



# Societal quality of research and the periphery – first thoughts

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RISIS Week, Rome

27–28 January 2015

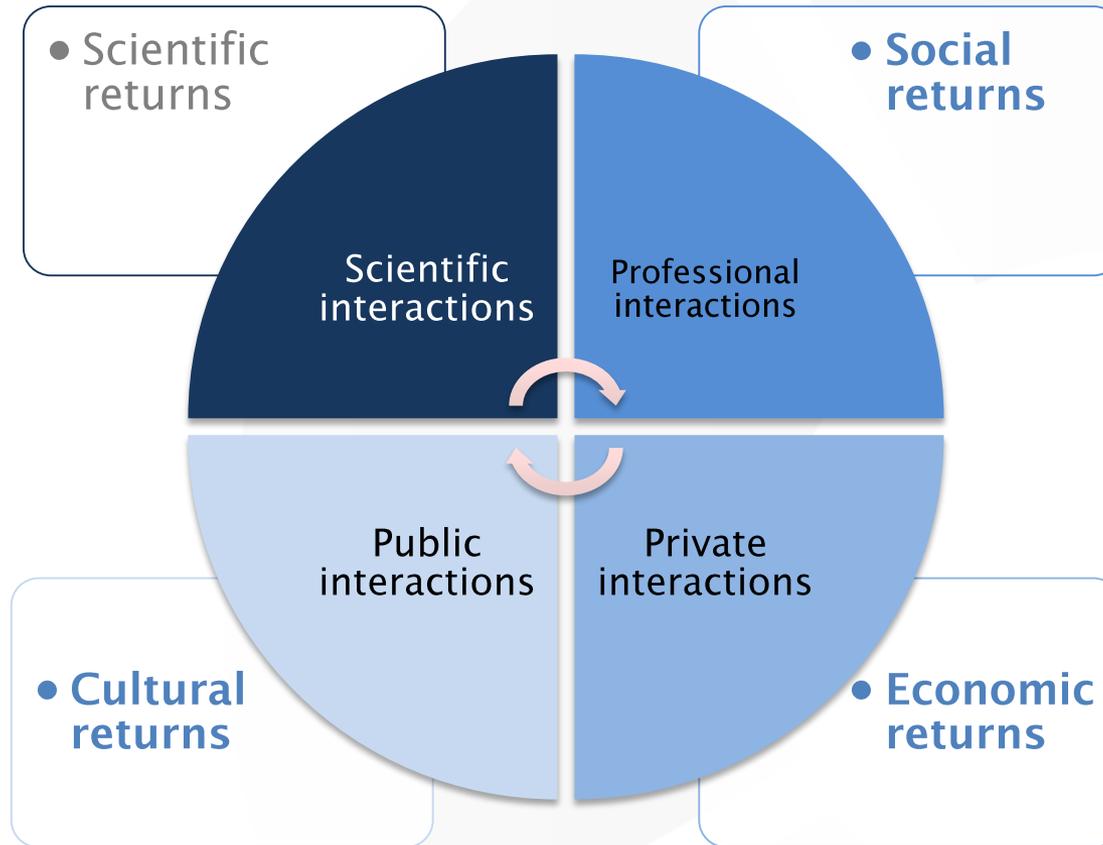


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# Outline

- CWTS model of societal quality of research
- Societal quality and the periphery
- Mission oriented evaluation

# Scientific & societal quality



# Societal quality: a definition

- *The added value created by connecting research to societal practice, which is based on productive interaction and is complementary to the scientific quality.*
- *The process of value creation is by transferring knowledge from a research institute into society (private or public parties, or general public), and includes (demand-driven, user-inspired) research programming, and interaction with potential users during the research.*

# Periphery

- Periphery in science: geographical or social spaces that are somehow marginal to the centres of economic, scientific or technological activity.
  - Peripheral regions (EU low tech region, developing countries),
  - Languages that are not mainstream in scientific communication
  - Socially excluded groups (e.g. grassroots innovation),
  - Scientific fields that are not part of the mainstream (for instance, the humanities or emerging areas of scientific research).
- Transmission vs. appropriation (including multifarious cultural traditions)  
Gavroglu et al. 2008
- Appropriating STI in the periphery
  - Circulation of Knowledge: ‘**travel**’ as a conceptual tool
  - Communicating Science & Technology: ‘**teaching**’ as tool
  - Popularization of Science & Technology: **knowledge in transit**
- STEP: history of science in the periphery (1999 Barcelona)
  - **Pluralism**
  - **Internationalism**
  - **Openness**

# Three perspectives from the centre

- *Scientists* sharing their work with others
  - Scholarly outputs (classical) – can be diverse
  - Other outputs (geared at specific audiences)
  - But: how do senders **value** these different outputs
  - Science & Society are different things
- *Users* (stakeholders) in different domains
  - Are they identifiable or known
  - Are there instruments (activities) to track interaction (transfer)
  - But: how is the **esteem** of the receivers for what they receive
- *Policy*: Research assessment and evaluation frameworks > indicators

# Societal quality in the periphery

- The paradigms from ‘the centre’ are not favouring societal use of scientific knowledge
  - Focus on journal publication, H-index and impact factor
  - Dependency of (early) careers
  - Competition/individual vs. collaboration/group
- The periphery may be better placed for society to using scientific knowledge, based on
  - Mission oriented evaluation
  - Focused interaction rather than production/sending
  - Policy is favouring Responsible Research and Innovation
  - RRI overlaps with appropriation model

Periphery: can benefit from RISIS databases

# Thank you for your attention!

Want to know more.....contact me at

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