

Societal quality of research and the periphery – first thoughts

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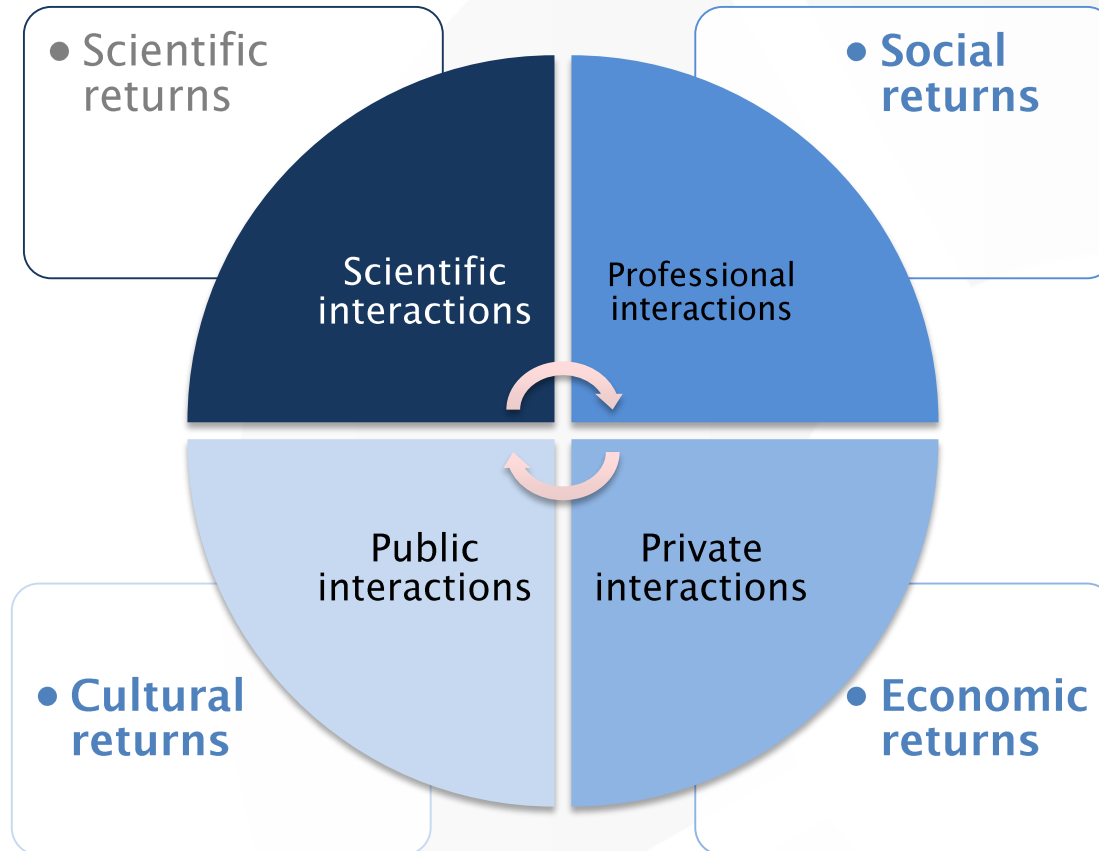


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Outline

- 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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