

# RETHINKING POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONS THROUGH CO-CREATION, USER-DRIVEN INNOVATION & RESEARCH IN THE WILD

**Stefano Crabu**

**University of Padova, Italy**

**Simone Arnaldi**

**University of Trieste, Italy**

**Paolo Magaudda**

**University of Padova, Italy**

## **Abstract:**

### **TRACK CONVENORS**

- Simone Arnaldi is Associate Professor of Sociology at the Department of Political and Social Sciences in the University of Trieste (Italy). His work investigates the subjects of science, technology and innovation governance, responsible innovation and science diplomacy. Currently, he is working on three research projects about: (1) the role of intermediary organizations in the mainstreaming of responsible innovation; (2) the impact of public engagement activities on ethics learning about emerging technologies; and (3) the study of science diplomacy cooperation networks in Central and Eastern Europe.
- Stefano Crabu (University of Padova, Italy) is a science, technology, and medicine sociologist. He works on scientific and technological innovation processes in the life sciences and ICT. His recent publications have centered on the sociomaterial and epistemological aspects of translational biomedicine, laboratory practices, and hacking practices. He is Principal Investigator of the project "En-RRI - Enhancing RRI in the bottom-up co-creation of science and technology".
- Paolo Magaudda (University of Padova, Italy) is Associate Professor in Sociology of Culture and Communication at the University of Padova (Italy), where he work with the Padova Science Technology & Innovation Study (PaSTIS) Research Unit. His main research interests regard the relationship between culture, technology and society, with a specific focus on media technologies, the role of consumers in innovation and the sector of music.

### **THEMATIC TRACK SHORT ABSTRACT**

In recent decades, academic and practitioners alike have paid increasing attention to models of innovation whose distinguishing feature is the involvement of end-users and grassroots organizations in participatory processes that occur outside established R&D institutional settings and that, nonetheless, effectively co-produce science, technology and innovation. Scholars have developed a broad array of notions for capturing organizational arrangements and situated practices fostering the co-shaping of innovation, such as "deliberative" and "participatory" public engagement (Burgess 2014), co-creation (Voorber et al. 2014), user-driven innovation (Franke et al. 2016), and research in the wild (Callon and Rabeharisoa 2003). In the European Union, policy approaches such as Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) and Open Science, have recognized these emerging forms of innovation as pivotal drivers to better align technoscientific developments with the values, expectations and needs of concerned communities and stakeholders.

Despite such an increased attention to these participatory models of technoscientific innovation, many critical challenges still lie ahead and require further analysis: the unequal power distribution among participants; the long term sustainability of stakeholder engagement; the effectiveness of

participatory assessments; the replicability and marketability of outcomes. At the same time, public regulators and scientific communities still appear unable to take stock of insights and "lessons learned" from bottom-up co-creation initiatives and from research in the wild activities to redesign their strategies and policies.

We encourage social scientists, STS scholars and practitioners to submit theoretically, empirically, and methodologically oriented papers exploring "alternative" forms of innovation that are primarily steered by citizens and "non-experts" and examining how they can contribute to rethink the dominant institutions and policies shaping technoscience.

**Key words:**

co-creation; user-driven innovation; research in the wild