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)
- 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
Strong implication of MPs

DM support to elite

Reports, (public hearings)

Interface between science and politics

«OPECST»
DM support and public participation

Implication of various stakeholders

Scientific reports, deliberative forums (consensus)

Interface btw science, politics and society

«DBT»

1985 Creation

From 1995 Inclusion of stakeholders

1988 Focus on public involvement

Openness to plurality

Orientation towards consensus + depoliticized approach

Blurring of boundaries
- 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)