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Call for contributions

Responsible Research and Innovation: methodological approaches and practical insights

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The concept of Responsible Research and Innovation has gained political relevance in recent years, notably in certain OECD and European Commission projects (von Schomberg, 2013). Integrating environmental and social concerns, this concept provides a possible response to the challenges of sustainable development.

The principles of RRI are based on considering the potential impacts of innovations on social well-being, while using social and environmental purposes as the starting point for innovation. RRI thus involves anticipating impacts by analyzing not only the outcome of the innovation (its development, commercialization and use) but the innovation process itself. RRI is proposed as a means of governance to govern the development of innovation, while ensuring a broader inclusion of stakeholders during decision-making.

Despite the growing body of research on this concept, it is recognized that there is still no consensus on its definition and it is often assimilated to responsible innovation. However, according to (Wiarda et al., 2021), these two concepts are interconnected and overlap in some aspects, but their contexts of creation differ. This leads to ambiguity in the way it is implemented, evaluated and institutionalized in practice.

Apart from this conceptual confusion, few practical studies and generic methodologies have been developed among academics. The existing ones do not provide guidelines adapted to different types of actors such as industrial, institutional (like public authorities), associative..., whose motivations, objectives, capacities and visions vary. This challenge both individual action and, more specifically, collective responsiveness, co-responsibility and coordinated interaction to (Wiarda et al., 2021). For example, inclusive and deliberative engagement may be in tension with the ability of firms to commercially exploit their innovations (Ruckstuhl et al., 2020).

On the other hand, some studies have shown that the analytical foundations of RRI have been largely built on Northern development models. This excludes consideration of other political, cultural or economic circumstances and practices (Macnaghten et al., 2014; Owen et al., 2013; Stilgoe et al., 2013; Wiarda et al., 2021). An adaptation of the RRI to local scales with their particular conditions, seems necessary.

All of these limitations encourage us to look up for new scientific insights. In this call for contributions we welcome theoretical proposals but we privilege empirical contributions, new methodological frameworks and practical feedbacks in order to address the shortcomings of the literature and to draw new lessons.

The contributions could address the following themes, (without excluding other reflections):

- What are the similarities and/or distinction between RRI and responsible innovation and how does this translate into practice?
- How RRI processes can actually be designed and integrated to drive organizational and institutional change in different organizations and contexts?
- What are the key dimensions that contribute to the implementation of RRI in companies and institutions?
- How to foster collective management and governance of RRI practices among heterogeneous actors?
- How to mobilize creative approaches and processes for RRI?
- What are the strengths and challenges of implementing RRI practices, and how do they vary according to the diversity of actors and the socio-economic and political context?
- What tools can be used to assess the impact of RRI on the performance of companies and institutions?

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Website of the event: <https://ice-iamot-2022-conference.org/>

Templates & Paper Structure: <https://ice-iamot-2022-conference.org/3-templates.html>

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