



Interdisciplinarity – Research Mode with Societal Validity Claims

New Springer Publication by Scientific Experts and Practitioners of Policy Advice

Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler, 26 November 2014. – Recently, the EA European Academy published a study on the specific value of interdisciplinary research for science and society at large.

Obviously, interdisciplinarity has become a paradigm for modern and meaningful research. Clearly, the interdisciplinary modus of deliberation enables discourse participants to unfold relevant but quite different disciplinary perspectives on the reflection of broader scientific questions or societal problems. However, whether the comprehensive results of interdisciplinary reflection prove to be valid or to be acceptable in terms of trans-disciplinarity depends upon certain preconditions, which have to be fulfilled for securing scientific quality and social trust in advisory contexts. Surely, scientific quality of and social trust in results of interdisciplinary research are necessary factors for the trans-disciplinary validity of corresponding expertise in these contexts. Trust in quality and utility of interdisciplinary research was, for instance, an issue with regard to the still prevailing international debate on the condition of climate impact research after the so-called “climate-gate scandal”.

The present publication is the result of a three-year working group consisting of experts and practitioners of interdisciplinary research and policy advice. It analyses topical and methodological approaches towards interdisciplinarity, starting with the current role of scientific research in society. The volume continues with reflections on knowledge for action and, subsequently, to trans-disciplinary deliberation. The final conclusions address the scientific system as a substantial actor itself as well as the relevant research and education politics.

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Study:

C. F. Gethmann, M. Carrier, G. Hanekamp, M. Kaiser, G. Kamp, S. Lingner, M. Quante, F. Thiele (2015) *Interdisciplinary Research and Trans-disciplinary Validity Claims*, EA Book Series “Ethics of Science and Technology Assessment”, Vol. 43, Springer: Heidelberg, New York (ISBN 978-3-319-11399-9; DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-11400-2)

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<http://www.springer.com/philosophy/epistemology+and+philosophy+of+science/book/978-3-319-11399-9>

- Download of the excerpt of the study on the website of the EA European Academy:
http://www.ea-aw.org/fileadmin/downloads/Publikationen/Interdisciplinary_Research_Excerpt.pdf
- Further publication on this topic: S. Lingner (2011) "Science, interdisciplinarity, and the society" (Editorial). *Poiesis & Praxis. International Journal of Ethics of Science and Technology Assessment* 7(4): 221–224, <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10202-011-0092-z/fulltext.html>

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