The ResIST Perspective

Stellenbosch, November 2008

Peter Healey, James Martin Institute for Science and Civilization, University of Oxford

peter.healey@sbs.ox.ac.uk
www.resist-research.net

ResIST

ResIST Basics

⌘ A €1.3m research project funded under FP6
⌘ Running from April 2006 – March 2009
⌘ Comprising some 50 researchers in 11 institutions in 10 countries
⌘ Focussed on :
  ◻ Understanding how science and technology helps create and socially embed inequalities within and between societies
  ◻ Proposing policies for remediation and inclusion

The risks of increasing inequality

⌘ Increasing knowledge intensity of economy & society
⌘ Islands of hi-tech opportunity
⌘ Other countries developmental 'black holes', pursuing continual catch-up in a 'Sisyphus challenge' (1)
⌘ Increasing income differentials even in BRICS countries
⌘ Inevitable?
⌘ What can be done?
⌘ Role of S&T governance?

(1) Castells, 2000; Agasti, 2004

ResIST's goals & assumptions

⌘ Informed by the critical perspectives of science and technology studies
⌘ Understand contribution of S&T to inequality
⌘ Propose S&T policies balancing growth with equity
⌘ S&T not seen as necessarily either positive or negative
⌘ Neither are they neutral tools and resources
⌘ Need to understand how the social sciences and humanities are part & parcel of the science-inequality nexus

---

ResIST work packages/challenges

⌘ Workpackage **one** looks at the *Policy Environment* - how policies with respect to S&T and inequality have been framed & the scope for change
⌘ Workpackage **two** is about *Developing and Retaining Human Resources* - issues of intellectual migration and its regulation
⌘ Workpackage **three** is about *Accountability and Inequality* – it analyses cases of public participation in development policies and how accountability is organized
⌘ Workpackage **four** focuses on *Technology Impact* - attempts to assess different technologies for their contribution to development
⌘ In workpackage **zero** researchers discuss their results with each other and with practitioners and policymakers

---

ResIST Cases and Countries

⌘ In each workpackage several cases and examples as well as several different contexts are being investigated
⌘ The broad aim is to inform S,T and development policy towards and within three exemplary world regions
⌘ Funding from ResIST and a parallel NSF-funded study, *Resultar*, has allowed cases to be drawn from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Germany, Jamaica, Latvia, Malta, Mozambique, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, the UK and the USA
⌘ Problems of development not limited to the global south; lessons from development not limited to the global north