
From: IIHMRU President Office <presidentoffice@iihmr.edu.in>
Sent: 17 September 2025 10:09 AM
To: Snehgda Biswas
Subject: Master Class Ep. 142 ||"Thinking in systems: how policymakers shape health research in LMIC"|| Friday, September 19, 2025, 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM IST / 12: 30 PM -1:30 PM BST (Online)

Dear Snehgda Biswas,

Greetings for the day.

Hope this email finds you in great health.

IIHMR University takes the lead to organize a series of Master Classes specially curated for the students to enlighten and share insights on issues and initiatives of current interest. The University is conducting a session on September 19, 2025– from 5 – 6 PM IST / 12.30 -1.30 PM BST IST.

The masterclass will help students to understand “Thinking in systems: how policymakers shape health research in LMIC”.

Title – “Thinking in systems: how policymakers shape health research in LMIC”

Guest Speaker: Dr. Meike Schlieff, Associate Professor, Health System and Policy, University College of London, U.K

Moderator: Dr. Piyusha Majumdar, Associate Professor, SD Gupta School of public health, IIHMR University, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Student Co-Ordinator: Ms. Linda Heigrum, MPH (IS) Cohort 2, IIHMR University, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India.

Date: Friday, September 19, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM – 6: 00 PM IST / 12:30 PM-1:30 PM BST

Mode: Online

Meeting Link:

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

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Meeting ID: 452 074 557 662 2

Passcode: mM3Z45NB

The Session will be of Approx 45 minutes followed by 15-minute question-answer session (1 Hour duration). The target audience will be MPH (IS- Cohort 2), MPH (JHU Cohort 12) & MPH -Cohort 1(New Batch) along with Faculties and Team Members of Placements & Alumni Relations.



Thanks and Regards



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IIHMR UNIVERSITY, JAIPUR

EVENT OUTCOME REPORT

“Master Class Episode 142”

“Master Class Episode 142”
TOPIC: Thinking in Systems: how policy makers shape health research in LMIC
DATE: September 19, 2025, 05:00 PM – 06:00 PM IST
VENUE: IIHMR University, Jaipur (ONLINE MODE)
SPEAKER: Dr. Meike Schlieff, Associate Professor, Health System and Policy, University College of London, UK.
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 45 Participants (MPH JHU, MPH-IS Cohort 2, MPH 2025-27)
INTRODUCTION: The Master Class 142 session titled “ Thinking in Systems: how policy makers shape health research in LMIC. ” was held on September 19, 2025 , at IIHMR University in online mode. The session was coordinated by Ms. Linda Heigrujam , an MPH- IS Cohort 2 student, moderated by Dr. Piyusha Majumdar , Associate Professor and Program Coordinator, SD Gupta School of Public Health, Jaipur. The guest speaker, Dr. Meike Schlieff , is an Associate professor, currently working in Health System and Policy, University College of London, UK.
OBJECTIVE: The objective of “Thinking in Systems: how policy makers shape health research in LMICs” can be understood from the broader literature on systems thinking in health policy and systems research (HPSR). The main objective is to understand and improve how policymakers influence health research in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) by using a systems thinking approach.
SALIENT NOVEL POINTS COVERED 1. Introduction to the health system in LMICs and its importance. The health system in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) plays a pivotal role in improving health outcomes and reducing health inequities. Understanding how the health system functions—its structures, financing, delivery mechanisms, and policy framework—can empower policymakers, researchers, and healthcare providers to design interventions that are contextually relevant and sustainable. By grasping the intricacies of the health system, stakeholders in LMICs can identify gaps, optimize resources, and tailor health research to address the unique challenges faced by these populations, ultimately shaping more effective, evidence-based strategies for health improvement. 2. Policy maker engagement Sharing evidence-based information with policymakers. Encouraging them to recognize and prioritize specific issues. Working collaboratively so policies are more practical, sustainable, and impactful. Different strategies of engagement are used along with the identification of enablers and barriers at each level of the individual, organizational, and system. Collaboration between the policy makers and researchers is important to ensure decisions are informed by evidence and ground realities. Policies last longer when decision-makers are invested. Engaged policymakers are more likely to allocate funding.

3. Policy as a process (or cycle)

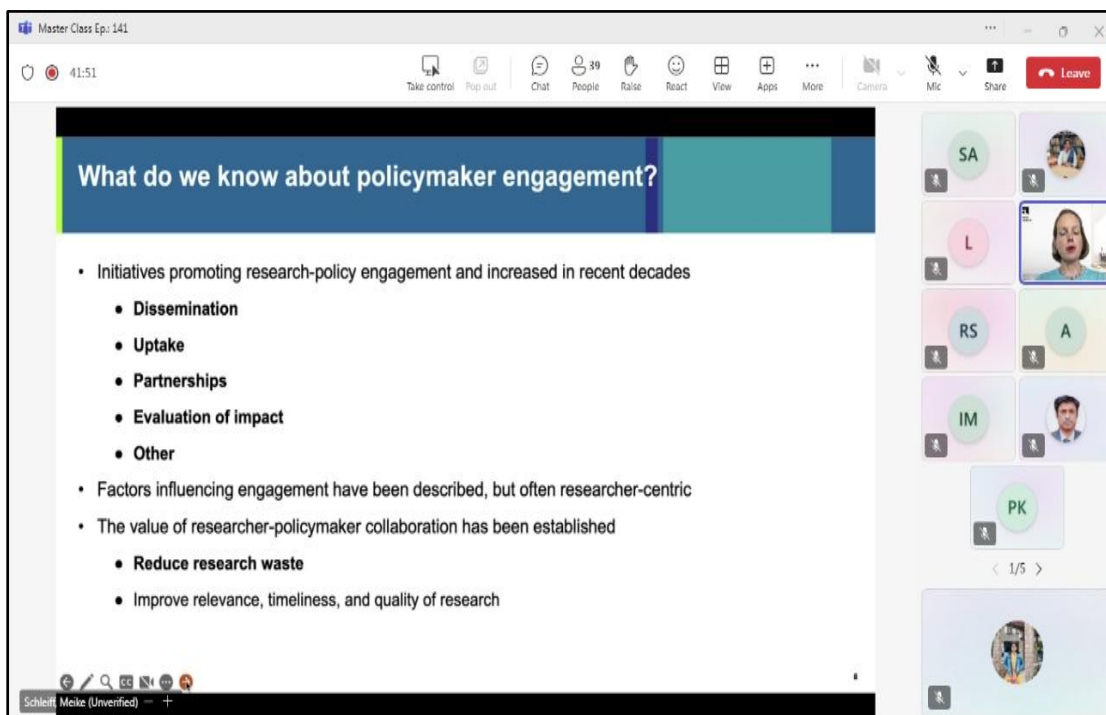
It involves multiple stages to develop a policy. For an effective policy the relationship of a researcher, policymaker, and donor is crucial. Starting from problem identification to sustaining the policy, the competence of a policy maker and researcher defines the value of the policy.

4. Learning within the Health system and stakeholder engagement

The health system is a self-learning, self-sustaining, complex adaptive system. There are different ways of learning in a health system. Learning within the health system ensures adaptation and improvement through evidence and experience. But these are guided by health policies. Thus, an evidence-based health policy is needed. Also, the involvement of all the stakeholders is as important as the policymaker's engagement. Many other stakeholders are involved in making a policy thus ensuring policies and programs are inclusive, feasible, and sustainable. Sharing evidence in ways tailored to stakeholder needs.

Q&A and Interactive Session: The session had an interactive session where the students raised questions on specific health policies and also who to dispute conflict of interest among policy makers and researchers. The speaker addressed the queries raised.

Conclusion: The master class overall was very insightful giving us a wider view of health research. Health research gains value when it is co-produced, communicated in policy-relevant ways, and aligned with national agendas. Likewise, policymakers play a critical role in creating enabling environments for research uptake—through supportive policies, funding, and governance structures. Ultimately, strengthening this dynamic relationship requires fostering learning health systems, building trust between researchers and decision-makers, and ensuring that communities' voices are integrated into both research and policy.



Master Class Ep.: 141

42:23

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Barriers and enablers: policymaker perspectives from the literature

Level	Enabler (n)	Barrier (n)
Individual	<p>Researchers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing practical and expert advice to policymakers (14) Consistent, respectful and timely communication (7) Tailored communication strategies (i.e. framing data in a clear, brief and direct manner) (6) Being useful to policymakers (6) <p>Policymakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intrinsic interest in research (5) Identifying the research needs to be addressed (3) <p>Both</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leveraging personal and professional networks (13) Mutual trust, respect, and appreciation (10) Motivated leaders and champions (9) Continuous and iterative exchanges (8) 	<p>Researchers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of skills to understand policy-making processes and work in collaboration with policymakers (21) Limited and inconsistent engagement (4) Use overly complex language and lengthy reports (3) Lack of transparency in the research (2) <p>Policymakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited time and resources for engaging in and conducting research while balancing other responsibilities (4) Lack or insufficient research skills (4) <p>Both</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mismatch in priorities, values, perceptions and expectations (13) Mistrust between researchers and policymakers (3)
Organizational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutionalizing collaboration through partnerships, formal agreements and initiatives (i.e. secondments, researcher in-residence) (18) Defining goals, roles, responsibilities and mechanisms for conflict resolution clearly from the outset of collaboration (16) Supportive institutions (11) Maintaining regular and open communication channels (7) Alignment with policy needs and priorities (5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of infrastructure, regulations, funding or communication channels (22) Differences in academic and policy needs, interests, objectives and incentives (7) Mismatch in timelines between researchers and policymakers, including funding timelines (6)
Contextual/System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirement of engagement by research funders (4) Integration of research into decision-making (4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health system organization and structure (i.e. centralized decision-making and bureaucratic processes) (10) Government turnover (3) Concentration of collaborative networks (2)

Schleif, Meike (Unverified)

Master Class Ep.: 141

44:14

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Exmple: Expert consultation process: Development of digital health research priorities

Initial invitation (Sep 2023) → 1st meeting (Virtual, Oct 2023) → 2nd Meeting (Hybrid, Nov-Dec 2023) → 3rd Meeting (Virtual, Jan-Feb 2024) → Final report feedback

Survey 1: backgrounds and experiences
Survey 2: Research topic list refinement and ranking
Survey 3: Feedback on the process

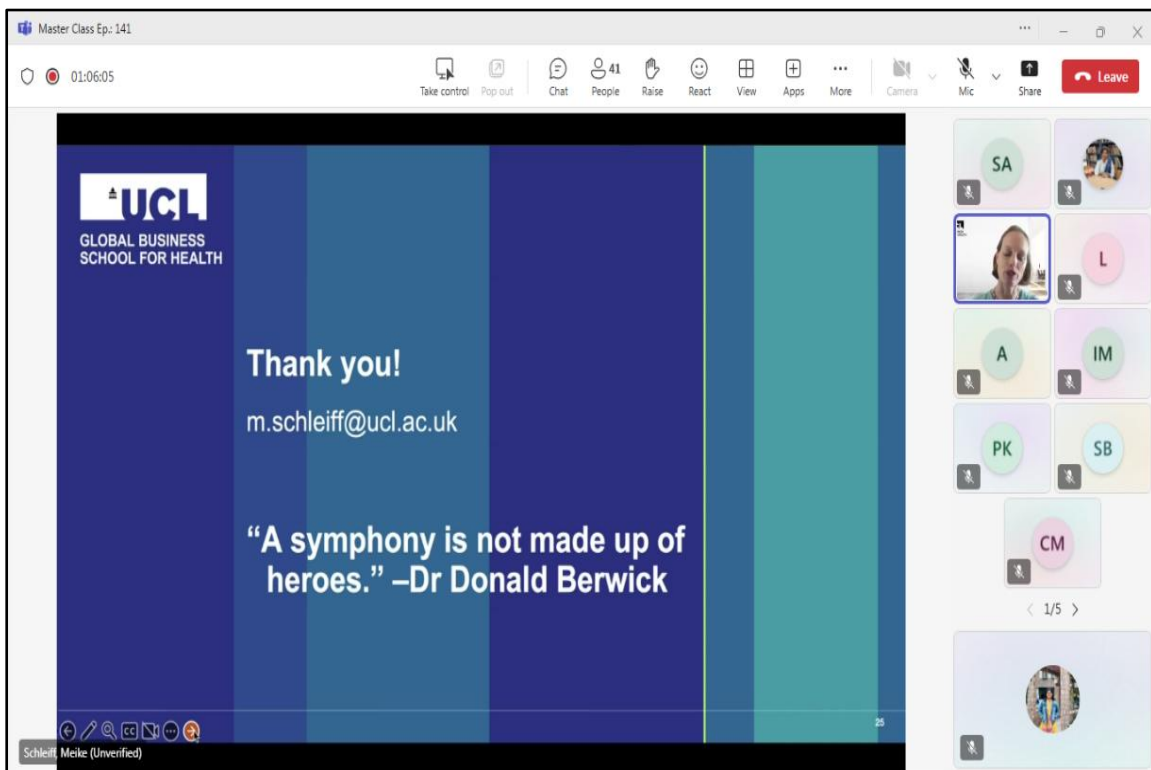
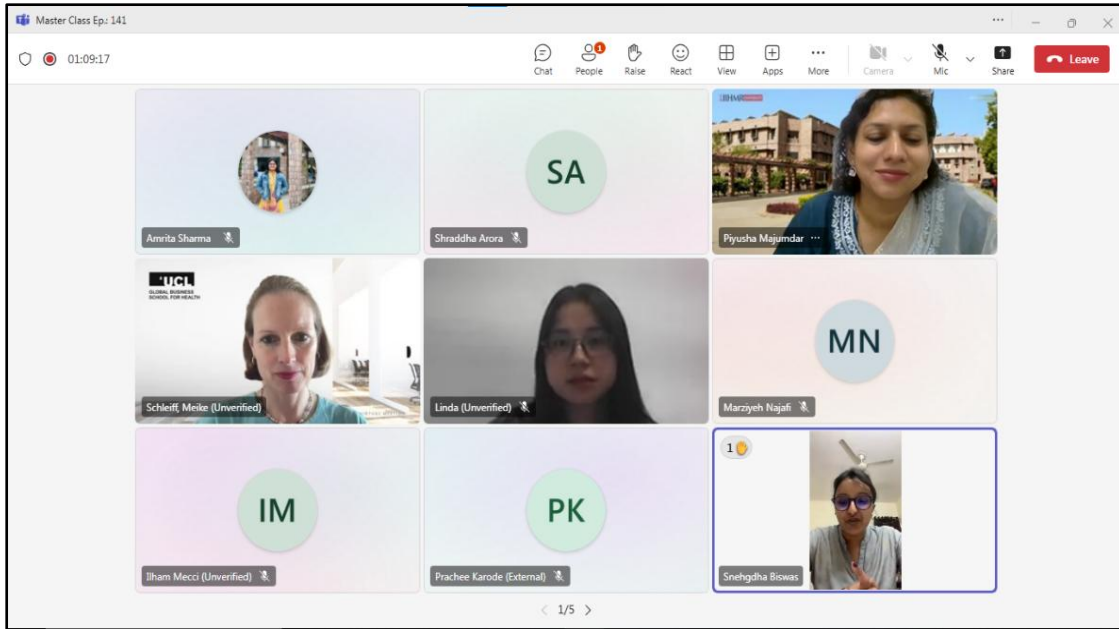
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- Amrita Sharma
- A Abdifatah (Unverified)
- AB Abdullah Mohammed Saeed Bahais...
- AG Aisha Abdullahi Gure
- AT Akansha Tyagi (External)
- AY Anupama Yadav
- A0 Arpana Kurwati MPH O... (Unverified)
- AS Ayan Mohamed Salad
- AD Aziza Mohammed Derhem
- CM Christina Maria (Unverified)
- DS DR S SNEHA (Unverified)
- DT Dr. Tripti (Unverified)

Schleif, Meike (Unverified)

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05:15 PM 19-09-2025



Thinking in systems: how policymakers shape health research in LMIC

 Friday, September 19, 2025  5:00 PM – 6:00 PM IST / 12:30 – 1:30 PM BST



MODERATOR

Dr. Piyusha Majumdar

Associate Professor,
SD Gupta School of public health
IIHMR University, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India



SPEAKER

Dr. Meike Schlieff

Associate Professor
Health System and Policy
University College of London, U.K



STUDENT CO-ORDINATOR

Ms. Linda Heigrujam

MPH (IS) Cohort 2
IIHMR University
Jaipur, Rajasthan, India



Sr, No.	1. Summary		
	Meeting title	Master Class Ep.: 142	
	Attended participants	45	
	Start time	9/19/25, 4:30:56 PM	
	End time	9/19/25, 6:50:48 PM	
	Meeting duration	2h 19m 51s	
	Average attendance time	49m 43s	
	2. Participants		
	Name	First Join	Role
1	Shraddha Arora	9/19/25, 4:37:18 PM	Presenter
2	Piyusha Majumdar	9/19/25, 4:42:14 PM	Presenter
3	Linda (Unverified)	9/19/25, 4:42:38 PM	Presenter
4	Amrita Sharma	9/19/25, 4:45:07 PM	Presenter
5	Saurabh Kumar	9/19/25, 4:54:23 PM	Presenter
6	Refka Sallam	9/19/25, 4:55:40 PM	Presenter
7	Abdifatah (Unverified)	9/19/25, 4:56:04 PM	Presenter
8	Ilham Mecci (Unverified)	9/19/25, 4:56:07 PM	Presenter
9	priya shrivastava mph coh	9/19/25, 4:56:08 PM	Presenter
10	Snehgdha Biswas	9/19/25, 4:56:09 PM	Presenter
11	Prachee Karode	9/19/25, 4:56:09 PM	Presenter
12	Christina Maria (Unverified)	9/19/25, 4:56:15 PM	Presenter
13	Shahajanna Bhattacharjee	9/19/25, 4:56:16 PM	Presenter
14	Nadeen Riyadh Taha Abdul	9/19/25, 4:56:24 PM	Presenter
15	Km Mandakini	9/19/25, 4:56:24 PM	Presenter
16	Kusum Kc	9/19/25, 4:56:51 PM	Presenter
17	jawaahir yuusuf	9/19/25, 4:57:07 PM	Presenter
18	usha kiran	9/19/25, 4:57:14 PM	Presenter
19	Ravsheen Sandhu	9/19/25, 4:57:35 PM	Presenter
20	Aziza Mohammed Derhem	9/19/25, 4:57:37 PM	Presenter
21	Mohini Kanik	9/19/25, 4:57:48 PM	Presenter
22	Ayan Mohamed Salad	9/19/25, 4:57:50 PM	Presenter
23	DR S SNEHA (Unverified)	9/19/25, 4:58:27 PM	Presenter
24	Schleiff, Meike	9/19/25, 4:59:07 PM	Presenter
25	read.ai meeting notes (Unv	9/19/25, 4:59:31 PM	Presenter
26	Anupama Yadav	9/19/25, 4:59:46 PM	Presenter
27	Dr. Tripti (Unverified)	9/19/25, 4:59:57 PM	Presenter
28	Tejas Wd (Unverified)	9/19/25, 5:00:30 PM	Presenter
29	kalyani (Unverified)	9/19/25, 5:01:15 PM	Presenter
30	Dr.Kunal Parmatr (Unverifi	9/19/25, 5:01:15 PM	Presenter
31	Marziyeh Najafi	9/19/25, 5:01:23 PM	Presenter
32	Abdullah Mohammed Saee	9/19/25, 5:01:44 PM	Presenter
33	Arpana Kurwati MPH 0165	9/19/25, 5:02:21 PM	Presenter
34	Monali Jageshwar Chute (U	9/19/25, 5:05:02 PM	Presenter
35	Aisha Abdullahi Gure	9/19/25, 5:05:33 PM	Presenter
36	Shreya Tiwari (Unverified)	9/19/25, 5:05:42 PM	Presenter
37	Akansha Tyagi	9/19/25, 5:06:09 PM	Presenter

38	Tripti Bisawa	9/19/25, 5:06:39 PM	Presenter
39	kalyani kumari	9/19/25, 5:07:00 PM	Presenter
40	Mona Sahu	9/19/25, 5:10:35 PM	Presenter
41	Patel Harshana Jayendrab	9/19/25, 5:10:37 PM	Presenter
42	Kunal Parmar	9/19/25, 5:20:22 PM	Presenter
43	Ashish Yadav	9/19/25, 5:21:07 PM	Presenter
44	Nimisha Mohekar (Unverifi	9/19/25, 5:33:46 PM	Presenter
45	Bhaskar Tiwary (Unverified	9/19/25, 5:40:07 PM	Presenter