

**Maximising impact of inter-  
disciplinary research  
on the ground –  
constraints and solutions**

**Dr Sam Wong  
University of Leeds, UK**

# Context

- **Strong research collaboration**
  - UK research councils
  - inter-disciplinary
  - cross institutions
  - involvement of industry and NGOs
- **Assumptions**
  - enabling environment
  - exchange of ideas and experiences

# Does it work?

- Case study: EPSRC-funded project
- £3 million project
- 7 universities
- Engineering, psychology, env science ....
- 11 partners from industry: water industry, regulator, EA ....

# Challenges

## 1. Call for grant proposal

- \* little time to discuss assumptions and expectations of collaboration

## 2. Over preference for certain disciplines

- \* social scientists feel marginalised

## 3. Unclear role of industry

- \* conflicts

# Solutions

## 1. Success of grant proposal

\* not number of packages, but quality of collaboration

## 2. Jointing research councils

\* breaking artificial boundaries