

Workshop Series

***Is Science Advice for Policy useful  
in modern societies?***

## Programme

11<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Opening:** Chris Sainty, British Ambassador to Portugal

**Introduction:** Mara Almeida, Senior Researcher at the Centre for Philosophy of Science of the University of Lisbon (CFCUL)

**1<sup>st</sup> workshop:** [Science for policy: what does it mean?](#) (2.30-4.30pm)

**The panel members will discuss the nature of science, what does the scientific process entails and its uses in the context of policymaking and politics. In doing so it will consider the range of societal views about the role and usefulness of science. What can science offer now and in the future at the political and societal level?**

Speakers:

- Heather Douglas, Associate Professor at Philosophy Department, Michigan State University
- James Wilsdon, Professor of Research Policy at the University of Sheffield and Director of the Research on Research Institute
- Clarissa Rios Rojas, Research Associate at CSER, University of Cambridge
- Maria Graça Carvalho, Member of the European Parliament, former senior advisor of the Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation from 2014-2015

Moderator: Elizabeth Sukkar, Managing Editor and Global Healthcare Lead, Thought Leadership at The Economist Intelligence Unit (The EIU)

18<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**2<sup>nd</sup> workshop:** [Science Advice to Government - Why is it relevant?](#) (9-11am)

**The panel members will reflect on existing processes, mechanisms and structures providing scientific advice to governments in Europe. In doing so it will discuss how to increase the demand and uptake of evidence generated by these structures, and more in general, in political decision-making. What are the challenges and guiding principles of providing scientific advice to policymakers? Are they evolving with time? Are they different in a context of complexity and uncertainty as illustrated by the Covid-19 pandemic?**

Speakers:

- Renzo Tomellini, Head of Unit, Scientific Advice Mechanism, DG Research and Innovation EC
- José Manuel Mendonça, President National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (CNCTI) (*to be confirmed*)
- Peter Gluckman, Chair of the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA)

- Carole Mundell, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office FCDO Chief International Science Envoy

Moderator: David Budtz Pedersen, Professor of Science Communication and Director of the Humanomics Research Institute in Copenhagen

25<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**3<sup>rd</sup> workshop: [Science Advice to Parliament - Why is it relevant?](#) (2.30-4.30pm)**

**The panel members will discuss the relevance of legislative science advice in Europe, including existent processes and mechanisms that support the use of evidence in national parliaments. It will also discuss initiatives taking place to institutionalise the provision of scientific evidence in countries in which institutionalised structures do not currently exist. The panel members will reflect on the way in which these structures operate, their impact on the parliamentary work and demand for evidence by parliamentarians. How does legislative science advice take place in a situation of crisis such as the Covid-19 pandemic?**

Speakers:

- Grant Hill-Cawthorne, Head of POST, UK
- Melanie Peters, Director of Rathenau Instituut, NL
- Andreu Climent, President of the initiative “Science in Parliament”, Spain
- Carla Sousa, Vice-President of the Parliamentary Committee on Education, Science, Youth and Sports, Portugal (*to be confirmed*)

Moderator: Wiebe E. Bijker, Professor of Technology & Society, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies of Culture, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

REGISTRATION - <https://www.eventbrite.pt/e/is-science-advice-for-policy-useful-in-modern-societies-tickets-142253147995>

Events in MS Teams and Streamlined in YouTube.

**Organization:**

Mara Almeida (Centre for Philosophy of Sciences of the University of Lisbon)

Frederico Lyra/Cláudia Nunes (British Embassy Lisbon)