Alexander Hasgall, Council for Doctoral Education of the European University Association (EUA)

Alexander Hasgall is Head of the Council for Doctoral Education of the EUA. Before, he coordinated the “Research performances in the humanities and social sciences” (CUS-P3) programme of the Swiss University Rectors conference at the University of Geneva. He received his PhD in History at the University of Zürich on the politics of truth, justice and recognition in dealing with the last dictatorship in Argentina.

Ortwin de Graef, KU Leuven

Ortwin de Graef is a professor of English Literature at KU Leuven. He is the author of two books on Paul de Man and has published widely on Romantic and post-Romantic writing. Among his principal research interests are the very-Long-Nineteenth-Century ideologies of sympathy, science, and the State. As vice-dean for research at the KU Leuven Arts Faculty, he is also a member of the League of European Research Universities’ (LERU) SSH Policy Group.

Gabi Lombardo, European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH)

Gabriella Lombardo is the Director of EASSH. She worked in international research funding and international Higher Education and the respective policy fields. Before becoming Director of the newly founded EASSH in 2016, she was a Senior Scientific Officer at Science Europe and a Team Leader of the Research Development Unit at the London School of Economics where she also received her PhD in Economic History.

Laure Ognois, University of Geneva

Laure Ognois is Director of Research Services at the University of Geneva. She is historian by training (PhD in Swiss Modern History, University of Tübingen/ University of Fribourg) and has specialised in Administrative Sciences with an M.P.A. in Speyer, Germany, where she also managed the universities’ international relations. Within CUS–P3, she led an international project for young researchers and supervised the coordination of the programme.

Axel Marion, swissuniversities

Axel Marion is Head of the Division Higher Education Policy at swissuniversities and was responsible for CUS-P3. In this position he coordinates the Higher Education Institutions’ strategical, financial and political development for the Swiss Rectors Conference. He received a PhD in International Relations from the Graduate institute of international and development studies, Geneva, and was a postdoc fellow at Boston University and ULB. He is also member of the parliament of the Canton of Vaud.

Swiss Science Briefing

Never trust the numbers: Alternative ways of assessing research in Social Science and the Humanities

with

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Former scientific coordinator of “Research performances in the humanities and social sciences”

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tbc

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Axel Marion
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19 October 2017, 17:00 – 19:00
Mission of Switzerland to the EU
Place du Luxembourg 1
Never trust the numbers: Alternative ways of assessing research in Social Science and the Humanities

The role, output and evaluation of research in Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) is heavily discussed at European level, be it in Horizon 2020, where the integration of SSH is often criticized, or looking at the report of the Lamy group in preparation of the next European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP). Although the contributions of SSH research and innovation are generally undisputed, forms of evaluation and ways on how their contributions to society are assessed and even valued remain contested. The event feeds the results of the Swiss programme “Research performances in the humanities and social sciences” (CUS–P3) into a debate on a European level and seeks to engage in an exchange with partners in Brussels. Within the ten initiatives and eight implementation projects of the framework initiated by the Swiss University Conference between 2007-2011 and 2013-2016, a comparative international perspective has been already taken into account and can provide a starting point in order to show commonalities and differences between the Swiss Universities research landscape and other countries. One of the results was that by using a bottom-up approach in evaluations, researchers’ expertise will be integrated, thus ensuring quality and acceptance within the research community at the same time. Furthermore, when assessing research, the position and context of each discipline and university should be considered. The latter is especially true in the Swiss case, as each University has its particular policies. The Swiss Science Briefing will ask how these results contribute to a broader European debate. What lessons can all sides learn from the experiences gained and feedback gathered from researchers within the project?

For this purpose, we seek to open discussions between representatives from the EC, LERU, EASSH, swissuniversities and the University of Geneva. How can the presented findings advance the debate in Europe? What concrete results can the Swiss project “Research performances in the humanities and social sciences” deliver? Are there suggestions that can be synthesised from the discussion between scientists and policy makers? This Swiss Science Briefing on how we assess or measure the output of SSH might as well contribute to the more general debate on the role of SSH in society and in European research and innovation programmes.