

Interdisciplinary building of Nanosciences and nanotechnologies policies

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Abstract

Since its beginning and the US National Nanotechnology Initiative launch in 2001, the development of nanosciences and nanotechnologies policies was accompanied by a strong incentive of responsibility. Scientists and policy makers were particularly urged to build the frame of this responsible development through the involvement of some concrete interdisciplinary collaborations with toxicologists and eco-toxicologists, but also human and social scientists.

When they occurred, these collaborations were fruitful. Toxicologists began to cooperate with those who could help them in the characterization of their samples and to frame the study of a wide variety of new and mostly unknown materials. Human and social scientists learnt a lot about the nanoscience's community rules and milestones, the nano-research reality and tools and were able built their own studies on these concrete data. Nanoscientists also benefited from this new path, building on these collaborations to foster some new interdisciplinary research activities, including the "safety by design" approach [Kelty 2009].

The talk will relate the experience we gathered in the Region Ile de France, through the launching and work of the Centre of competences in nanosciences and its "Nanoscience and Society" transverse action, which supports academic works on the way nanoresearches and society are both influencing each other. By escaping disciplinary divides to think nanosciences and nanotechnologies together, we hope to give the discussions on nanotechnology's development a better frame [Lacour and al. 2013] and to foster an original way to explore the social construction of science and technology [Cutcliffe and al., 2012].

References

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