

RRI: A radical innovation?

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SESSION 4: RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

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In this presentation RRI is treated as a radical innovation. Drawing on concepts of institutional innovation and transition research relevant conditions for the success of RRI as radical innovation will be discussed. Taking this perspective, RRI appears as a novel approach aiming at a fundamental change of present innovation regimes. Based on core requirements of RRI this envisioned new regime should be able to deal better with the grand societal challenges of the 21st Century without neglecting possible negative side effects of emerging technologies. However, RRI still is in a very early stage of development; a stage that can be characterised by conceptual variation, limited actor-networks and a relatively small number of practical experiments. Building on the state-of-the-art of RRI the presentation will explore pathways for the further development of this political innovation (invention). In particular, I will discuss coming challenges and structural requirements for learning and experimentation in the field of Technology Assessment, which is treated as one of the main pillars of RRI.