



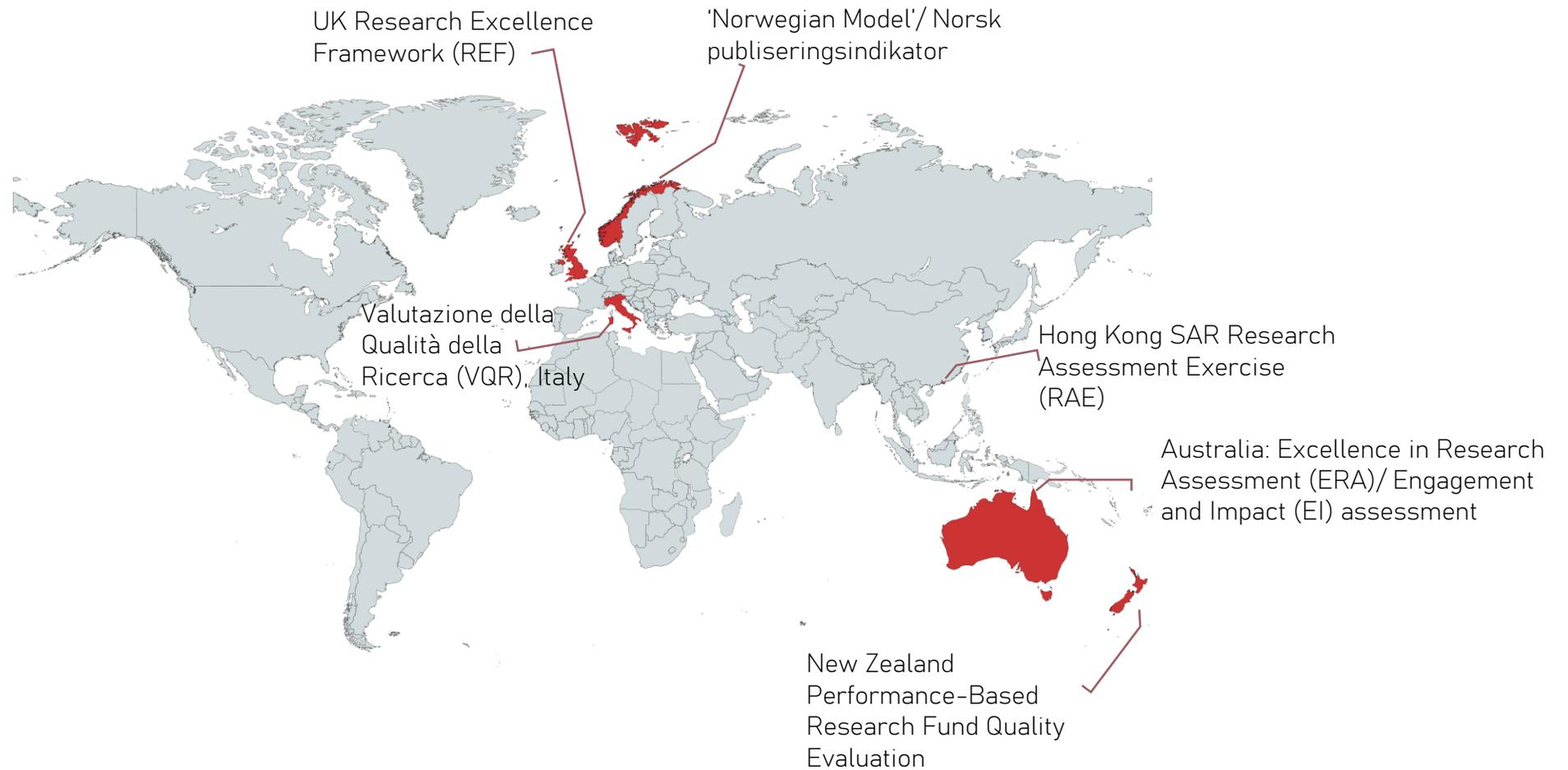
COMPETING IDEOLOGIES AND DEFINITIONS OF UK IMPACT

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THE REF IS NOT ALONE





THE UK IMPACT LANDSCAPE

1. UKRI definitions (ex-ante impact)
 1. Embedded throughout applications
 2. Requires applicants to envision how research will “impact our lives and the world we live in” EPSRC
 3. Definition: *‘demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy’*
 4. Trackable by compulsory ResearchFish entries 5 years post end of award
2. UK’s Research Excellence Framework
 1. Ex-post evaluation of ‘value’
 2. Definition: *‘an effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia’*
 3. Driven by (a) definition; (b) rating scale U-4 stars

COMPETING DEFINITIONS OF IMPACT

Value of research work conducted by public universities

REF Impact “effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture. Public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life beyond academic”
UKRI (REF)



‘the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy’
UK Research and Innovation

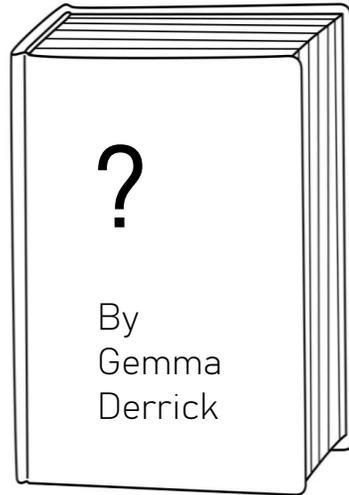
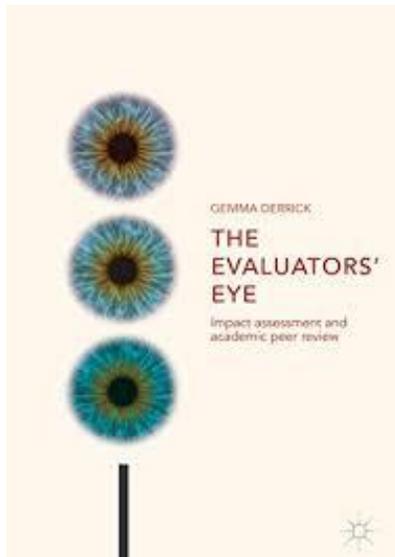
The provable effects (benefits) of research in the real world

*Increased – Improved – Faster – Safer – Reduced – More – Cheaper –
Less – Lower – Disrupted etc*

REF IMPACT:

EX-POST

IMPACT

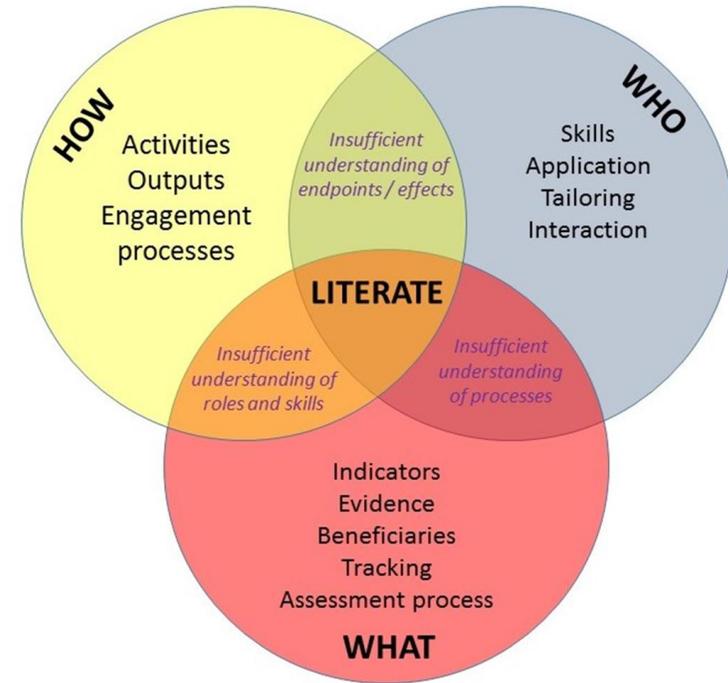


- Assessments are essentially value judgements
- Balance between
 - [1] What society needs; vs.
 - [2] What your research has to offer.
- The evaluator determines [1]
- Applicant/report tries to estimate [1] and match it with [2]
- Here impact is not impact until someone says it is
- Bias/tendencies and emotions are important, but are mediated by the presence of (quantitative) evidence
- Not a perfect science, but we are getting better e.g. REF2014 & REF2021.



IMPACT LITERACY

Impact 'know how' and individual empowerment around 'doing' impact



"If we really want impact we must focus on improving the knowledge, skills and confidence of academics and research managers across the institution. An impact literate culture is one in which people know what's needed and how they contribute."

Julie Bayley (Coventry University)





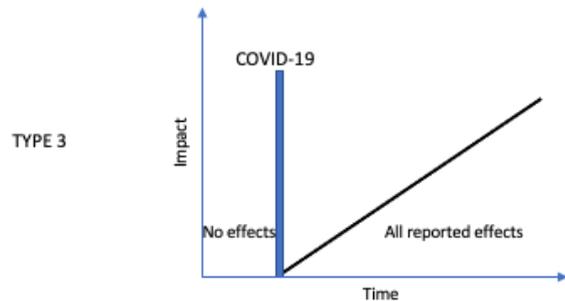
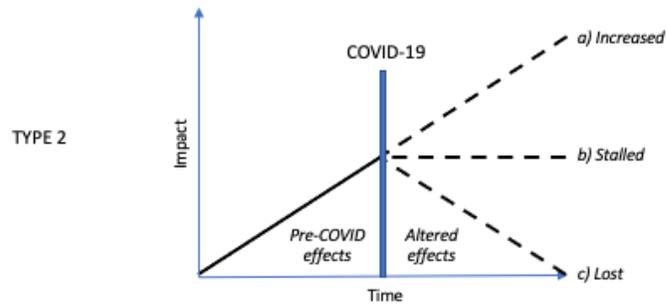
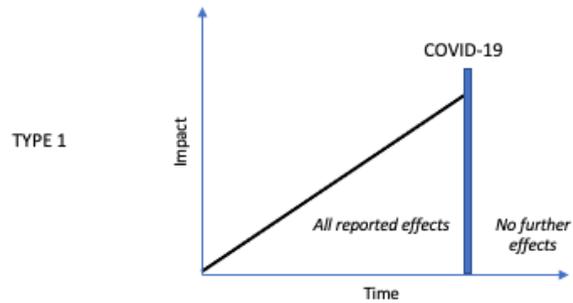
COMPETING DISCOURSES AND PERCEPTION OF BURDEN

1. Researchers
2. Research managers (ARMA, INORMS)
3. Impact industry
4. Beneficiaries (public, patients, consumers, students)
5. Stakeholders (industry becomes boundary riders)

THE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK



- Started as REF in 2014; then 2021.....2028(?)
- 3 criterion
 1. **Outputs** (60% of score; down from 65% in 2014)
 2. **Environment** (15% of score)
 3. **Impact** (25% of score, up from 20% in 2014)
- Marked on a 5-point star scale (U, 1, 2, 3, 4 stars)
- Only 3* and 4* ratings on each criterion is rewarded with a slice of the QR funding pie



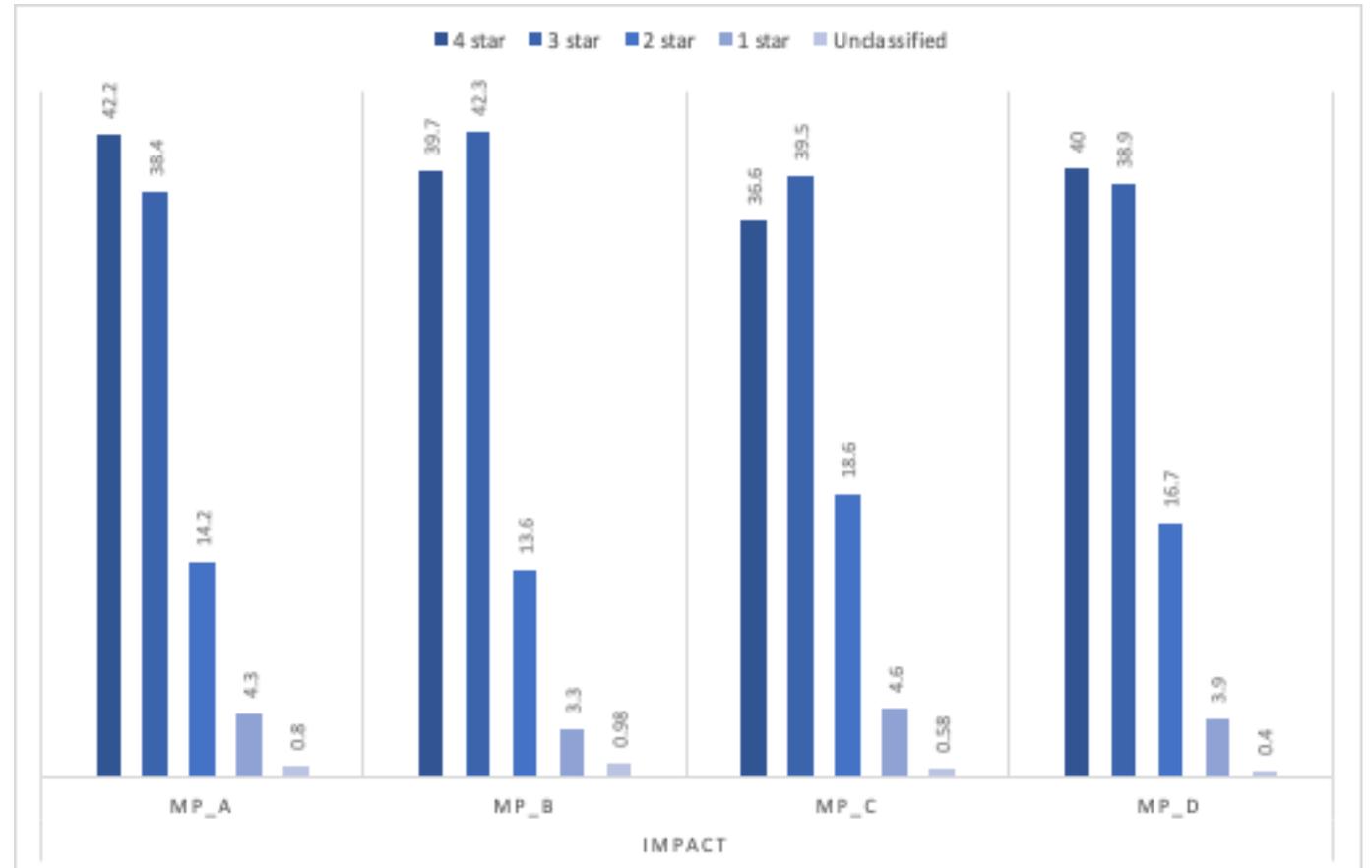
REF 2021

- A unique case.
- For Impact, but also relevant for Environment criteria
- Deadline extended but criteria for mitigation absent (left up to panels)

Derrick, G. E., & Bayley, J. (2022). *The Corona-Eye: Exploring the risks of COVID-19 on fair assessments of impact for REF2021*. *Research Evaluation*, 31(1), 93-103.

IMPACT 2021

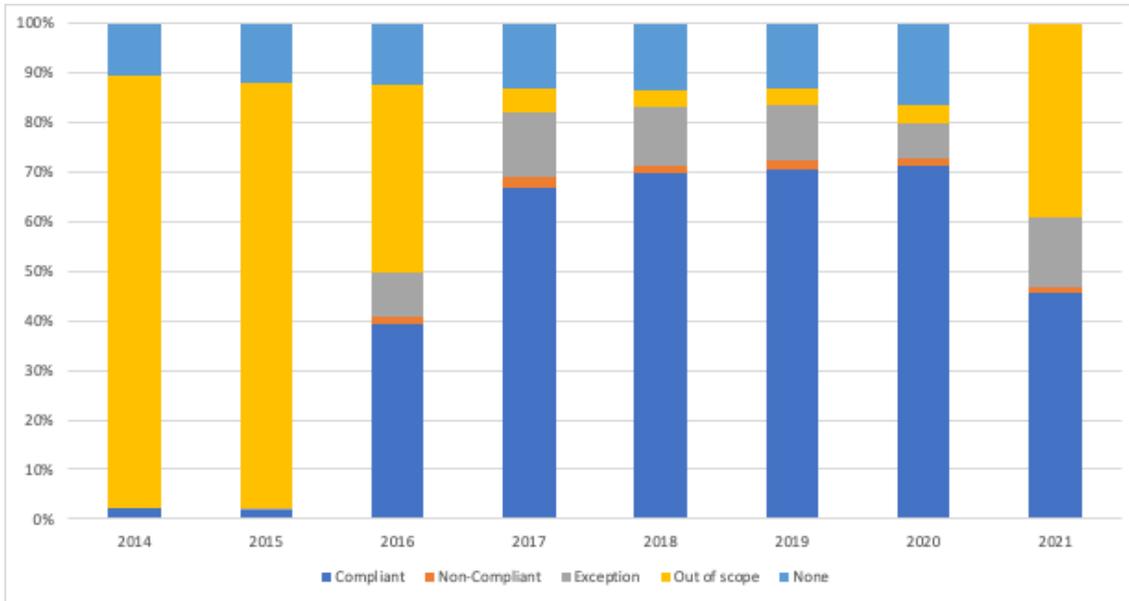
- Majority of outputs classified as 4 and 3 stars across all panels (>80%)
- COVID-19 difference – Unsure.
 - More insight from June 2022 when the Impact Case Study database is open.
 - Type 3 and 2 (Derrick & Bayley, 2021) possible.



AUDIT IS
ABOUT
INCENTIVIZING
BEHAVIOUR
CHANGE



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OA Compliance policy introduced in 2014.

- Deposit final manuscript in an OA repository
- Deposit on publication/acceptance within 3 months
- Papers published since 2016

Global average time lag (publication to deposit) is 472 days

- By early 2018, UK publications are immediately deposited upon publication, or even before (Herrmannova et al. 2019)

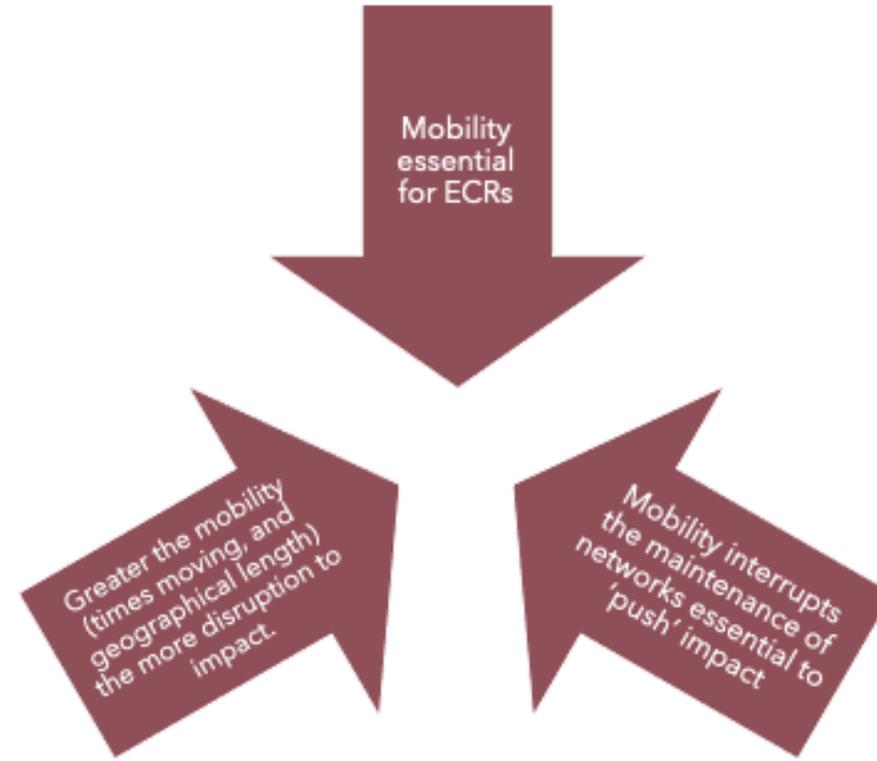
From 2024

- All books and monographs must be made OA within 12 months of publication
- Other aspects of Open science?

OPEN SCIENCE & REF

If you want to be counted, you must be open.

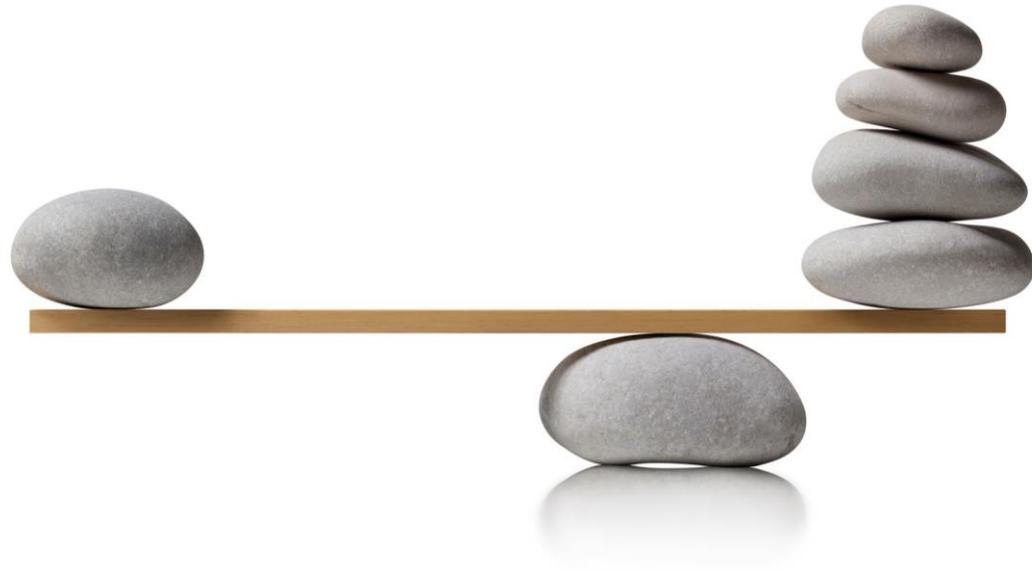
“We move a lot. We do not have the time to study a situation in a certain society well enough before the research contract is finished and we need to seek new funding for a new project or a new institution. Links with society require time, patience, perseverance and some stability’ (R91).



EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

To train or protect our next generation?

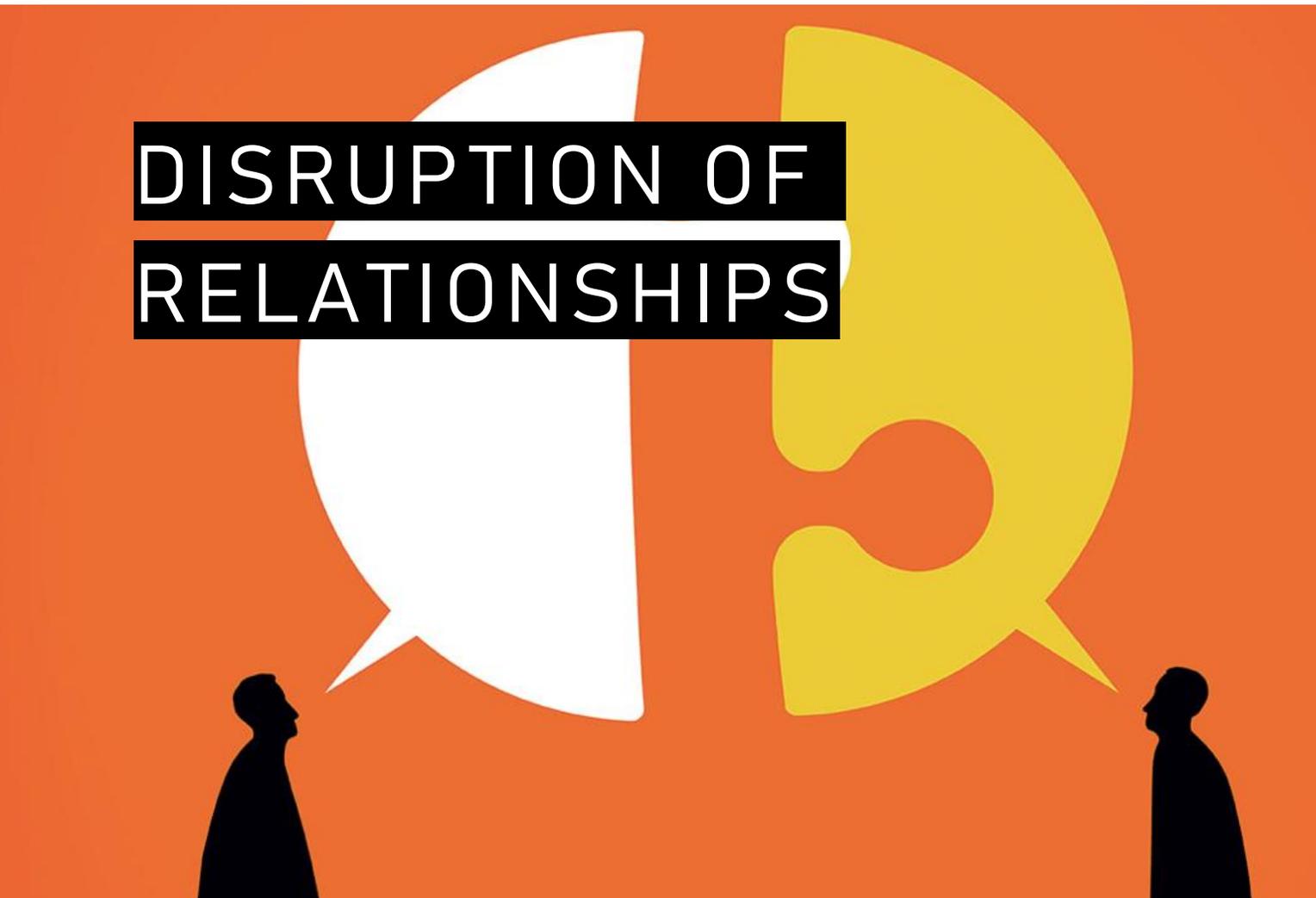
Balaban, C., Wroblewska, M., Derrick, G. (in press) The conflict of the Impact agenda: Early career researchers and planning for a future in the academy. Research Evaluation.



AFFECTIVE AUDIT & BURDEN

It's a funny word '*burden*'.....isn't it?

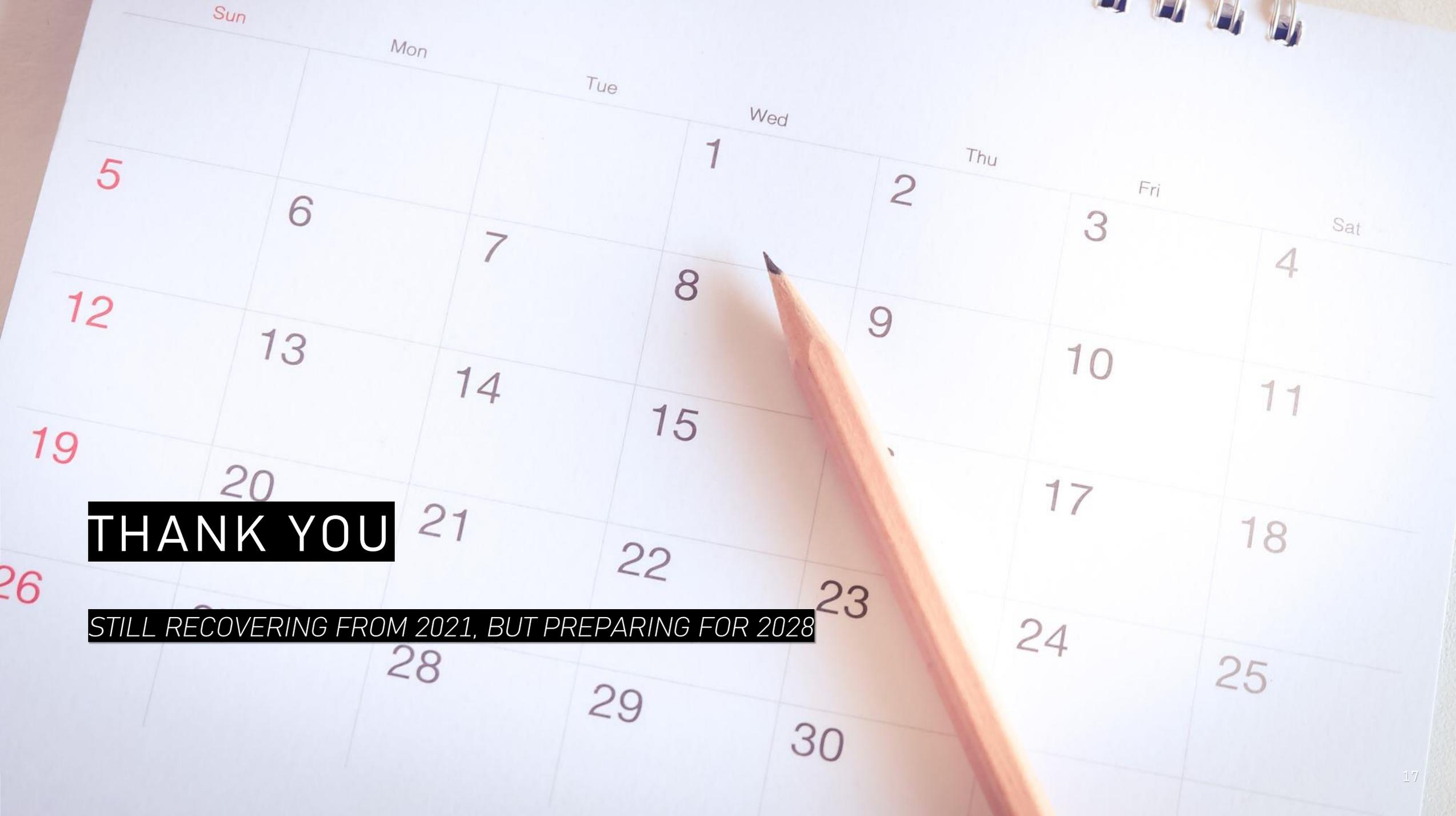
Watermeyer, R., Derrick, G.E., Borrás Batalla, M. (2022)
Affective auditing: The emotional weight of the research
excellence framework. *Research Evaluation*. 31(4): 498-506

An illustration on an orange background showing two black silhouettes of people in profile, facing each other. Above them are two large speech bubbles: a white one on the left and a yellow one on the right. A black rectangular box with white text is overlaid on the top part of the white speech bubble.

DISRUPTION OF RELATIONSHIPS

Pressure to be REF-able felt differently across departments

- *"... you're dealing with some colleagues who you feel are letting down everyone in terms of just locking themselves away and pursuing their own interests and just not giving a damn how their profile and their lack of engagement impacts on everyone else"*
- *"... people would come back to me with anxiety that they would be undervalued, and it would come back to haunt them if they weren't valued in the REF or if they didn't have impact or something like that."*



THANK YOU

STILL RECOVERING FROM 2021, BUT PREPARING FOR 2028