

## The Precautionary Principle: Can we strike the balance between risk and reward?

Tuesday 1 April 2014 18:00-21:00\*  
Charles Darwin House, London WC1

\*Including informal networking

The precautionary principle is often described as a “better safe than sorry” approach when an action is suspected as harmful for humans or the environment, and the scientific evidence for safety is unclear.

It makes sense not to take a risk when we don't have sufficient information, or when the action is not needed or potentially beneficial in other ways, but is this ever really the case? We face tough decisions over issues such as disease control and food security, and sound science needs to inform decision-making.

Striking a balance between protecting people and the planet while maximising scientific and economic output isn't easy, nor is communicating these issues. The Precautionary Principle is supposed to help – how can we ensure that it does?



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