

# Policy Impact Unit – Update

March 2024.



## [Futures Forum Success!](#)

On March 21<sup>st</sup> PIU hosted a Futures Forum on the Circular Economy at the [Institute for Mechanical Engineering](#), bringing together colleagues from [DLUHC](#), [DESNZ](#), the [Environment Agency](#), [ICEC-MCM](#) and more - to share research and collectively consider what a more circular future may look like for construction.

The Futures Forum series, developed by PIU and STEaPP's [Ine Steenmans](#), creates space for policymakers and researchers to think about possible future scenarios, free from day-to-day barriers.

The Forum has triggered several follow up discussions and collaborations, including potential spin-off events. Due to the success of this format, we will publish a toolkit later this spring with the methodology.

Particular thanks to [Kathy Page](#) of the ISR for her invaluable support, Ine for chairing so brilliantly, our wonderful speakers, colleagues from ICEC-MCM, and attendees from across the U.K – and the University of Zimbabwe.



## PIU's March highlights also included...

- PIU organised and hosted a roundtable on digital health, bringing together **visiting researchers from the FioCruz Oswaldo Cruz Foundation in Brazil** with colleagues from across UCL – [read our blog post to find out more.](#)
- Delivered the [Policy 101 Masterclass](#) at the AI Centre, alongside [Leonie Tancer](#). Thanks to all attendees for such an engaging session, **83% of you said you are more likely (or extremely likely) to engage in policy as a result of the session** – and lots of follow up conversations now underway! Thanks also to [Sinead Murphy](#) for her insight on the support offered by UCL Public Policy.
- Attended and spoke at a Tech UK Roundtable on tech abuse, supported by [Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime](#) – with the [Deputy Mayor](#) and [London's Chief Digital Officer](#).
- Delivered a training session on *Policy Briefs and Channels of Engagement* for the [Cybersecurity CDT](#), on *Public Speaking and Pitching to Policy Audiences* for the [STeAPP MPA](#) and on Careers (including tips for breaking into policy careers) alongside [UCL Careers](#).
- Responded to the consultation on Scotland's [Circular Economy and Waste Route Map](#) on behalf of [ICEC-MCM](#) – [Julia Stegemann](#) also attended a DESNZ roundtable hosted by [Lord Callanan, Minister for Energy Efficiency and Green Finance](#) and will be feeding in to Government-commissioned research on Industrial Symbiosis.

- Ran a checkpoint session on policy activity for the [Festival of Engineering](#) – which soft launched yesterday! Do check out the new site, and keep your eyes peeled for policy-focused events launching on the schedule this spring!
- **Met the Home Office** to discuss research funding related to Domestic Abuse, in partnership with [Gender and Tech, and introduced them](#) to [Nikolaos Koukopoulos](#) for a follow up meeting on prevention of child sexual abuse. Nikos' **new blog was also published this month**, feeding back on the research teams recent visit to Australia - [check it out here!](#)

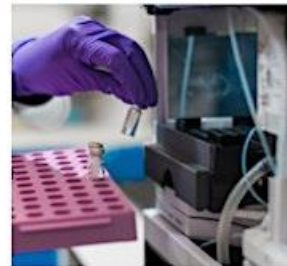
We also delivered a seminar on IoT abuse, streamed around the world, alongside [Madeleine Janickyj](#), delivered a research seminar on '*Architectures for bottom-up science diplomacy*' for STEaPP, facilitated UCL participation in the City of London's workshop to inform a new data platform, contributed to STEaPP's feature for International Women's Day, were filmed by UKRI for a new Impact Case Study (watch this space!) and contributed to a roundtable with [Elsevier](#) – more on this below!

## Opportunities



## UCL-OXFORD VAX-HUB GLOBAL LAUNCH

Introducing the new Vaccines  
Manufacturing Hub for LMIC



- The official [online launch](#) of the new **Vaccines Manufacturing Hub for LMICs (Vax-Hub-Global)** led by UCL Biochemical Engineering and the University of Oxford is taking place on Wed 24<sup>th</sup> April. PIU are supporting the Hub's vision by leading on policy engagement for the Hub and ensuring its leadership in vaccine research shapes UK and international policy. **Register now via [Eventbrite](#)** to secure your place

- [The British Academy](#) are seeking proposals to support policy-relevant research on environmental resilience and climate action – up to £200 000 is available and research can be new, or build on ongoing research.
- Royal Academy of Engineering have opened applications for their prestigious [policy fellowships](#) – deadline 20<sup>th</sup> May.
- DEFRA have five positions open to [join their Science Advisory Council](#) including a new [Chair](#). Positions are remunerated and last three years, deadline is April 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Select Committee Inquiries have been launched into [Economics of the energy sector](#), [Methane](#), [The UK Government's work on achieving SDG2: Zero Hunger](#) and [Net zero and trade](#).
- UCL Public Policy's [BBSRC Fellowships](#) are now open for applications, proposals should focus on (i) Transformative Technologies (ii) Bioscience for Sustainable Agriculture and Food (iii) Bioscience for advanced manufacturing and clean growth.

## STeAPP Public Policy

This month at STeAPP we.....

- Hosted **Elsevier** for discussion on research-policy impact and engagement monitoring.
- Spoke on circular economy at a panel event for [UCL Global Engagement / UCL Circularity Hub](#) event in partnership with the **Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands** [\[CW\]](#)
- Met with **UK Climate Change Committee** representatives to discuss representation of unmodelled/unmodellable risks in the next UK Climate Change Risk Assessment [\[ET\]](#)
- Advised **the provinces and the national government of The Netherlands**, as member of a scientific advisory committee to a multi-level decision-making process, about the assessment threshold used in project-specific calculations of nitrogen depositions (relevant for permitting). [\[AP\]](#)
- Led an ongoing experiment and delivering co-creation workshops on “investing in transition pathways towards desirable futures” with **The**

**Good Investors** (a private investors' collective), on how to invest in food system change as part of the [Deep transitions Lab](#). [\[BG\]](#)

- Advised the secretariat to the **UN Secretary General's Science Advisory Board** on Science Advice. [\[CT\]](#)
- Gave a keynote to the **Portugese APDIO Professional Society** on Future Policy and the Roles for Operational Research. [\[IS\]](#)
- Met with **FCDO** staff to discuss opportunities for FES researchers to help inform transition to low carbon economy, including use of critical minerals. . [\[NM\]](#)
- Followed up with UK Commons Science and Technology Committee on inquiry into bacteriophage for AMR. [\[SE\]](#)
- Facilitated a workshop with lived experience experts in Wales resulting in a systems map of barriers and enablers for access to childcare among ethnic minorities. [\[IPPO\]](#)
- Submitted evidence on hybrid work and disability to the Work and Pensions Committee in Parliament. [\[IPPO\]](#)
- Presented on 'Theories of Change' to the **Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's** Science and Innovation Network in Austin, Texas. [\[GS\]](#)

Wishing you all a restful break, we look forward to seeing you after Easter.

**Thank You!**