

Scientific governance: excellence and impact



Robert Braun

**Towards a
sociology of
excellence:
constructing and
deconstructing
scientific impact**
7th - 7 May, 2021

@Masaryk University 2021



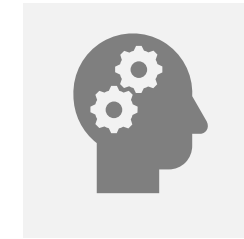
Completion

What you need to do?



Participate

seminar
(online)



One academic
blog post

The academic blog
should reflect some
current
sociotechnical
challenge,
addressed via
learnings acquired
in the course (250-
500 words)

Specific
assignment(s)

+

TBD



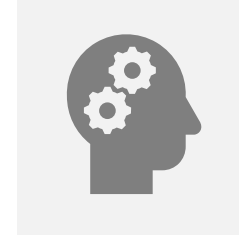
Final paper

the final paper will
address a specific
question within the
realm of STS and
analyze it according
to general academic
practice, (2500-
3000 words)



What will happen?

The course



Science & society: the beginnings

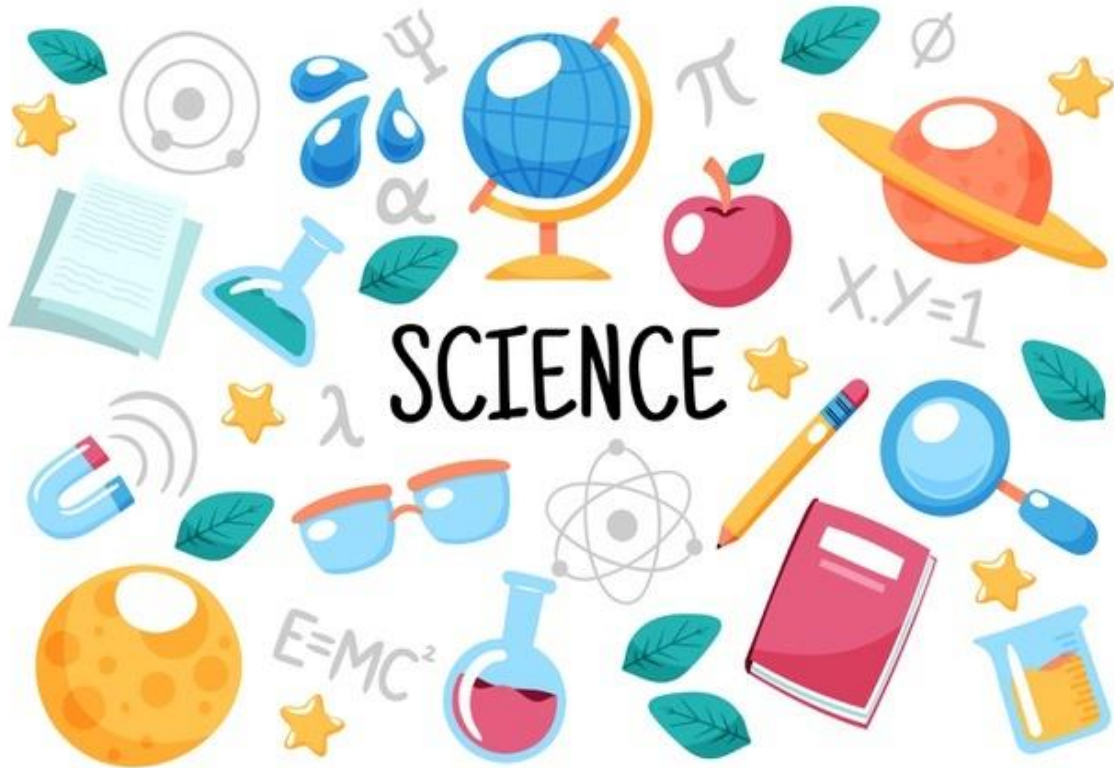
- What is science?
- The politics of science
- The beginnings of science policy

Science & society: Creating the idea of excellence

- What is science policy?
- The Republic of Science
- Measuring excellence
- The European Research Council

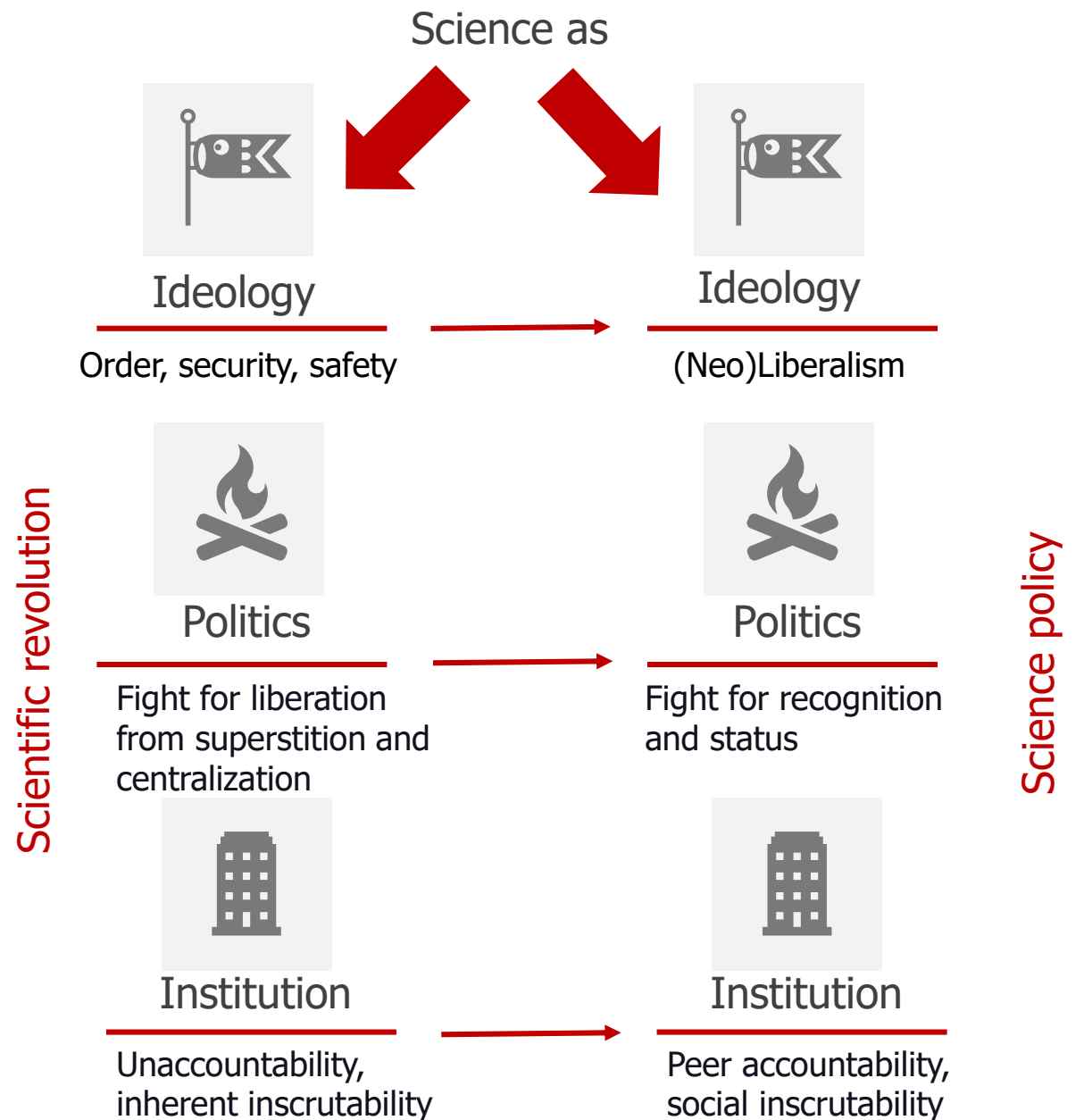
Science & society: Critique of excellence

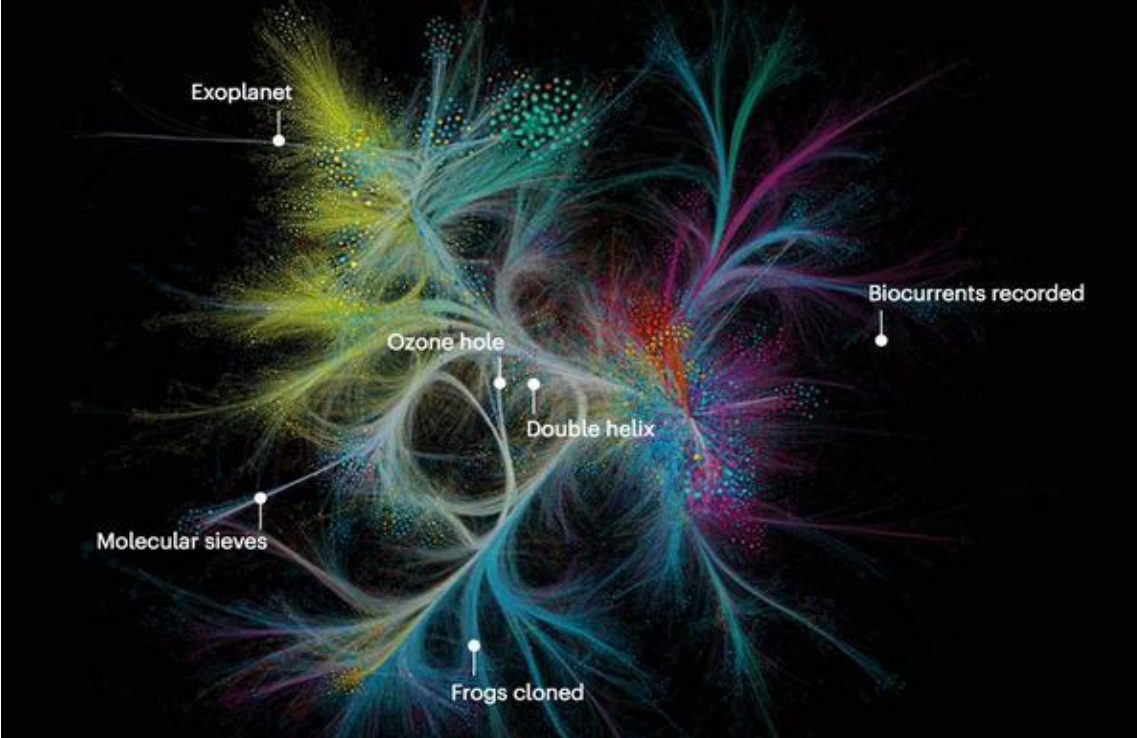
- ✓ Responsible research and innovation
- “Destitute excellence”:
decolonizing science
- The future of “excellence”



What is science?

Hood & Wilson: The literature of bibliometrics, scientometrics, and informetrics

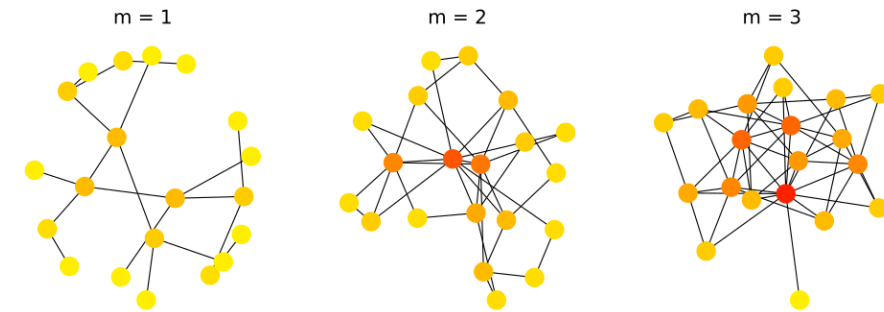




What is the science of science?

Hood & Wilson: The literature of bibliometrics, scientometrics, and informetrics

Science as institution



- **Imagined** as chemistry: ideas and scientific outputs as atoms, molecules and molecular transactional processes;
- **Operated** as mathematical physics: arithmetized interactions between constituents of the observable scientific universe;
- **Analysed** as creating economic value and as the production, distribution, and consumption of scientific goods and services.



What is excellence?

A (new) definition



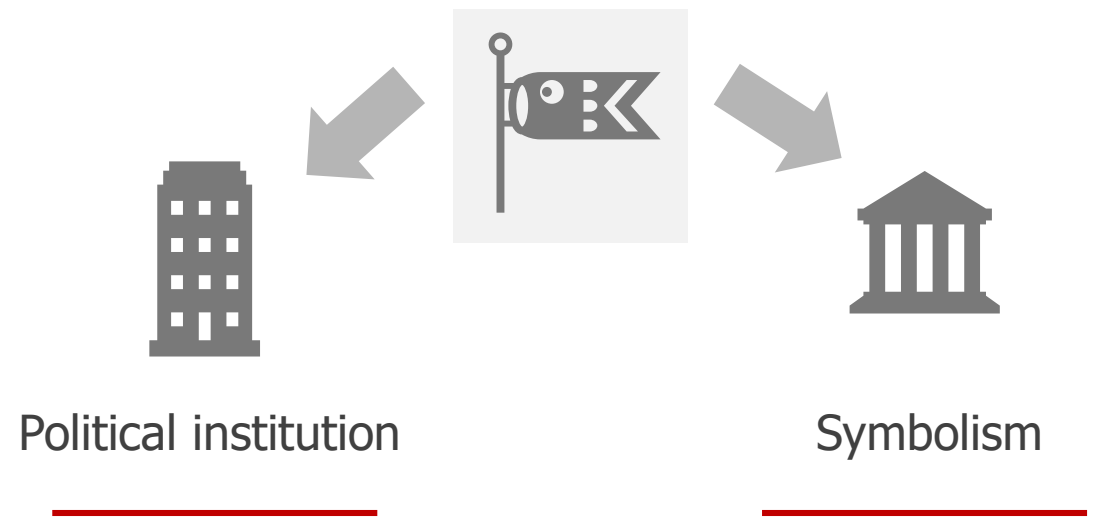
Excellence

- Excellence is the institution representing and operating the nomocratic order that is science.
- Science is a space produced ("the ever new frontier") of which epistemic violence is constitutive and, as it is bracketed, it is normalized to include/exclude knowledges and their subjects.
- The "science of science" is the map, producing space and the nomos (order made visible). "Just" and "unjust" enemies are created, frontiers are colonized by the sovereign that is "Western" science, operated by the "laws of scientometrics" the power/violence that is its apparatus.



What is excellence?

recap



Politics comprises all efforts directed at collective goal attainment, anything from the preparation of collective harvesting to the smooth operation of a voluntary association. Differentiated, complex societies can not cope without an extensive set of distinct regulatory institutions directed at societal goal attainment.

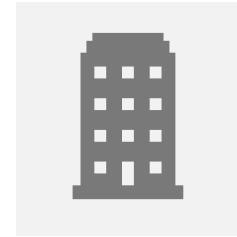
van der Wusten, H. (2012) Symbols in political centres. Where they are and what they mean, *Belgeo*.

Symbols are manifestations of the deeply felt human need to order. Order is socially cued and of human construction. Symbols are the artifacts or objectifications of this search for meaning.

Rothman R. (1981) Political Symbolism. In: Long S.L. (eds) The Handbook of Political Behavior. Springer.



Imagined as chemistry: ideas and scientific outputs as atoms, molecules and molecular transactional processes;
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Analysed as creating economic value and as the production, distribution, and consumption of scientific goods and services.



The chemistry of excellence

Measuring units of thought



The physics of excellence

Measuring interactions of objects and subjects of science



The economics of excellence

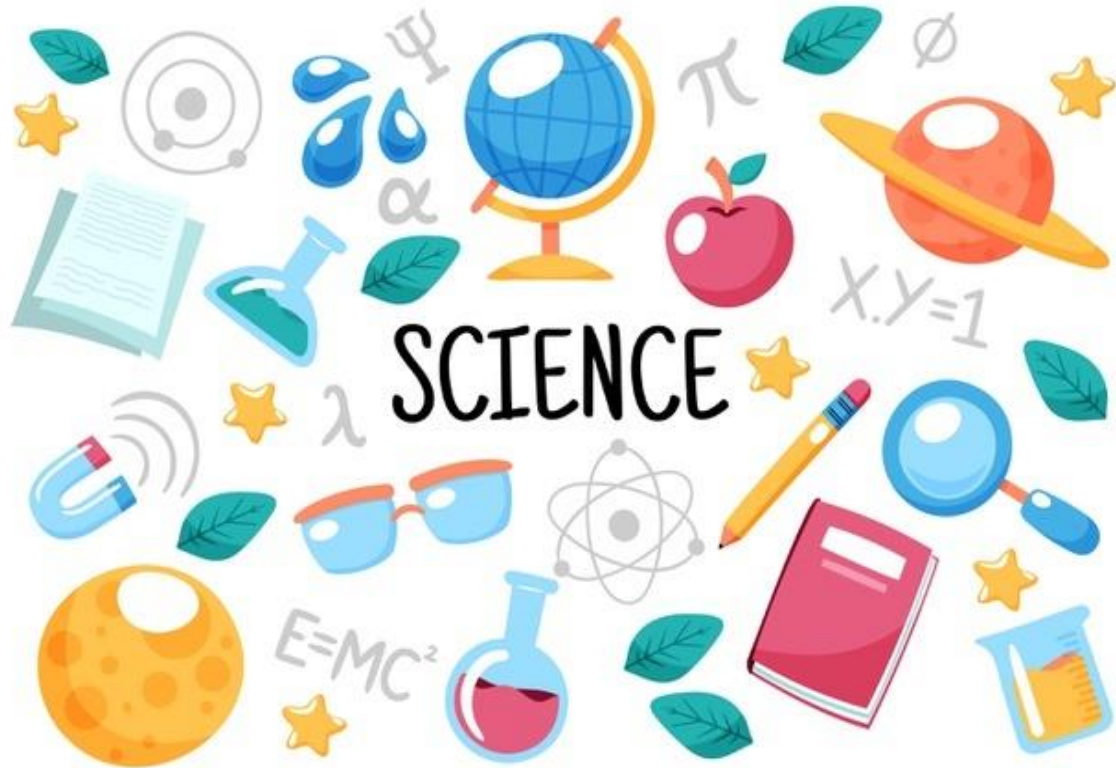
Measuring economic impact (+creating headline indicators, like Hirsch index)

A regulatory institution directed at economic goal attainment

An objectification of the search for order.

What is excellence?

recap



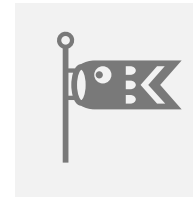
What is science?

Hood & Wilson: The literature of bibliometrics, scientometrics, and informetrics

Excellence as

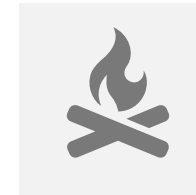
Scientific excellence

deconstructing excellence



Ideology

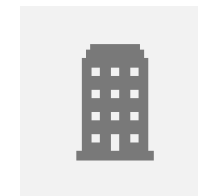
Nomocracy



Politics

Colonization

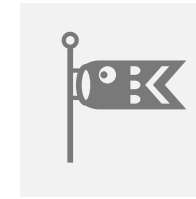
Epistemic injustice



Institution

Unaccountability,
inherent inscrutability

Peer accountability,
social inscrutability



Ideology

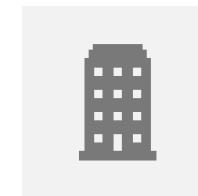
Democracy



Politics

Decolonization

Epistemic equitability



Institution

Social inclusion

Democratic control

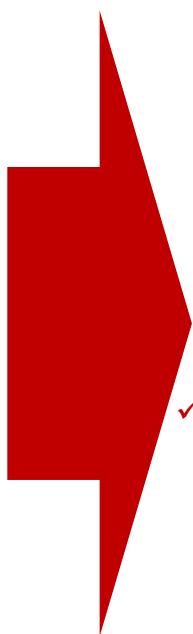
Lay accountability

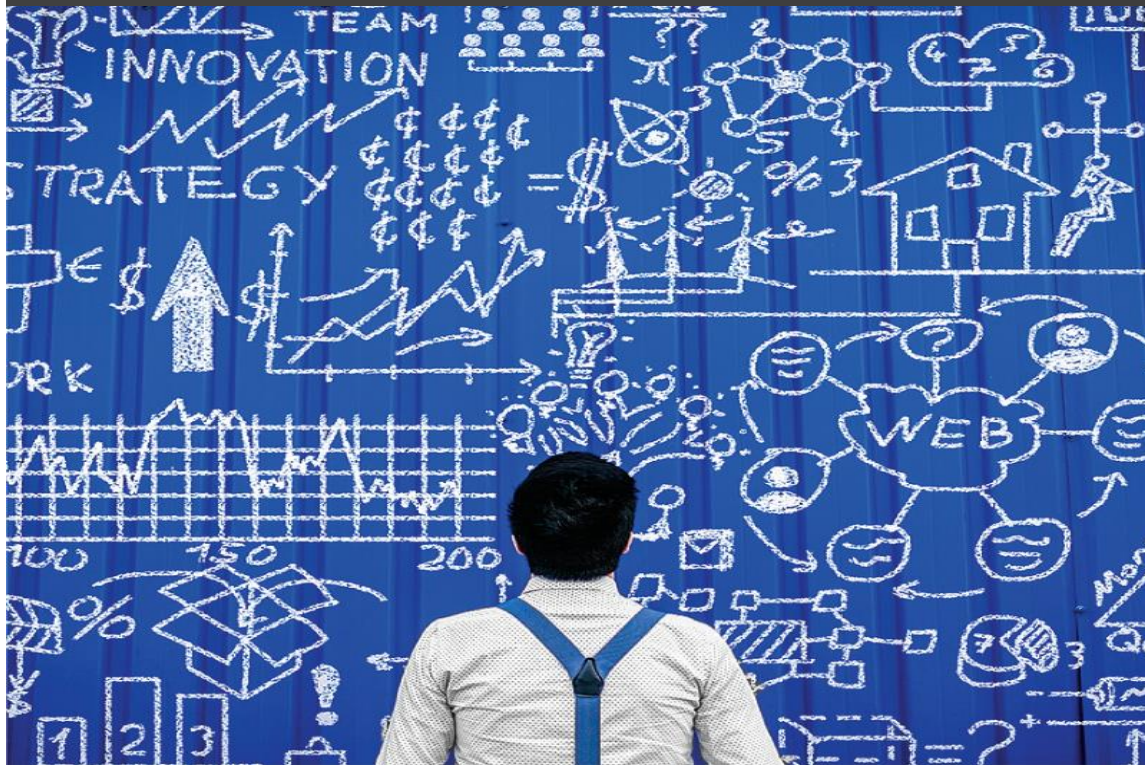


What is excellence?

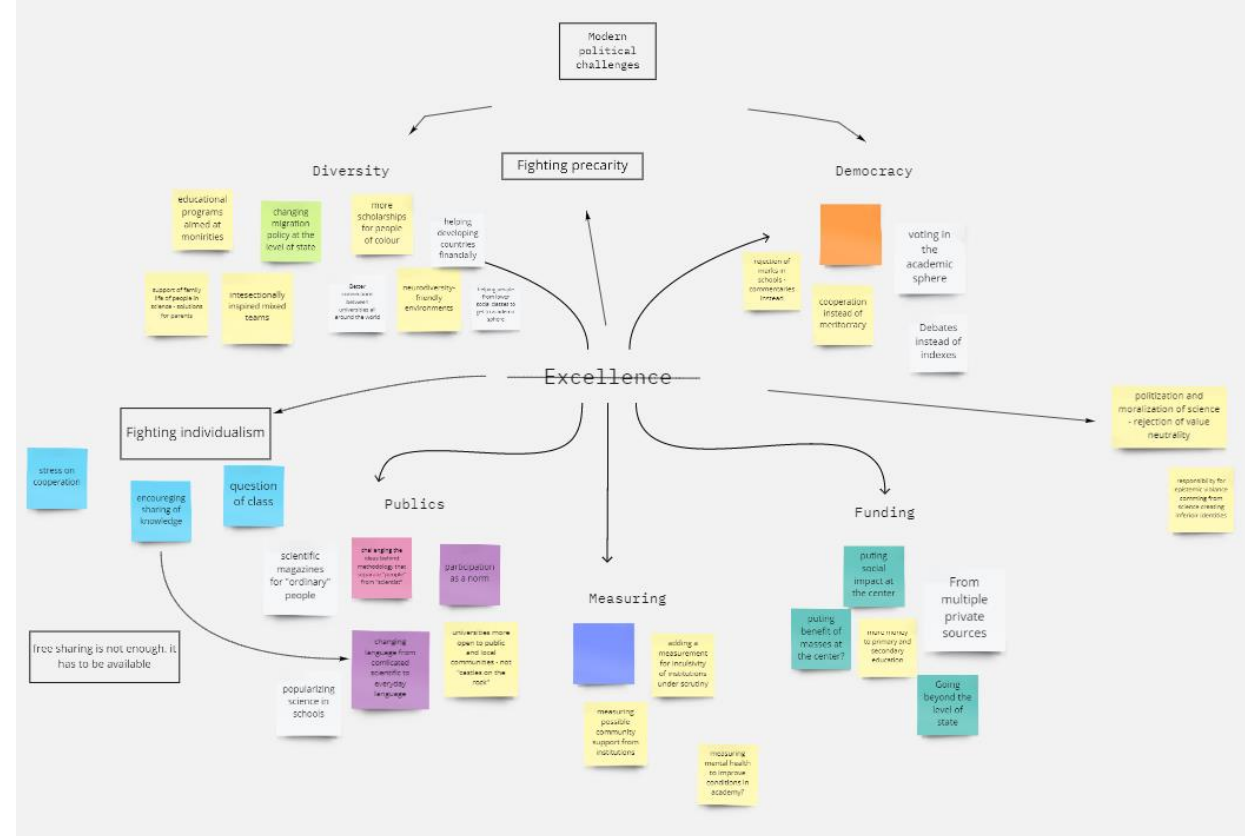


Deconstructing Excellence


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- 
- ✓ Questioning the nomocratic order that is science.
 - ✓ Rethinking space/frontier and addressing it as "camp".
 - ✓ Decolonizing science: addressing sovereignty questions and critically assessing the power/violence that is its apparatus.



Alternative conceptualizations to excellence



https://miro.com/app/board/o9J_ILQkC-o=/



Responsible Research and Innovation

Taking care of the future through collective
stewardship of science and innovation in the
present.

Stilgoe et al (2013)

Entering into RRI

What's in it for me? Play your part in Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)

Stakeholders

Policy Makers



Research Community



Education Community




Business and Industry





Civil Society Organisations





Policy Agendas


 Ethics

 Gender Equality

 Governance

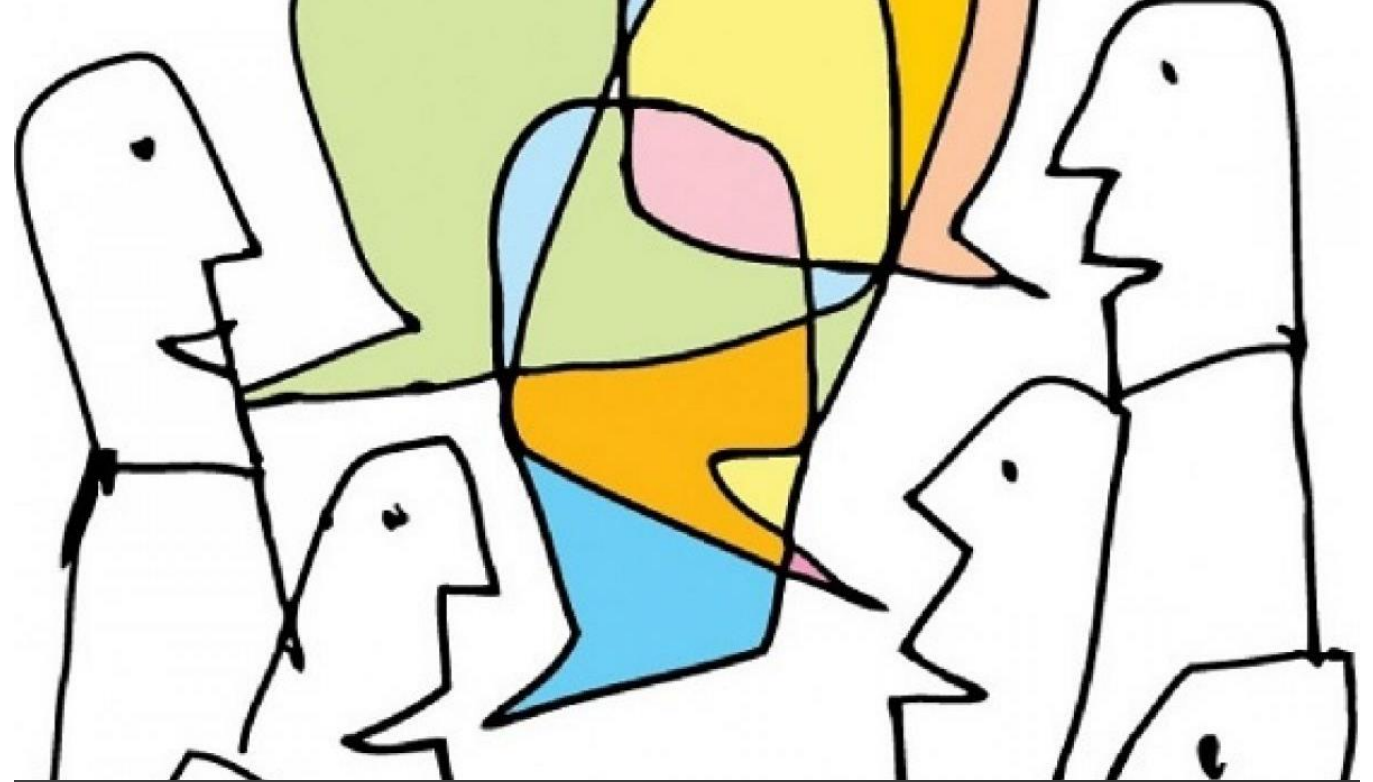
 Open Access

 Public Engagement

 Science Education

- Responsible Research and Innovation is a **transparent**, interactive process by which societal actors and innovators become mutually responsive to each other with a view to the (ethical) **acceptability**, **sustainability** and societal **desirability** of the innovation process and its marketable products (in order to allow a proper embedding of scientific and technological advances in our society)

- Von Schomberg, Rene (2012)



Responsibility

Stewardship of the future



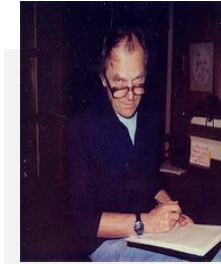
How to?

Doing responsibility



Plato

“Wherever you go, you will be a polis”



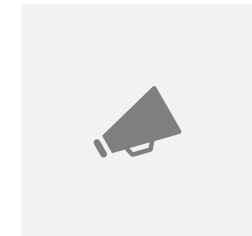
Paul Fayerabend

R&I to be put under democratic control



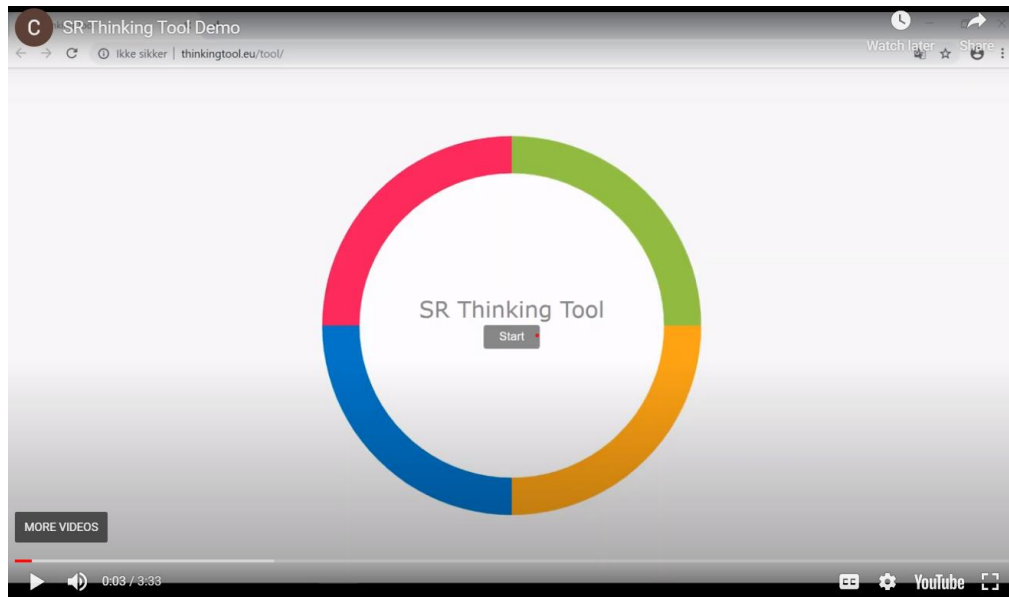
Richard Owen

R&I as part of democratic political governance

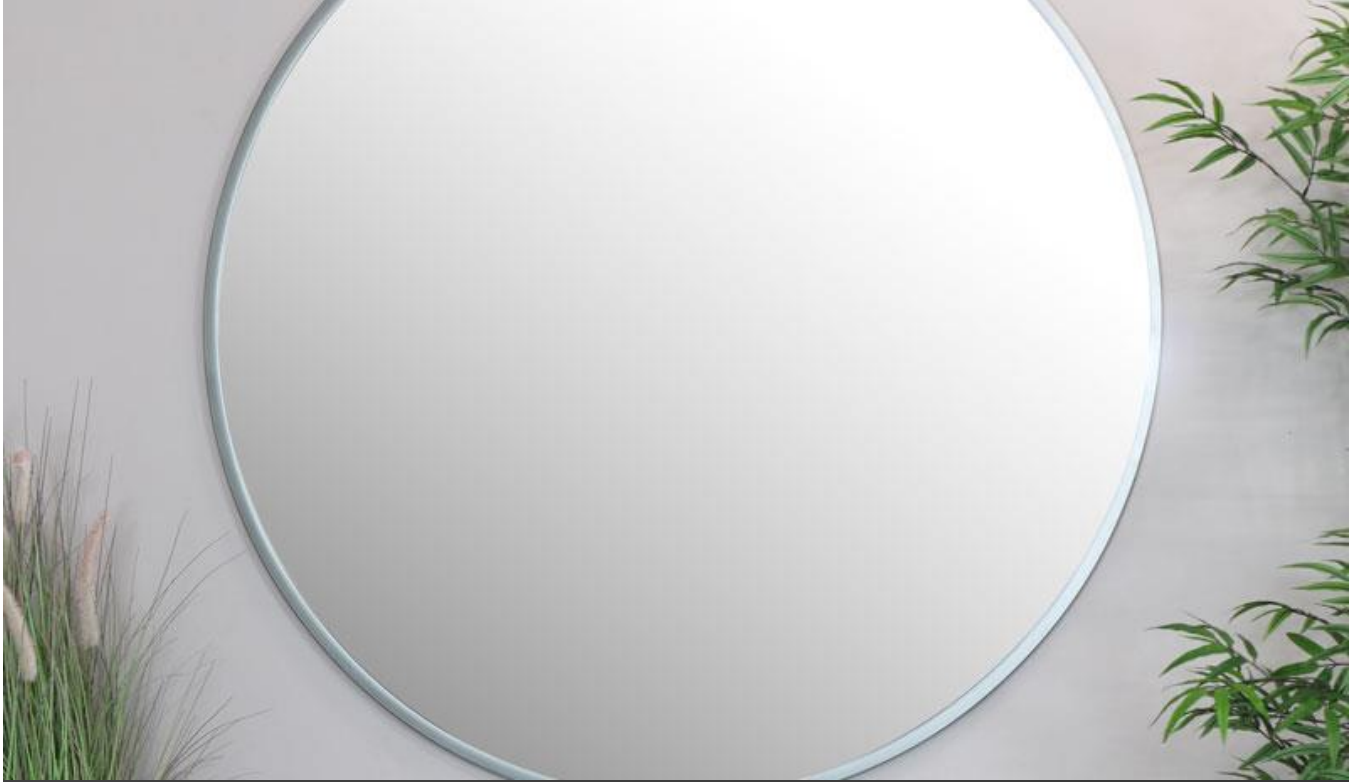


Braun et. al.

R&I as participatory process



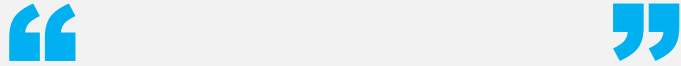
<https://youtu.be/HdH8qSUy4Mk>



I do

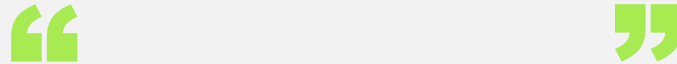
Societal Readiness Thinking Tool

Testimonial



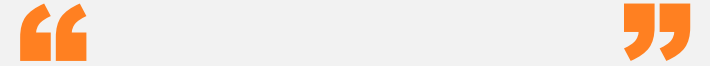
I never thought about responsibility besides finding a solution to the 'problem'.

Participant, Social Lab



Society is complex, this should go into technology.

Participant, interview



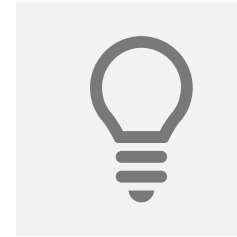
I thought I am acting ethically, and that is enough. I did not anticipate other consequences.

Participant, Social Lab



Major changes in science politics

Transformations



Thinking

Science is a concern for the whole of society and a tool for equitability and democracy



Who is thinking?

Everybody (e.g. expert and lay inclusion, participation in agenda setting & research)



What is being thought?

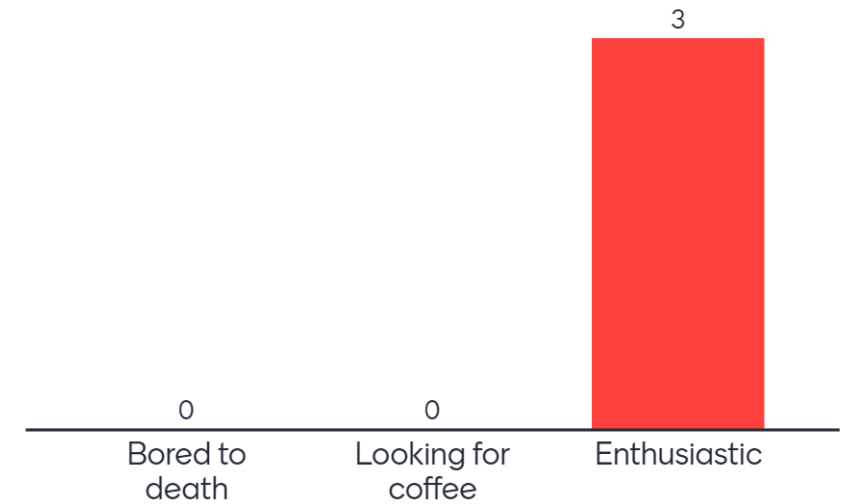
Transdisciplinarity
Participatory science
Citizen's science
Open science



Feedback

The course

How do I feel after class?





Go to www.menti.com 1549 2630





Questions

Thank you

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 <http://www.ihs.ac.at/>