



Co producing research; value and values.

Findings from rapid systematic
review of the value of Co
production project and reflections
from Co producing qualitative
research COVID Shielding voices.





What are different types of co-production within research and what are their value(s)

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- *The Value of Co production project was funded with money from Research England participatory research fund, managed by Co Production Collective UCL. Mixed methods study; systematic review, quantitative survey, community reporting (qualitative)*

Why the value of Co production project?

- Co production Collective often asked; Why should we co produce research, services and policy
- What is the evidence base
- What is the impact of Co Production
- Wanted to provide evidenced answers but crucially in a co produced, values led way





Methods

- A co-produced rapid critical review
- Stage 1: conceptual papers to identify the values associated with co-production (31 papers)
- Stages 2 and 3: aimed to identify types of co-production and their impacts. We included 28 studies that
 - reported primary research;
 - were focused on co-producing research and explicitly used the term ‘co-production’;
 - were published 2021-22; and
 - On health and social care, education, and arts and culture

Definition and Values of co production; 18 values identified, no single definition

Values around what co-production is meant to achieve

1. Equality (and shifts in power differentials)
2. Diversity
3. Challenging (and disruptive)
4. Building relationships and unifying communities
5. Working towards social justice
6. Learning and personal development
7. Tackles challenging questions and creating systemic change

Values around how co-production should be conducted

8. Accessibility and inclusivity
9. Reciprocity and mutually beneficial
10. Human (and personal and bespoke)
11. Transparent (and authentic)
12. Commitment/consistency/longevity
13. Flexibility and adaptability
14. Mutual respect and trust
15. Reflexivity
16. Training and capacity building
17. Action-orientated

Overarching value

18. Context-based

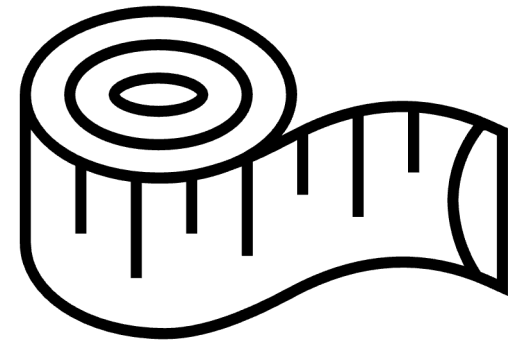
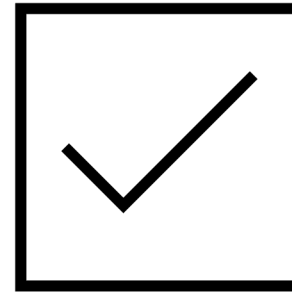
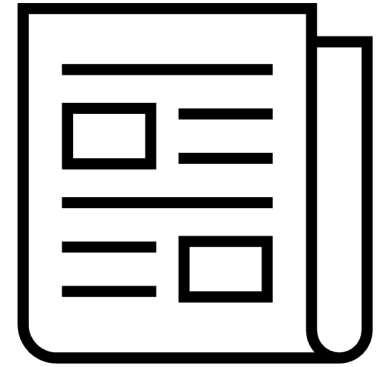
How are the values enacted and put into practice, or not?

1. Rich co-production, co-authored (7 studies)
2. Rich co-production, not co-authored (3 studies)
3. Co-production vision but not execution (5 studies)
4. Other PPI approaches (13 studies)



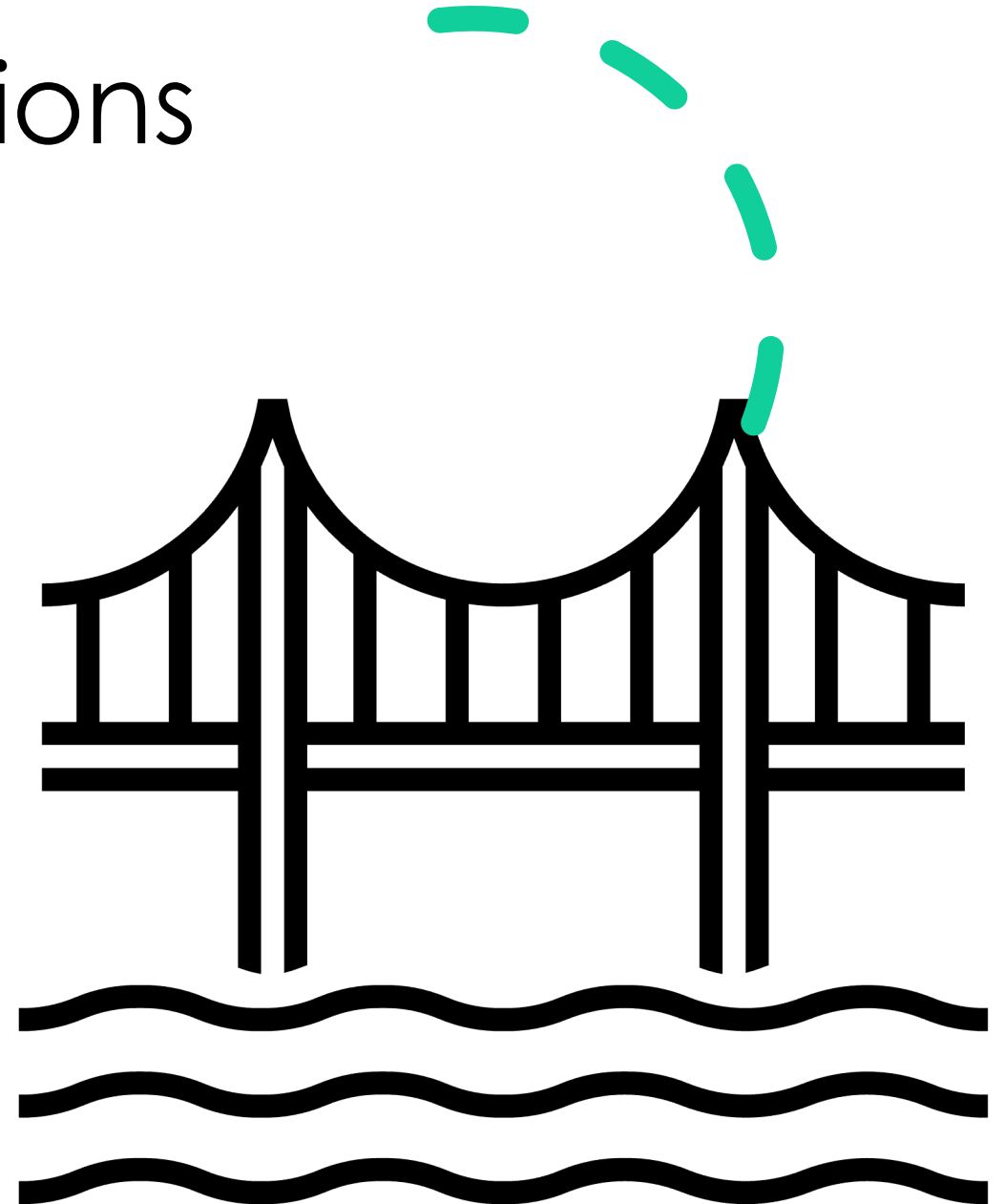
Underexplored impacts of co-production

- Benefits rarely formally evaluated
- General consensus that co-production can have benefits
- Multiple barriers including current academic culture



Overarching observations

- Co-production is a complex methodology
- Values underpinning co-production can achieve change
- Both the journey and destination are important
- Researchers and co-producers should challenge the academic status quo



How did we co produce the systematic review

- Acknowledged different types of knowledge and experience
- Made time for reflexive discussions
- Challenged ourselves and each other
- Built relationships on trust and mutual respect
- Decided roles and input together
- Co-authored the final report

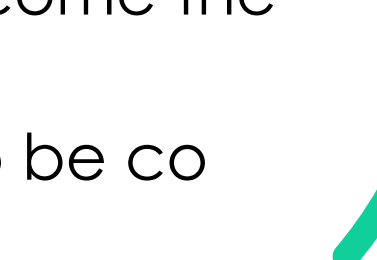


A deeper dive into the findings

- • Co-production is a complex methodology that needs to be resourced, planned, evaluated, and reported—just like any other research methodology
- • Unlike most other research methods, though, co-production can also be seen as a complex intervention in its own right, with intended and unintended impacts beyond that of the focus of the research project. The values underpinning co-production can be seen as the mechanisms through which change can be achieved.
- • We need to shift current thinking from a product/output focus, to also emphasise the impacts of the process of producing something, such as building relationships. In coproduction, both the journey and the destination are important.



More challenges.....

- Co production challenges academic (and Government/ services) conventions and systems
 - It can't thrive without funding and resources, people are not free goods
 - Where does Co production start?
 - What stages of a project should be co produced, who makes that decision?
 - Co production challenges the self, including identity. Can we overcome the threat to professional identity?
 - Evaluation and impact needs to be co produced too
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Personal reflections

- Reflexive practice, examining one's own thoughts, feelings, actions and their impact, is essential for co production
- I don't need to be involved in all parts of a co produced project, BUT, that shouldn't be decided for people
- Projects need to be led but hierarchies need to be flat
- We need to recognize the joys and challenges, especially with regards to identity and imposter syndrome
- People are more than their lived experience, individuals need investment as well as projects

The value of co-production lies in:



Delivering outcomes
that actually matter
to people



Efficiency,
in the long
run



Working
towards social
justice



Empowering
people and
building capacity*



Connecting us as
humans, working
towards shared goals