

**transformative
social innovation
theory**



**Social Innovation
as a Trigger for
Transformations; The Role of
Research**

Dr. Julia Wittmayer, DRIFT, Erasmus University Rotterdam
Dr. Bonno Pel, ULB





Moulaert, F. Mehmood, A, MacCallum, D. & Leubolt, B. (Eds.) (2017), *Social Innovation as a Trigger for Transformations; The Role of Research*, European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation

1 Social innovation in science-society relations

- new social relations between science and broader society
- different ways in different directions; e.g. slow science, increasing societal relevance, entrepreneurial orientation, valorisation, evidence-based, co-creation, ...
- *“the authors’ frustration about high-speed science”* (p.52)

Science should slow down but simultaneously accelerate its impact.

2 SI research as rescue of SSH

- Social Sciences and Humanities lose ground
- *“because SI research with its capacitation philosophy and practice can help social sciences to overcome its inferiority position vis-à-vis so-called hard sciences”* (p.9)

SSH is under pressure, loses ground to the hard sciences, to counter that it should become more action-oriented (and SI research is a key example for that).

3 The societal role of SI research

- Recent SI revival shaped by “caring neoliberalism” (a paradox that should be acknowledged)
- *“In this way, SI would enable policy makers “to do more with less and to do it better” (BEPA 2014, p. 93)” (p.11)*
- *“we consider SI as a combination of at least 3 dimensions: collective satisfaction of unsatisfied or insufficiently met human needs, ...” (p.10)*

SI research should not articulate societal paradoxes but resolve them.

Propositions up for discussion

1. Science should slow down but simultaneously accelerate its impact.
2. SSH is under pressure, loses ground to the hard sciences, to counter that it should become more action-oriented (and SI research is a key example for that).
3. SI research should not articulate societal paradoxes but resolve them.