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HYBRID-Vortrag

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Crafting Democratically Accountable Science Funding

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Because science provides important public goods, public funding is needed. Initial justifications for public funding of science centered on the importance of basic (vs. applied) research and the need for public funds for basic research. Yet much public funding has gone to applied research and the linear model of science is no longer plausible. So how and why should the public fund science?

In this talk, I will argue that instead of a simple basic vs. applied distinction, a more complex ontology of scientific research is needed, including curiosity-based research, mission-directed research, engaged public research, regulatory research, private interest research, and big science infrastructure. I will suggest that each kind of research should have different funding, grant proposal evaluation, and program evaluation structures. Attending to these differences can provide a more honest science funding system, reduce unwarranted hype in science proposals, reduce grant writing demands for scientists, produce better science for public decision-making, and provide more appropriate democratic accountability for science funding.

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