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“Knowledge alchemy in academic mobility”

Speaker: Meng-Hsuan Chou (NTU Singapore)

Chair: Thomas Christiansen (Luiss)

Date and Time: May 4th, 2022, 13:15 – 14:30hrs

Aula 205AB - Viale Romania

Abstract

In this seminar, I will be sharing chapters from the forthcoming book Knowledge Alchemy: Models and Agency in Global Knowledge Governance (Bristol University Press), which I am co-authoring with Tero Erkkilä and Niilo Kauppi (University of Helsinki). This book introduces the concept of ‘knowledge alchemy’ to capture the generic process of transforming mundane practices and policies of governance into competitive ones following imagined global gold standards. Using examples from North America, Europe and Asia, this book explores how knowledge alchemy increasingly informs national and institutional policies and practices on economic performance, higher education, research, and innovation.

Governments around the world have embraced global models of world-class university, human capital, and talent competition as essential in ensuring national competitiveness. This strongly future-oriented and anticipatory knowledge governance is steered by a surge of global classifications, rankings, and indicators, resulting in numerical comparisons of various domains that today form more constraining global policy scripts.

About the Speaker

Meng-Hsuan Chou is currently an Associate Professor, the Provost's Chair, and the Head of Division of Public Policy and Global Affairs at NTU, Singapore. Her research interests lie at the intersection of politics, public policy, and comparative regionalism. She is currently researching how governments in Asia and Europe compete for talent in a globalised world, and academic mobility to and from Singapore. Hsuan is the series co-editor for Bristol University Press's Transnational Administration and Global Policy, and she has published in Journal of European Public Policy, Policy Studies Journal, and Policy and Society.

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