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NWO Responsible Innovation Newsflash

20 May 2014



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Attend the International Responsible Innovation Conference online!

Are you interested in the latest developments in Responsible Innovation research but unable to come in person to the international conference in The Hague?

It will be possible to view some of the events live on YouTube. If you feel like sharing your comments on Twitter, please do so using the hashtag #responsibleinnovation.

The International Responsible Innovation Conference *Values and valorisation* will be held on Wednesday 21 May and Thursday 22 May.

These are the sessions that will be streamed in full through our community channel on YouTube. They will be available real time, but can also be viewed at a later point in time.

Wednesday 21 May

10.15 - 11.00 a.m.

[Whence Responsible Innovation and Research? Whither Responsible Innovation and Research?](#)

Keynote address by **Tsjalling Swierstra**, professor of philosophy at Maastricht University (The Netherlands)

1.00 - 1.30 p.m.

[Responsible innovation within the economic priority area Energy](#)

Science-policy session

In 2013 several short-term research pilots connected to the economic priority areas as defined by the Dutch government, were initiated. These projects were co-financed by public and private partners. In this session the results of two pilot projects within the economic priority area Energy will be presented.

Rolf Künneke, Professor of Economics of Infrastructures at Delft University of Technology (The Netherlands), and **Ernst van Zijlen**, director of the Top Consortium Knowledge and Innovation Offshore Wind (TKI Wind op Zee) present the results of their project [*Value Sensitive Design on the North Sea*](#). How can experts in economics, sociology, physics and philosophy work together with companies to build a robust wind industry at sea?

Patricia Osseweijer, Professor of Science Communication at Delft University of Technology (The Netherlands), **Fokke Goudswaard**, advisor to the branch of sustainable energy, previously staff member at ENECO energy company, and **Daan Dijk**, managing director sustainability at Rabobank, discuss the challenges and chances that a biobased economy will bring. How can we prevent erosion of trust in expertise and guarantee a just distribution of benefits and harms. How can we set up new chains of co-operation?

2.30 - 3.30 p.m.

[Big data, big decisions: valorisation and value conflicts](#)

Keynote address by **M. Lynne Markus**, professor of Information and Process Management at Bentley University (USA)

5.30 - 6.00 p.m.

[Health care and dual use](#)

Science-policy session

Research projects within the Responsible Innovation programme have a lasting impact. For instance, the research questions addressed within the project *Biosecurity and dual use* have remained at the centre of public and political debate, even after the completion of the project.

Koos van der Bruggen, secretary to the biosecurity committee at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (and former Responsible Innovation researcher) and **Kees Jan Steenhoek**, policy advisor at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, discuss pros and cons of the different options to deal with research that may be used both to improve and to purposely harm human health.

In 2011 a US biosecurity advisory board advised against publication of an article by a Dutch group of virologists that had studied mutations of the H5N1 (bird flu) virus. The board feared that data from the article would be used to deliberately spread a mutant H5N1 virus. This sparked a controversy that is still going on. How should such dual use research be assessed and who should be authorised to do so?

Thursday 22 May

9.45 - 10.30 a.m.

[Innovation as a moral concept](#)

Key note address by **Jeroen van den Hoven**, Professor of Moral Philosophy at Delft University of Technology (The Netherlands)

12.20 - 1.00 p.m.

[Responsible Innovation: Values and Valorisation](#)

Science-policy session

Tsjalling Swierstra, Jeroen van den Hoven and Lynne Markus discuss the merits of the Dutch Responsible Innovation research programme so far. Which aspects identify the Dutch approach and what chances and challenges lie ahead?

3.30 - 4.00 p.m.

[Development](#)

Science-policy session

The Responsible Innovation Programme has an explicit international outlook, by focussing on global and developmental issues. Research is conducted within low and middle income countries.

Bram de Jonge, postdoctoral researcher at the Law and Governance Group of Wageningen University (The Netherlands) and **Jaap Satter**, working for the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs discuss the possible adaptation of the international laws governing the protection of new varieties of plants.

Who owns the seeds? Protection of intellectual property rights on seeds is beneficial to breeders in the West, but may get in the way of food security in developing countries. Is it possible to adapt international legislation in a way that grants informal systems in e.g. African countries sufficient space?

5.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.

[Military technology](#)

Science-policy session

The Responsible Innovation programme derives from a collaboration with six Dutch ministries, i.a. the Ministry of Defence. Military technology as such has been defined as a prime focus area within the Responsible Innovation research agenda.

Christine van Burken, researcher at Eindhoven University of Technology (the Netherlands) and member of the National Reserve Corps, presents the results of the research project Moral Fitness of Military Personnel.

In modern warfare strict hierarchies have been replaced by large networks of allies with different functional and national backgrounds, making extensive use of advanced technology. This may result in mistakes and civilian casualties, as was the case with the Kunduz Airstrike. What causes these mistakes and how can they be prevented?

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Responsible Innovation

Technological developments may fail if their ethical and social consequences are not considered in time. NWO's Responsible Innovation programme funds and encourages research that considers the ethical and social aspects of new technology from the design phase onwards. Researchers from different scientific disciplines collaborate in this programme, such as ethicists, behavioural scientists, economists, psychologists and engineers.

Contact

- › Dr J. Roodenburg
- › tel.: +31 (0)70 344 08 06
- › e-mail: j.roodenburg@nwo.nl

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