



THE STRUCTURAL CHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE & THE FUTURE OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES VIENNA, PARLIAMENT, PALAIS EPSTEIN BUILDING, 25 NOVEMBER 2016

THE AIM OF THE WORKSHOP

The mission of the journal *Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research*, whose 30th anniversary we are celebrating in this volume is to provide a unique forum for discussing European issues in an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary manner. The Journal welcomes articles which contribute to the improvement of social science knowledge and to the setting of a policy-focused European research agenda.

Arguably, social science research and research programming are two sides of the same coin; although this metaphor might be misleading as there are important differences between the two sides in terms of their perspectives, priorities, and expectations. However, research communities need funding and there are legitimate expectations from those who fund the research – especially in the public sector. This, in turn, creates some tensions with respect to the necessary autonomy and the creativity of research that might not always have a “successful” outcome. Innovation is by definition a new way of designing structures and actions; they might be successful or lead to fail – the latter being a somewhat frustrating for both the researchers and the research funders. At the same time, without creativity, commitment, imagination and a degree of risk taking the social sciences cannot fulfill their mission.

The late Martin Peterson has defined the highest demands made of our journal: *“Innovation has offered rare opportunities to break down the rigors of orthodox academic boundaries and reach across disciplines and faculties. (...) Innovation has always attracted those who wanted to try out new angles to established topics”* (2012, 9).

The aim of the workshop is to explore new ways to meet the societies’ needs whilst preserving the necessary autonomy of science and research. Over the past 30 years the journal has tried to fulfil the demands Martin Peterson has set for the journal and for the social science research. What paradigm change are needed, what methodologies, what interactions with the society, politics and the economy?

The workshop aims to address these questions and invites researchers and political actors from the public sector and the civil society likewise to stimulate the interaction between science and society.

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13:00 - 14:00 Registration & Welcome Address by Claudia Gamon, MP, NEOS Speaker for Science and Research

14:00 - 15:30 Panel I: What Future the Social Sciences? Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Approaches

Moderator: Andrew Sors, Brussels

Panellists:

Andrew Sors, Brussels: On the future of social sciences and humanities – a pragmatic perspective

John Crowley, UNESCO, Paris, Society as an Ethical System (t.b.c.)

Nico Stehr & Alexander Ruser, Zeppelin University, Friedrichshafen, Social scientists as technicians, advisors and meaning producers

Alice Vadrot, Cambridge University Visiting Fellow & FWF Research Grantee, Knowledge, International Relations and the Structure-Agency Debate: Towards the concept of “Epistemic Selectivities”

Stuart Blume, University of Amsterdam, In Search of Experiential Knowledge

Discussant:

Dorothea Tommasi, ICCR Foundation & University of Vienna

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:30 – 18:00 Panel II: What Future the Social Sciences? Theoretical Approaches and Alternative Methodologies

Moderator: Bernd Marin, Vienna

Panellists:

Ronald J Pohoryles, ICCR Foundation & The European Association for the Advancement of Social Sciences, Back to the future? From the Pragmatic Approaches in the Social Sciences to the Development of the Patchwork Theory

Liana Giorgi, Social Scientist & Psychoanalyst, Vienna, Travelling Concepts – an interdisciplinary history of identity

Joe Ravetz, University of Manchester & Amanda Ravetz, Manchester School of Art, Seeing the wood for the trees... Social Science 3.0 and the role of visual thinking

Hans-Liudger Dienel, TU Berlin & Christoph Henseler, NEXUS Institute, Maps of Uncertainties

Discussant: N.N.

18:00 – 19:00 Social Gathering with a Glass of Wine

