

Conference Name: HuSoc Seoul – Humanities & Social Sciences International Conference, 17-18 June 2026
Conference Dates: 17-Jun- 2026 to 18-Jun- 2026
Conference Venue: Kwangwoon University, 20 Gwangun-ro, Nowon-gu, Seoul, South Korea
Appears in: PEOPLE: International Journal of Social Sciences (ISSN 2454-5899)
Publication year: 2026

Teresa Edwards, 2026

Volume 2026, pp. 473

DOI- <https://doi.org/10.20319/icssh.2026.473>

This paper can be cited as Edwards, T. (2026). *Who Really is the Policy Problem: Rethinking Policy Design*. HuSoc Seoul – Humanities & Social Sciences International Conference, 17-18 June 2026. *Proceedings of Social Science and Humanities Research Association (SSHRA)*, 2026, 473

WHO REALLY IS THE POLICY PROBLEM: RETHINKING POLICY DESIGN

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Abstract

This presentation will explore the essential role that personal experiences should play in shaping and informing policy development. Effective policy design requires a thorough analysis of issues, potential solutions, and anticipated outcomes. While experts in policy research and implementation have established methodologies for framing problems, evaluating interventions, and projecting impacts, this approach often overlooks the perspectives of those directly affected by these issues and the informal aspects of the policy-making process. The presentation will highlight a collaboration between university research and civil society in Australia that began in 2019, showing how policy initiatives can prioritise and elevate the voices of those impacted, such as single mothers, while adhering to the university's guidelines and ethical considerations. By showcasing recent examples, the presentation will illustrate how this methodology, combined with intentional framing, enhances overall effectiveness, particularly in addressing concerns about gender inequality.

Keywords:

Policy Development, Lived Experience, Civil Society Collaboration, Gender Inequality, Single Mothers