

Miltos Ladikas · Sachin Chaturvedi
Yandong Zhao · Dirk Stemerding *Editors*

Science and Technology Governance and Ethics

A Global Perspective from Europe, India
and China



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Foreword

Science and Technology is evident in every aspect of modern life for most humans. We can hardly work, communicate, travel or even eat without the crucial support of some modern technological development. This is true whether we live in the developed or the developing world. The overall dependence we have developed on modern science and technology is both significant and terrifying, as it has reached high levels of intimacy in our lives. The terrifying part of this intimacy derives from our inability to either understand or control it, and the difficulty we are having in setting common rules of engagement. But such “rules of engagement” are the cornerstone of our relationship with modern science and technology that come under the term of “ethics” and this is exactly the theme of this book.

Europe has taken great leaps towards common research policies in the last 30 years. I was fortunate to have been involved in developing the European Union’s science and technology strategy in the last decades and the creation of the European Research Area. The European Research Area was successful in boosting the EU’s (and beyond) science and technology output but also significantly, it opened the door to global collaborations. The tremendous opportunities that global partnerships bring are not without problems though. Hard as it is to develop common ethical rules within the close-knit European societies, our new global partners have brought in new approaches, new perspectives and new values to our debates. It is clear that, if we are to have meaningful collaborations with our global partners, we need to promote common debates on the ethics of science and technology.

This book represents one of the first efforts to undertake a global debate in an analytic and multidisciplinary manner. It discusses ethics from a comparative perspective and focuses on the relevant debates in Europe, China and India; these are the two principal partners for Europe at present and doubtless more so in the future. Discussing the ethics of science and technology amongst these three key global players is proper and significant.

I applaud this effort and I am looking forward to seeing more of such endeavours in the future. We recently had a workshop at the European Parliament where we had the chance to discuss some of the results presented in this book.

The discussion was lively and informative and we all agreed in the end that if there is a single message to take home it is this: We all face similar issues, challenges and debates; there is a way to find common resolutions and create meaningful and responsible global approaches to science and technology; this can only happen if we continue the effort and stick together. So, let's stick together!

Philippe Busquin