

Our areas of research

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Risk Governance

DIALOGIK conducts basic research in the field of risk governance. Risk governance includes all decision and policy making processes to regulate or manage risks by plural actors such as governments, agencies, scientific institutions, private corporations and representatives of civil society. It includes analytic research on governance structures as well as normative advice to improve governance practice. Of special importance is the investigation of so-called *systemic risks*, which may have secondary effects on economy and civil society. DIALOGIK advocates a multi- and trans-disciplinary approach towards risk governance, incorporating different scientific disciplines. Furthermore, DIALOGIK understands risk governance as an iterative process consisting not only of the traditional elements of risk regulation, i.e. risk assessment and risk management, but also risk communication and participation, as well as framing, risk evaluation and risk perception. The emphasis on participation is captured in the term *inclusive risk governance*, which advocates the inclusion of stakeholders from various social groups in the risk governance process. Different and heterogeneous proposals have been made to conceptualise risk governance processes. DIALOGIK's managing and scientific director, Ortwin Renn, has designed for the *International Risk Governance Council* an innovative integrative model of *Inclusive Risk Governance*, which harmonises existing risk governance approaches. The IRGC Risk Governance Framework serves two purposes. First, it conceptualises good risk governance of policy issues. Second, it offers a framework for the coherent analysis of risk governance processes. DIALOGIK has been involved in numerous case studies to apply and test the framework.

Section Head:

Pia-J. Schweizer, M.A. (Schweizer@dialogik-expert.de)

Projects:

PROSUITE	2009 - 2013	European Commission
SEAWIND	2009 - 2012	European Commission
CapHaz-Net : Social Capacity Building For Natural Hazards: Toward More Resilient Societies	2009 - 2012	European Commission
SECURITY2People	2009 - 2012	German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
RISKGOV : Environmental Risk Governance of the Baltic Sea	2009 - 2011	European Commission and German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
Functional Food : Risk assessment and regulation of functional food: European strategies for balancing food safety and nutritional goals	2009	Japanese Food Safety Commission
PIRATE : Public Information Response After Terrorist Events	2008 - 2010	European Commission
Workshop: Improving Risk Governance: Defining a Better Process for Risk Communication and Stakeholder Participation	07. December 2008	Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting

Nanotech and Food : a concept of integrated risk governance	2007 - 2008	International Risk Governance Council (IRGC)
MYCONET	2007 - 2008	European Commission
Bioenergy	2007	International Risk Governance Council (IRGC)
Riskbridge	2006 - 2009	European Commission
Risk and Hazard	2006 - 2007	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
Megacities : Water supply and wastewater in megacities of tomorrow	2005 - 2007	German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
Safe Foods /WP4: Perception of food risk management in the European Union	2004 - 2008	European Commission
Safe Foods /WP5: Comparative review of risk manag. approaches in the European Union	2004 - 2008	European Commission
Technology Assessment : Towards a Consumer Oriented TA Concept	2004 - 2005	Steinbeis Foundation European Center
Concepts of Risk Characterization and Risk Governance	2004 - 2005	International Risk Governance Council (IRGC)
Systemic Risks and Sustainability : Review of interdisciplinary risk research	2003	German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
Biosafepaper : Safety assessment of food contact paper and board	2001 - 2005	European Commission and Industrial Consortium

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Communication, Perception and Participation

The section “Communication, Perception and Participation” investigates processes of public dialogue, social interaction and decision making in politics, economy and society. It explores and develops systematically novel approaches to scientific and technological communication. It investigates the perception and acceptance of risk and technologies employing a variety of empirical research methods and designs, and tests innovative forms of stakeholder and public involvement in scientific or technological debates. In addition, DIALOGIK is active in developing methods of conflict resolution and mediation. DIALOGIK has experience with a variety of methods and techniques: For many empirical analyses methods such as expert delphis, group delphis, focus groups and open space conferences are applied; for participatory purposes procedures such as round tables, consensus conferences, citizen panels or juries, future workshops and mediation belong to the portfolio of the Institute. DIALOGIK develops tailor-made communication programmes in accordance with the topic, the task and the context. In addition to exploring, investigating and designing new communication programmes, DIALOGIK has the expertise to conduct communication or participation projects and to organize stakeholder and public involvement processes. The present subject areas of DIALOGIK in this section are: chemical risks, exposure to magnetic fields due to mobile phones and transmitters, environmental pollution, fishery management, nuclear waste disposal, land use and sustainable resource consumption.

Section Head:

Christina Benighaus, Dipl. Geogr. (Benighaus@dialogik-expert.de)

Projects:

PACHELBEL : Policy addressing climate change and learning about consumer behaviour and everyday life	2010 - 2012	European Commission
JAKFISH - Judgment and Knowledge in Fisheries Involving Stakeholders	2008 - 2011	European Commission
CIED: Effective Risk Communications for the Improvised Explosive Device Threat	2010	Department of Homeland Security, USA
Expert and Civic Participation on Energy Concept	2009 - 2010	Cities of Ludwigsburg und Rottenburg am Neckar (Germany); IER, Stuttgart University; German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
Emergency planning	2009	German Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (Bundesamt für Bevölkerungsschutz, BBK); Chair of Insurance Business at the University of Karlsruhe
OSIRIS - Optimized Strategies for Risk Assessment of Industrial Chemicals through Integration of Non-test and Test-Information	2007 - 2011	European Commission
CREATE a POOL - Commercial real estate pool Hesse	2007 - 2009	Regional Council of Giessen
WASKlim : National Adaptation Strategy on Climate Change	2007 - 2009	German Federal Environment Agency (UBA)
Planning geological underground storages : Communicating with society	2007 - 2008	Swiss Federal Office for Energy
REGENA : Regional Industrial Real Estate Pool Neckar-Alb	2006 - 2010	German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
Risk Network	2005 - 2007	European Commission
German-Japanese Forum on Risk Management and Communication about Mobile EMF	2005	German Federal Office for Radiation Protection (BfS), Japanese Science and Technology Agency (JST)
NOMIRACLE	2004 - 2009	European Commission
BfS-Conflict resolution	2005 - 2006	German Federal Office for Radiation Protection (BfS)
Risk Maturity	2005 - 2006	German Federal Office for Radiation Protection (BfS)
Workshop on „risk communication for upper federal authorities“	2005 - 2006	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
social indicators for the sustainability of selected Swiss electric power systems	2005 - 2006	AXPO Holding AG

Training programme for science communicators in Japan and Germany: Communicating science and technology to society	2004 - 2005	Toyota Foundation, Sumitomo Foundation
Study about information activities of mobile telephone systems	2004 - 2005	German Federal Office for Radiation Protection (BfS)
Online Discourse: Green Gene Technology in Developing Countries	2004	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Biobased Scenarios: Future Outlook	2003 - 2004	Institute for Organisation Communication (IFOK) through the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

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Evaluation Research

Evaluation is a distinct research discipline for analysing the effects of research projects or political programs, for investigating the success or failure of these project or programs and for identifying problems or deficiencies if the stated goals were not accomplished. Research in evaluation is based on a set of distinct methods that include survey design for measuring effects and identifying common patterns or tendencies from a variety of studies similar to a meta-analysis. Currently, DIALOGIK is involved in projects dealing with the evaluation of participation projects in scientific, environmental or technological policy arenas and of model projects and pilot studies aimed at increasing technological literacy among students and the general population.

Section Head:

Dr. Uwe Pfenning (Pfenning@dialogik-expert.de)

Projects:

ASSE II	2009 - 2010	German Federal Office for Radiation Protection (BfS)
acatech: MoMoTech: Improving young people's interest in natural sciences and technology	2007 - 2010	acatech, Council of Technical Sciences of the Union of German Academies of Sciences and Humanities
Evaluation of School-Engineer Academy (SIA)	2007 - 2008	BBQ Berufliche Bildung gGmbH/ SÜDWESTMETALL
Evaluation of the European Citizens' Panel (ECP)	2007	Network of European Foundations
Evaluation of the Project "European Citizens' Consultation"	2006 - 2007	King Baudouin Foundation
Development of methods for evaluating risk communication (EMERik)	2005 - 2009	German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
European Citizen's Deliberation on Brain Science	2005 - 2006	King Baudouin Foundation

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Science and Society: Transfer and Foresight

This section focuses on the interdependencies between science/technology (S&T) and society. The two major topics refer to the diffusion of technological and scientific knowledge in society and the improvement of science literacy in the population. Major research questions are: How does S&T influence society and vice versa? Which technological developments do we expect in the future; and how do or will these new developments impact on environment, economy and society? Foresight is looking at the implications of science and technology on society and the role that technology and science can play in possible future developments of society. Other research projects address the problem of improving the understanding of scientific and technological issues among and between experts, users, and the public at large. Finally, the section investigates processes of knowledge transfer between distinct actors such as research institutions and small industries. Successful knowledge transfer relies on a thorough analysis of the social and cultural context.

Section Head:

Marlen Schulz, M.A. (Schulz@dialogik-expert.de)

Projects:

FAHRE : Food and Health Research in Europe	2010 - 2011	European Commission
MINT-Box : experimental systems for children	2010	Regional Foundation Baden-Württemberg
CSS : Civil Society for sustainability	2009 - 2011	European Commission
mikromakro	2009 - 2011	Regional Foundation Baden-Württemberg
MATRIX-OOW/DIA	2009 - 2010	German Research Foundation (DFG)
Knowledge and Sustainability II	2009 - 2010	Ministry for Research, Science and Arts of Baden-Württemberg
Knowledge and Sustainability	2008 - 2009	Ministry for Research, Science and Arts of Baden-Württemberg
PATE - Project for analysing Technology Transfer	2007 - 2009	German Research Foundation (DFG)
NaBaTech - Barometer for Improving the Interest of Young People in Science and Technology	2007 - 2009	Acatech, Council of Technical Sciences of the Union of German Academies of Sciences and Humanities; Federal Association of Engineers in Germany
Discourse project 'ELSA'	2007 - 2009	German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
SCOUT Science Outlined	2005 - 2009	Regional Foundation Baden-Württemberg
Public Understanding of Science (PUSH) : Improving scientific competence of young people	2001 - 2004	Regional Foundation Baden-Württemberg