
Session B3

Room: Brookfield, Thursday 9.30-12.15

The politics of TA

Chairs: Dr Leonhard Hennen & Dr Linda Nierling

- Dr Karen Kastenhofer & Dr Anja Bauer, ITA, Austrian Academy of Sciences
 - Science-based policy advice in TA – implicit paradigms, professional ethos and bones of contention
- Dr Rinie van Est, Rathenau Instituut
 - Thinking technology assessment politically
- Dr Pierre Delvenne, University of Liège
 - Technology Assessment and neoliberal STI policies as dancing partners: critical insights in the new spirit of Technology Assessment
- Mario Kaiser, Avenue jetzt
 - A critique of assessing disruptive technologies
- Gloria Rose & André Gzásó, Austrian Academy of Sciences, ITA, Austria
 - Nano Risk Governance: Participatory processes as part of early stage risk assessment and the role of TA
- Dr Les Levidow, Open University
 - Participatory TA as implicit politics: the case of European agbiotech
- Prof Harro van Lente, Maastricht University
 - Possibilities of Proactive TA
- Stephan Lingner (EA European Academy of Technology and Innovation Assessment)
 - TA on the political arena: being part of the game or restricting itself to the “facts”?
- Dr Helge Torgersen, ITA/OEAW, Vienna, Austria
 - A mythology of neutrality in TA

From its beginnings in the 1970s the concept of TA has been strongly bound to and legitimated by the “neutrality” narrative. Being “a-political” in the sense of restricting itself to the role of a “knowledge broker” and refraining from taking a strong political stance in terms of recommending specific political action has been at the core of TA’s understanding of policy advice – in particular in the context of parliamentary TA. We would like to challenge this self-description by asking “Does TA have politics?”