THE CAMPBELL COLLABORATION

Peter Grabosky
Professor
Regulatory Institutions Network
Research School of Social Sciences
The Australian National University
Donald T. Campbell
1916 - 1996
“Reforms as Experiments”

American Psychologist, 24, 409-429 (April 1969)
Problem:

Policies are introduced and celebrated by their proponents as if they are certain to be successful.
The proponents tend to be staunch advocates, and often refuse to countenance the possibility that the policy may not work.
Donald Campbell proposed an experimental approach to social policy:

Evaluate, then Replicate Modify or Discard
Campbell Collaboration’s Mission:

Advancing the cause of “evidence-based” social policy.
Finding out and documenting What Works (and what doesn’t)
Commission and Publish

Systematic reviews of the effects of interventions in Social Policy
Sir Iain Chalmers,

Cochrane Collaboration
Campbell Collaboration
Founded at
University of Pennsylvania
February 24-25, 2000
Founded on the Cochrane Collaboration’s 9 (currently 10) Principles
• collaboration
• building on the enthusiasm of individuals
• avoiding duplication
• minimizing bias
• keeping up to date
• striving for relevance
• promoting access
• ensuring quality
• continuity
• enabling wide participation
Co-Chairs:

Robert Boruch  Graduate School of Education  University of Pennsylvania

Haluk Soydan  The National Board of Health and Welfare, Stockholm, Sweden
Campbell Collaboration
Home Page:

http://campbell.gse.upenn.edu/
Trials Register  N=10,000

Social, Psychological, Educational, and Criminological Trials Register (SPECTR)
Security 21
Regulatory Institutions Network (RegNet)
The Australian National University

Campbell Collaboration
Coordinating Groups

Crime and Justice
Education
Social Work and Social Welfare

Methods Review Groups
Statistics
Quasi-Experimental Design
Process and Implementation
Communication and Dissemination
Campbell Crime and Justice Coordinating Group

Funded by

• Smith Richardson Foundation
• UK Home Office
• US National Institute of Justice
• Jerry Lee Foundation
• Department of Justice (Canada)
• The Australian Institute of Criminology
Chair:

Professor David Farrington
Cambridge University
CCJ Commissioned Reviews: Initially Proactive (by invitation)

Recruit prominent reviewers to enhance CCJ prestige
Now welcomes proposals from all interested individuals
1. Prospective author submits proposal for Review
2. CCJ Steering Group approval
3. Author submits protocol (search strategy)
4. Peer Review (CCJ Steering Group member plus 2 external reviewers)
5. CCJ Approval
6. Clearance from Campbell
7. Author prepares draft Review
8. Peer Assessment
9. Author Incorporates Feedback
10. Author Submits Final Review
11. Review Published
Community/Neighborhood Strategies

• Faith-based Programs
• Neighborhood Watch
• Street Lighting
Prevention Strategies

• Early Childhood

• Family-Based
Dealing with Adult Offenders

- Boot Camps
- Cognitive-Behavioral Programs
- Community-Based Alternatives versus Incarceration
- Cost-Benefits of Sentencing
- Electronic Monitoring
- Length of Prison Term
- Reentry to Work Programs
- Restorative Justice
Dealing With Special/Psychiatric Populations (1)

• Interventions for Domestic Batterers

• Interventions to Prevent Future Violence by Forensic Mental Health Population
Dealing With Special/Psychiatric Populations (2)

• Non-Pharmacological Treatment of Personality Disorders

• Treatment for Sex Offenders
The Business World/Commercial Targets

• Corporate Crime Deterrence
• Closed Circuit Television
• Prevention of Crime Aboard/Against Commercial Aircraft
Programs for Victims

• Programs to Prevent Repeat Victimization

• Programs for Victims of Non-Familial Violence
Special Policing Strategies

• Policing Hotspots

• Police Initiatives to Reduce Illegal Gun Carrying
Focus on Juvenile Delinquents/Offenders

• Child Skills Training
• Community-Based Programs
• Juvenile Aftercare Programs
• Juvenile Curfews
• Programs for Serious and Persistent Offenders
• Scared Straight and Juvenile Awareness Programs
Drug-Involved Offenders

• Drug Courts

• Outpatient Treatment of Drug-Involved Offenders

• Prison-Based Drug Treatment
Institutional Management

• Screening Instruments for Risk of Suicide During Juvenile Lock-up

• Situational Factors to Prevent Institutional Violence
Special Efforts to Identify

• Fugitive Literature
• Non-English Language Literature
Systematic Analysis of Effect Sizes

Harris Cooper and Larry Hedges (eds)
The Handbook of Research Synthesis
(NY: Russell Sage Foundation 1994)
Objections/Resistance:

• Those whose work does not lend itself to Random Assignment (area-based studies)

• Those who lament unreasonably stringent criteria for inclusion
Recent Cochrane Review:

Family and parenting interventions in children and adolescents with conduct disorder and delinquency aged 10-17
970 titles initially identified through the search strategy.

8 trials met the inclusion criteria.
Personal observations:
The ideal Campbell Reviewer will possess

Substantive Knowledge
Expertise in Meta-Analysis
Information Retrieval Skills
Need for workshops in how to train people to do systematic reviews
Campbell Justice Website:

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