

Department of Philosophy

Guest Lecture Series

How Knowledge Brokers Shape the Evidence-Based Policy Landscape

Oct. 11, 2024 ♦ 3:30 PM ♦ Dickens Hall 207

In evidence-based policymaking, knowledge inevitably flows from its source among researchers to policymakers through intermediary bodies called ‘knowledge brokers’. The role of these knowledge brokers has been debated, with many arguing that a simplified linear view (where they serve as knowledge translators) should be replaced by a more nuanced co-production view (where they are more involved, e.g., in directing research questions). However, knowledge brokers have their own complex social and knowledge situations, as well as incentives and organization, which are not easily captured by a description of their role in the policymaking process. As we demonstrate, attending to these factors reveals the extent of knowledge brokers’ impact on policy decisions, which is not well captured by existing views.

Hannah Rubin is an Associate Professor at the University of Missouri, in the Department of Philosophy, specializing in evolutionary game theory, philosopher of biology, and philosopher of science.