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From Research to Policy: The Missing Links

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ABSTRACT Social sciences operate at two distinct but interrelated levels – the conceptual-theoretical and observational-empirical. The utilization of these levels is to traverse the array of social, political, economic and environmental problems confronting the human society. The essence of which is to help in problem solving especially through policy formulation to address the problems. Policies are usually based on theoretical and empirical evidence. There is reciprocal relationship between policy and research. Policy formulation is not an end in the continuum process but a means to an end as researches are needed to evaluate, modify or change the policy. The paper further submits that there is little influence of social sciences on policy formulation in Nigeria. The paper identifies several factors responsible for this inefficiency of research results in influencing policy formulation which include inadequate research funds, minimal reconstructive stance, ‘promotion-driven’ research and so on. The paper suggests a massive re-engineering of the field of the social sciences in Nigeria with the establishment of ‘House of Science’ which will facilitate research communication and dissemination to policy makers.