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Science and policy in times of multicrisis and dissent: Issues of framing, authority, evidence
– and political-economic power

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Abstract

What is the role of the economy in regulating the relationships between science and political decision-making?

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In an era marked by overlapping global crises, the relationship between science and political decision-making is increasingly mediated, and often distorted, by economic forces. Considering the critical approach, science is historically situated and socially constructed by practices embedded with economical and political interests. Therefore, this presentation investigates how funding mechanisms, market logics, and financial interests have changed and shaped research agendas, epistemic authority, and policy outcomes. These days, research priorities are increasingly determined by market expectations. Methodologies and project outcomes are adapted to fit commercial goals, and success is measured through metrics aligned with competitive advantage perspectives.

Based on these accounts, it is argued that reclaiming a democratic and socially responsive science requires challenging the commercial pressures that constrain scientific debate, promoting epistemic diversity, and applying precaution more systematically. Only then can we begin to rebuild the relationship between science, policy, and society around the principles of public interest, democratic accountability, and ecological sustainability.