

Horizons of Social Sciences and Humanities in European Research Funding – a story of multiple enactments

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Against the background of the recently installed European Research Funding Programme: Horizon 2020, which seeks to mainstream interdisciplinary research and fully integrate social sciences and humanities specifically in its third pillar "Societal Challenges", my contribution aims to reflect on the multiple and heterogeneous concepts of SSH currently at work, both in policy making and research or research administration communities. With the integrative approach European research policy strives to abolish "silos" of knowledge production and foster inter- or transdisciplinary dialogue to tackle grand social challenges, but also to create "jobs and growth". Only then, it is argued, will real answers emerge to the pressing questions of policy-makers and citizen alike, such as sustainable energy, climate change, healthy ageing, food security and so forth.

In my presentation I would like to discuss results from the Sept 2013 conference "Horizons for Social Sciences and Humanities" inline with John Law's and John Urry's dictum "Enacting the Social" (2004) in order to address the question: how do policy makers and research communities understand the roles and realities of SSH in co-shaping contemporary societies? Furthermore, how could we benefit from specific STS approaches in analysing European SSH research policy and research and research administration communities?