

Parliamentary TA challenged by reflexive modernization in action

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Introduction

- PTAi are curious institutional creatures...
 - OTA (1972): early warning, then «OTA paradigm» (Van Eijndhoven 1997)
 - PTA in Europe: several coexisting generations from 1980s onwards (product or process-oriented)
 - TA in Japan soon?
- ... that occupy an hybrid position

PTAi facing changes

- PTAi can be connected to broad sociological diagnoses: risk society (Beck 1992) but also reflexive modernization (Beck et al. 1994)
- Emergence and evolution of TA reflect the move of Western societies into reflexive modernization process
- PTAi are indicators of reflexive modernization in action (Delvenne 2010; Delvenne and Rip, forthcoming)

Conceptual framework

Openness to plurality

Plurality of values,
expertise/participation (e.g. Stirling 2008)

Blurring of boundaries

Boundaries become choices,
Construction of new boundaries (e.g. Beck et al. 2003)

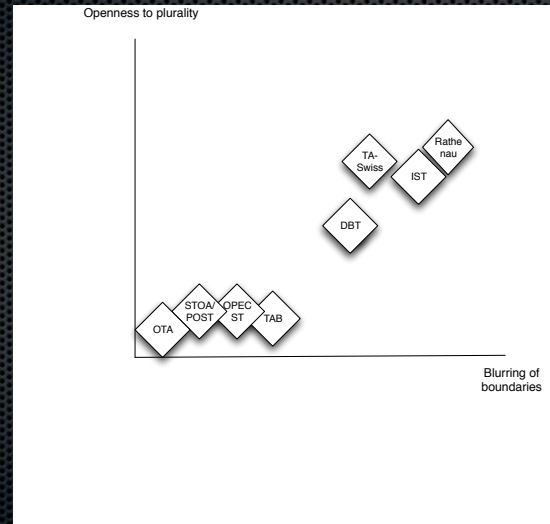


The reflexivity pathway

*Caminante no hay camino
Se hace camino al andar.*

Antonio Machado

PTAi on the reflexivity pathway



Resilience of modern institutions

Strong
parliamentary
dynamics

OTA, STOA, TAB
POST, OPECST

Weak
parliamentary
dynamics

DBT, Rathenau, TA-Swiss, IST

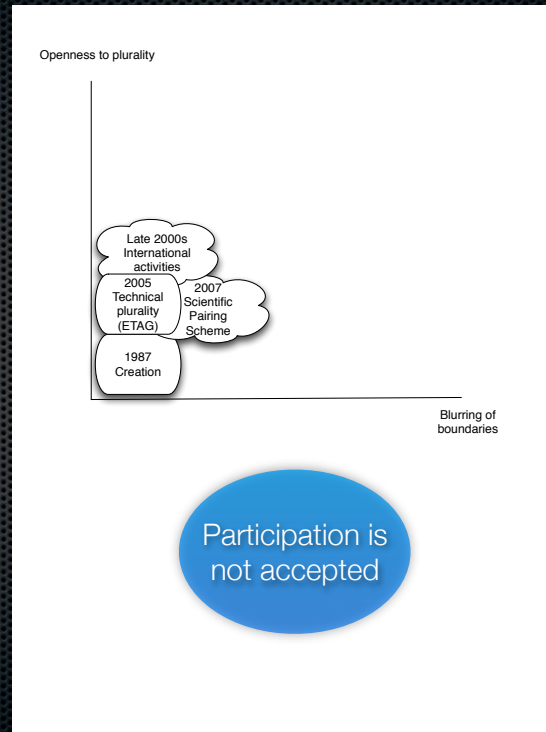
- * Consequences: path dependence and lock in
- * Responses: PTAi can resist or accommodate

Tracing PTA institutional path

- How did PTAi come to occupy such a position on the reflexivity pathway?
- How reflexive are they?
- Is there a lock in?
- Do we see openings occurring?
- Two contrasted examples: STOA and DBT

STOA

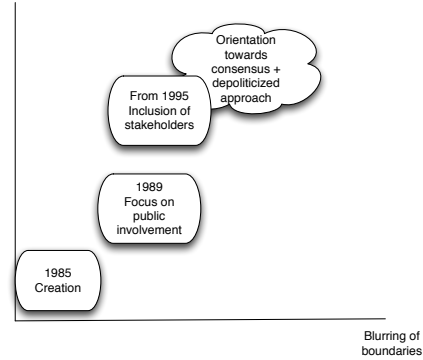
- Instrumental, technocratic and political TA
- ETAG consortium
- DM support to elite
- Scientific reports
- Interface between science and politics



DBT

- Discursive and social TA
- DM support and public participation
- Implication of various stakeholders
- Scientific reports, deliberative forums (consensus)
- Interface btw science, politics and society

Openness to plurality



Severe budgetary
cuttings

Conclusions

- Reflexive modernization can be operationalized for empirical research
- It shows a complex co-constructed process (RM/TA) that deploys its effects on different polities
- PTAi progression on the reflexivity pathway is limited by modern institutions' resilience (but also political culture, e.g. Horst and Irwin 2009)
- 3rd generation TA on the reflexivity pathway?

Thank you for your attention

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