

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

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Athena's monthly colloquium



We are happy to announce that our next OWL colloquium speaker is

drs. Leonie van Drooge

going into academic debate with

Anne-Floor Schölvinck

Date & time: **26 October 2017, 16:00-17:00**

Venue: Room **WN-P640** in VU University Amsterdam, De Boelelaan 1085.

Abstract: "towards new evaluation approaches – and towards a new role for the designers of these approaches"

Scientific research, societal and industrial innovation and public policies have become intertwined in transdisciplinary networks or consortia. The overarching goal of many of these is to contribute to a specific societal challenge. A different view on and approach to evaluation is needed, with a focus on the joint goals of these transdisciplinary initiatives. One-size-fits-all indicators are not adequate; a range of indicators is needed, that do justice to the complexities of these initiatives. Moreover, the design of an evaluation of monitoring system needs to be revised. An incremental change, such as adding an extra indicator relating to societal aspects, is not enough.

In the academic literature in the field of science, technology and innovation studies, we find suitable approaches and concepts. From empirical evidence we learn that there is a gap between these academic insights and practice. How to close this gap? And what are the implications for the role of those involved in the development of indicators and evaluations?

About our speaker: Leonie van Drooge

is a senior researcher at the Dutch Rathenau Institute. She has extensive experience in the field of science policy, in particular in the area of societal impact of research, impact of challenge oriented and research intensive initiatives and research evaluation. She has been / is involved in a number of projects and groups dedicated to the organization and evaluation of societal impact, such as the Dutch ERiC project (Evaluating Research in Context), FP7 SIAMPI, COST action ENRESSH, H2020 ACCELERATE (impact of research infrastructures) and the ongoing Dutch working group dedicated to the national Standard Evaluation Protocol (SEP).

In her work she applies participative research methods and approaches, such as focus groups, open space, world cafe and the joint development of theories of change. She wants to understand why practices are the way they are, and not necessarily the way they are meant to be. She aims to improve situations. This is in line with the mission of the Rathenau Institute: to contribute to current, coming and urgent science and innovation policy issues; to shed light, provide advice, propose options and solutions.

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 OWLcolloquium.falw@vu.nl.