



POLITÉCNICA

DEPARTAMENTO DE INGENIERÍA ENERGÉTICA



Máster Universitario en “Ciencia y Tecnología Nuclear”

Master Erasmus Mundus SARENA (Safe and Reliable Nuclear Applications)

ADVANCED SEMINAR

“Seminar on Ethics, Science and Technology”

Gaston MESKENS

Science and Technology Studies group. Belgian Nuclear Research Centre SCK•CEN
Centre for Ethics and Value Inquiry. Faculty of Arts and Philosophy. University of Ghent

Monday 21 to Thursday 24 June, from 11:30 to 13:30 (CET)

This Seminar will be face-to-face in **Classroom L01** [in a building located at the end of the courtyard, right side]

If the COVID-19 conditions do not allow the face-to-face activity, it would be developed online in MS-Teams

Seminar on Ethics, Science and Technology
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, 21 – 24 June 2021

Introduction

The Seminar on Ethics, Science and Technology starts with an analysis of the complexity of nuclear risk governance to then link these insights to the question of how approaches to science as policy advise and political decision making could 'generate societal trust'. The idea is that this trust would need to be generated 'by method instead of proof', regardless of whether the outcome of decision making would be acceptance or rejection of the technology. Case studies thereby inspire theoretical reflection and vice-versa.

The overall aim of the seminars is to stimulate thinking and dialogue

- > with respect to the complexity of the relation between ethics, science and technology in general and in the case of nuclear technology applications in particular;
- > on the moral foundations for risk governance as well as on the practical implications for research and policy.

Structure **21 – 24 June 2021, each day from 11:30 to 13:30**

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| Monday 21 June 2021 | Intro & Part 1 'Science, risk and fairness' |
| Tuesday 22 June 2021 | Part 2 'Seeking societal trust: the challenge for science' |
| Wednesday 23 June 2021 | Discussions on case studies |
| Thursday 24 June 2021 | Part 3 'The real problem (a critical theory of modernity)' Part 4 'An ethics of care for our modern coexistence' |

Lecturer

Gaston Meskens holds master degrees in theoretical physics and nuclear engineering from the University of Ghent (Belgium). He works part-time with the Science and Technology Studies group of the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre SCK•CEN and with the Centre for Ethics and Value Inquiry of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy of the University of Ghent.

He has build up more than twenty years of experience in participative and transdisciplinary research related to the ethics of governance of issues such as sustainable development, energy, climate change and radioactive waste management and with working in and around the policy processes of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), the United Nations Non-Proliferation Treaty process (UN-NPT) and of the research-related activities of the European Commission. Since 2006, he is member of the steering committee of the Constituency of Research-oriented Independent Non-Governmental Organisations towards the UNFCCC (the constituency that represents the global scientific world in the United Nations Climate Change negotiation process).

On regular basis, Gaston Meskens also participates as invited expert in Belgian parliamentary and public hearings on the ethics of risk-inherent technology governance, in Technical Committees of the International Atomic Energy Agency and of the OECD and in UN missions in the frame of sustainable development. At SCK•CEN Gaston Meskens is now working as researcher, writer, lecturer and mediator of dialogue on ethics in relation to science, technology and democratic decision making.