

Department of Languages and Cultures
2017 Research Seminar Series
presents

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The (economic) value of science



Governments across the globe are pushing for increased public understanding of and participation in the sciences, often under the premise that science (usually combined with technology and innovation) is a driver of economic growth. At the same time, scientific research is increasingly being funded based on “impact”, most commonly with reference to its benefit to society in terms of economic growth. This two-prong appropriation of science in an economic-growth agenda has been met with strong criticism from within the sciences for being short-sighted; for rerouting the aims of science from knowledge production to economic production; and for curtailing science’s ability to come up with grand, blue-sky development. In this talk, I show that whatever this economic growth agenda might do to science, its biggest flaw is that it rests on a naive reading of economic growth theory. I then consider why this flawed reading of economic theory persists in underpinning our view of science’s value.

Tuesday, 9th of May 2017 1:00pm A3N7 (3rd floor Arts Building)