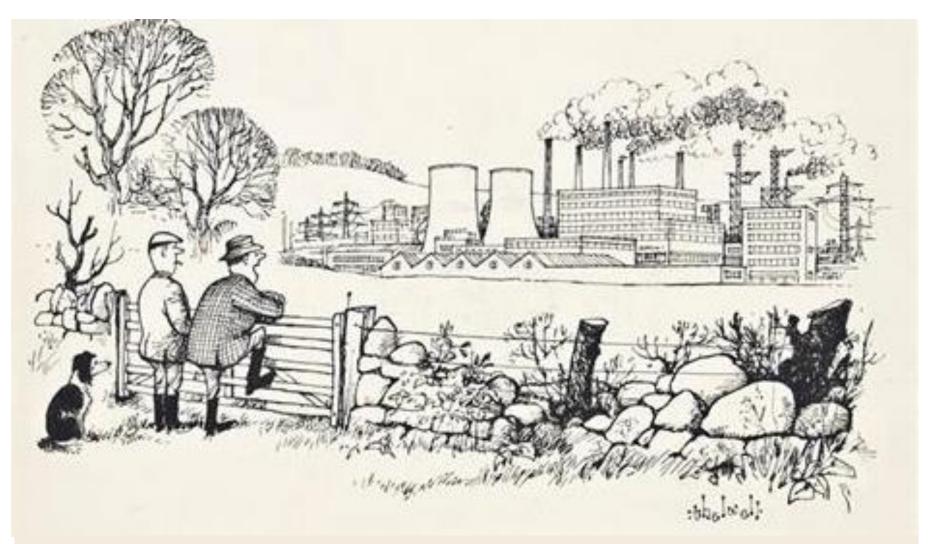




# Scientists, Humans and Other Animals: Negotiating the vocabulary (amongst other things) of Interdisciplinary AMR Research

Henry Buller and Kristen Reyher



'With all them amoxicillins in the water supply now, the pigs don't need any fluoro-whatsits'





Production without medicalization (ESRC) Nature, Materialities and Biopolitics Group

Wellcome
Trust Centre
of Cultures
and
Environments
of Health

Collaborative **Projects** 

**Collaborative studentships** 

**AMR Force** 

One Health
Selection and
Transmission of
Antimicrobial
Resistance
(NERC/BBSRC/
MRC)

Social and Community Medicine

### **Current collaborative interdisciplinary projects**

- A review of current antimicrobial practice in livestock farming to inform appropriate interventions to reduce resistance (Defra, 2015)
- Participatory Policy Making in antimicrobial stewardship (Waitrose Dairy Farmers and Coombe Farm, 2015-2016)
- Understanding on-farm medicine use in dairy cattle: Addressing the knowledge gap (Langford Trust, 2016-2019)
- Reducing antimicrobial use through Farmer Learning Groups (AHDB Dairy, 2016-2019)
- Diagnostic innovation and livestock (DIAL): towards more effective and sustainable applications of antibiotics in livestock farming (ESRC/NIHR/AHRC/BBSRC/MRC/Defra/VMD, 2017-2021)

## Antimicrobial use in selected livestock systems

- Use of medicines is complex, revealing awareness but lack of in-depth knowledge and understanding
- Antimicrobial governance requires regulation, responsibilisation and trust between farmer and vet
- Sector-specific knowledge and data are vital to identify the spaces for change in the trajectories of practice

### Actor motivations (in antimicrobial use)

- Use of medicines is complex
- Our understanding is incomplete
- Stakeholders are more open to change than we might think

Factor	Description
2	THE MODERN BUSINESS - Farming works (The AMR issue may be over-stated. Modern, high-health livestock systems are already working well)
4	THE INTERVENTIONIST - The veterinary extensionist (Reductions in antibiotic use are both justified and achievable and require regulation and veterinary-led farmer education)
1	THE AUTONOMIST: There may be an issue, but it can be sorted inhouse. Incremental improvements will happen and will be taken up.

#### **Actor groupings**

(from Q sort undertaken for Defra funded research)









Participatory
Policy Making
(PPM)



### **Participatory Policy Making**

- Innovative change to fill the void in public policy making
- Empowerment of stakeholders to
  - Formulate
  - Implement
  - Monitor
  - Evaluate
- Achieve sustainable farm practice change
  - More practical and implementable
  - Maintain control and sense of ownership

Presentation to gain understanding of farmer & vet perceptions of use of AMs and AMR & to raise their awareness, then focus groups



Evaluation at end of workshops to identify challenges and benefits to farmers

- 1. Identify policy need
  - 2. Convene policy development team
    - 3. Set policy objectives
  - 4. Formulate policy
- 5. Review draft policy
- 6. Consolidate draft policy
  - 7. Approve policy
- 8. Communicate policy to all producers
- 9. Develop policy implementation tools
- 10. Implement policy
- 11. Evaluate & update

4 regional workshops - all producers and their veterinarians (n=97)



Follow-up meetings with farmer representatives to refine policy

# Interdisciplinary approaches to researching antimicrobial resistance: some reflections

- 1. Getting research results out there
- 2. Exploring the multiple meanings of 'practice'
- 3. Methodological cross-fertilisations
- 4. Mobilisation and Participation

### 1. Getting the research out there

- Working directly with farmers and veterinary practices
- System developed, data exported from vets for benchmarking and development of KPI's
- Development of training material
- ~70% of farmers and veterinarians changed their use of AMs since workshops
- More data coming in





## 2. Exploring the multiple meanings of 'practice'





# 3. Methodological cross-fertlisations



### 4. Mobilisation and Participation

- "made me think about antibiotic use more"
- "knowing the opinions of my fellow producers"
- "ideas for moving our practice forward, using drug usage as part of the Herd Health Plan"
- "helped make policy that works for the farmer"
- 42% felt participation was challenging
- 58% envisaged making changes to AM use as a result of their participation in the workshops







