<u>The Janus Face of Technocracy</u>

The relationships between technoscience, society, and the politics of the nation-state have become increasingly complex. It is within this frame that current questions about the social responsibilities of technical experts such as scientists and engineers have developed. It has become increasingly clear that we are dealing with the social implications of these technoscientific advancements. This is why ever since the late 19th century, the idea of a government ruled by scientists and technical experts became ever more tantalizing. This system of government received the name technocracy in the early 20th century. In a 1982 article for *Technology and Culture,* the political scientist John Gunnell called technocracy "Janus-faced" and "a political pathology". Technocracy is a system of government that proposes a dual-faced problem; on one side efficiency and a well-organized world where no one lacks for anything. On the other side, authoritarianism and an unprecedented level of control over its citizens in the name of efficiency. In this panel, I propose the exploration of the multiple facets of technocracy, its dreams and aspirations, its possible applications, and in particular, the addressing of this paradox to embrace order and the cost of liberty.

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