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PROPOSITIONS

Engagement of Citizens and Public Professionals in the Co-Production of Public Services

1. Co-production relationships will only be sustainable if both citizens and public professionals are engaged.

2. Citizens engage in co-production for different purposes and show different levels of engagement.

3. Public professionals’ engagement in co-production cannot be taken for granted.

4. To fully understand the dynamics of citizen-professional collaboration, co-producers and public professionals should be studied conjointly.

5. Although co-production research is booming, scholars still have not developed a coherent conceptualization and, hence, a shared understanding of its functioning.

6. The (implicit) assumption in much co-production literature that co-production adds to the value of public service delivery, is premature.

7. Co-production research should aim for a further professionalization of co-production practices.

8. Co-production practice should allow for a made-to-measure approach.

9. The meaning of ‘co’ in co-production is not clear to all actors involved: ‘delivering public services with the citizens’ does not equal ‘delivering services without governmental efforts’.

10. Advocates of co-production should be restrained from studying the object themselves.

11. To survive a PhD research, it is very helpful to eat an apple each day at 3.30 p.m.