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Quality of Research Use – early ideas from the Q Project

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1. SOME BACKGROUND

From whether
to how well

INSTITUTE
FOR
GOVERNMENT

Show your workings

Assessing how government uses evidence to
make policy

Jill Rutter and Jen Gold

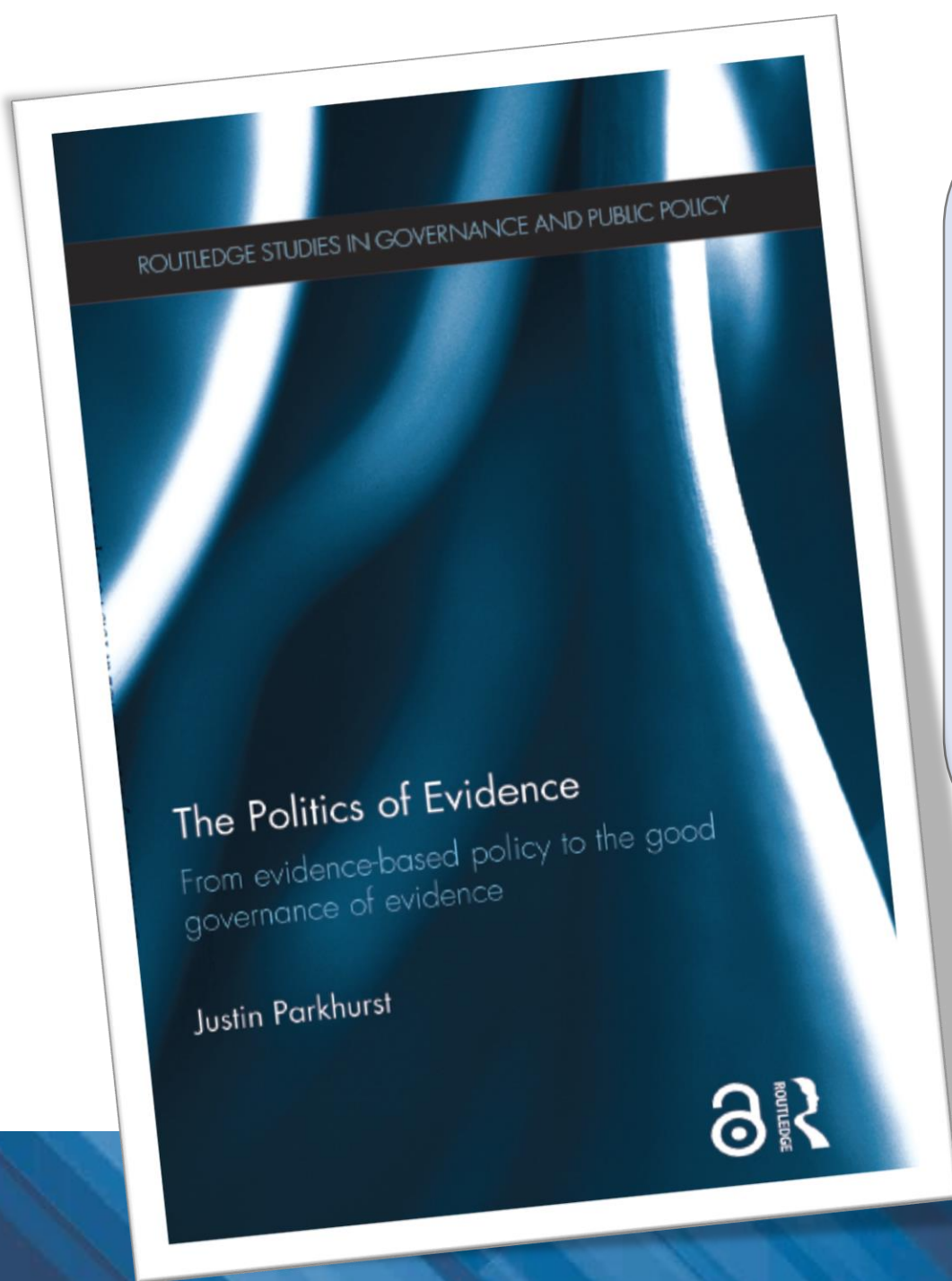
In partnership with



‘This report and framework started with a discussion about whether government departments and public servants **are using evidence well.**’

(Rutter and Gold, 2015: 4)

From quality of
evidence to
quality of use



‘To improve the use of evidence in policy requires an explicit engagement with the question of what constitutes **better use from a political perspective**’

(Parkhurst, 2017: 170)

But what does
this mean
for education?

2.

SOME EARLY IDEAS

The Q Project: Quality Use of Evidence Driving Quality Education



Strand 2

What does it look like
in practice?



Strand 1

How to
conceptualise it?

**Quality
use of
research
evidence in
education**



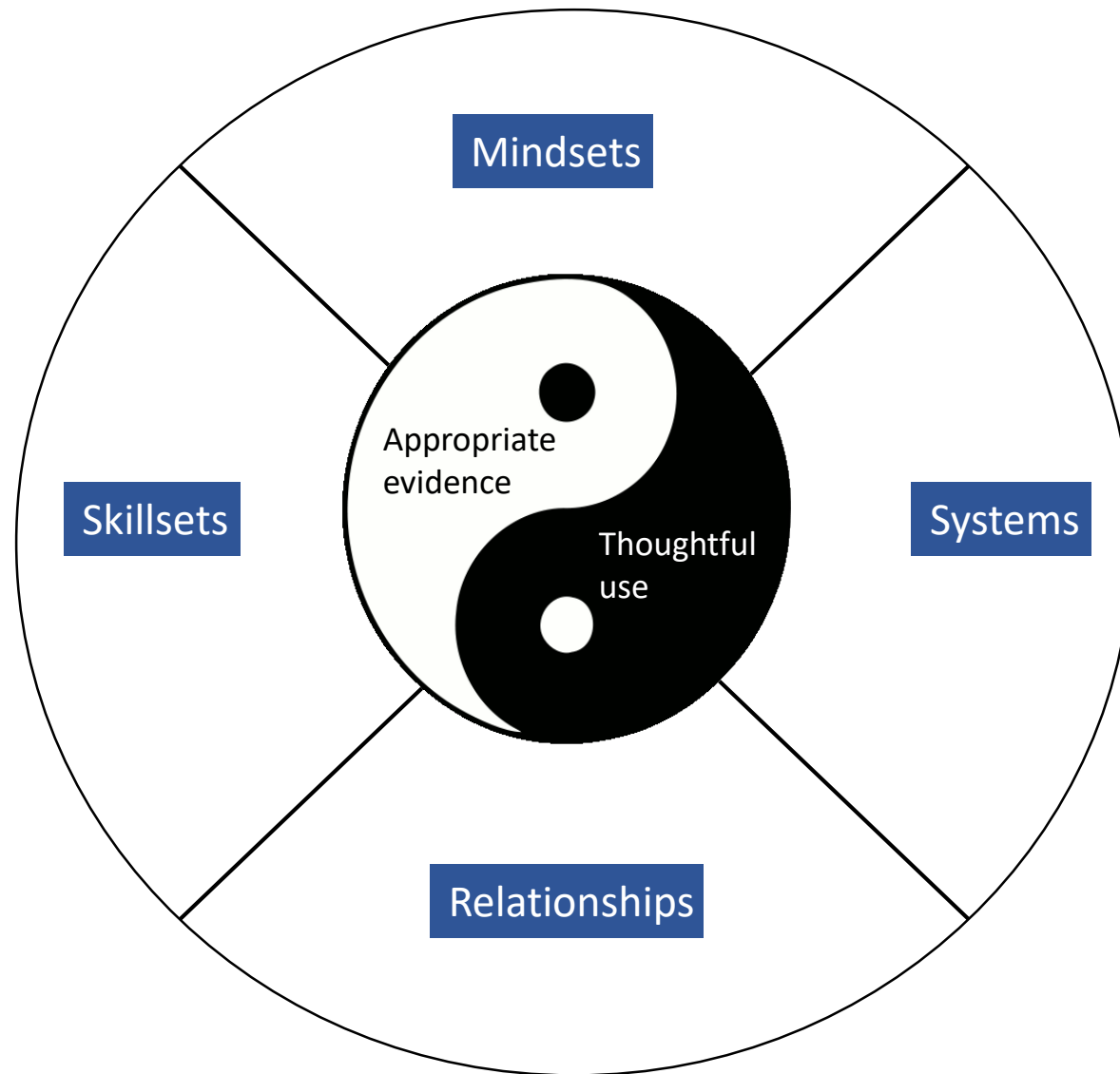
Strand 3

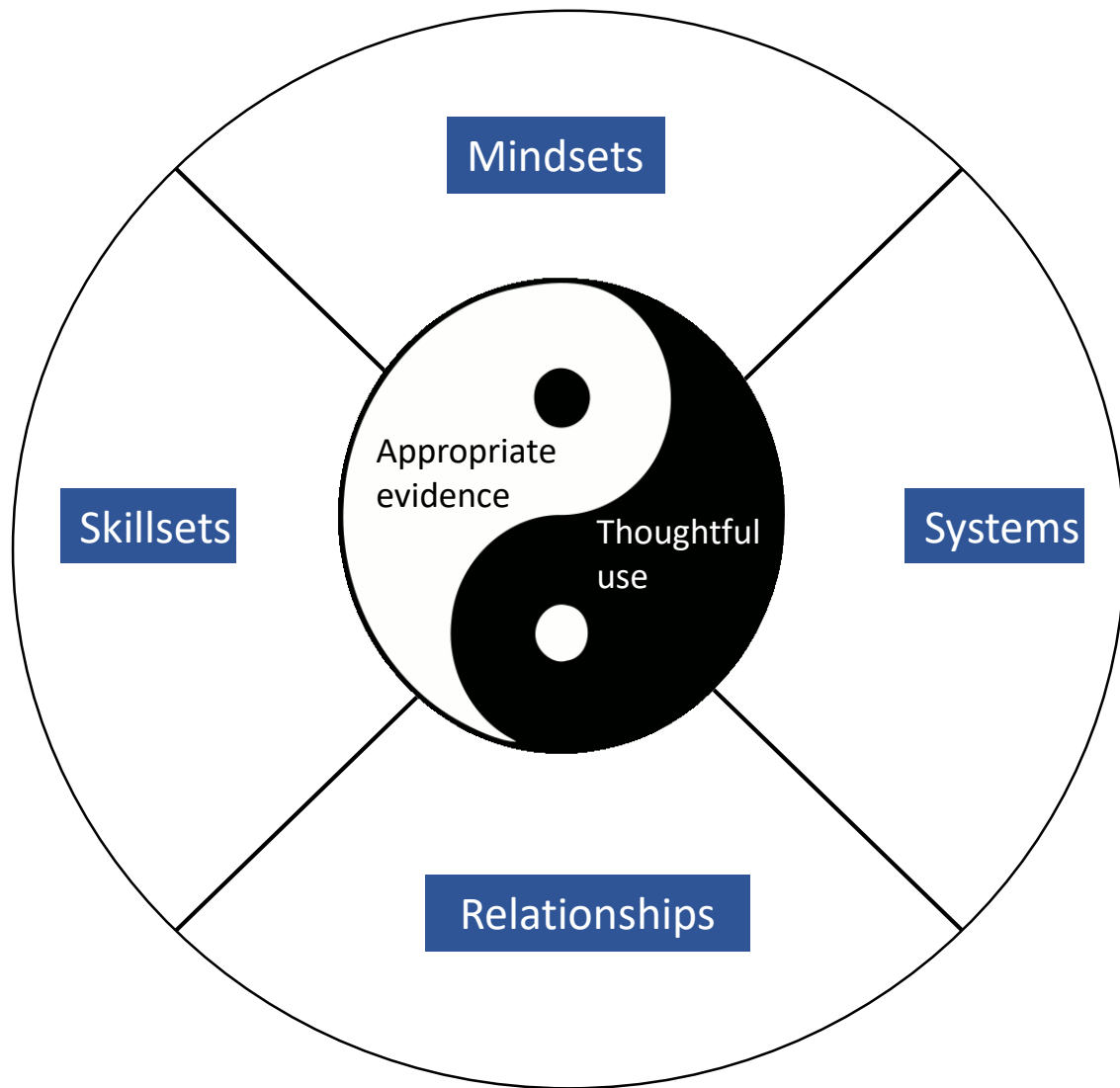
How to develop it
through professional
learning?



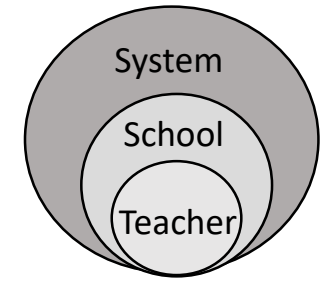
Strand 4

How to embed it
within systems?





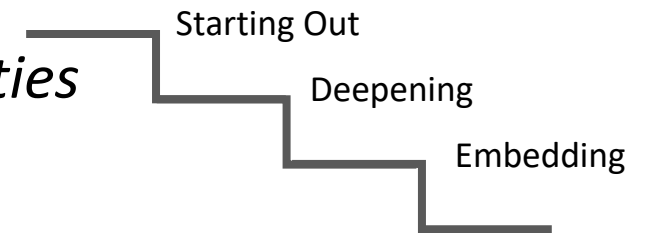
Different *levels*



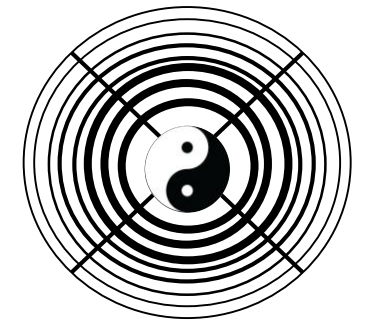
Different *stages*
[Nelson et al., 2017]



Different *maturities*
[Stoll et al., 2018]



Proximal and distal
[cf. Mandinach & Gummer, 2016]



3. SOME NEXT STEPS

Q Project Strand 1

*Quality use of
research evidence ...*

*how has it been
described and
conceptualised
across sectors?*

*how can it be
defined and
conceptualised
in education?*

*how can it be
framed for
education
professionals?*

*Quality
evidence use
professional
framework for
Australian
schools*

- Systematic review/narrative synthesis
- Research and professional publications
- Education + health and social care
- Stakeholder input to locate literature and develop framework

Q Project Strand 1



Relevant literature might include work on:

- what 'using research evidence well' (or poorly) means in a particular field of practice or policy
- the characteristics of evidence use that might be described as thoughtful, wise, effective, deep, productive, intelligent, generative, expert, etc.
- the way in which different levels/competencies/proficiencies of evidence use are defined and elaborated within professional standards or guidance
- the development of instruments/assessments/scales to measure or assess the effectiveness or quality of evidence use by individuals, teams, organisations or systems
- what 'improving evidence use' means/involves at or across the level of individuals, teams, organisations and systems.

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<https://doi.org/10.1332/174426418X15172393826277>

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00131851.2017.1304306>

The Q Project

In partnership with the Paul Ramsay Foundation, the Q project is a major new initiative to improve the use of research evidence in Australian schools. It started in early 2019 and will run for five years.

[Download project overview \(pdf\)](#)

[Watch project video](#)

[Read project launch announcement](#)