




Standardising Responsibility?



Fern Wickson
GenØk Centre for Biosafety, Tromsø Norway
fern.wickson@genok.org
 @FernWickson
http://www.genok.no/fern_wickson

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FEATURE ARTICLE

Ethics of Science for Policy in the Environmental Governance of Biotechnology: MON810 Maize in Europe

FERN WICKSON^{1*} & BRIAN WYNNE²

¹GenØk Centre for Biosafety, Tromsø, Norway
²ESRC Centre for Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics, CesaGen, Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK

ABSTRACT *This paper discusses entanglements of science and ethics in the regulation of genetically modified crops. Using the 2009 German ban of genetically modified maize MON810 and debates concerning the quality of science cited to support it, the paper highlights how values are tacitly embedded in science for policy and how ethical questions permeate the way this science is developed, quality-controlled, and given authority in the European regulation of biotechnology. We argue that a lack of recognition and inadequate treatment of such value-commitments influencing science, and through this policy, impinges upon and weakens the ethical standards involved. This has particular significance as Europe debates genetically modified crop legislative reform.*

Emerging Definitions of RRI

Rene von Schomberg:

Responsible Research and Innovation is a transparent, interactive process by which societal actors and innovators become mutually responsive to each other with a view to the (ethical) acceptability, sustainability and societal desirability of the innovation process and its marketable products (in order to allow a proper embedding of scientific and technological advances in our society).

Richard Owen, Phil Macnaghten, Jack Stilgoe:

Responsible innovation is a commitment of care for the future through collective stewardship of science and innovation in the present.

Four dimensions of responsible innovation:

a. Anticipatory; b. Reflective; c. Deliberative; d. Responsive



CEN pre-NWI

“Nano- Responsible Development”

TC 352: Nanotechnologies

WG 2: Commercial & Other Stakeholder Aspects

“Nano- responsible development: integration of risk and benefit assessment in the production, marketing, and use of nanotechnologies, nanomaterials and/or products incorporating nanomaterials”



Relevant Issues for Broader Participation

- **Defining Responsibility**
 - Risk/Benefit Frame?
 - Uncertainty?
- **Defining Social Benefit**
 - Level, Timeframe, Metric?
 - Comparator, Alternatives?
- **Defining Scope**
 - Actors, Nano?
 - Purpose?



Thanks for Listening 😊



Fern Wickson

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