

- **Prof. Julia Melkers, Arizona State University**
- **Transforming Academic Engineering for Public value**
- **28.05.2026, 11:30-13:00**
- **Stary BUW, room 107**

Science and engineering fields continue to evolve, and universities and technical schools seek to adapt to the changing needs of the field and the context in which it operates. While there is ample evidence that the field of engineering has made significant contributions to economic and societal well-being, there is considerable demand for the profession to be more aligned with ethical and societal needs and demands of an increasingly complex world. In particular, the engineering profession has called for a transformation of the profession to include a stronger engineering-societal needs alignment. Using Bozeman's "public value" framework we examine how the public value framework may be used to examine the ways that academic engineering transformations and organizational innovation align with public value orientation, particularly for regional needs. For example, unique regional needs may create other demands for how academic engineering can support more locally contextualized opportunities, or fill gaps that have significant implications for a region's future. This presentation examines the arguments, theoretical frames, and institutional innovations relevant to the transformation of academic engineering for these often localized needs. Examples from the U.S. context are provided to illustrate the theoretical drivers and innovations that have been implemented toward transforming academic engineering. Drawing from a current U.S. NSF-funded project, the presentation also reviews the issues and opportunities for the transformation of engineering in research-peripheral countries.

Bio:

Julia Melkers is ASU Foundation Professor of Public Policy in the School of Public Affairs and Director of the [Center for Organization Research and Design](#) (CORD). Her research focuses on the academic research system, how it engages with the broader environment, and how scientific careers advance in this setting. In her role as CORD Director, she leads a group of interdisciplinary scholars whose research focuses on how organizations create new solutions to complex challenges by blending new technologies, scientific discovery, and human capital.

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