



Public Engagement –How should Science speak to you?

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**Communication from
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It is often neglected that public engagement is always a two-way process, not just "explaining" to the public in accessible terms the content of research and its prospective impact on society. Society has a right to feed back on its views about research, very much like local authorities have been organising for some ten years already what is called participative democracy ("démocratie participative".)

In Germany, this exists also for science, organised by the Ministry of Research, see <http://www.buergerdialog-bmbf.de/demografischer-wandel/> for the big topics where research meets societal challenges: high-tech medicine, energy technologies, demographic change.

What is called "médiation scientifique" in France does not encompass a real feedback from society into science. As long as the scientists do not accept that in addition to peer review, society has a right to weigh in their choices, they cannot expect that society gives them more money and considers them more than specialists in an ivory tower.

This might be an aspect to be covered as well: who determines the content of research - the scientists, scientists and policymakers or also society.

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