

Governance of S&T

On Reflexivity in European PTA offices

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Research questions

- How can reflexivity be (qualitatively) measured at the institutional (TA) level?
- What does it mean for governance (of S&T)?

Governance of S&T

- Governance (of NEST) is «out of breath» (Kooiman 1993)
- Modern institutions take initiatives, adapt to changing circumstances
- Calls for democratic accountability of S&T choices, taken up e.g. through institutionalised public mechanisms

Parliamentary Technology Assessment (PTA)

- Imported concept from US to Europe
- Link with Parliament
- Multiple missions of anticipation and evaluation of S&T
- Effects on political agenda and connexion with decision-making processes becoming more reflexive

The broader picture

Reflexive modernization (macro level)



Regime (meso level)

PTA



Institutional practices (micro level)

Research hypotheses

- Emergence and evolution of TA reflect the move of our societies into reflexive modernization process
- PTAi are (governance) indicators of reflexive modernization in action (Delvenne 2010, Delvenne and Rip, forthcoming)

Conceptual framework

Openness to plurality

Plurality of values,
expertise/participation (e.g. Stirling 2008)

Blurring of boundaries

Boundaries become choices,
Construction of new boundaries (e.g. Beck et al. 2003)



The reflexivity pathway

*Caminante no hay camino
Se hace camino al andar.*

Antonio Machado

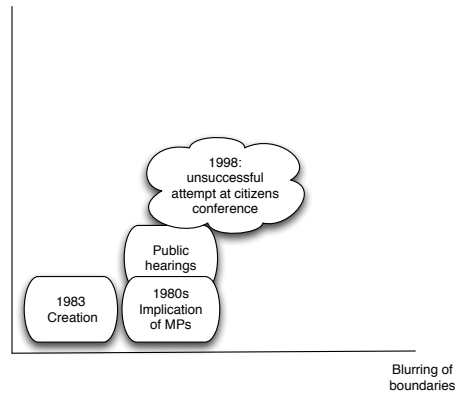
Case studies

France, Denmark, The Netherlands

«OPECST»

- Strong implication of MPs
- DM support to elite
- Reports, (public hearings)
- Interface between science and politics

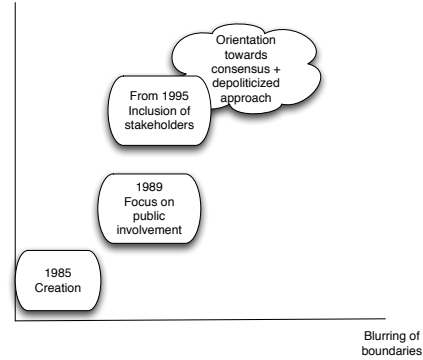
Openness to plurality



«DBT»

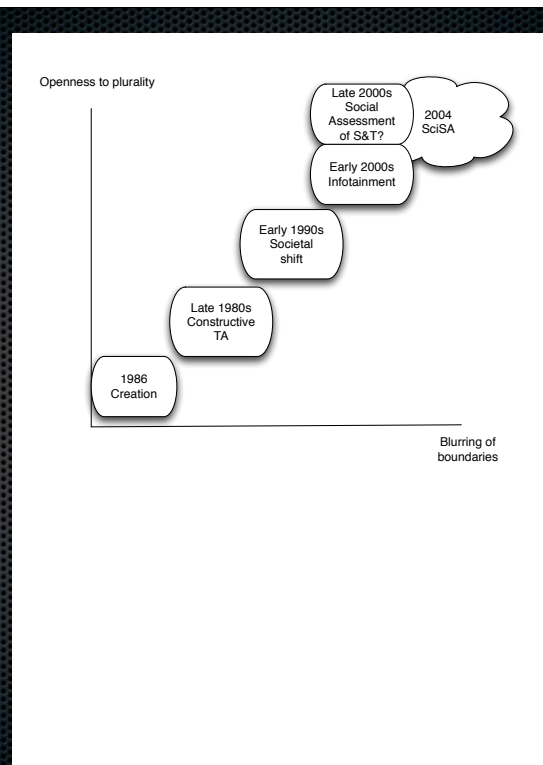
- DM support and public participation
- Implication of various stakeholders
- Scientific reports, deliberative forums (consensus)
- Interface btw science, politics and society

Openness to plurality



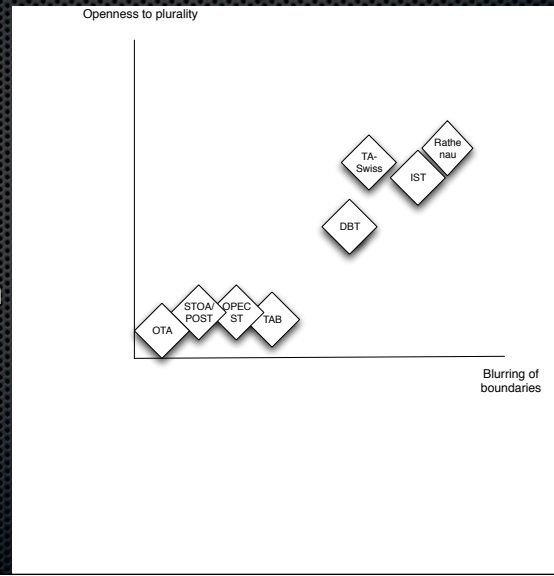
«Rathenau Institute»

- Social assessment of S&T, implication of citizens, (DM support)
- Reports, deliberative forums, festivals
- Interface btw science and society



Different positions of PTAi on the reflexivity pathway

- Importance of political culture and identity (e.g. Horst and Irwin 2009)
- Dynamics of institutionalisation and path dependence
- Preexisting institutional landscape



Conclusions

- Reflexive modernization can be operationalized for empirical research
- For governance of S&T it shows a complex co-constructed process (regime/TA) that deploys different effects
- What is the next step?
 - other areas (social life, architecture, international relations)
 - overcoming Western bias

Contact

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Anticipatory governance of S&T (Barben et al.2008)

- TA = anticipatory knowledge production
- Professional (modernist) anticipation overlaid anticipation-en-action (Rip 2006)
- Impression of confidence and control
- TA = modernist practice («we can do better by assessing earlier»)

Towards reflexive anticipatory governance?

- Modernist anticipation has some side effects
- Paradox of efficacy (e.g. Voss and Kemp 2006)
- Opening up modernist anticipation?
 - Public participation (lay expertise)
 - Era of responsible innovation and ecological modernism
 - Social robustness and local knowledge

Governance

- Regimes as an entrance point
- Broadening of «government» and inclusion of more actors
- De facto and distributed governance (Rip 2006, Benz 2007, Mayntz and Scharpf 1995)