

The 'Science for Policy' Component of the Studies of Expertise and Experience (SEE) research programme

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Overview

- Introducing the Studies of Expertise and Experience (SEE) research programme
- Showing that SEE science for policy proposals are neither technocratic nor anti-democratic

Studies of Expertise and Experience (SEE)

2002 'Third Wave of Science Studies' paper

Theory and Classification of Expertise

Social Scientific Arm

Focus on: Nature and Acquisition of Expertise; Interdisciplinarity ...

Concepts: tacit knowledge; interactional expertise; trading zones; fractal model; Imitation Games ...

- Huge impact within STS
- Dozens of STS studies adopting this approach
- Hundreds of studies using 'Interactional Expertise'

Political Arm

Focus on: Role for and Use of Expertise in public decision-making involving techno-scientific issues

Concepts: technical & political phase; minimal default position; 'sandwich model'

- Little impact within STS or beyond
- Small number of publications developing the theme (> 10)

The 'Periodic Table of Expertise'

UBIQUITOUS EXPERTISES					
DISPOSITIONS	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Interactive Ability Reflective Ability </div>				
SPECIALIST EXPERTISES	<i>UBIQUITOUS TACIT KNOWLEDGE</i>			<i>SPECIALIST TACIT KNOWLEDGE</i>	
	Beer-mat Knowledge	Popular Understanding	Primary Source Knowledge	Interactional Expertise	Contributory Expertise
				<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <i>Polimorphic</i> <i>Mimeomorph</i> </div>	
META-EXPERTISES	<i>EXTERNAL (Transmuted expertises)</i>			<i>INTERNAL (Non-transmuted expertises)</i>	
	Ubiquitous Discrimination	Local Discrimination	Primary Source Knowledge	Technical Connoisseurship	Downward Referred Expertise
META-CRITERIA	Credentials		Experience		Track-Record

Source: Collins and Evans (2007: 14)

- Expertise is substantial and linked to the possession of tacit and explicit knowledge
- Redistribution of Expertise: recognising non-credentialed experts

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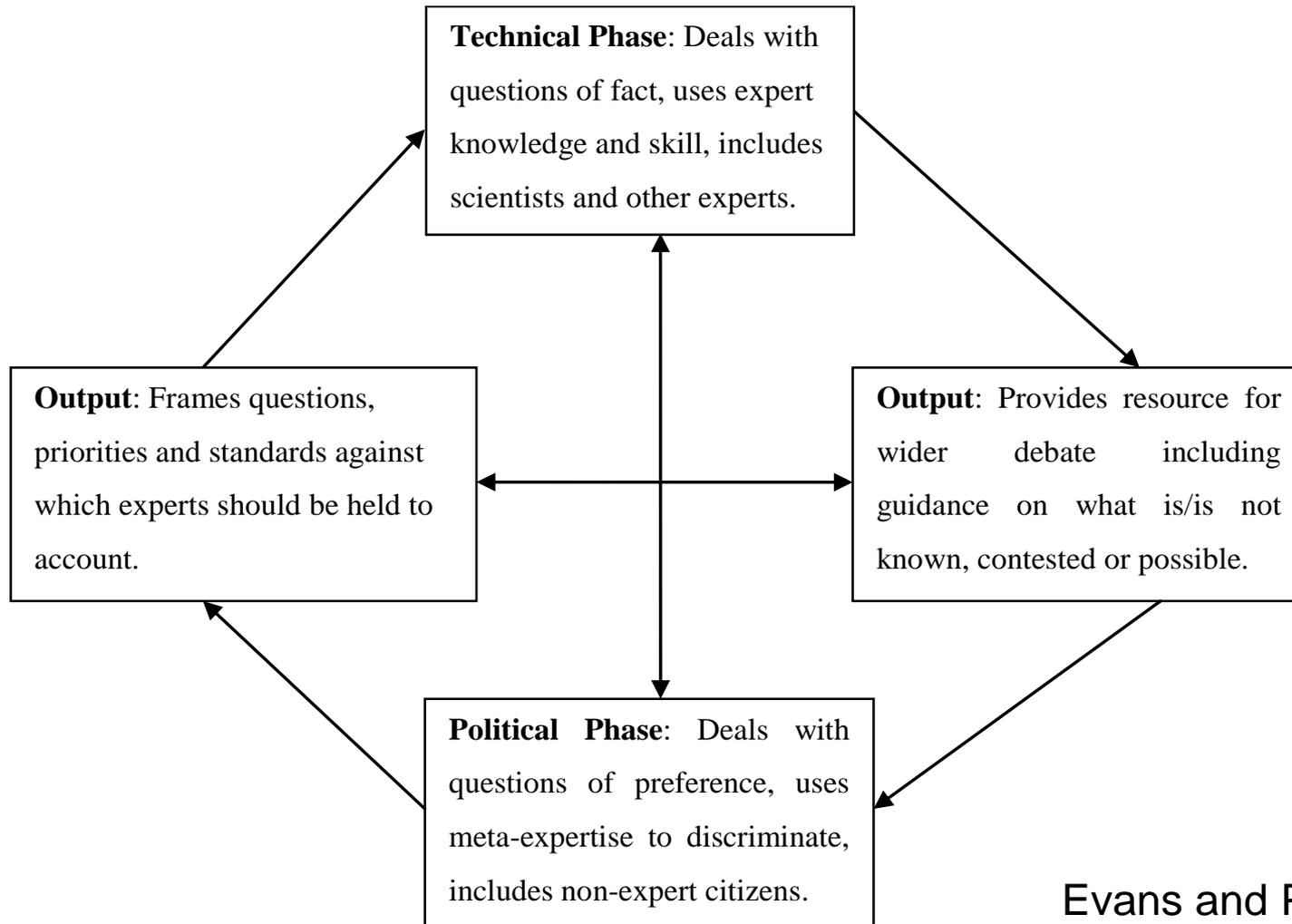
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SEE critics: anti-democratic & technocratic

The worldwide movement in legislation and public policy these days is toward, not away from, wider participation. ... In general, Western states have accepted the notion that democratic publics are adult enough to determine how intensely and in what manner they wish to engage with decision-making, subject only to the constraints of time and other resources. It is understood that any 'interested and affected' party has a right to participate in such processes. If this is the state of the world, then why should we pay attention to work that seems on its face to be looking for principles with which to limit the scope of public participation? (S. Jasanoff 2003: 397)

To the extent that public meanings and the imposition of problematic versions of these by powerful scientific bodies are the issue, then the proper participants [in technological decision-making processes] are in principle every democratic citizen and not specific sub-populations qualified by dint of specialist experience-based knowledge. (B. Wynne 2003: 411)

Early SEE Science-Policy Model (2007)



Evans and Plows 2007

Is SEE technocratic and anti-democratic?

- Decision-making in the technical phase does not amount to political decision-making as only propositional questions are addressed
 - ‘The qualification to be involved in public issues involving technical expertise’ (...) is not unconnected with specialist technical expertises, and where appropriate it should be informed by these, but it does not at all reduce to this.’ (B. Wynne 2007: 108)
- ‘Separation’ of technical phase does not mean social or physical seclusion
- Limits to participation in technical phase relate to actual decision-making, not necessarily the process as a whole
- Public/non-expert involvement in framing of technical questions
- Technical phase judgements do not determine policy-making: minimal default position

Conclusions

SEE approach:

- New definition of expertise
- Separates technical from political aspects
- Restricts participation in technical phase to experts

- No prescribed limits to participation in political phase
- Political phase decisions always 'trump' technical phase

SEE is neither anti-democratic nor technocratic