

Environmental Epidemiology and the use of Science for Policy

A seminar by Annibale Biggeri

*Department of Cardiac, Thoracic, Vascular Sciences and Public Health
University of Padua*

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Department of Statistical Sciences

The use and misuse of Science for Policy has been widely discussed. Several instances can be classified using the Post-Normal-Science categories. Indeed, the classical scientific task – to quantify the empirical evidence – becomes impossible as far as the more uncertain the available knowledge and the heavier the decision impact. Environmental Epidemiology is particularly vulnerable, and a current example is given by the European discussion on new air quality standards. We will frame the current debate on air quality guidelines in the context of the use of science for policy and we will show how the digital transformation creates an extended peer community. Moreover, digitalization created a separation between design and task execution and thus, poses new questions to scientific practice.



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