

EnLIGHTeNING Lunch

with Armin Grunwald

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Tempe Campus: Coor 5536

Sustainable Development: issues of techno-optimism, eco-modernism, and responsibility

In the 'Eco-modernist Manifesto' published recently by the Breakthrough Institute, technological advancement is regarded as a critical aspect for sustainable development. The main idea is to accelerate technological advancement in order to enhance the efficiency of, for example, energy and food production, more quickly so that large parts of the Earth's surface could be given back to nature. In my talk I will challenge those assumptions and expectations from the perspective of Technology Assessment (TA). My concern is that the eco-modernist approach might be morally hazardous because of a naïve techno-optimism ignoring the ambivalences of technology and the issue of unintended side-effects. To avoid this bias, a broader spectrum of sustainability strategies needs to be envisioned.

RSVP to cspo@asu.edu by noon on Tuesday, October 27
Sub sandwiches will be served (must RSVP).

Armin Grunwald is director of the institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS) at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), director of the Office of Technology Assessment at the German Bundestag (TAB) in Berlin, and full professor of philosophy of technology at KIT. Among his main working areas are theory and methodology of technology assessment, ethics of new technologies, and theoretical approaches to sustainable development. Armin Grunwald is member of the Commission on safe disposal of high-level nuclear waste of the German Bundestag, of the Science Committee of the international Future Earth programme on sustainability research, and of the Executive Board of the National Academy of Engineering Sciences in Germany.



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