

FWF

Der Wissenschaftsfonds.



**universität
wien**

Quality and impact of the social sciences

Pre-conference of the
"10th International Conference
on Science and Technology Indicators"

September 17, 2008; 2-6 pm

University of Vienna,
Lecture Hall 31

Quality and impact of the social sciences

University and non-university research institutions are increasingly responsible for assessing the “quality” of academic achievements. Approaches currently practiced focus both on input- and output-based criteria such as the amount of external funding received, publications in total or in high-ranking journals, indicators as citations, impact-factors or h-indices.

For the social sciences, two main challenges arise:

First, the social sciences are not covered representatively in databases like Web of Science or Scopus and they embrace a broad and rather heterogeneous collection of disciplines, where the “national publication model” plays an important role.

Second, the question arises, how to gauge the relevance of the social sciences to society. In science and technology, this aspect can be measured by different technology transfer indicators e.g. citations to scientific articles in patent specifications, whereas in the social sciences said relevance can find expression in manifold ways: Some results of scientific research can be directly implemented to benefit society, the economy or politics, while other results influence public discourse in an advisory role or have a direct impact on it.

This workshop will present and analyse different approaches to define and measure the quality of the social sciences and its benefits to society.

PROGRAMME

- 2.00 - 2.15 pm **Welcome and Introduction**
Christoph Kratky
Austrian Science Foundation
Heinz Faßmann
University of Vienna and Austrian Academy of Sciences
- 2.15 - 3.15 pm **Keynotes**
Anthony F.J. van Raan
CWTS and Leiden University
Measuring Quality and Impact of the Social Sciences –
Concepts, Opportunities and Drawbacks
Reinhard Zintl
University of Bamberg
Social Science and Society: Looking for Rules of Engagement
Moderation: Dorothea Sturn, *University of Vienna*
- 3.15 - 3.45 pm **Discussion**
- 3.45 - 4.00 pm **Coffee Break**
- 4.00 - 5.00 pm **Panel Discussion: Perspectives of different Stakeholders**
Hans-Dieter Daniel (Chair)
University of Zurich, ETH Zurich
Gerda Falkner
University of Vienna and Austrian Academy of Sciences
Ulrike Felt
University of Vienna
Christoph Kratky
Austrian Science Foundation
Linda Butler
*Research School of Social Sciences,
The Australian National University*
- 5.00 - 6.00 pm **Discussion**

Participation is free and will be granted
on a first-come-first-serve basis
(approx. 50 participants).
A conference fee will not be charged.



UNIVERSITÄT WIEN

Dr.-Karl-Lueger-Ring 1

1010 Wien

T +43-1-4277-0

www.univie.ac.at



Linda Butler is head of the Research Evaluation and Policy Project (REPP) at the Australian National University. She is a key advisor to the Australian government on the introduction of an indicator-driven assessment process for universities. She is a leading authority on bibliometric analysis, with research interests that include the development and assessment of quantitative measures of research performance for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.



Hans-Dieter Daniel is Director of the Evaluation Office of the University of Zurich and Professor for Social Psychology and Research on Higher Education at the ETH Zurich. He was a member of the Working Group „Recommendations for rankings in the system of higher education and research“ of the German Science and Humanities Council, a member of the panel for the evaluation of the support action of the European Research Council (ERC), and he is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the CRUS project "Mesurer les performances de la recherche". Since 2003 he is associate editor of Scientometrics.



Gerda Falkner is Associate Professor for Political Science at the University of Vienna and Director of the Institute for European Integration Research at the Austrian Academy of Sciences. She published, inter alia, with Oxford, and Cambridge University Press; Ashgate; Routledge; and in many SSCI-Journals. Gerda Falkner is also Editor-In-Chief of the Living Reviews in European Governance (LREG) and co-editor of the European Integration online Papers (EIoP).



Heinz Faßmann holds a chair for Applied Geography, Regional Research and Spatial Planning at the University of Vienna. He is the Dean of the Faculty of Geoscience, Geography and Astronomy and Managing Director of the Institute of Urban and Regional Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Faßmann is member of the Academia Europaea and full member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences.



Ulrike Felt is professor and head of the Department of Social Studies of Science at the University of Vienna. Her areas of research interests are science/society interactions, the politic of knowledge and its institutional dimensions and ELSA research in which she has carried our national and international projects and published widely. She has broad experience as policy advisor on these issues and was editor (2002-2007) of the international SSCI journal "Science, Technology & Human Values".



Christoph Kratky, Professor for Physical Chemistry at the University of Graz, studied chemistry at the ETH Zurich, where he also graduated in the year 1976. After his post-doc studies at the Harvard University he returned to the University of Graz, where he established in 1977 the working group structural biology at the Institute for Physical Chemistry. Since 1995 he is full professor. In 1998 he became a full member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Since 2005 he is president of the Austrian Science Foundation and was re-elected for this position in June 2008.



Anthony F.J. van Raan is Professor of Quantitative Studies of Science and Director of the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS) at Leiden University. He studied mathematics, physics and astronomy at the University of Utrecht and was junior lecturer as well as senior lecturer and research fellow.

In 1985 he switched from physics to science and technology (S&T) studies. Professor Van Raan is the editor of the standard Handbook of Quantitative Studies of Science and Technology. He is currently editor of "Research Evaluation" and member of the editorial advisory board of "Scientometrics".



Reinhard Zintl is Professor of Political Science at the University of Bamberg. His field is Modern Political Theory, in particular institutional theories, rational choice theories, constitutional economics. He studied political science, history and philosophy at the University of Freiburg where he got his doctoral degree in 1972. He then was assistant professor at the University of Regensburg where he graduated in economics and later got his habilitation in political science. 1977/78 he was German Kennedy Fellow at Harvard University. Reinhard Zintl is currently Vice President Study at the University of Bamberg and a member of the German Accreditation Board.