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Improving the science-policy interface in
research projects on global change and
sustainability

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Universiteit Utrecht



Maastricht University *Leading in Learning!*

Discussion forum

- Carel Dieperink (UU)
- René Kemp (UM)
- Harro van Lente (UU/UM)
- Machiel Lamers (WUR)
- Michaël Stauffacher (ETH, Zürich)
- Roland Scholz (ETH, Zürich)
- Ymkje de Boer (YM de Boer Advies)



Introduction & background

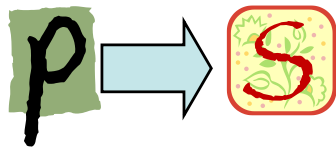
- Gap between science and policy in the fields of global change and sustainability
 - Can (mode 2) knowledge co-production by scientists, policymakers and others help to bridge the gap?
- => What are the merits and limitations of knowledge co-production?**



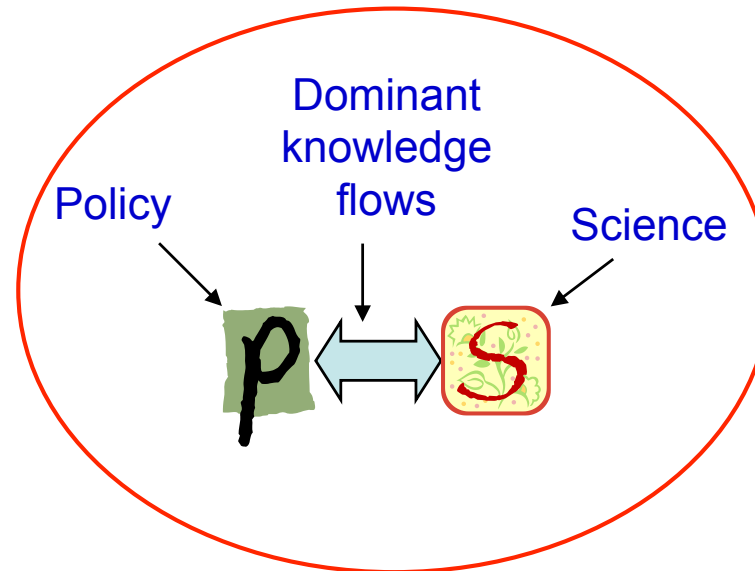
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Research Questions

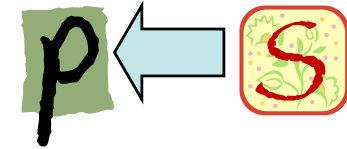
Policy Studies



Knowledge Co-production



Science Mobilization



- In which ways can it take place?
- Opportunities and pitfalls?
- Success factors and –criteria?

Boundary?

Boundary?



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Methodology

1. Develop conceptual framework (4 months)
3. Categorize and evaluate finalized projects (interview round) (7 months)
4. Q sorting survey (3 months)
5. Action research in *ongoing projects* (7 months)
9. Recommendations for project financiers, researchers & policymakers through popular book or website (3 months)



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1) Conceptual Framework

- Typology of different ways of co-production & hypotheses based on threats and opportunities
 - E.g. “Knowledge co-production requires organized reflection on roles and responsibilities, mutual expectations and success criteria (v.d. Hove)”
- Opportunity for innovation: bringing conceptual and empirical work together in one framework



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2) Interview round

- Finalized projects
 - EU FP6; projects within NWO Sustainable Earth, Leven met Water, KSI
 - First check of typology & normative hypotheses
 - Overview of differences in opinions, disposition and value orientation of actors involved



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3) Q sorting survey

- Identifying different *actor perspectives* amongst scientists, policymakers and project financiers (<http://qmethod.org/about>)
 - Shared ways of thinking amongst individuals
 - Coherent sets of opinions, dispositions and value orientations
 - Potential explanatory power for analyzing co-production processes



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4) Action research

- Ongoing projects within 'NWO Sustainable Earth' and 'Knowledge for Climate' research programs
- Observation & advice
 - Make explicit and reflect on power relations, actor perspectives & other opportunities and threats
 - E.g. intervention through focus groups



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Output

- 4 articles in peer-reviewed journals, each reporting the results of one research step
- 1 edited scientific book (multi-author) on knowledge co-production
- 1 popular book or website
- Framework for designing and evaluating sustainability research that is
 - Of higher quality
 - More relevant
 - Actually used in practice
 - Providing value for money
- Last but not least: development of much tacit knowledge in ongoing projects!



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