

„WISSENSCHAFT IM PARLAMENT“

DISCOURSES OF „WISSENSCHAFT“ IN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES IN AUSTRIA



„WISSENSCHAFTEN“ = SCIENCE?

- I. What do politicians mean when talking about Wissenschaften?
- II. Are scientists and researchers important points of reference in parliamentary discourses or do politicians use speak of *Wissenschaft* as rhetorical utilization?

METHOD

- Interviews with Stenographers of Parlamentsdirektion
- Round-Table talks with Legal, Legislative & Research Services (RLW)
- Research in Data-Base (with Advice and Support of IKT)
- Using Word-Counts and Cross-Words Research to overview the topic
- Tracking history and etymological shifts in certain words
- In-depth interviews with Wissenschaftssprecher*innen of FPÖ, ÖVP, Die Grünen and NEOS

THEORY

- Discourses as embedded in specific (historical/cultural) contexts
- Parliamentary discourse as reference to societal needs and assumptions
- Epistemic governance of scientific worldview (moral authority of science)
- Act of speech as expression of societal conceptions of truth
- Words in their semantic context as markers for the interpretation of these „world-views“

KEYWORDS

Wissenschaft + Forschung = Studien, Experts

- Extensive use of **experts** and **studies** to point to relevance of topics or necessity of action

e.g. „Wir brauchen mehr Studien“, „Deshalb stützen wir uns auf Studien“, „Bedarf nach Evaluierung durch Studien“, „Müssen auf Experten hören“, „Die Experten sagen uns etc.



Mention of Eviden 1918 - 2023*

EVIDENCE

- Increasing significance and shift in meaning
- Evidence-based, evidence-informed or evidences
- 1920 Keeping in stock (horses, weapons, soldiers)
- 1960 Having information
- 2022 Having (medical) quantitative data

SUMMARY

- Increasing rhetorical significance of *scientific world view*
- In-depth discussions or reflections on scientific studies do not take place in National- or Bundesrat (not even in COVID-19 Pandemic)
- Austrian Parliamentarians share wide range of interpretations of Wissenschaft/Science

HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE WISSENSCHAFT?

Science source reflect mathematics
Medicine
controll Law
Qualification **Interdisciplinarity** Research
distance investigate experiment

