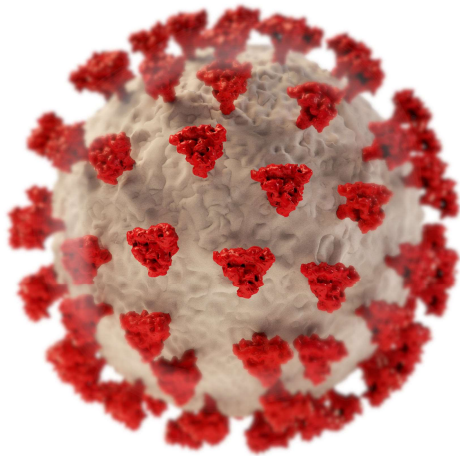




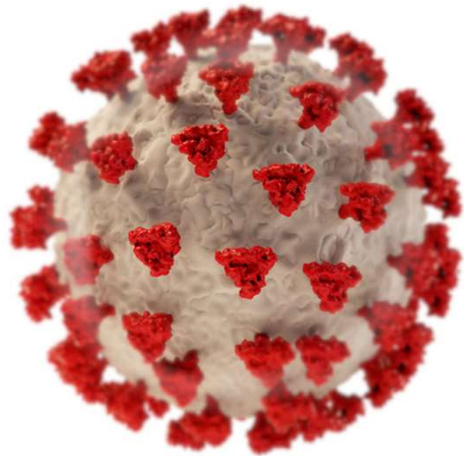
# Policy Relevant Research and Influence

Simon Maxwell  
School for Think Tankers  
29 January 2021

# Policy Relevant Research and Influence



Simon Maxwell  
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COVID is a . . . . . crisis

COVID is a crisis of . . . .

COVID is a . . .

Health crisis

Economic crisis

Fiscal crisis

Social crisis

Youth crisis

Education crisis

Mental health crisis

Security crisis

Policing crisis

Development crisis

Foreign policy crisis

Globalisation crisis

This is not surprising:



## **Policy relevant research and influence**

It was pizza night and the family had gathered in the kitchen. In one corner of the main bedroom, however, a light still burned. Cecilia wanted to go down to her family, she had hardly seen the children all week, and one more Zoom call would probably give her a nervous breakdown. But there was a global pandemic kicking off, and as Director of the think-tank, she needed to show leadership.

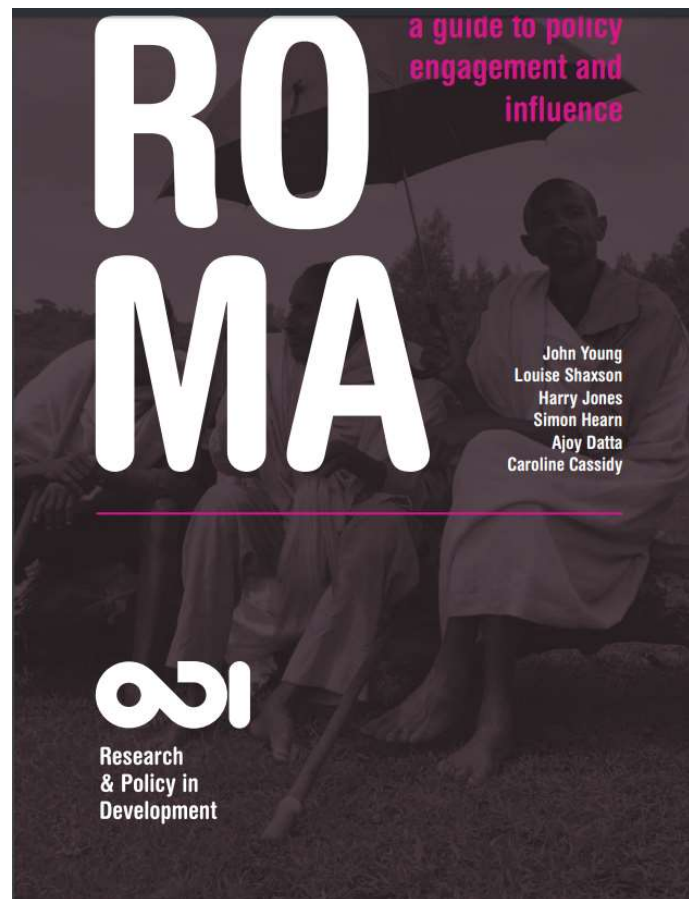
The phone had been ringing off the hook all week, never mind the deluge of emails, and the inevitable zoom calls. Ministers, special advisers, civil servants, NGOs, business people, the media, all with the same question: 'what are we going to do?'

Cecilia thought it would be easier to answer that question if the think-tank had a dedicated and pre-existing department, called something like 'What do we do about a global pandemic if ever one should occur in the future'. But, of course, it didn't. What it had instead was a range of researchers, all working on different topics, some relevant, some less so, and all busy. Plus, everyone was now working at home.

So the easy answer for Cecilia was to say 'Sorry, no idea'. But she knew that wouldn't do. Faced with a global catastrophe, the think-tank would have to step up. As leader, it was her job to make sure the think-tank was both relevant and timely. 'What I need', she thought, 'is a short-term action plan of things my team can do'.

That was quite an ask, Cecilia thought. She pulled off a page from her pad, and wrote a heading: 'Responding to the pandemic: a short-term action plan of things my team can do'. She needed to fill that in, but it was too late to do more. She thought of the pizza and her mouth began to water. Margarita, she wondered? Or Quattro stagioni? It was time to go downstairs. Cecilia rose, stretched, and switched off the light.

## The ODI ROMA toolkit



<https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9011.pdf>

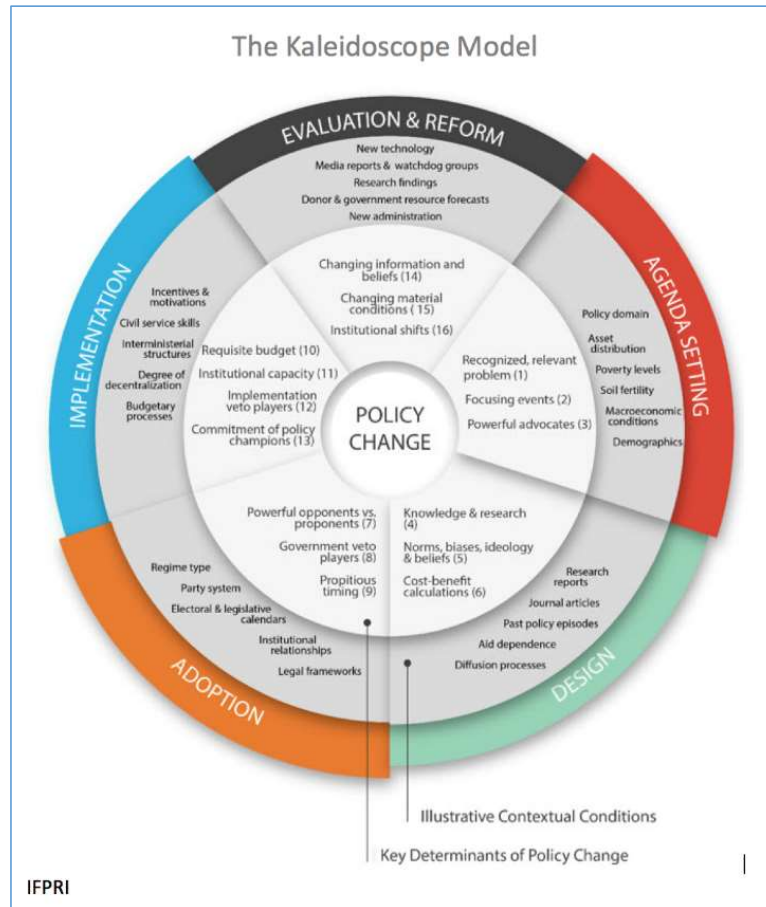
# 1. THE APPROACH

ROMA consists of three main activities, each of which is broken down into a series of steps. These are set out in Figure 1, and described in detail throughout this guide.



Figure 1: The ROMA cycle

# The IFPRI framework for analysing policy change



<http://www.ifpri.org/blog/kaleidoscope-model-tracks-drivers-impacts-changing-food-policies>



# Policy Entrepreneurship



The story-teller



The networker



The engineer



The fixer

# The international think-tank . .

Not



Not



But



The airline alliance model:  
'Policy code-sharing'



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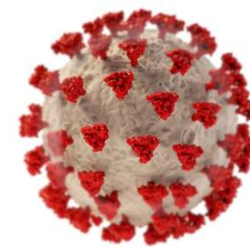
WHO . . .

is making WHAT decision . . .

WHEN are they making it . . .

WHAT products do you need to influence the decision . . .

and WHEN do you need them?



## **Policy relevant research and influence**

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## Policy relevant research and influence

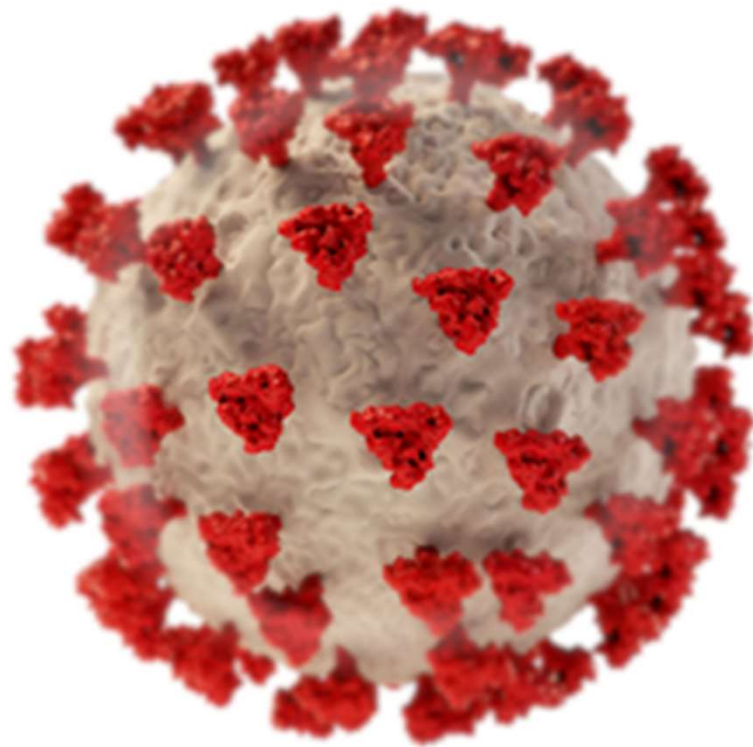
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Images: 123RF