

Polly Maclaine Pont

Polly joined the Rathenau Institute as a researcher in June 2013. Among other projects, she leads the project on “Innovation and Regulation”, which explores the challenges of regulating emerging key technologies. As a scholar of Science, Technology and Society, she is specialized in innovation dynamics, with both academic and field experience.

After her Master’s studies in Psychology and in Philosophy at the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Polly did an internship at IBM the Netherlands as project manager in the student smart card innovation team. She then worked as a consultant in telecommunication, concerned with policy options for broadband infrastructure development.

After returning to academic life, Polly obtained her PhD in Social Science with the highest honors at FLACSO Argentina, Buenos Aires. Her research on technology transfer and innovation in Argentine wine production was directed by Dr. Hernan Thomas and prof. dr. ir. Wiebe Bijker (Maastricht).

After moving to Washington DC, Polly served as an adjunct professor in the PhD program on Science and Technology Studies at Virginia Tech, teaching a course on the debates over food production-consumption systems. At the DC office of ASU’s Center for Science Policy and Outcomes, she performed research with prof. Daniel Sarewitz on the tensions between scientific excellence and the social use of science.