESSIONAL COMPETITIVENESS	✓	✓	✓	✓
ACCESS TO FUNDING	✓✗	✓	✗	✓
RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE	✓✗	✓✗	✓✗	✓✗
QUALITY OF RESEARCH	✗	✓✗	✓✗	✗
LEVELS OF INSTITUTIONALITY	✗	✗	✗	✗
ENABLING ENVIRONMENT	✗	✗	✗	✓
PERCEIVED INFLUENCE IN POLICY DESIGN	✗	✗	✗	✓
ACCESS TO POLICYMAKERS	✗	✗	✗	✓

QUALITY OF SSR

BARRIERS

1

- Low levels of government expenditure on R&D
- Lack of funding

2

- Absence of a Social Science Research body/ Policy
- Fragmentation of research agenda

3

- Low investment on quality research capacities (E.g.: PHD, peer review, mentoring)

4

- Lack of Job opportunities

5

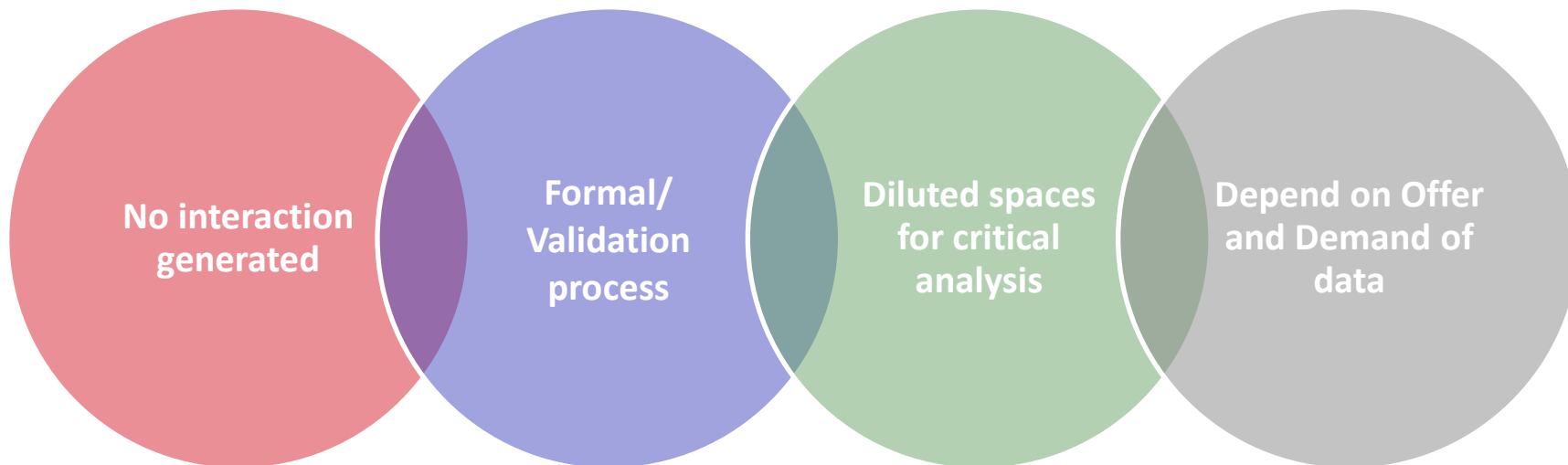
- Little accessibility to policymakers for enabling discussion.

ENGAGEMENT OF SSR KEYPLAYERS

PROCEDURES AND ACTIONS

Spaces for debate are created independently:

Open initiatives and potential meeting points for key stakeholders.



COOPERATION OF SSR KEYPLAYERS

ACTIONS FOR SSR IMPROVEMENT

NATIONAL

Several attempts at creating a national research entity.

Use of evidence is highly dependent on engagement and communication across key and innovative platforms:

Generate data that is relevant and that decision makers can access and understand.

Measure impact on diffusion plans.

INTERNATIONAL

Need for intermediaries between research institutions and government → Strategic lever.

Lay the bases of a national research policy that delimits and facilitates all research activity.

Validation: Institutional support/
Funding/Experience/Benchmarking

DOING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Lack of Collaboration and engagement inhibits production of more actionable research

- Generating an efficient balance in the decision-making process
→ STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL CULTURE/INTERACTION

Context matters

- Acknowledging heterogeneity: Priorities/incentives: needs for quality data per sector.
- Quality standards/indicators adapted to social factors

Rethink automatic budget assignment:

It is necessary to access resources that promote improvement of research production culture/quality

- (E.g.: Competitive funding system (Non-centralized))

Create demand for responsible decision-making:

Promote a trans-disciplinary research community to share quality knowledge and data