

PREFACE

This book is the result of a long-standing collaboration between the creators of the theory of post-normal science, Silvio Funtowicz and Jerome Ravetz, and a group of close collaborators in Italy, Norway and the USA. What we have in common is our interest in theoretical, critical research and interdisciplinary, practice-oriented experience in which we “get our hands dirty” to improve actual practice in science and governance. This is at least partly the outcome of long experience in working closely with and within governance institutions at the national and international level, in particular the institutions of the European Union, whose staff we have served by providing training in how to use evidence for policy and by drafting guidelines and handbooks on the subject.

We would like to mention the four research environments that have been instrumental in the creation and development of this growing research community: (1) the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission in Ispra, Italy, where Ângela Guimarães Pereira is currently based, Andrea Saltelli and Silvio Funtowicz worked for many years, and Jerome Ravetz and Alice Benessia have been frequent guests; (2) the Centre for the Study of the Sciences and the Humanities at the University of Bergen, Norway, which has become a stronghold of post-normal science in Europe and the home institution of Silvio Funtowicz, Matthias Kaiser, Jeroen van der Sluijs and Roger Strand; (3) the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology at the Autonomous University of Barcelona and notably Mario Giampietro's research group on Multi-Scale Integrated Analysis of Societal and Ecosystem Metabolism; and last but not

least, (4) the Consortium for Science, Policy & Outcomes coordinated from Arizona State University and co-directed by Dan Sarewitz. In 2015, we established the European Centre for Governance in Complexity, co-directed by Andrea Saltelli, Roger Strand and Mario Giampietro. While still in its infancy, this centre should, with time, become one of the locomotive forces in the theoretical and practical developments which this book exemplifies and advocates.

As is clear in the present work, we try to call attention to the existence of some worrying fault-lines in the present use of science for governance, which link dramatically to the crisis in the governance of science itself—a connection ignored by most authors and commentators. Ethical, epistemological, methodological and even metaphysical dimensions of the crises are identified for the consideration of our readers. Some modest elements of possible solutions are also put forward, especially in relation to what needs to be *unlearned* in order to begin the process of reconstruction, and which craft skills need to be relearned, sustained or enhanced.

Acknowledgment

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A note on the text

This volume of *The Rightful Place of Science* follows the University of Cambridge spelling and punctuation style.