

OWL colloquium: Athena's platform for deliberating science-society interactions

07-11-17

We are happy to announce that our next OWL colloquium speaker is **Dr. Guus Dix**, who will enter into academic debate with **Drs. Cédric Middel**.

Date & time:

Thursday 23 November, 16:00-17:00

Venue:

WN-F654, VU University Amsterdam, De Boelelaan 1085

Title:

Discipline and incentivization as rival modes of governing

Abstract:

Over the past three decades, the 'incentive' has become a taken-for-granted notion to understand human behavior as well as an instrument to act upon it. In the social and behavioral sciences, it is a widely used yet ill-defined concept to explain why humans act as they do. In the private and the public sectors, the use of incentives became dominant as a way to steer the behavior of individuals and groups in new directions. Historically, I will trace the development of 'the incentive' from late nineteenth century management engineers to present-day neoliberal reforms. On a theoretical level, I will contrast 'incentivization' and 'discipline' as rival modes of governing with different problems, assumptions and techniques.

About our speaker:

Guus Dix was a postdoctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne. He is working on two connected research projects. In a historical book project *Incentives: A Genealogy* (under contract with Princeton University Press) he traces the

development of 'incentivization' as a framework to understand and act upon human behavior from late 19th century mechanical engineers to 21st century neoliberalism. In a qualitative research project on a Dutch policy experiment with monetary incentives in education, he explores the role of economic expertise (forecasting, experimental economics, microeconomic theories) in policymaking processes.

Next OWL Colloquium:

Dr. Arjan Bos

Friday

To tell or not to tell? The dilemma of disclosure of concealable stigmas

15/12/2017

16:00-17:00

About the Athena Institute

The Athena Institute at VU University Amsterdam is part of the science faculty. From its early days in the 1990s onwards, it has developed tools and methodologies to successfully deal with science-society interactions at all stages of research and innovation.

About the OWL colloquium

With its monthly OWL colloquium the Athena Institute aspires to stimulate an inter-, multi-, cross and trans-disciplinary process of deliberation about topics relating to the interface between science and society. Speakers from all corners both within and without academia (CSOs, policy, business and industry...) are invited to present on empirical, theoretical and methodological developments topical to bridging the variety of gaps that complicate science and society interactions.

For more information, please contact us at p.klaassen@vu.nl.