

Responsible Innovation: Charting the Course for Canada

Introduction and Discussion Points (Marc Saner, uOttawa)

Wed, April 20, 2016, 3:00-4:30; Room 1-31; 67 Erb St W, Waterloo

What is it - and why should we care?

- Definition 1: EU (RRI-Tools) “Responsible Research and Innovation” (RRI):
 - A concept which has been adopted as a cross-cutting issue at Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2014-2020;
 - Doing science and innovation with society and for society, including the involvement of society ‘very upstream’ in the processes of research and innovation to align its outcomes with the values of society;
 - A wide umbrella that brings together different aspects of the relationship between science and innovation and society: **public engagement, open access, gender equality, science education, ethics and governance.**
- Definition 2: Virtual Institute for Responsible Innovation (VIRI): “Responsible innovation” (RI):
 - ... today there is **neither a clear, unified vision** of what responsible innovation is, what it requires in order to be effective, nor what it can accomplish.
- Definition 3: Stilgoe *et al.* 2013 (see below):
 - “Responsible innovation means taking care of the future through collective stewardship of science and innovation in the present.” Principles: **anticipation, reflexivity, inclusion, responsiveness.**
- Reason 1: Good to know: neither Horizon 2020 nor VIRI/ASU/NSF should be dismissed lightly
- Reason 2: An opportunity for Canada?

Where is it from? - Samples

- 2004 - David Guston (ASU, head of VIRI) “Responsible Innovation in the Commercialized University” (Book Chapter)
- 2007 - René von Schomberg (EU, Team Leader, Science Policy) “From the Ethics of Technology towards an Ethics of Knowledge Policy & Knowledge Assessment” (Working Paper)
- 2013 - Jack Stilgoe, Richard Owen & Phil Macnaghten, “Developing a framework for responsible innovation,” *Research Policy* 42: 1568–1580.

Where is it headed? - Samples

- Academia: *Journal of Responsible Innovation* as of 2014 (David Guston, Founding Editor)
- EU: RRI Tools are expanding (www.rri-tools.eu); Jack Stilgoe says ...
- US: VIRI is a small network; European enthusiasm may cause apprehension (GMOs)
- Canada: No real attention yet -- this is it!

Discussion: Charting a Course for Canada

	Opportunities	Risks
Near Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate participation in Horizon 2020 (EU) - Innovation150 (Perimeter-lead, 2017) - CSPC (Ottawa, November 2016) - Case studies (e.g., synthetic biology) - Shape the concept before it shapes you ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waste time - Distraction and confusion - Involuntarily adopt "extreme precaution"
Longer Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deal with acceleration (pacing problem) - Deal with diffusion (e.g., DIY problem) - Deal with new expectations (risk society) - Engage youth in the future of STI - Democratized science >>> - democratized oversight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Red tape - Smoke and mirrors - Words rather than action - False sense of security - Everyone is involved = no one is accountable - Death by consultation

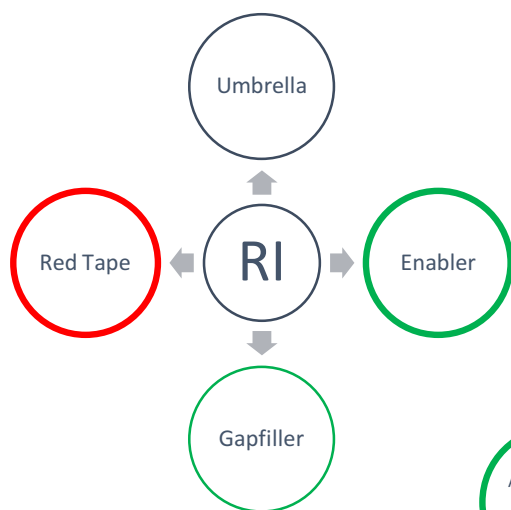


Fig. 1: RI, what art thou?

Check out: www.ricah.ca



Fig. 2: A zoo – but is it complete?