Abstract of presentation

The key claim of the presentation is this: frontiers of science is a research policy concept, not a science-intrinsic concept. The claim is underpinned by a brief analysis of recent national and transnational funding schemes and reports. In view of this analysis, I explore dilemmas resulting from the prevalence of the concept for radical research innovation, and I present some possible alternatives.

Biographical note

Kirsten Drotner is a distinguished scholar of media and communication studies with special research interests in children’s and young people’s interactions with media at present and in the past, in the formation of creative, digital media literacies, and in users’ engagements with cultural institutions. She is author, co-author or co–editor of nine books in English, 31 books and reports in Nordic languages, and more than 150 scholarly articles and book chapters.

Her extensive public service includes being a trustee of the Academy Europaea’s council, founding chair of the Academy’s Film, Media and Visual Studies Section and a member of its HERCuLES group, as well as being founding chair of the Scientific Committee for the Humanities at Science Europe. Closer to home, she has served as board member of the Danish Council for Independent Research and chair of the Danish Council for Independent Research – Arts and Humanities.

She has offered advice and assessment to public and private bodies inc. NWO’s Gravitation programme committees, FWO’s Odysseus programme committees, ESOF scientific committees, HERA’s Joint Research Programme Board, the Spinoza and the Ernst Solvay Price Committees, and she served as international quality assessor in two rounds of the UK Research Excellence Framework.