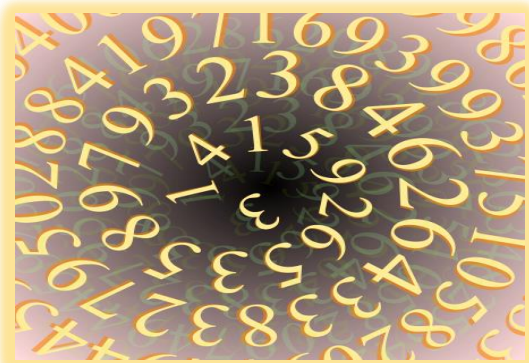# Evidence-based policy-making: a practitioner's perspective

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Current landscape (1)

- All organizations are open systems.
- They need to engage their environments.
- In the government's case, the environment comprises businesses, civil society, and **citizens**.
- The government needs to gather intelligence to find out what citizens want and/or to nudge them towards their own preferred outcomes/ agendas.

Current landscape (2)

- Government agencies possess a wealth of admin data: IRAS, CPF, MOM, MND, HDB, MSF, MCI, MCCY, PA.

- Admin data: income, savings, employment, housing, family, elderly, community development. Some of these are published and downloadable from websites.

- They also have access to big data.

- Some do in-house and/or commission social research. Findings may be reported in the media from time to time and/or posted on their websites.

- Setting up of SSRC: greater emphasis on social science research; recognizing and encouraging policy research.

SSRC 2017 awards: combining academic and policy research

- **Projects receiving between $1 million and $10 million**

  Building Capacity in Singapore's Population: Testing Innovations in Human Development

- **Service Productivity and Innovation Research Programme (Spire)**

- **Sustainable governance of transboundary environmental commons in Southeast Asia**

- **Projects receiving between $100,000 and $1 million**

  Identifying Positive Adaptive Pathways in Low-income families in Singapore

- **Making Identity Count in Asia: Identity Relations in Singapore and its Neighbourhood**

- **Population ageing, old age labour and financial decisions in Singapore**

Researching inclusive growth:
data availability, data collection, conceptual issues

- What is available? admin data on income.

- What is not so accessible? admin data on wealth.

- What is possible, but not yet accessible? linking admin data to survey data.

- What is needful? longitudinal data on families, households, and child development; detailed information on households and child-rearing.

- Data collection challenges: survey fatigue affecting response rate, attrition rate; interviewing dialect speakers, costs of doing surveys, data quality.

- Sensitivity of dealing with race, religion, and class.

- Social exclusion: outcome of disadvantaged condition or irresponsible behavior?

Future

- Data sharing and data link-up.
- Need to ensure privacy, use of coded/anonymous data without identifiers.
- Need to recognize that some data (and findings) can be sensitive, and should be handled with care.