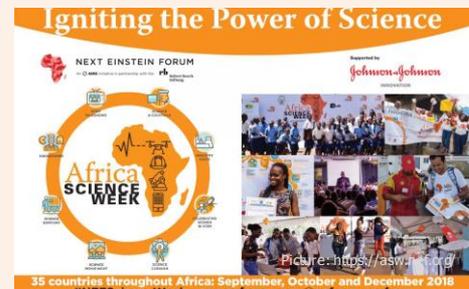


The Next Einstein Forum launches second edition of Africa Science Week

The [Next Einstein Forum](#) – led by the [African Institute for Mathematical Sciences](#) in partnership with [Robert Bosch Stiftung](#) – announced the launch of the second edition of [Africa Science Week](#) (ASW), which will be happening in 35 countries across Africa from September through till December 2018. The main aim of ASW is to secure future collaboration between researchers and the private sector to drive innovation for the improvement of life for all. This will be achieved through offering a variety of platforms through which citizens can experience science – from coding workshops and hackathons to academic conferences.



Celebrating science The Next Einstein Forum this year places public engagement at the heart of the second edition of Africa Science Week.

South Africa's [research policy agenda](#) is being revised to ensure that science serves societal problems, such as poverty, drought, and inequality. Having seen the final draft of the revised legislation, [Nature](#) comments how the revisions to the [1996 legislation](#) shifts focus to business-led innovation that will enhance the economy while addressing social problems.

The [International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications](#) (INASP) shares the success of Uganda's library consortium in maintaining a direct relationship with international publishers since their participation in an [INASP programme](#). This relationship is important to sustain Ugandan institutions' access to academic research.

Tanzania should not outlaw independent statistics that contradict official ones, argues Duncan Green in a [post](#) on his [From Poverty to Power blog](#). Tanzanian parliament is currently reviewing the [Written Laws \(Miscellaneous Amendments \(NO.3\) Act 2018](#), which contains nine amendments to the [Statistics Act 2015](#).

In a [blog post](#) featured on the [Evidence in Action blog](#), Kirchuffs Atengble, founder and executive director of [PACKS Africa](#), explores three issues central to advancing the evidence-informed decision-making agenda in Ghana. One issue raised is making data accessible to policy-makers: while initiatives like the [Ghana Open Data Initiative](#) are a leap in the right direction, more support is needed.

Evidence events

8-12 October: [The Fifth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research](#), Liverpool, UK

22-23 October: [South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association's Capacity Building Workshop Series](#), Johannesburg, South Africa

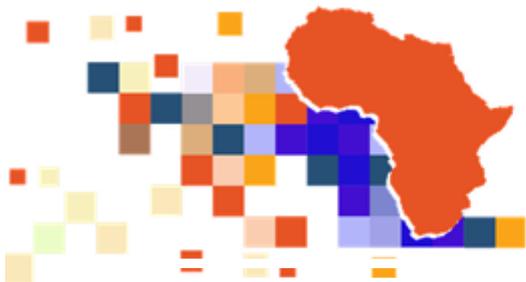
22-24 October: [Global Evidence and Implementation Summit](#), Melbourne, Australia

25-27 October: [Big Data Meets Survey Science](#), Barcelona, Spain.

Announcements

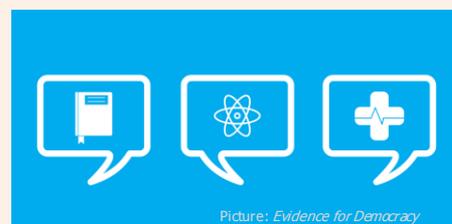
- Can't attend Evidence 2018? Don't miss out - [register for Evidence Online](#) for free.
- Online distance learning short course: 'Systematic Reviews: Meta-Analysis, Qualitative Synthesis, Mixed Methods Synthesis' from University College London.

Have you heard about [Evidence Online](#)? Registration for our first-ever virtual conference is free – read more in the [post](#) by Natalie Tannous. View all blog posts [online](#) and submit your AEN blog [here](#).



Canada makes strides in advancing government science integrity

Canada has made significant strides in advancing Science Integrity Policies (SIPs) – policies intended to support objectivity and transparency in government science. The model SIP aims to, among other things, "foster a culture that supports and promotes scientific integrity in the design, conduct, management, review and communication of research". The [model SIP](#), discussed in a [blog post](#) by Kathleen Walsh of [Evidence for Democracy](#), was advanced in July through the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada. Through this institute, members' right to speak about their research is protected; the union has been co-developing SIPs for some time to further protect those in their collective agreements.



Picture: Evidence for Democracy

Model policy While the model Science Integrity Policy is praised by Evidence for Democracy's Kathleen Walsh for being "strong and robust", there are still areas that can be improved on.

INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE

Reminding the public of the benefits – and limitations – of evidence-informed policy-making is one antidote to the increasing distrust of evidence, science, and experts writes Chris Bonell and colleagues. Their [essay](#) published in [the BMJ](#) this month explores the birth of evidence-informed policy-making as a relatively recent idea, and argues that the current age is increasingly governed by ideology in its response to evidence and science.

Geoff Masters, Chief Executive Officer of the [Australian Council for Educational Research](#) (ACER), [shares his views](#) on the role of evidence in teaching and learning from his keynote address at the recent [Research Conference 2018](#), hosted annually by the ACER. In his keynote, Masters argues that the use of local and reliable practitioner-collected evidence alongside "systematic, external research" allows for the best outcomes.

Peter Gluckman, one-time chief science advisor to the Prime Minister of New Zealand, writes about the [important role that science](#) plays in society, specifically around what he terms 'life and death' issues such as child vaccination. He highlights the myriad of perspectives that policy-makers balance to make decisions, and urges that even though science is usually provisional, it should never be ignored.

Evidence from academia

[Oronje et al](#): 'Contribution of a network of parliamentary committees of health to the ecosystem of evidence use in African parliaments'

[Sabet et al](#): 'Is impact evaluation still on the rise? The new trends in 2010–2015'

[Shearer et al](#): 'Evidence-informed policymaking and policy innovation in a low-income country: does policy network structure matter?'

[Silberzahn et al](#): 'Many analysts, one data set: making transparent how variations in analytic choices affect results'

A [report](#) has been published on the recent [workshop](#) entitled 'Using evidence to inform policy implementation', organised by [Results for All](#) and co-hosted by the [African Institute for Development Policy](#) and [IDInsight](#). The report shares summaries from the workshop where policy-makers from around the world shared their experiences regarding the challenges associated with evidence-informed policy-making. The report also flags interesting 'Points for reflection' throughout to continue the conversation.