

**The Institute of Policy Studies/School of Government and the
Association of Social Science Researchers**

Invites you to a seminar

**Five Rules for the Public Practice of a Professional Social
Science**

Presented By

Professor Peter Davis

What are the conditions for the practice of professional social science that is policy relevant and that extends beyond academic boundaries? This is the underlying question addressed in this seminar. It arises out of the experience of being invited to speak in a lecture series at The Treasury and drawing on nearly thirty years of working in the applied and policy-rich environment of the health sector. The public practice of professional social science requires an intellectual and technical infrastructure, and an orientation to the outside world, attributes and conditions that are not often addressed in the conventional academic training and research environment.

Peter Davis is Professor of Sociology at Auckland, with specialisation in health and well-being, and with cross-appointments in population health and in statistics. He is also director of COMPASS, a research centre dedicated to applying advanced methods to social science data and issues, particularly those of policy relevance. He is particularly interested in empirical and policy-relevant research in the social sciences, currently mainly social policy and health services. Previously he was Professor of Public Health at the Christchurch School of Medicine for five years, and had an appointment in Medical Sociology at the Auckland Medical School before that. He is Senior Editor (Health Policy) at the international journal, *Social Science and Medicine*.

Monday 24th August 2009

4.00 – 5.30pm

Lecture Theatre 3, Rutherford House

Bunny Street, Wellington

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“Making Connections” will provide a three-fold focus on Issues, Inquiries, and Ideas, as part of delivering on the School’s commitment to public discussion, academic and practitioner interaction, and robust internal exploration of issues of public policy, public management and research excellence.



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