

# Report of the Eu-SPRI early career workshop at Utrecht University

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## Content

Originally we had planned a physical two-day event in Utrecht (see the invitation in appendix 1). The objective was threefold: paper development, networking, and a foresight activity to insert the voice of early career scholars in the Eu-SPRI community. The results of this foresight activity would be presented at a plenary session of the main Eu-SPRI conference.

Due to Covid-19, the event was held fully online, via Zoom. We therefore opted to focus the early career workshop on paper development. The objective was for early career researchers to receive detailed and elaborate comments on their written work. Also the keynote address was aligned to this objective, and focused on academic writing skills.

## Program

The meeting was held in the afternoon to enable the participation of early career scholars from India and Brazil. This was the program (in Amsterdam time):

### *13:00-14:00 Opening and keynote*

We began the session with a few opening words by Koen Frenken, who welcomes the participants and introduced the objectives of the Eu-SPRI network. Next Magnus Gulbrandsen gave a very interesting keynote on academic writing. The title of his talk was "Academic writing: the good, the bad and the ugly".

### *14:00-16:00 Breakout sessions*

At 14:00 hours we split the group in 6 breakout sessions to discuss the papers of the early career researchers. The participants were asked to prepare comments for each of the papers in their session. The five senior discussants who provided feedback were Prof. Dr. Magnus Gulbrandsen (University of Oslo, Norway), Prof. Dr. Sally Wyatt (Maastricht University, the Netherlands), Dr. Wouter Boon (Utrecht University, the Netherlands), and the two organizers from Utrecht University: Prof. Dr. Koen Frenken and Dr. Koen Beumer. The papers were grouped thematically according to the expertise of the senior discussants

We devoted 30 minutes to each paper. As all participants in the breakout sessions had read the other papers, there was no need for the author to introduce the paper. Therefore the senior discussants started off with their comments right away, for about 5-10 minutes, followed by comments from the other participants and finally a response by the author and discussion.

- Group 1: Rik Braams, Andreas Kopp, Franziska Ruef (discussant: Magnus Gulbrandsen)
- Group 2: Amber Geurts, Jessica van Thiel, Jonas Torrens (discussant: Sally Wyatt)
- Group 3: Igor Bueno, Laura Kreiling, Nick Matthews (discussant: Wouter Boon)
- Group 4: Gisle Solbu, Ana Carolina Spatti, Paulina Terrazas, Keija Yang (discussant: Koen Frenken)
- Group 5: Renee van Dis, Jongheon Kim, Nimita Pandey (discussant: Koen Beumer)

Our impression is that the discussions went very well. We briefly discussed the sessions with each of the senior discussants and they had all enjoyed the session and each had received several emails by participants who expressed their gratitude.

#### *16:00-17:00 Academic speed dates*

We ended the day with some 'academic speed dates'. Besides paper development, the original objective of the early career workshop was to facilitate networking among early career scholars and to have a foresight activity where young scholars could formulate their views on the future of STI policy. The academic speed dates were introduced as a way to achieve these objectives, albeit in a more limited online form.

For this part of the program, we randomly assigned the participants to three different breakout groups of about 5-6 participants. The participants would meet for 10-15 minutes in these breakout groups in order to introduce themselves to one another, and to jointly identify a research problem or theme for STI policy that the Eu-SPRI community may investigate. After 10-15 minutes, the breakout groups would be dissolved, and new groups would be formed, again randomly assigned. In the last 15 minutes we had a plenary discussion where all the themes were gathered and discussed.

In this way, the participants had the opportunity to meet most of the other participants, especially those that were not already in their paper development session, and we gained some insights into the views of early career researchers on the future of STI policy. Briefly, these were the new themes for STI policy research identified by early career researchers:

- Digital technologies in STI and STI policy
- (Economic) inequality in relation to STI
- Converging technologies and multi-technology challenges
- Connecting innovation policy to the field of public administration
- Moving from high-tech to low-tech innovation, in fields like health and agriculture
- STI policy implementation: moving from policy design to the implementation of these policies on the ground and the way these experiences are fed back to the policy level
- Missions and transformations: to what extent do these approaches succeed in bringing about new relations, incorporating new actors, and reordering the STI system
- Implications of Covid-19: the role of engagement, bottom-up initiatives, and uprooting and redrawing boundaries between the national, regional, and international level.

- Opportunities of Covid-19 to re-address older topics like the role of the state, the role of expertise, controversies, and hype cycles.

## **Participants**

We had received 40 applications for (originally) 18 spots. We received submissions from all over the world, including the United States, Brazil, Columbia, South Korea, China, India, Iran, and all over Europe. Participants were selected on the basis of their CV and a motivation letter. The selection criteria were the quality of the participants, Eu-SPRI membership, the fit with the Eu-SPRI objectives, and the availability of a suitable paper. We selected 18 participants, two of whom later withdrew.

These final participants included a wide number of (Eu-SPRI) SPRI institutions, countries, genders, and topics:

- Amber Geurts (TNO)
- Adriaan van der Loos (UU)
- Laura Kreiling (Paris-Saclay / OECD)
- Jongheon Kim (Lausanne / Lille)
- Paulina Terrazas (LSE / Ingenio)
- Igor Ferreira Bueno (CIRCLE)
- Renée van Dis (LISIS/IFRIS)
- Jessica van Thiel (SPRU)
- Gisle Solbu (NTNU)
- Rik Braam (UU)
- Franziska Elisabeth Ruef (ETH)
- Andreas Kopp (LSE)
- Corona Sobrino (Ingenio)
- Jonas Torrens (Utrecht University)
- Keija Yang (SPRU)
- Nicholas Matthews (Manchester)
- Edgar Gironés (Fraunhofer)
- Ana Carolina Spatti (Campinas)
- Nimita Pandey (RIS)

## **Costs**

Due to the online format, no costs were made.

Prior to Covid-19 we already had made several arrangement for the physical event (hotels, restaurants, catering, meeting rooms) but fortunately these could be cancelled free of costs.

## **Appendix 1 – workshop announcement**

CfP Eu-SPRI 2020 early career event > future directions STI policy

### **EU-SPRI Early-career researcher event on ‘Studies of Policies for Research and Innovation: State of the art and future directions’ in Utrecht, 1-2 June 2020**

Eu-SPRI offers a course for early-career researchers working on science, technology and innovation (STI) policy. During the course we will explore the future of this scientific field and there is ample room to discuss your own work. Moreover, the course provides an excellent opportunity to meet fellow early-career researchers from across Europe. The course covers two days and takes place just before the yearly conference Eu-SPRI Conference 2020.

The first day (1 June 2020) is dedicated to paper development. All participants are required to hand in a paper and to provide feedback on three other papers. This is a great chance to receive in-depth feedback on your own work by both fellow early-career researchers and leading experts in the field. In addition there will be plenary sessions by Professor Sally Wyatt (Maastricht University) on digital methods and by Professor Magnus Gulbrandsen (University of Oslo) on academic publishing. We conclude the day with a lovely dinner in the city of Utrecht.

On the second day (2 June 2020) you will join in a foresight activity about the future of STI policy research. Based on a structured approach developed by Fraunhofer ISI the participants discover, discuss, conceptualize and reflect on how socio-technical trends and endogenous dynamics lead to different future scenarios. Participants get the opportunity to interact with each other and with experts, which might help them with thinking about their own research as well as their own role in broader societal and policy debates. The results will be presented in a plenary session – on the past, present, future of STI policy research – during the main Eu-SPRI conference during which early-career researchers take centre stage.

Some practicalities:

- By early-career researchers we mean researchers working at universities or other knowledge organizations (in the broadest sense) who are doing their PhD or have obtained their PhD max. 3 years ago.
- The manuscript for the writing workshop should not already be published. The text certainly does not need to be perfect yet, but it should be developed well enough so readers can understand the argument. The texts should be 6,000-10,000 words.
- You can participate in a public event on Tuesday night for free about the future of digitization with contributions from amongst others Evgeny Morozov.
- Costs for hotels (three nights: 31 May to 3 June) and food are covered by Eu-SPRI.
- The deadline for registration is 15 February 2020. Please submit short biography (max. 300 words) and motivation letter (max. one page) to [k.beumer@uu.nl](mailto:k.beumer@uu.nl).

- The event can accommodate 25 participants. These will be selected by the organizing committee on the basis of the biography and motivation letter.