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Utility spots: science policy, knowledge transfer and the politics of proximity

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Propositions

1. The current controversy surrounding *valorisation* can be explained by the spatial roots and effects of science policy, in this case the relation between the science park utility spot and the 1985 knowledge transfer legislation.
2. Knowledge transfer, just like knowledge creation, can be situated and studied in specific locales.
3. The politics of proximity is a matter of finding spatial compromises between the freedom and utility of scientific research.
4. The global circulation of utility spots is a constant negotiation between models and local realities.
5. Utility is a historical-epistemological category that structures scientific practice.
6. A spatial approach to past conceptions of the utility of scientific research creates room for (philosophical and political) critique in the present.
7. Researchers, university administrators and policymakers should read more science fiction to learn from past and present spatial imaginations of the relationship between science and society.
8. Science studies should be conducted in interdisciplinary departments and ideally in proximity to the practices they study.
9. As social sciences and humanities research move into hybrid spaces off-campus, new concepts of usefulness will emerge.
10. The virtuality of academic life during a pandemic is a good opportunity to reflect on the importance of place and proximity.
11. Every distance is cycling distance.