



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Who gets what, when, and how? An analysis of stakeholder interests and conflicts in and around Big Science

Rüland, A.N.

Citation

Rüland, A. N. (2024, July 4). *Who gets what, when, and how?: An analysis of stakeholder interests and conflicts in and around Big Science*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3766305>

Version: Publisher's Version

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3766305>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

English Summary

Public attention to and academic interest in Big Science has surged in recent years, amongst other things because some policymakers and scientists frame this type of science as a way to address some, if not all, of the great challenges of our time. In the pertinent scholarship, Big Science is most commonly defined as conventional science made big in three dimensions, namely organizations, machines, and politics. This definition reflects that the organization of large scientific projects requires hierarchical structures and big teams that are typically, but not always, formed and organized around large scientific instruments as well as substantial funding, which usually comes from the highest political level. Due to its political, scientific, and organizational prerequisites, Big Science brings a plethora of different stakeholders together, often for a long period of time. This includes policymakers, scientists, (scientific) managers as well as local “host” communities. Each group has considerable, though often different, stakes in Big Science. These diverging interests require stakeholders to negotiate and to compromise between and among one another. Where this is not possible, conflict is likely to arise in and around Big Science. The three articles which form the backbone of this thesis aim to contribute to a deeper understanding of stakeholder interests and conflicts in and around Big Science in two distinct ways. First, they seek to shed light on how different stakeholders pursue and negotiate their interests within and in relation to Big Science. In doing so, the articles pay particular attention to non-Western and indigenous actors, two stakeholder groups that the existing literature on Big Science has so far largely neglected. Second, the thesis aims to theorize how conflicts emerge and develop between and among stakeholders, thus advancing theory-building in the largely undertheorized Big Science literature. In pursuing these two research objectives, the thesis uses qualitative methods, such as semi-structured expert interviews and (comparative) case studies, and combines various theoretical approaches and concepts, ranging from institutionalism to science diplomacy.

Keywords: Big Science, policymakers, scientists, local community, interests, conflict