




On Think Tanks

Credibility, transparency and integrity workshop

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What is integrity?
Credibility?

Credibility definition

- Source credibility is the perception, of the receiver, that the communicator (person, organisation or other) is able and willing to provide information that is correct and true.
- Emphasis on others. To be credible an organisation needs an 'other' to award the credibility.
- Credibility is constructed by the interaction of the qualities and current circumstances of a person/object/organisation and someone who awards it

A credible source is a believable one

What influences A Think tank's CREDIBILITY

- Credibility is partly in the eye of the beholder. Each person has been exposed to different information and experiences with think tanks, and also has different personal backgrounds which affect their approach and final credibility assessment of a centre
- BUT regardless of variability, there are some commonalities on the factors that are used to judge the credibility of a think tank.

Factor	Definition
Networks	Connections, alliances, and affiliations that an organisation and its staff and board have.
Past impact	Any effect that a policy research centre has had on policy, practice, media, or academia.
Intellectual independence and autonomy	Independence on deciding their research agenda, methods, and actions an organisation undertakes
Transparency	Publicly disclosing funding sources, agenda, affiliations, partnerships, and conflicts of interests
Credentials and authority	Collected expertise and qualifications that a think tank and its staff have
Communications and visibility	How and how often the think tank communicates with its stakeholders
Research quality	Following research guidelines to produce policy relevant research in which the quality is assured

Ideology and values	Ideology and values are the set of ideas and values that guide an individual or organisation.
Gender lens and progressive values	Belief in (and advocacy of) the equality of all, regardless of gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, country, or any other characteristic.
Current context	Current setting in which a think tank and its stakeholders are immersed.



THE TRANSPARIFY THINK TANK INTEGRITY CHECK

Trasnparify

- In early 2017, Transparify conducted a workshop for thinktankers on how to manage reputational risks. Based on that workshop this tool was created.
- Transparify provides ratings of the financial transparency of major think tanks

Instructions

- Transparify Think Tank Integrity check
- In groups please review each statement and decide if “Yes, this is OK” or “No, this is unacceptable”. For each case, try to address the following key questions:
 - Would you agree to do this – or not?
 - Could this compromise your organization’s intellectual independence and integrity?
 - Could this be perceived to compromise your organization’s intellectual independence and integrity?
 - What systems, safeguards and processes could you have in place to mitigate, monitor and manage all associated risks?

Instructions

- You need to reach a decision as a group.
- Read and register your answers [in this form](#)
- If you have doubts, think would you need to do or know to make it ok
- When we finish we will review and comment on the results (and discussion) in a group plenary.