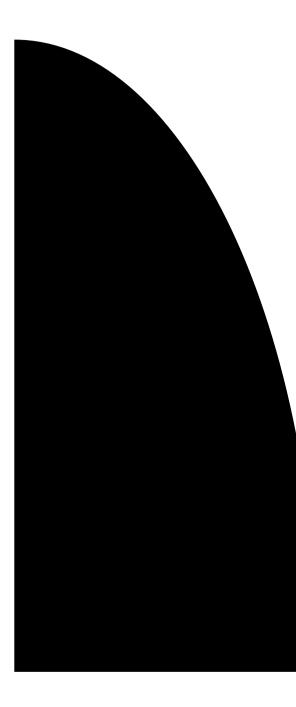
HTA - A Critical Reappraisal

Stuart Blume. Amsterdam School for Social Science Research



Introduction

Two questions: Why do we need a 'critical reappraisal'?

• What follows?

STS perspective

Why a critical reappraisal? (1)

Gap between initial rhetoric and subsequent practice

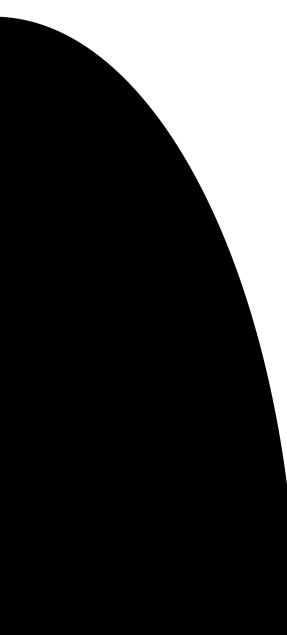
a response to complex professional context of the 1970s.

Why a critical reappraisal? (2)

The context in which decisions regarding new medical technologies are made is changing

Tension between rhetoric of evidence and hopes/expectations

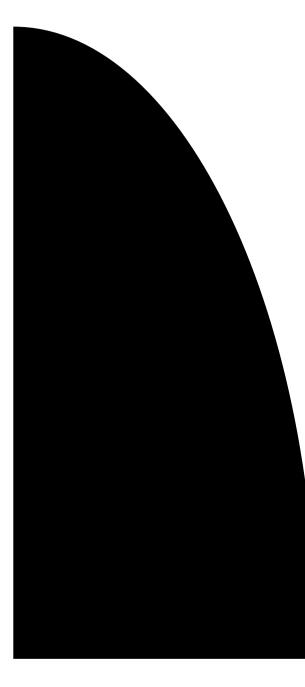
The idea of the *empirical slippery slope*



Why a critical reappraisal? (3)

Detailed studies of specific health technologies show limitations of assessments

for example: cochlear implant data too limited and assumptions inappropriate



What follows?

Need to use wider range of evidence

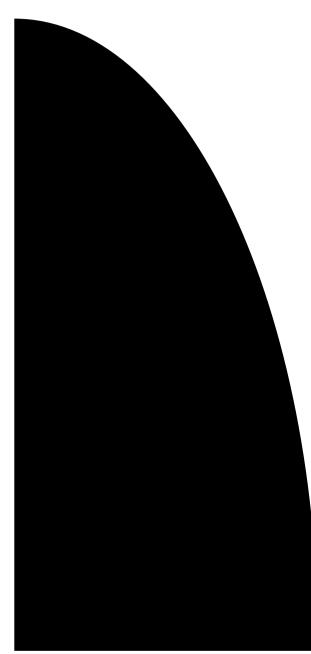
Make use of detailed studies of technologies

More use of qualitative research methods



New political configurations demand new institutional configuration

Need dialogue



The price to be paid...

Loss of generalisability

Assessments that are comprehensive, socially 'robust', sensitive to variation don't travel too well!