HRK Hochschulrektorenkonferenz

Die Stimme der Hochschulen

28.10.2025

Author

VARUGHESE, Shiju Sam

Title

Where are the missing masses? : the quasi-publics and non-publics of technoscience

Publication year

2012

Source/Footnote

In: Minerva. - 50 (2012) 2, S. 239 - 254

Inventory number

32645

Keywords

Wissenschaft und Staat; Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft

Abstract

The paper offers a political-philosophical analysis of the state and publics in the age of technoscience to propose three distinct categories of publics: scientific-citizen publics constituted by civil society, quasi-publics that initiate another kind of engagement through the activation of ?political society,? and non-publics cast outside these spheres of engagement. This re-categorization is possible when the central role of the state in its citizens? engagement with technoscience is put upfront and the non-Western empirical contexts are taken seriously by Science, Technology and Policy (STP) studies. The paper argues that in most of the world the state maintains a political contract with technoscience to form a functional coupling as the state-technoscience duo, which shapes public engagement with science through different functional modalities of government. Civil society is the sphere of legitimate engagement and participation in technoscientific issues for the scientific-citizen publics. The quasi-publics choose to be in the shady zone of political society establishing a paralegal relationship with the state-technoscience duo, while the non-publics come into being due to conditions of extra-legality created by the duo. The non-publics are implicated in the political

HRK Hochschulrektorenkonferenz

Die Stimme der Hochschulen

28.10.2025

community paradoxically as an excluded category who cannot be included in deliberation because of their status as being expelled from political community in a ?state of exception.? The paper proposes that the scientific-citizen publics are mobilized in contrast to the quasi-publics and with reference to the non-publics, helping STP studies to identify the ?missing masses? of technoscience. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)