

**Biotechnology - The Public - Democracy. The
Austrian and international conflict on biotechnology. *Franz Seifert***

Irony

...Normative: Models of Democracy

- **Elite-model**
- **Participation**
- **Deliberation**

The third transformation

...Empirical: Narratives – an interpretative approach

- **The public: Issue-attention-cycles, public arenas, black box, reification**
- **Biotechnology: an object of anticipation**
- **The hegemony of physical risk**
- **The Suspicion of Danger**
- **Popular and elaborate**

30 years of controversy

- **The suspicion of danger: metamorphoses from Asilomar to the precautionary principle**
- **Sub-politics: international expert-publics**
- **The international innovation contest**
- **The bio-industrial complex**
- **“Irritating factor” public**
- **Observation and reification**
- **Deliberative experiments**
- **The third transformation: shift of politics to the supra- and international level (EU/EG, GATT, WTO, UNCED...)**

The Austrian conflict: a fine grained view on national controversy

- **Deliberation (enquiry commission)**
- **Sub-politics – the making of a risk paradigm**
- **A public controversy – the danger of “eco-populism”**
- **The European mobilisation against biotechnology**
- **Austria’s impact**
- **After the cycle: What remains?**

Conclusion: ambiguities and ambivalence

Overstraining of democracy?

- **Elite-model fails - no consensus in sight**
- **Asynchrony - the garbage can model of democracy (as a function of third transformation)**
- **The disappearance of politics: risk an trade liberalisation**
- **The double faced elites: globalisation and democracy**

Democracy catalyst?

- **Crystallisation point**
- **Ambitious models of democracy**
- **Deliberation in international expert publics**
- **The international rise of democratic actors**
- **Of citizens and consumers**
- **The synchronization of national publics**