

THE VALUE OF SCIENCE – VOM WERT DER WISSENSCHAFT

6. Mai 2015, 10:00 bis 14:00 Uhr

Mediatower, Taborstraße 1 - 3, 1020 Wien

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| 10:00 bis 10:15 Uhr | BEGRÜSSUNG
Heinrich Schmidinger
Präsident der Österreichischen Universitätenkonferenz
Peter Skalicky
Stellvertretender Vorsitzender des Rates für Forschung und Technologieentwicklung |
| 10:15 bis 10:45 Uhr | KEYNOTE (in englischer Sprache)
<i>How Science Shapes Economic Development</i>
Paula Stephan
Georgia State University / National Bureau of Economic Research |
| 10:45 bis 11:30 Uhr | RESPONDENZEN
Ulrike Felt
Institut für Wissenschafts- und Technikforschung, Universität Wien
David F.J. Campbell
Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien / Alpen-Adria Universität Klagenfurt |
| 11:30 bis 12:00 Uhr | PERSPEKTIVEN AUS KUNST UND LIFE SCIENCES
Elisabeth Freismuth
Rektorin der Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Graz
Gi-Eun Kim
Seokyeong Universität Seoul / Rat für Forschung und Technologieentwicklung |
| 12:00 bis 13:00 Uhr | DISKUSSIONSFORUM
Can we do better? |
| 13:00 bis 14:00 Uhr | MITTAGSBUFFET |
| Moderation | Markus Mooslechner |

KEYNOTE

How Science Shapes Economic Development

Paula Stephan

Georgia State University and the National Bureau of Economic Research

Abstract

The presentation explores the relationship between scientific research and economic growth and methods used to explore the relationship, such as the use of surveys that examine the relationship and econometric modelling of the relationship. We show that a relationship exists and that publicly funded research has a reasonably high rate of return with the caveat that it is difficult to measure precise rates of return and that lags between research and growth can be extremely long. We conclude by discussing challenges faced by public institutions that support research. These include educating stakeholders to the fact that research with the potential of being transformative is risky and that outcomes, to the extent they occur, can be years away. A further challenge is to resist the temptation of focusing resources primarily on applied research that can have effects in the short run. Following such a course risks jeopardizing investments in basic research and can “kill the goose that lays the golden egg.”

Biography

Professor Stephan is a research associate, National Bureau of Economic Research. She is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2012 Science Careers selected Stephan as their first “Person of the Year”. Her book “How Economics Shapes Science” was published by Harvard University Press, 2012. It was translated into Korean in 2013 and has been scheduled for release in Chinese.

“Stephan addresses how R&D spending is often driven by politics—either geo-politics (the Cold War) or personal politics (biomedical research), and how jobs in the sciences respond accordingly (and how competitive options for smart people have affected job uptake). She also talks about how difficult science and research spending is to measure from an economic efficiency perspective—essentially, because payback on investments can be quite indirect and take decades, choosing between investment options is fraught with the chance for mistakes. And the emerging trend showing that higher-impact science comes from funding entities that evaluate people instead of projects and provides longer-term funding is also covered...” — Kent Anderson (reviewer).