

# Science-Society Dialogues on Migrant Integration in Europe

**Dr. P.W.A. (Peter) Scholten**

Associate Professor Public Policy & Politics

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Coordinator of DIAMINT Project

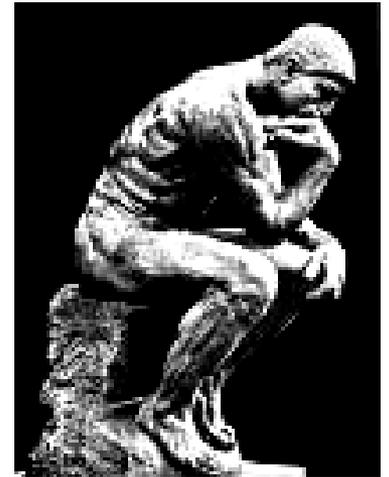
*Presentation for IOM/EMN conference  
'Linking research and policy  
in the field of Migration, Asylum and Migration'*

# DIAMINT Project

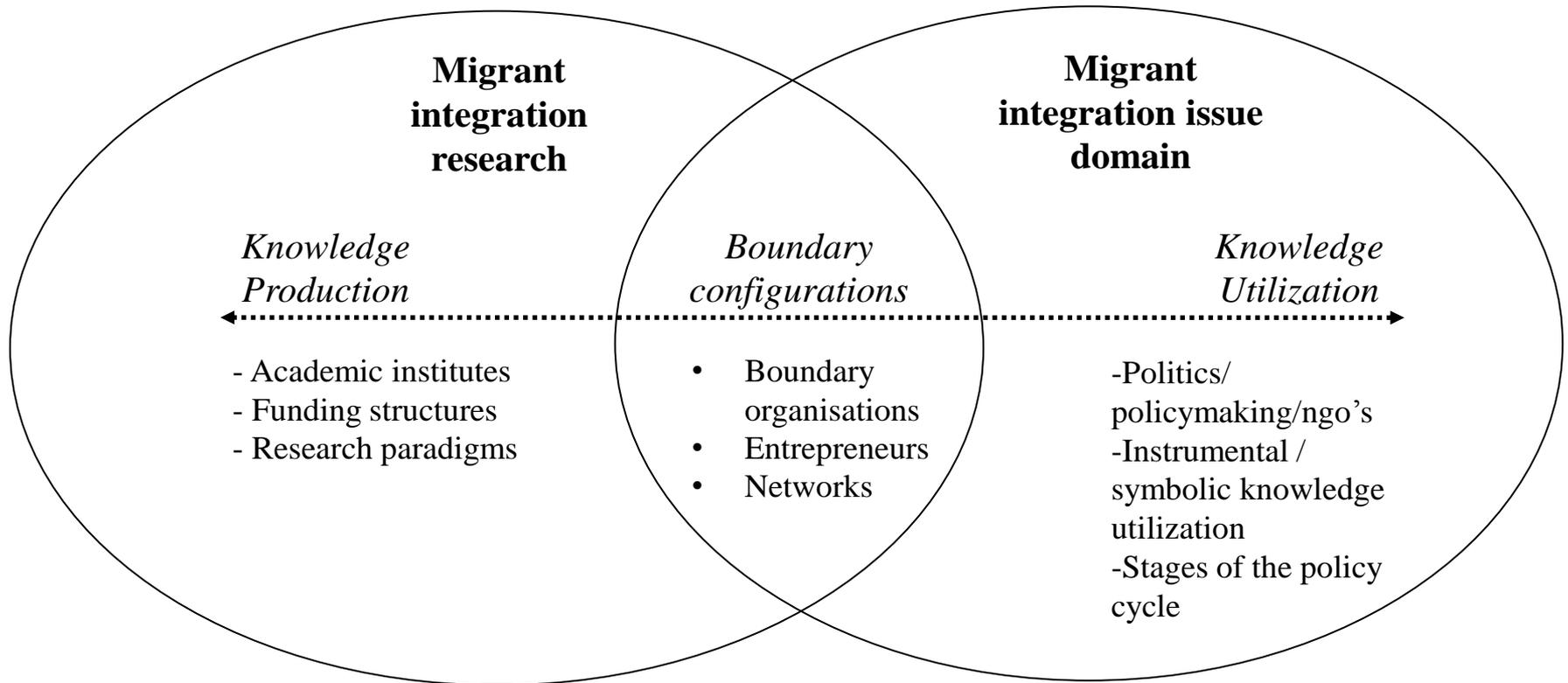
- Background
  - Evolution of migrant integration policies
  - Evolution of migrant integration research field
  - Growing disenchantment in research-policy dialogues
    - Lack of relevance of evidence-based policymaking
    - Lack of leniency for policy-based evidence making
    - Expansion of migrant integration research has not equally benefited the theoretical development of the field
  - Changing public attitudes toward science
    - Risk society (reflexivity, uncertainty, contextuality)
    - Scientification of politics, but also politicization of science

# DIAMINT Project

- **Science-society dialogues**
  - Research-policy relations as ‘dialogues’
  - From *‘speaking truth to power’* to *‘making sense together’*
- **Aims:**
  - Contribute to a better empirical and theoretical understanding of science-society dialogues
  - Making a normative contribution
- **Case studies**
  - Austria/Germany/Italy/Netherlands/UK
  - EU-level
- **Integration issues**
  - Education to immigrant children in primary and secondary education
  - Naturalization of newcomers
  - Accommodation of (new) religious pluriformity



# DIAMINT Project



# Research model: the hypothesis

Traditional model of 'rational  
societal steering'



New modes of science-society  
dialogues?

- *Dialogue structures*
- *Knowledge production*
- *Knowledge utilization*

- Institutionalized actor networks
- Knowledge consensus
- Direct knowledge utilization

- *Growth of reflexivity*
- *Recognition of contextuality*
- *Recognition of uncertainty*

- Open actor constellations
- Diversity of knowledge claims
- Indirect knowledge utilization

- *Macro level factors*
- *Meso level factors*
- *Micro level factors*



# Preliminary findings: shifts in dialogues

- **Institutionalization of research-policy relations**
  - Primarily instrumental knowledge utilization: ‘Evidence-based policymaking’ seems succesful and effective
- **RP Dialogues rarely have an impact on the conceptual/paradigmatic level**
  - Paradigmatic closure on national level (national discourse coalitions)
  - Politicization complicates paradigmatic reflection
  - Growing diversity of knowledge claims and intensity of knowledge conflicts
- **Internationalization of research (and policy?)**
  - Comparative research
  - Rethinking national models
  - EU promoting horizontal policy learning on national and local levels

# Some suggestions

- **Also focus on the local level**
  - Migration/Asylum shifting ‘upwards’
  - Migrant integration shifting ‘downwards’
- **Accept and appreciate the diversity of knowledge claims**
  - Never monopolize research-policy relations (objectivity redefined as independence)
  - Researchers don’t define policy models, they study policy models
  - From ‘speaking truth to power’ to ‘making sense together’
- **Academic culture**
  - ‘Publish or perish’ versus policy relevance
  - *Ivory Tower versus technocracy versus mutual dialogues*

Thank you for your attention!

- [P.w.a.scholten@fsw.eur.nl](mailto:P.w.a.scholten@fsw.eur.nl)
- [www.peterscholten.eu](http://www.peterscholten.eu)
- Twitter: @pwascholten

Also:

- My book '*Framing Immigrant Integration: Dutch Research-Policy Dialogues in Comparative Perspective*' available now.
- Expected next summer: Penninx and Scholten (Eds.) *Research-policy dialogues on migration and integration in Europe*.

