Paper Summaries

# Week 1

STEPHEN TURNER: EXPERTISE AND POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY:THECOLUMBIASHUTTLE CATASTROPHE

Floris (NOT FINISHED YET)

* Responsibility that can be assigned to policy makers and experts, differences and characteristics
* Uses a case study: Columbia Shuttle Catastrophe
* Experts can’t be judges as decision-makers, “ Put more simply, expert knowledge is im-personal knowledge expressed or formulated by individuals, while political responsibility is personal and judged by collective processes.”
* In the case study, a catastrophe hit, but technical advice itself was responsible for the decision. So how was decision-making based on it?
* The incident was significantly outside any past experiences. Who is responsible here? The is not one person to blame, but often one person is ritualistically offered.
* “If this analysis is correct, the event was genuinely anomalous, and even more firmly beyond the assignment of responsibility. "