

Credibility of scientific expertise and decision-making

New challenges for health risk governance
in a changing world

January & February 2021

ABSTRACT BREAK OUT SESSION - TUESDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2021

5 - Biotechnologies: Risk assessment, technology assessment and responsible research and innovation

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In recent decades, developments in biotechnology have produced a cascade of new risk management and regulatory questions, often surrounded by controversy. Novel methods of genome editing using CRISPR are recent a case in point, as are the long-standing debates over genetically modified (GM) food and crops. Risk management in this domain not only involves addressing technical issues and dealing with uncertainty and ignorance, but also finding ways to incorporate citizens' concerns into research agendas, decision making, and responsible research and innovation.

The combination of controversial knowledge claims, contested goals, and different modes of public reasoning challenge efforts to maintain the credibility of expertise and the legitimacy of risk management policy. Restrictions on access to information, such as proprietary data, and the politics of information transfer across organizational boundaries can complicate these challenges. This session will use biotechnologies, such as genome editing and GMOs, to explore these issues and their broader implications.



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