S-25 – The interface between the study of cultural diversity in science and decision-making in science policy
International Association for Science and Cultural Diversity

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This symposium is organised by the International Association for Science and Cultural Diversity (IASCUD), an inter-divisional commission of DHST and DLMPST.

Abstract:
Scientific practices show a great deal of diversity that is reflected in different values, aims, goals, criteria for success, and measures of quality. Diachronic diversity means that what were the values and the practice of a field in the past, may not be its values and practice anymore now, nor will they be its values and practice in the future; synchronic diversity separates scientific cultures along lines of disciplines, sectors, geographical regions, and other criteria. Issues involving with geographical cultural diversity connect naturally to the conference theme Science, Technology and Medicine between the Global and the Local. Historians, sociologists, and philosophers study the multi-faceted cultural differences and their effect on science and its practice.

Decisions in both national and international science policy are intimately connected to the mentioned cultural diversity of values, aims, goals, and practices. E.g., the aim that a funding instrument is supposed to achieve may be seen as desirable in one cultural context, but not in another; even if two different cultural contexts agree about the desirability of a goal, a funding instrument that helps in achieving that goal in one cultural context may be ineffective or even detrimental in another.

In this symposium, we wish to explore the actual and potential connections between researchers who study the cultural variety of science from historical, sociological, and philosophical perspectives and the deciders and stakeholders in both local and global science policy: Are policy makers informed about the effects of scientific cultural diversity? If so, how does this affect their decisions? If not, what can researchers of cultural diversity in science do in order to connect to the decision makers.


Participants:
- Nina Atanasova
- Vitaly Pronskikh
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- Arun Sharma
- Matthew Inglis
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- Annamaria Carusi