Lay people, experts, democrats: From antagonism to partnership

Wednesday, March 19th, 18.15h Fakultätssaal Philosophicum (room 01 185) No registration required

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The relation between experts and citizens is often portrayed as one of conflict; expertocracy and democracy are seen as mutually exclusive. In this talk, I suggest a model that moves beyond this antagonism, towards a model of partnership that allows the development of mutual trust, but not blind trust. Key for this model is the basic insight that all citizens are, in some sense, experts, and all are, in many areas, lay people. As lay people and as experts, they have democratic responsibilities to make this partnership functional. I discuss these responsibilities, and also some of the current challenges that stem from the influx of private money on research and from social media communication.

This keynote is part of INFLUEX's workshop "Citizen participation, lay expertise & epistemic injustice". More information on INFLUEX and the workshop: theorie.politik.uni-mainz.de/influex





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