

SCIENCE AND DEMOCRACY IN CRISIS MANAGEMENT

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Abstract: The new articulations between science and democracy raise numerous debates regarding the management of contemporary crises, which evoke the complex relations between the universe of scientific work, politics and society, passing through claims of an autonomy of the scientific field and its links with society. Science and democracy must go together in solving contemporary crises through the necessary dialogue between civil society and the scientific community around the choice of research priorities and respecting the margins of professional autonomy of the scientific environment, as a guarantee of the impartiality of knowledge production.

Keywords: science, democracy, scientific autonomy, innovation, crisis

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Science is associated with the idea of progress, being closely linked to the notion of power and democracy, with a significant impact on political legitimacy. Given the current crises that humanity is facing, the legitimate question arises as to whether science takes precedence over democracy and whether it is constrained by politics.

Between science and democracy, the articulation, though necessary, is ambiguous. Efforts are being made to rehabilitate scientific discourse in the public sphere, with the social context inviting a revision of the foundations of science and its relationships with society. “Fundamental science concerns research that focuses on the development of knowledge or its deepening, on the functioning of phenomena of various natures, without aiming at practical application.”² Democracy, essentially, aims at the common good through the participation of citizens in various spheres of social life.

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² „Science fondamentale et démocratie : une articulation ambiguë, mais nécessaire”, Commission de l'éthique en science et technologie, 12 mars 2020, <https://www.ethique.gouv.qc.ca/fr/actualites/ethique-hebdo/eh-2020-03-12/>; Dahan, A., & Guillemot, H. (2015). Les relations entre science et politique dans le régime climatique : À la recherche d'un nouveau modèle d'expertise ? *Natures Sciences Societes*, Supplément(Supp. 3), 6-18; Jacq, A., & GuespinMichel, J. (2015). Science et démocratie : Une articulation difficile, mais nécessaire. *Écologie & politique*, N° 51(2), 107-120.