

The social science and the humanities contribution to the bio-economy, agro and food considerations.

European changing concerns in the emerging global context

Uno Svedin,

Professor, Stockholm University

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# FRAMING THE WORKSHOP

- **WHY** WE DID WE CHOOSE THAT TOPIC ?
- **WHAT** THOUGHTS WERE ASSOCIATED TO IT ?
- **HOW** DID WE ARRANGE THE DISCUSSION ?
- **WHICH** INSIGHTS DID WE GET ? –  
to be taken back to the general annual conference

# WHY did we do it ?

- Monday plenary (yesterday)  
(Dr. Nick Ruffer)

ARE THE FRAMES WE USE REALLY  
ADEQUATE ? DO WE ASK THE CORRECT  
QUESTIONS?

- Cultural roots
- Institutions and norms
- Social capital
- Trust
-

# WHY (CONT.)

- *Lena Ekelund*
- Different types of culture in research in different regional contexts

# OUR PRE THOUGHTS

- INCREASING INTEREST IN THE CHANGING SOCIETAL SITUATION IN EUROPE (Horizon 2020 direction)
- RELEVANCE OF BROAD CROSS CUTTING APPROACHES
- EMBEDDING OF SSH RESEARCH IS ESSENTIAL TO FINDING SOLUTIONS TO SOCIETAL PROBLEMS AND FACILITATING IMPLEMENTATION OF RESULTS AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES
- SSH IMPORTANT TOOL – SCIENCE-SOCIETY INTERACTIONS
- VOICED IN MANY STRATEGIC RESEARCH PAPERS AND FUTURES STUDIES

# AGRO - FOOD – BIO ECONOMY

- STRATEGIC THINKING
- HOW AGRO-FOOD SECTOR SHALL RESPOND TO SOCIETAL CONCERNS RELATED TO e.g. :
  - Multilevel varied concerns (global, regional, local)
  - Innovation structures + directions
  - Changed consumer behaviour
  - Ethical considerations related to strategic choices
  - Deep international panorama of concerns

# Contributions from social sciences and the humanities

- IN RELATION TO:
  - Production and use of agro + food knowledge
  - In a futures outlook
  - Considering changing pressures from e.g. environmental changing conditions
  - Panorama of threats and opportunities
  - Change of perspective

# HOW did we pursue the intentions

- 1. WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES ?  
FOCUS ON FORESIGHTS (SCAR AND OTHERS)
- 2. CONTRIBUTIONS OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES TO ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES?
- 3. WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF GLOBALIZATION ?



# 1. DISCUSSION ON FORESIGHTS

- Interesting in themselves, **but** are they to be considered to be the (only) entry to social science and the humanities perspectives?
- Often they introduce issues of interest in social science and the humanities (as e.g. issues of power, cultural norms, ethics etc.)  
**but** is this sufficient to mobilize a critical scrutiny of these phenomena+ sufficient basis for reflexivity
- The often instrumental character

## 2. SSH CONTRIBUTIONS

- HOW ARE THE LINKS BETWEEN THE SSH'S and CONCERN FOR THE INTERFACE BETWEEN SCIENCE AND SOCIETY
- AND EVEN MORE: HOW IS THIS RELATION MIRRORED IN THE AGRO-FOOD SECTOR PHENOMENA ?
- THE TRICKY CONNECTION BETWEEN SSH AND NATURAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN FORMULATING THE ISSUES + ANALYSE SOME OF THE CONCERNS IN A METHODS SENSE

# 3. ON GLOBALISATION

- GLOBALISATION IS NOT NEW
- WHAT IS IN THE CONTEMPORARY IDENTIFICATION THAT GLOBALISATION IS A FRONT END ISSUE.
- GLOBALISATION SEEMS TO BE CONSTANTLY CHANGING
- HOW SHOULD THAT INFLUENCE THE WAY HOW TO ANALYZE IT IN A FAIR WAY – CONSIDERING THE MANY PERSPECTIVES AND SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT
- THE INSTRUMENTALITY OF APPROACHES
- CHALLENGE OF THE ETHICAL DIMENSIONS

# SUMMATION

- INTERESTING AND RELEVANT ISSUES
- NO FINISHED SETTLEMENT ON THE DEEPER CONCERNS IN THE DIFFERENT KNOWLEDGE TRADITIONS
- FOR AGRO-FOOD:  
VERY RELEVANT, BUT HOW TO APPROACH IT ?
- HOW TO GUARD THE REFLEXIVITY CAPACITY OF SSH, BUT STILL BE CLOSE TO THE CONNECTION TO OTHER KNOWLEDGE CONSIDERATIONS ?

# THE TITLE OF THE WORKSHOP

- THE EUROPEAN AGRO-FOOD MODEL  
UNDER TRANSITION –  
SOCIETAL AND CULTURAL ASPECTS  
FACING THE FUTURE  
OF EUROPE  
IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT