

Scienza post-normale e “oggettività forte” nella ricerca su ambiente e salute

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Post-normal Science and “Strong Objectivity” in the Environmental and Health Research

Abstract: In the environmental and health research, the cartesian dream of an objective knowledge of a system dominated by deterministic laws, breaks against the intrinsic uncertainty produced by the limited knowledge of ecological and human processes and the different interests often in conflict with each other. The debate on which scientific approach is desirable in these contexts is wide and involves several sociological, philosophical, political and strictly scientific levels. Starting from my experience in environmental physics, in this contribution I focus on the contributions that “post-normal” science and feminist epistemologies of “strong objectivity” have made to the debate. The analysis of some case studies, such as the industrial toxicology of Hamilton and Hardy, the Love Canal site, and the participatory research at Manfredonia, allows to identify the connections and the potentiality of the two approaches in the search for new forms of scientific investigation and science-society relationship in the ecological contexts.

Keywords: Environmental conflicts, Epidemiology, Expert versus non expert knowledge, Uncertainty, Eco-evolution.

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