Supporting students navigating the data landscape (Discussant Role)

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QAA Student-Led Project Event
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Concerns with current practices

• proxy measures (quantitative) for student voices
• misrepresentative voices
• use and abuse of student voices
• volume, repetition, exploitation

• the HE data landscape requires greater ethical scrutiny
• data hierarchies exist
• student research is undervalued
• students are not always interested in research methodology

Austen 2018
Institutional* Research and Evaluation: ethical scrutiny

Student learning analytics
Student surveys
Student evaluations
Reflections and pilot studies
Evaluations of process and impact
Student research
Staff research

Service Evaluation
Measurement of standards
Internal appraisal only
No formal ethical approval required

Service Evaluation or Research

Research
Generates new knowledge
Can be shared externally
Ethical approval required

* University and/or Student Union/Association

Austen 2018
Data hierarchies exist

[Diagram showing hierarchy of research methods and their associated quality and bias]

Quality of evidence
- Higher
- Lower

Risk of bias
- Lower
- Higher

RCT
Case control studies
Case studies
Case reports
Ideas, editorials and opinions

Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Data hierarchy: sector/policy makers

- Student Data
- Student Surveys
- Evaluations of impact
- Staff Research
- Reflections and Pilots
- Student Evaluations
- Student Research

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Data hierarchy: strategic planners

- Student Data
  - Student Surveys
  - Student Evaluations
  - Staff Research
  - Evaluations of impact
  - Reflections and Pilots
  - Student Research
Data hierarchy: curriculum designers

Student Evaluations

Reflections and Pilots

Student Surveys

Student Data

Staff Research

Evaluations of impact

Student Research
Data hierarchy: students

- pre application or during period of study?
- students researching students in undervalued
students are not always interested in research methodology
students are not interested in research methodology..... unless they are collecting data
What have I learnt? Reflections on your case studies and workshops

• does the HE data landscape require greater ethical scrutiny?
• do data hierarchies exist?
• is student research undervalued?
• are students interested in research methodology?
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