Case Study Template for Panels

- Please provide your input in the boxes below. Format as you wish. Please aim for a ~2 page case study, but if you go longer that is not an issue.
- Your input will be provided to K* conference attendees and to those participating via Webex. It will also eventually appear in the Green Paper.
- Please return to your session chair with copies to alex.bielok@unu.edu and furqan.asif@unu.edu

Case Study Title: Engaging research participants on a sensitive topic

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1. What is/was the context and key challenge(s) in your K* case study?
   a. When, where and how long did this initiative occur, or is it ongoing?
   The Centre for Research on Families and Relationships aims to provide a focus for work on families and relationships and to bring together policy-makers, academics and practitioners on common issues. Over ten years we have developed an interactive approach to K* and regularly link with a range of stakeholders on a variety of topics. Some of our research is on very sensitive topics, e.g. childhood abuse, domestic abuse and families experiencing a range of difficulties. We have developed methods of including these voices in K* work.

2. Who are/were the players and why did/do they need to come together?
   a. What was/is the reach of the initiative?
   Often our research is collaborative, and our success in raising the voices of research participants on sensitive topics has been in collaboration with NGO’s. In one example, a project on male survivors of childhood abuse we involved an artist to work with the men in telling their story to policy-makers and practitioners. The initiatives reached large networks of policy and practice in Scotland.

3. How did/does K* play a role in the story, i.e. tools/techniques/approaches.
   For each project a K* strategy is developed with the relevant partners. In some cases this involves consulting children or young people, and it always involves developing specific tools for communicating, and a strategy to engage with the most relevant decision-makers and practitioners. For example, child actors were employed to speak to works of child participants for TV cameras, young people created a drama from the research findings which was used at a conference and in schools, poems were projected onto the floor of the conference venue, targeted briefings were produced and postcards were sent to schools.

4. What was/is the intended impact/contribution of K* and, if you can, tell us whether K* had an impact and how.
   For some of this work there has been an in-depth impact case study showing that the research and K* activities impacted on alcohol Policy in Scotland and on Sex Education Practice, particularly within one area (over 800 teachers). For another area, we know the work had an impact because the researcher was invited to advise government on the topic.

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April 24-27th, 2012, Hamilton, Ontario

www.tinyurl.com/KStarConference
5. What are the lessons from this example that others should know about/could be transferred, in general and particularly in a resource-limited context?
Think carefully about who should be involved and why, and communicate with them in the best way you can within your resources. Get beyond the traditional research briefing and seminar formats to be more creative. Allow research participants or other unheard voices to be part of the planning and doing of any K* activities.

6. Any other observations...:
Working with research users to help shape K*activities makes them much more relevant and likely to be taken up. Using a variety of methods usually works better than just one.