



Social Sciences and Political Institutions: Challenging the boundaries of (non)cooperation

Organised by the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Belgrade, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, and PERFORM

October 20-21, 2017

Faculty of Political Sciences, Jove Ilića 165, Belgrade

Social sciences and humanities have a potential to make meaningful contributions to the reform processes in the society. Ideally, scientists provide decision-makers with facts, scientific analyses and policy options and politicians carefully evaluate their input. In reality, there are tensions between science and politics, because their goals, rationales, processes and time horizons are dissimilar. Politics is the art of decision making and implementing political ideas. Actions of politicians are influenced by a limited timeframe, election cycles, shifting power relationships or permanent public scrutiny. Science, on the other hand, uses logic, critical reasoning, a variety of empirical methods and, quite often, has more time at its disposal to find sound descriptions of reality.

The symposium will discuss important concepts, different stances of scientists toward evidence informed policymaking, how social science feeds into political institutions and policies, and what happens with social science knowledge in the political system.





DAY I

10:00 First Session: Opening of the event and thematic introduction

Opening remarks and discussion of the (un)importance of scientific advice for political institutions

- Chair: Nenad Čelarević, PERFORM
- Dragan Simić, Dean of the Faculty of Political Sciences
- Slavica Đukić Dejanović, Minister without portfolio in charge of Demography and Population Policy, Government of Serbia
- Monica Budowski, University of Fribourg: Why is science important for politics and policies?
- Representative of Swiss Development Cooperation *tbc
- Martin Dietz, PERFORM: The case of the PERFORM project
- Prof. Dejan Milenković, Faculty of Political Sciences

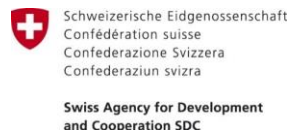
11:15 Coffee break

11:30 Second Session: Scientists and scientific advice

How do scientists and social sciences understand and value the relationship with the political system? Possible topics: neutrality vs. acknowledging that everything is political; control of scientific results and responsibilities of scientists for the political changes

- Chair: Jelena Lončar, Faculty of Political Sciences
- Sebastian Schief, University of Fribourg: Different scientific positions vis-à-vis research and politics *tbc
- Ivana Ćirković, Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government
- Slaviša Orlović, Faculty of Political Sciences
- Dušan Spasojević, Faculty of Political Sciences
- Danilo Vuković, Faculty of Law

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch at the Faculty Restaurant





14:00 – 15:30 Third Session: Formal and Informal Mechanisms of Scientific Advice

Focus on the organisation of scientific advice: How is social science knowledge institutionally channelled into policy processes? What mechanisms exist through which social policies take into account scientific knowledge? What approaches can be used? Focus on how scientists, academic organisations and think-tanks use evidence to bring certain issues to the political agenda and how to use informal channels of scientific advice (and therefore reproduce the issue of informality).

- Chair: Gazela Pudar Draško, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory
- Ivo Staub, University of Fribourg: Scientific advice mechanism – a comparison of different institutional channels
- Jelica Minić, European Movement in Serbia
- Olivera Vuković, SeConS
- Aleksandra Jerkov, Member of Parliament
- Tanja Mišćević, Head of the Team for EU Negotiations



DAY II

10:00 – 11:15 First session: Political use of Scientific Evidence (I – general perspective)

What happens to scientific results and projects if they are picked up by relevant organisations in the political sphere? Under what circumstances does science lead to political action? What are the contributions to social transformation? How to use scientific evidence to fight corruption?

- Chair: Dušan Spasojević, Faculty of Political Sciences
- Monica Budowski, University of Fribourg: The roles of science and statistics in politics throughout history
- Slobodan Cvejić, SeConS
- Srđan Đurović, Open Society Foundation Serbia
- Aleksandar Baucal, Faculty of Philosophy
- Snezana Djordjevic, Faculty of Political Sciences

11:30 – 13:00 Second session: Political use of Scientific Evidence (II – Serbia)

- Chair: Jelena Kleut, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad
- Jelena Žarković Rakić, FREN, Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade
- Žarko Šunderić, Centre for Social Policy
- Milica Kolaković Bojović, Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research
- Ivan Sekulović, SIPRU
- Jelisaveta Blagojević, Faculty of Media and Communications, Singidunum University
- Jelena Surčulija Milojević, Faculty of Political Sciences
- Snježana Milivojević, Faculty of Political Sciences

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch at the Faculty Restaurant