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978-1-107-00370-5 - The Politics of Scientific Advice: Institutional Design for Quality Assurance

Justus Lentsch and Peter Weingart

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The Politics of Scientific Advice

Controversies over issues such as genetically engineered food, foot-and-mouth disease and the failure of risk models in the global financial crisis have raised concerns about the quality of expert scientific advice. The legitimacy of experts, and of the political decision-makers and policy-makers whom they advise, essentially depends on the quality of the advice. But what does quality mean in this context, and how can it be achieved? This volume argues that the quality of scientific advice can be ensured by an appropriate institutional design of advisory organisations. Using examples from a wide range of international case studies, including think tanks, governmental research institutes, agencies and academies, the authors provide a systematic guide to the major problems and pitfalls encountered in scientific advice and the means by which organisations around the world have solved these problems.

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The Politics of Scientific Advice

Institutional Design for Quality Assurance

Justus Lentsch and Peter Weingart (eds.)



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Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Tokyo, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by

Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521177153

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First published 2011

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

The politics of scientific advice : institutional design for quality assurance /
[edited by] Justus Lentsch, Peter Weingart.

p. cm.

ISBN 978-1-107-00370-5 (Hardback) – ISBN 978-0-521-17715-3 (pbk.)

1. Science news. 2. Scientific bureaus. 3. Science and state.

I. Lentsch, Justus. II. Weingart, Peter. III. Title.

Q225.P65 2011

338.9'26–dc22

2010050338

ISBN 978-1-107-00370-5 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-17715-3 Paperback

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Acknowledgements

As the editors of such a collaborative effort we are indebted to numerous people and organisations. Foremost we thank the chapter authors for their contributions and their endurance throughout the lengthy process of bringing this project to completion. All chapters have been commissioned for this volume and were presented and discussed at an international symposium in Berlin. We particularly thank the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung for providing generous funding for this event.

The volume grew out of a larger collaborative effort of the interdisciplinary research group Scientific Advice to Policy in Democracies of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities. We therefore would like to thank the members of this group and the president of the Academy, Günter Stock, for his encouragement and support. Without the organisational backing of the Academy's science administration, most notably its director, Wolf-Hagen Krauth, and his team, Regina Reimann and Renate Neumann, this project would have never materialised.

Many of the ideas have been developed in lively intellectual exchange with numerous colleagues. In particular, we would like to thank Sheila Jasanoff, Sabine Maasen, and Mary Morgan and her group How Well Do Facts Travel at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) for personal encouragement, advice and for sharing their ideas with us.

John Haslam at Cambridge University Press was supportive of the project right from the beginning. We gratefully acknowledge the criticism of two anonymous reviewers that greatly helped improve the quality and consistency of the volume.

Finally, thanks goes to Lilo Jegerlehner for her careful typesetting and to Marc Weingart for language editing. We are most grateful to all of them for helping to make the book finally become a reality.

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