

TRACK 2: The Impact of STI-Policies on the Organization and Production of Knowledge

Session Proposers:

Siri Brorstad Borlaug

siri.borlaug@nifu.no, R-QUEST and NIFU Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education

Merle L. Jacob

merle.jacob@fek.lu.se

Department of Business Administration, School of Economics and Management, Lund University

Description:

This session will be devoted to understanding how new developments in the governance of science, technology and innovation create impacts at the level of the organization and production of knowledge. The combined effect of EU and national funding practices have led to a significant number of changes at the level of how research is organized and conducted in individual European member states (e.g. Edler et al. 2012; Nedeva 2013). Previously an intensely national effort, STI policies have been incrementally nudged towards a common set of objectives and practices. While debate rages on the degree of isomorphism created by the multi-level governance initiatives that characterize policymaking in the EU member states, the last ten years have witnessed a change in the direction of coordination to include coordination of the systems for governance in and of themselves. This is evidenced in among other things, the increased focus on collaborative priority setting in STI policy and the introduction of joint programming at the EU and national levels.

Further examination of different national efforts in key areas such as funding instruments and evaluation practices would however reveal that the curtain of sameness often disguises significant differences at the level of implementation, reception by target communities and policy design (Lepori, B. 2011; Borlaug 2015; Whitley 2003). Noteworthy examples of areas where these effects may be observed include the popularity of Centre of Excellence initiatives and the overriding policy consensus that grand societal challenges constitute the appropriate priority setting mechanism for all member states. Likewise, the frequency with which member states ape the European Research Council's Starting and Advanced Investigator Awards suggests that the rhetoric of path breaking research is also a key element in the increasing convergence of policy instruments. Other areas may be indicators for performance-based funding, which have attracted a great deal of attention both from scholars and stakeholders, but the impact of which is nevertheless under explored (Gläser and Laudel, 2016; Aagaard and Schneider, 2015).

The session seeks to attract papers which will enhance our knowledge on the impact of STI policies on the organization and production of knowledge. This session invites conceptual and empirical papers that focus, on among other things, the impact of funding structures and the distribution of funding on the strategic capabilities of public research organizations and research performance; the role of collaborative governance initiatives; changes in the governance of funding streams and new models of research and innovation, e.g. stronger involvement of social actors, responsible research and interdisciplinary research. We invite papers on questions such as:

- In what ways may policies for excellence affect the strategic capabilities of public research organizations?
- How do different funding structures and streams impact the production of scientific knowledge?
- How do collaborative governance initiatives and the inclusion of other social stakeholders impact the organization of research and research content?
- What is the role of governance in promoting new fields of research and innovation?

Several scholars have examined questions similar to the above using neo institutional or rational choice frameworks. There is also a significant number of historical studies which provide rich material for using the past to provide more fine-grained understanding and analyses of the effects of different governance initiatives on the evolution of national research systems. We welcome papers based on all types of research methodologies and theoretical frameworks as diversity is an important prerequisite for furthering the frontier of knowledge.

References:

Aagaard, K. and Schenider, J. (2015) Research funding and national academic performance: Examination of a Danish success story. *Science and Public Policy*. 43 (4): 518-531

Borlaug, S. B. (2015). Moral hazard and adverse selection in research funding: Centres of excellence in Norway and Sweden. *Science and Public Policy* 43 (3): 352-362.

Edler, J., Frischer, D., Glanz, M. and Stampfer, M. (2012). Case Studies of Universities and Research Organisations. The Impact of the ERC on universities and public research organisations. Eureka. The European Research Council.

Gläser, J. and Laudel, G. (2016) Governing Science. *European Journal of Sociology*. 57: 117-168

Lepori, B. (2011). Coordination modes in public funding systems. *Research Policy* 40: 355-367.

Nedeva, M. (2013). Between the global and the national: Organising European science. *Research Policy* 42: 220-230.

Whitley, R. (2003) Competition and pluralism in the public sciences: the impact of institutional frameworks on the organisation of academic science. *Research Policy*, 32, 1015-1029.