

Editorial

This special issue of *No Foundations* is dedicated to the politics of knowledge. The politics of knowledge is a recurring theme in all societal critique – not least because of the Foucauldian power/knowledge nexus. We started addressing this theme in a small research community, aptly named as Problematizations. At first our intention was to approach the issue through the ‘hard’ and objective stem sciences as compared to the ‘soft’ and subjective social sciences. Such a distinction between different types of knowledges, however, seemed to contain within itself already a problem, although that problem was not that clear to us in the beginning. However, that problem seemed to be closely intertwined with politics as exercise of power. Our discussions around this question grew into a seminar series, where the issue of politics and knowledge was looked upon from several different perspectives. We were lucky to receive contributions from many excellent academics from a number of disciplines, so that the special issue gathers together a nice variety of approaches to the theme. We express our gratitude towards everyone who contributed to this special issue.

What is knowledge or what do we mean by knowledge? During the seminars it became clear that knowledge as a concept covers several possible approaches, theoretical and methodological. The perspectives from which we approach the politics of knowledge in this issue highlights this point well: subjugated knowledges, knowledge as a phenomenological problem, politics of knowing other cultures, and finally the critique of knowledge-based societies. This is in no way an exhaustive list of the ways in which the topic of the politics of knowledge can be approached, but we feel it offers an up-to-date exposition on the theme.

After our foray into the politics of knowledge we are next going to focus on an adjoining theme: the role of language in the production of knowledge and politics. Many of the issues that were brought up during our seminars seemed to somehow associate with language. Therefore, we decided to take language as our next problematization. What problems indeed does language include and why do we perceive language as problematic in the first place? The work we started in a small group of scholars will continue in a community that has since grown larger. We look forward to the upcoming discussions in our seminar series.

Problematizations Team