



International Experts Meeting

22 April 2008

**UNESCO House
Room XVI Bonvin Building
1 rue Miollis, 75015, Paris**

Programme

09:00 – 09:45

INTRODUCTION

Welcome and Introductions

Introduction to the SSH-Futures Project

Heide Hackmann: International Social Science Council

The European Context: The Lisbon Agenda, European Research Area and European Social Science Landscape

Why a European research area?

Philippe Keraudren: Science, Economy and Society, DG Research, European Commission

09:45 – 11:15

THE STATE OF AND CONDITIONS FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH SYSTEMS IN EUROPE

Chair: Martin Peterson, Goeteborg University, Sweden

The core question: What are the main shaping forces for European social science?

Institutional Change in European Research Systems: Implications for Social Science

John Crowley: Social and Human Sciences Sector, UNESCO

Andreas Schadauer: The Interdisciplinary Centre for Comparative Research in the Social Sciences, Austria

Paula Mejia: Le Centre Interdisciplinaire de Recherche Comparative en Sciences Sociales, France

Suggested topics/questions for discussion:

Among the main drivers of change that deserve discussion are possible new career structures for academics, evolving modes of priority setting, funding patterns, evaluation processes and the relation of all of these with internationalization (including in particular Europeanization). The key question is to assess to what extent new institutional structures may be emerging that may reflect or drive new modes of knowledge production.

11:15 – 11:45 Tea/Coffee

11:45 – 13:15

PATHWAYS TO POLICY

Chair: Alexandra Hausstein, Zeppelin University, Germany

The core question: What do we know about the flows of social science knowledge into policy and practice, and what can be done to improve those flows?

Lost in Translation

Gudmund Hernes: President, International Social Science Council

Discussant: Pierre Ritchie, International Union of Psychological Science, Canada

Suggested topics/questions for discussion:

The prevalent call for “evidence-based policies” raises a range of questions about what counts as “evidence”, how policy agendas relate to scientific paradigms, what difference social science knowledge makes to policy design and implementation, how the gap between the different languages and timeframes of academics and policy-makers can be bridged, and – no less importantly –

whether the search for policy relevance carries a price that social scientists might, for good reasons, be reluctant to pay.

13:15 – 14:45 Lunch

14:45 – 16:15

SOCIAL SCIENCE'S GLOBAL FUTURE?

Chair: Christopher Caswill, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

The core question: If social, political, economic and technological change is seen as strongly shaped by processes of globalization, can social sciences be immune to those same forces, and if not, what are the implications?

Panel Discussion

Romi Mukherjee: Le Centre Interdisciplinaire de Recherche Comparative en Sciences Sociales, France

Balázs Kiss: European Science Foundation, France

Jean Leca : Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, France

Suggested topics/questions for discussion:

Do new modes of knowledge production, involving new actors interacting in different ways, involve a different kind of knowledge? In the face of the range of pressures deriving from globalization, commercialization and securitization, is science called into question, along with the traditional idea of the "university"? Does the idea of a "social" science make it more or less vulnerable to historical patterns of change? And, of course, does the future of social science matter to anyone other than professional social scientists?