

Evidence-based policies in a world of uncertainty and ambiguity

Tuesday, 24 June 2014, 12:00 - 14:45

Pompeii Hall, Carlsberg Academy

Session description

- **12:00 - Welcome, introduction and facilitation**

[Clive Cookson](#), Science Editor, Financial Times

- **Invited speakers from Europe, Africa, South America, the US and China will address questions related to when scientific evidence is lacking, insufficient or controversial**

<p>Anne Glover Chief Scientific Adviser to the President of the European Commission European Commission</p> <p>Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor Minister for Science and Technology, South Africa</p> <p>Helena Bonciani Nader President, Brazilian Association for the Advancement of Science (SBPC)</p> <p>Lan Xue Dean, School of Public Policy & Management, Tsinghua University; IRGC China</p> <p>Jonathan B. Wiener Professor of Environmental Policy, Professor of Public Policy, Duke University; Member of IRGC Scientific Council</p>	<p>When science is lacking for complete and meaningful evaluation of a risk, how can policy and regulation deal with the lack of scientific evidence?</p> <p>Are there examples of effective and fair policies that are not, or not only, evidence-based, but can still be relevant, effective and ethical? For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can evidence-based policy-making be seen as a way to try to impose choices on society? • What happens when societal expectation influences directly the design of policy? • How to deal with the NIMBY syndrome? <p>In situation of uncertainty or anxiety, leadership and management of expectations are needed, to help society make decisions. This requires a good understanding of societal aspirations and social trust, between the general public and political leadership, and between the general public and scientific community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do various country deal with these situations?
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- **Discussion, including with the audience**

- **≈ 13:15 lunch break (sandwiches and drinks will be proposed to the session attendees)**

- **13:45: Discussion will continue with panellists and the audience**

<p>José Mariano Gago President, Laboratory Experimental High Energy Physics and Associated Instrumentation; Member of EuroScience Governing Board and IRGC Foundation Board</p> <p>Dirk Hudig Secretary General, European Risk Forum</p> <p>Doug Parr Chief Scientist and Policy Director, Greenpeace</p> <p>Ortwin Renn Chair of Environmental Sociology and Technology Assessment, University of Stuttgart</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can be done when little or contradictory evidence is available? • How can governments communicate risk? • How can the communication between policymakers and lobbyists influence better policies?
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EuroScience

www.EuroScience.org

(ES) is a European non-profit grassroots association open to research professionals, teachers, students, science administrators, policy-makers, etc. and generally to any citizen interested in science and technology and its links with society. EuroScience represents not only European scientists of all ages, disciplines and nationalities but also from the business sector and public institutions such as universities and research institutes.

The International Risk Governance Council

www.IRGC.org

is a non-profit and independent organisation whose purpose is to help improve the understanding and governance of systemic risks that have impacts on human health and safety, on the environment, on the economy and on society at large.

IRGC is hosted by the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL).

Our objective

is to help decision-makers, particularly policy-makers to anticipate and understand emerging risks, as well as the risk governance options, before they become urgent policy priorities. Our strategy is proactive. We identify issues with risk governance deficits and develop recommendations for improving their assessment, evaluation, communication and management.

Our core process

- Identifying potential risk issues at the earliest possible stage
- Understanding the issue and the associated risks as well as the institutions and risk governance structures and processes that are currently in place for assessing and managing the risks
- Identifying governance gaps which appear to hinder the efficacy of the existing risk governance structures and processes
- Making recommendations for overcoming these gaps

Our values

Within its mission to improve global risk governance, IRGC is rooted in the principles of good governance and is:

- **Open:** project outcome is shared freely
- **Accountable:** science-based project work and recommendations are scrutinised via peer review before publication
- **Collaborative:** this lies at the heart of our approach and integrated working is vital
- **Independent:** this allows us to freely choose the subjects on which to focus, select experts and partner organisations with whom to collaborate, and design the appropriate governance recommendations to deal with the risks we address.