EASST
Review

Ask What EASST Can Do for Your Country

Editorial

by: Ann R. Sætnan

On Friday 29 Jan 2010, EASST Council hosted a meeting of representatives from national STS organisations in a dozen European countries. The goals of the meeting were to share strategies for securing and nurturing the STS field, and to discuss ways in which EASST might contribute to those strategies.

As the first order of business, representatives from each country presented their respective national organizational structures and concerns. The basic concerns were shared across national boundaries – recruiting students, funding research, job security for ourselves and our graduates, achieving recognition of what the field has to offer, the challenges (especially for an interdisciplinary field) of achieving some sort of permanence within the academic environment. What varied, across national boundaries and also over time and among institutions within national boundaries, was the structure of challenges and opportunities for realizing those goals. For instance, at a given time and place one may see an emphasis on extramural funding; the Matthew principle[1] may reign so that a research group that acquires outside funding also receives matching funds, tenured positions, and/or other forms of institutional recognition. Then suddenly, some years later, policies change and internal funds are steered to assist research groups under threat of "extinction" due to little outside funding. Similarly, in some countries we have seen incentives devoted to promoting interdisciplinarity … and then seen those incentives fade in favor of established disciplines. Incentives can shift from teaching to research and back again. Advantages can vary, sometimes tipping towards smaller departments, sometimes towards bigger ones.

EASST, meanwhile, has the challenge of keeping up with the growth of the field. This means achieving visibility and relevance to entering students, and maintaining that relevance as they disperse into various work situations after graduation. Of course, maintaining relevance to post-graduate students also means maintaining relevance for those of us already established in academic careers. Are EASST conferences a sufficient focus, and what else do we offer aside from conferences? This is not only a problem of nurturing EASST as an organization, but also a problem of motivation – EASST council members want to feel they are contributing to the field, not just keeping up an organization for its own sake. And so we ask: What can EASST do for you?

None of this should be surprising to us, given our science theories and analytical tools. We should be uniquely positioned to analyze our own contingent strategic situations and to turn structural barriers into opportunity structures. For institutions to thrive in Academe seems to require institutional leaders who recognize local opportunity structures, and who do the work it takes to make use of those structures while they last. That said, sharing stories amongst ourselves can be helpful. While recognizing that what succeeded in one place may not fully translate to another, comparing notes can help us see what our local opportunities consist of and how we might make use of them.

Furthermore, some strategic tools seem to cross temporal and spatial boundaries. Activities that nearly all meeting participants reported using as strategic tools were conferences and journals. These are both tools where EASST may be able to increase its efforts and offer more support.

Most countries represented reported organizing national and/or regional conferences and workshops. Many offered session streams in national or regional languages as well as English-language streams. Besides organizing our own bi-annual conferences, which have also sometimes been used as a venue for national session streams for the hosting country, EASST has a policy of offering economic support for between-conference-year events, as witness the workshop report below on Technoscience and the Transformation of the Global South. Between-conference event support depends, of course, on our budget situation. In recent years, the budget has allowed us to maintain the offer.

Another widespread strategy was national or regional journals. Several countries and regions had journals or efforts afoot to start them, and they increasingly attract international authors and readers. The field needs journals. More journals. Having more journals does not weaken those

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1 Matthew 25:29: 'For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.'

already in place, but rather helps establish them as top-ranked within a substantial field, as opposed to lower-ranking specialist journals at the margins of established disciplines such as Sociology or History. Again, given our knowledge of the workings of the science community, it should come as no surprise to us that journals are "ranked" not directly on the basis of content quality, but through what are taken to be indicators of quality: circulation and citation. Nor should we be surprised that circulation leads to citation and vice versa. The journal that lands on your desk four times a year, simply as a perk of professional society membership, is more likely to be read than the one you have to go search out at the library. The journal you read, you are more likely to remember both when looking up sources to cite and when wondering where to submit your next article manuscript. The first remembrance contributes to the journal's citation score and thus its reputation for quality; the second contributes to its submission

base, from which the editors can select and build the journal's content quality. Over time, the more widely cited, the more likely a journal is to develop into an "obligatory passage point" that all in the field feel they must subscribe to (or join the professional society that offers it as a membership perk) and publish in. In other words, the Matthew principle proves true once again. Recognizing this as the STS professionals we are, one concrete outcome of the 29 January meeting was the decision to start conversations exploring whether the opportunity structures are such that EASST might develop a closer relationship with one or more of the national/regional STS journals in Europe.

Participants were keen to continue their discussions and to share material and are currently doing so on line. It is hoped that this will feed into richer resources on the EASST website in due course.

Technoscience and the Transformation of the Global South

Report of the three-day workshop in Amsterdam, 21-24 June 2009
by: Rob Hagendijk and Harro Maat

Background, objective and sponsors

The aim of the workshop was to bring together young scholars in STS (science and technology studies) or DS (Development Studies) from around the world with an interest in the ongoing transformation of 'the Global South' to discuss this theme and how their work relates to it. A second goal was to explore what agenda for research and collaboration should be pursued in science and technology studies (STS) and development studies (DS) to improve our understanding of the central issues and intellectual puzzles involved. Bringing together young scholars from such contexts may help to build network and alliances, promote research and reflection at the border between STS and DS and build capabilities for the 'globalization' of these fields in various ways.

Meetings of professional associations in science studies like 4S, SHOT and EASST primarily focus on science and technology in economically and technologically advanced societies. Although situations and developments in less developed countries and non-Western settings are certainly not absent from these meetings they remain marginal and the consequences for the

intellectual and practical agenda's are not systematically explored. The number of participants from non-US and non-EU countries is also low. Although the situation in Development Studies as a field is somewhat different as there is ample interest in the role of technology in the problems of so-called less developed countries, the systematic reflection on problems of scientific and technological change for development could be improved. Furthermore, a more systematic reflection on the boundaries, divergence and synergies around the boundaries between STS and DS could also be intellectually rewarding and pragmatically relevant.

The initiative for his workshop was taken by the authors of this report. They were soon after joined by Esha Shah in the organizing team. The workshop was supported financially and in other ways by the Netherlands Graduate School for Science, Technology and Culture (WTMC), graduate school CERES (development studies), the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST), the Science Dynamics Foundation and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences (KNAW). The help of these organizations

has been essential for the workshops success and is gratefully acknowledged.

Participants, speakers and programme

Twenty-one young scholars with roots and connections to a wide variety of countries participated in the workshop: Farah Ahmed (IDS, University of Sussex, UK), Diana Akullo (Asareca, Kampala, Uganda), Mamidipudi Annapurna (Maastricht University, the Netherlands), Koen Beumer (Advisory Council for Science and Technology Policy, the Netherlands), Catherine Button (Durham University, UK), David Bynoe (Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development, Barbados), Joanna Dias (Coimbra University, Portugal), Nora Engel (UNU-MERIT, the Netherlands), Andres Hueso Gonzalez (Technical University Valencia, Spain), Prasanne Kolte (ITC, Enschede, the Netherlands), Merlyna Lim (Arizona State University, USA), Christine Luk (Arizona State University, USA), Andreas Mitzschke (Maastricht University, the Netherlands), Cavelle Motilal (University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago), Thomas Mougey (Maastricht University, the Netherlands), Bala Raju Nikku (Kadambari Memorial College of Science and Management, Nepal), Makoto Nishi (Kyoto University, Japan), Ilse Oosterlaken (Delft University, the Netherlands), Bernike Pasveer (ECPDM, the Netherlands), Julia Quartz (Maastricht University, the Netherlands), Christine Richter (ITC, the Netherlands).

A number of participants came directly from one of the developing countries. Subsidies from sponsors were used to support their participation. Although most participants are currently located at European and US institutions almost half of them do come from countries that belong to the Global South.2

During the workshop a wide range of prominent invited speakers gave introductions and participated in panels. Their introductions led to lively debates with and amongst participants. The following speakers gave presentations and participated in the debates: Peter van Lieshout (WRR, the Netherlands), Arie Rip (UT, the

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2 By 'Global South' we mean countries that are categorized by the IMF as having 'emerging and developing economies'. See: http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2009/01/weod ata/groups.htm#cc (13/08/09)

Netherlands), Louk de la Rive Box (ISS, the Netherlands), Andy Stirling (University of Sussex, UK), Han van Dijk (WUR, the Netherlands), Paul Richards (WUR, the Netherlands), Mathew Kurian (UNESCO-IHE, the Netherlands), Annemarie Mol (UvA, the Netherlands), Irene Agyepong (Universiteit Utrecht / Ghana Health Service), Jack Spaapen (KNAW, the Netherlands) and Wiebe Bijker (UM, the Netherlands).

The program left ample room for informal discussion, work in small groups, and interaction with the invited speakers. Participants (and some of the invited speakers) worked together to prepare for plenary discussions on the last day about the validity of the diagnosis sketched above and the intellectual agenda's and practical activities to be pursued. Presentations and discussions concentrated on the relations between policy making and academic work in STS and DS, discussion about scientific and technological dimensions of key issues in development: water, agriculture, health and cross-sectoral questions and entanglements. On the last day implications for capacity building, for the work of the participants and for future networking and collaboration were discussed.

Workshop outcomes
Setting the scene (day 1)

The opening of the workshop was a presentation by Peter van Lieshout, a scholar working in the border zone between science and policy (WRR). His presentation was directed at some of the core issues in both STS and DS and focused on the interaction between knowledge and development. He took a macro perspective, showing with various figures and diagrams that there are many assumptions about a positive connection between advances in knowledge and social progress (development) but that very few of these are in fact sustained by the available data. Some figures even show a negative impact (in particular of R&D). Where data show a positive trend, as in rising educational enrolments, for example, additional information about the situation in schools raises concerns about the substantive value of the observed changes. What is underneath these macro correlations, the processes and practices which are supposed to connect knowledge and development, is highly understudied. So there is plenty of unexplored terrain for STS and DS to operate in.

Discussants in the panel after his presentation (Arie Rip, Louk de la Rive Box and Andy Stirling) took up the challenge and sketched some possible routes whereby STS and DS could cooperate. Rip pressed the issue of local knowledge

and the creation of linkages between these forms of informal knowledge and the more formalized and Western knowledge processes. Box stressed the exploitative nature of many of the knowledge 'exchange' processes in development where mostly the Western parties, even public universities, make a profit from training people from developing countries. Stirling stressed that exploring such connections requires a differentiation or 'unpacking' of knowledge. It makes little sense to talk about knowledge (or technology) in too broad terms. The discussion should be much more specific. Panel members and Van Lieshout agreed that skill and skill training require more attention as well as on the options to make new connections and changes with a variety of forms of knowledge and technologies, something Stirling labeled as 'recombination potential'.

The afternoon programme further elaborated the morning discussion. Arie Rip, Han van Dijk and Andy Stirling presented some of their work and thoughts about the workshop theme. Rip pointed out that developing countries have a lot to offer in terms of knowledge about situations where new technology is taken up or programmes for poverty alleviation. There is a lot going on in so-called grassroots organizations who often work below the radar of formal institutions, including scholars from STS and DS. He proposed a model that stresses 'circulation of knowledge' and 'knowledge blending'.

Van Dijk stressed the role of power and governance structures. In developing countries these issues are unavoidably complex in ways that differ from Western nation-states, not only because of the many parties involved but also because often a variety of (local) juridical systems interact with each other, often in contestation. Stirling picked up the power issue and stressed that there is a power issue within knowledge and vice versa and the two should be studied in their conjunction and entanglement with one another. He further elaborated on the role of technology and came up with three crucial elements in the processes of technological change: directionality, meaning a focus on divergent framings and pathways in knowledge technology, distribution within processes of technological change of power and explicit normativity. The level of diversity clarifies how such processes are open to engagement and plural commitments.

The issues presented by the speakers were subsequently taken up in the various discussion groups in the second half of the afternoon. See day 3 for the outcomes of these discussions.

Exploring agriculture, health and water (day2)

For the second day a programme was designed that allowed the overall discussion of day one to become more concrete and issue-specific, focusing on agriculture, health and water respectively.

The theme 'agriculture' was introduced by Paul Richards. His central argument, using the example of rice improvement in West-Africa, is that agricultural research institutes work in hierarchical structures, assuming that innovation has to come from above, where innovation (as recombination) is something that happens everywhere. This was illustrated with the example of NERICA, a cross introduced by formal institutes who overlooked that farmers were using similar crosses in various ways. STS (social science more generally) has something to contribute by helping to understand such local innovation processes and recombining this with science. It is through local innovation that the poor 'speak' and social science (a technographic approach) can help to make these 'voices' heard.

The theme 'health' was introduced by Irene Agyepong. She focused on the interaction between science and policy, emphasizing how formal organizations for health care in Ghana have dynamics that tends to exclude the poorest in their services. Using the case of the implementation of a National Health Care System, she showed how science can run into conflict with formal institutes when policy makers are confronted with the findings of science that such exclusion mechanisms actually undermine the goal of the health system. She posed the question for the research agenda of ST&D studies: How to deal with a situation where conflict between science and policy replaces consensus building.

Based on these two presentations a lively discussion emerged, focusing on the question how STS/DS-type research can help to create science-based policies that are more inclusive for the poor.

The last theme was about 'water' and introduced by Matthew Kurian. Like the previous speaker he focused on the science-policy interaction but took a more systemic approach and showed the weaknesses and flaws of much of the scientific knowledge that informs policies in the area of water management. Much of the policies rely on economic data, including its in-built assumptions about methodological individualism and economic rationality. Moreover, there are major knowledge gaps or unknowns about which science often claims to provide reliable information. Policy makers and scientists might see these limitations but tend to 'repair' them with more science. This overlooks the

option that there is a lot of knowledge in practice. Participation or 'adaptive management' may be better strategies to reduce the inefficiencies and high transaction costs of the science-policy nexus.

The last presentation of the day was given by Annemarie Mol who drew some cross-cutting lines between the earlier presentations. Her argument was that each form of science 'cuts up the world' in a different way. Where is the overlap and where can commonalities emerge? One way to deal with this is to focus more on movements of 'things' (people, goods, facts, interventions etc) but that alone is not enough. Science needs to be more flexible and deal with alternative ways of cutting up the world' and alternative movements. A new approach to methodology is required for this, making it more reflexive. Key elements for such a flexible methodology are checklists, tinkering and case studies.

Presenters were then asked to sit together for a panel discussion with the audience. The presentations clearly triggered the audience and a lively debate emerged, primarily adding elements to what the presenters had said. One response raised the issue of learning, something that seems excluded in the concept of tinkering. Another commenter pointed at the longer-term historical changes in development and its meaning in a wider geopolitical context with a historically strong emphasis on development thinking in the US. Besides geopolitical variation, development could also be separated into immanent and intentional development processes, the latter receiving much attention in Development Studies. Others argued this distinction is basically a matter of scale. From a general, distant perspective development seems immanent, but all sorts of intended activities can be found within with a closer look. It is this complex of interactions that deserves more research.

Capacity building (day 3)

The last day started with short presentations by Jack Spaapen and Esha Shah. Jack works for the international bureau of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW). The KNAW supported the workshop in all sorts of ways and offered us hospitality at their beautiful Amsterdam location. Jack has been linchpin between the organizers and the academy; without him this workshop would not have taken place. So the organizers thanked him and via him the academy for his efforts.

Jack explained in his short presentation how the support for the workshop fits with the overall policies of the academy to promote the development of scientific capability in the Global South and the reinvigoration of the Academy's international committee. New fellowship programmes and cooperative

programmes are currently drawn up.

The second presentation was by Esha Shah who critically pointed out how all notions of capacity building draw on particular conceptions of development of a country over time, from 'take-off' models via neo-liberal assertion to cooperative conceptions. In discussing specific policies, proposals and activities it is very important to scrutinize these for such assumptions and models and how they affect possible outcomes.

In the discussion about these introductions the question how to conceptualize 'knowledge infrastructures' and 'transfer mechanisms' surface as key concepts to be clarified in relation to development policies locally as they are entertained locally as well as internationally. Without such clarification all discussions will remain vague and unfocused.

Mind the gap

In the remaining part of the meeting the discussions groups reported on the outcomes of their deliberations over the past two days. All sorts of ideas and suggestions came up and were reported. There is always the danger that discussions at the end of a workshop end up in agreement on buzzwords as a basis for a feel good atmosphere just before departure. That easily amounts to replacing the pet categories of others (national innovation systems were mentioned as an example) by at least equally fuzzy notions of our own making. As an antidote to such a course an entertaining and rewarding part of the final discussions was devoted to a discussion of the frequent use of the word 'gap' in our (and others') deliberations about STS, DS and development policies. The rhetorical trope of the 'gap' often functions to designate something we should worry about, bridge or at least 'mind'. A graphical display of sorts 'gaps' was presented by one of the groups as part of a plea for more intellectually productive and interesting ways of engaging with gap-language and what it refers to. As was pointed out, gaps are normally already filled with regulations, politics. It would be wrong to treat them as static or voids. The gap is often seen as an obstacle, a problem, but it can also be seen as a space with potential (stopping harmful technologies for instance). It is a space for learning as well as a space for bottom-up demand. Gaps offer opportunities for recombination as well as boundary struggles and fencing that are not necessarily bad

things. Both as a trope and in terms of the realities they refer to gaps should be explored, enjoyed and used as occasions to learn instead of only using them rhetorically as underspecified sources of nuisance that stand in the way of progress.

Travelling knowledge, capacity building and the export of institutional formats

One use gap-language refers to the possibilities for knowledge to travel and the difficulties of deliberations across disciplinary, geographical and institutional gaps and barriers. Places where exchanges take place are important research sites, how are these structured locally and tied to larger networks and configurations. To what extent are they embodied in people at key nodes and in material facilities and their locations? How do issues and approaches become translated in travelling from one site to another? How are approaches from STS and DS themselves transformed and adjusted to local varieties of knowledge and what does this imply for the way we go about our own projects.

Discussion about development policies are about promoting the travel of knowledge, ontologies and methodologies from one part of the world to another. So currently there is a lot of talk about setting up and strengthening academies of science and universities after models provided by Europe and the
USA. With this comes the promotion of particular role models for the scientists that may diverge from conceptions of knowledge and knowledge-production as they can be found in institutions in economically less-developed countries. With special reference to Indonesia one participant pointed out that academic and professional work are often closely tied in such countries compared to scientistic ideologies about pure research that are floating around. Such ideologies are often already radically at odds with the realities of the Western knowledge economies, and to build up capacities in the 'South'

on the basis of models that are already antiquated in the 'North' might well be a bad idea. More symmetrical reflections on the interrelations between knowledge production and practical involvements in different regions of the world might be helpful as a defensive against thoughtless copying and exporting of institutional formats and developing arrangements more in line with widely cherished goals and local conditions. As Annapurna – a participant from India with wide experience in working with local NGOs and networks-pointed out, scholars should try to make theories that you can easily imagine to be applicable.

Where do we go from here?

The final round of assessments and comments by participants about the workshop led to the conclusion that the participants want more and that we should avoid that this will turn to be a one-off event. As many of them pointed out, the meeting had encouraged and stimulated their thinking about, their own work, research or otherwise. It had made them aware of colleagues in other places working on closely similar problems experiencing similar challenges and frustrations. To continue to share experiences, communicate results and to take part in the intellectual discourse in and between STS and DS, research and policy making was collectively endorsed. It was also pointed out that to pursue the goals of the workshop would require more efforts to get funding to allow people from 'the South' to participate. Their participation in the meetings of international societies requires funding, wherever they are organized. The claim by the organizers that we should try to find money to organize similar workshops and summer schools in the Southern hemisphere and to promote South-to-South as well as South-North exchanges and development of inclusive agenda's was greeted with enthusiasm and several people volunteered to help make that happen. So next stop? Barbados? Mozambique? Indonesia?

Query: Radical Science Movement-Studies?

A recent London meeting of original members of the British Society for Social Responsibility asked me if there are any dissertations or research reports which have investigated the radical science movement of the 1960s and 1970s. If anyone is

aware of any relevant studies please let me know.

Fred Steward
f.steward@psi.org.uk

Tokyo or Trento? Yes, please.
by: Ann Rudinow Sætnan

Having trouble choosing between this year's two STS conferences? It is possible to make it to both, if you have the time, the stamina, and the funding (see more on funding for students below). Just a couple of tips on how to get from Tokyo to Trento on time:

1)   The final day of the Tokyo conference will be Japanese-language sessions only. Those of us who don't speak Japanese can get a head start on the return journey towards Italy, having booked for some Tokyo touring time in advance of the conference days there.

2)   There is at least one airline (Lufthansa) with direct flights from Tokyo to Munich. From there one can take the train to Trento's central station. Flying from Munich to Milan or Venice adds flying hours without reducing the train travel time all that much, or so I've been told. The Sunday flight to Munich and the train from Munich to Trento may become almost a traveling STS workshop, which could be fun ☺

3)   See the preliminary EASST conference program below. Note that there are some pre-conference events already on September 1. In light of this, my plan is to fly to Munich Sunday Aug 29, take the first train I can catch to Trento, catch up on sleep at my hotel, then wander around Trento on my remaining spare day-and-a-half. Then after the conference I'll take an extra day or two of holiday to see Venice. Meeting STS'ers in Venetian cafés will be a pleasant non-surprise.

EASST010 – PRACTICING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, PERFORMING THE SOCIAL TRENTO, 2010, SEPTEMBER 2 - 4

PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Wednesday 1st September

Faculty of Sociology, via Verdi 26	
14.00 - 19.00	Pre-conference PhD Workshop (see more on this below)
14,00 – 19,00	Conference Pre-registration

Thursday 2nd September

Teatro S. Chiara, Via della Croce, 67	
8.30-10.00	Conference Registration
10.00-10.30	Welcome Address (Dean of the Faculty + EASST President)
10.30-11.45	Plenary Session: "The Concept of Practice and the Curious Case of STS "

Faculty of Sociology, via Verdi 26	
12,00	Lunch
13,30-15,30	Parallel Sessions
15,30-16,00	Coffee break

16,00-18,00	Parallel Sessions
19,00	Welcome Aperitif

Friday 3rd September

Faculty of Sociology, via Verdi 26	
9,00-11,00	Parallel Sessions
11,00-11,30	Coffee Break
11,30 – 12,45	Subplenary sessions: - "(on the) Doing (of) Things" - "Tracing Heterogeneous Spaces" - "Bridging STS and Innovation Studies"
12,45	Lunch
14,00-16,00	Parallel Sessions
16,00	Coffee Break
16,30-18,30	Parallel Sessions
18,45-19.45	ArtiSSTic performance

Somewhere in town…	
21 – ???	Special Event

Saturday 4th of September

Faculty of Sociology, via Verdi 26	
09,00-10,30	Special Breakfast – EASST General Meeting
11,00-13,00	Parallel Sessions
13,00	Lunch
14,00-15,00	Plenary Session: "Performing the Technoscientific Body"
15,00-16,00	Closing Plenary

Announced Keynote Speakers:

Madeleine Akrich, Centre de Sociologie de l'Innovation, Paris, France.

Liam Bannon, Interaction Design Centre, University of Limerick, Ireland.

Pelle Ehn, School of Arts and Communication, Malmö University, Sweden.

Matthew Gandy, Department of Geography, University College London, UK.

Silvia Gherardi, Dept. of Sociology and Social Research, Trento University, Italy.

Anne Marie Mol, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Fred Stewart, Policy Studies Institute, University of Westminster, UK.

Lucy Suchman, Dept. of Sociology, Lancaster University, UK.

Sarah Whatmore, School of Geography and the Environment, Oxford University, UK.

Attention! Important Information for Students Planning on Attending EAAST010 Trento

Pre-conference Activities for Students

Planning is underway for a pre-conference day (September 1st) devoted to student activities associated with EASST 2010 at Trento. EASST Council has agreed to some financial support for these activities and the University is providing facilities. If you are a student coming to the conference I hope you will be able to participate! Currently there are plans for some **morning workshops** – co-organised by groups of students. These would aim to:

1. Provide opportunities for students from different countries to meet and establish connections before the whole conference starts. This could also provide a basis for thinking about better networking between STS students in the future.

2. Allow students to work on and discuss different aspects, commonalities and difficulties of doing a STS PhD – be they related to the use of theories and methodologies, fieldwork practicalities or to other issues related to publishing one's work.

There are also plans for some **afternoon workshops** focusing on different topics related to writing and publishing (such as the problems and opportunities of language, formats, and procedures). I would like to invite both journal editors and senior researchers to take part in these workshops to discuss and give advice.

We would like to end the whole day with an **evening meal**, as another opportunity to socialise and create tighter bonds amongst different European postgraduate students.

The day will be free but numbers are limited to 50 so it will be necessary to register and there may need to be a selection if the event is oversubscribed. More details of registration and the developing plans will be available shortly on the conference website.

I would love to have your input, collaboration and participation on any of these topics to make the Trento conference a more student-friendly event. Please do not hesitate to write me regarding any of these topics: **students@easst.net**

Tomás Sánchez-Criado, Student representative member, EASST Council.

EASST 2010 Support for Conference Attendance

EASST is inviting applications from those needing financial support to attend its conference in Trento in September 2010. Funding is limited and will be concentrated on those coming from countries which are normally under-represented at EASST conferences (particularly those from Southern or Eastern Europe). It will also be targeted at students or others without institutional support for conference attendance.

General rules:
1. Applicants must be EASST members.
2. Applicants must have had an abstract accepted by a track convener of the EASST conference.
3. Financial support will take the form of free conference registration.
4. The Allocation Committee will aim to make awards to a variety of institutions and will not normally make awards to those who have received EASST funding in the past.

Applications need to include the following:
1. A completed application form. The form can be downloaded from the Conference Website. Follow the link for conference support from the conference website **http://events.unitn.it/en/easst010**
2. A copy of your abstract.
3. Confirmation from the relevant track conveners that the abstract has been accepted.
4. Students should ask their supervisor to send a separate email to the same address providing support for the application.

Complete Applications (including support) must be sent to conferencesupport@easst.net **and be received by 24th May. Decisions will be notified by June 7th.**

After the event: Those who receive awards are required to send a short report (500-1000 words) regarding the theme or a plenary session attended to the editor of the *EASST Review* for consideration for publication. Alternatively, the *EASST Review* editor is helpful in "matchmaking" book review agreements with book exhibitors at the conference. Details of deadlines and address to send reports will be provided together with information about the award.

Next Issue of EASST Review

If the timing works out, the next issue of EASST Review will contain a full programme preview of the EASST 2010 meeting in Trento. In order to have that reach your desks in a timely fashion, and in order to be able to include the whole programme, ignoring printing and postage costs, that issue will be sent to all members as a .pdf file. Whether or not we continue to send out EASST Review in .pdf form will depend on response to the Summer 2010 issue.

Conferences and Calls for Papers

The **Third conference on the history of science in Norway**, "University history, university collections and university practices," is to be held at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), **Trondheim, Norway, on 14-17 October 2010**. After very successful meetings in Oslo in 2008 and Tromsø/Lofoten in 2009 we are pleased to announce the Third conference on the history of science in Norway, which will take place from 14 to 17 October 2010 at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim, Norway. The conference is being hosted in collaboration between the Forum for Kunnskapshistorie and the NTNU Anniversary History Project. The theme of the conference will be "University history, university collections and university practices". In 2010 the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and the city of Trondheim will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the foundation of the Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters in 1760 and the 100th anniversary of the Foundation of the Norwegian Institute of Technology in 1910. We invite submission of papers and organised sessions related to the theme as well as to the history of science in its broader sense, including the history of social sciences and humanities. Please send proposals of no more than 200 words (word doc or rtf format) to the email address below **before 15 April 2010**. Please include a short biography highlighting main research interests no more than 50 words. Proposals will be reviewed by the Programme Committee. Participants will be notified by 31 May. Presentations are limited to 20 minutes, with additional 10 minutes for discussion. The conference language will be English. For submission of abstracts and requests for more information, please contact: Ragnhild Green Helgås (ragnhild.g.helgas@ntnu.no)

Imperial College & Science Museum, London have issued a call for papers for **Science and the Public 2010, 3rd and 4th of July 2010**. Abstract deadline will have passed, but readers may be interested in attending.

Progress in Medicine, an interdisciplinary conference on the nature of progress in medicine, combining perspectives from philosophy, history, medical science, and clinical practice, is to be held in **Bristol, UK, 13-15 April 2010**. The aims of this conference are: To examine the nature, scope, causes, and grounds of progress in medicine; To provide a forum for developing the unified study of the history and philosophy of medicine, and in particular raising the profile of the philosophy of medicine in the UK and its engagement with the history of medicine; To create interdisciplinary bridges between the medical, philosophical, and historical professions, enabling medical professionals to become more theoretically engaged, while philosophers and philosophically-minded historians of medicine engage with the actual practice of medical professionals, so that their research reflects the realities and needs of modern medicine; To facilitate the wider dissemination of research into the philosophy and history of medicine beyond the boundaries of those disciplines, and especially in medical practice; and To identify opportunities for public engagement concerning the relation between medical progress and changing attitudes to medical knowledge, the medical profession, and medical authority. See: www.bristol.ac.uk/philosophy/department/events/progress_in_medicine/.

The **Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)**, held jointly with Japanese Society for Science and Technology Studies , is to take place on **August 25 – 29, 2010 in Tokyo**. This is the first 4S annual meeting in Asia. 4S members will have a chance to experience, interact with, and understand the cultural diversity of Asia. Furthermore, holding 4S in Asia opens the door to

questions relating to universalities and cultural differences in STS concepts. This meeting will provide a good opportunity for reconsidering STS in global contexts as well as strengthening STS network worldwide. For further information, see http://4sonline.org/meeting.

The **Salford Postgraduate Annual Research Conference (SPARC)** is taking place on **10 and 11 June 2010**. Here at the **University of Salford, UK**, we are inviting research students from all disciplines to submit a proposal to our post-graduate conference. You can view the full call for papers on our website at www.pg.salford.ac.uk/page/sparc/. This year we are also welcoming other different and creative types of presenting and communicating your research rather than just poster and paper presentations, although these are also welcome. The conference is a great opportunity to practise presenting research in a friendly environment, and to meet fellow postgraduate researchers from other research centres and universities. There is also the chance to develop a paper for publication in the conference proceedings. Everything will be published for open access. Please see the website for more details and guidance on submission: http://www.pg.salford.ac.uk/page/sparc/. If you have any queries, please contact the conference team on sparc@salford.ac.uk.

The workshop, **Ethics on the laboratory floor: Explorations for a methodology**, will take place on **1-2 June 2010 at the University of Twente, Enschede, the Netherlands**. These last years there has been a growing interest in the engagement of ethicists in the context of scientific engineering research, with the aim to anticipate the ambiguous impacts that technological innovations have on the quality of human life. In this way ethicists are thought to be able to contribute to the constitution of the technological product, at a stage when it is still malleable. Several scholars have developed views on how an ethicist in this context should work, but there is not yet a detailed 'method'. With this workshop we want to contribute to the development of such a method. We want to focus especially on the themes of reflection and deliberation, for the enhancement of 'reflection' and the broadening of 'deliberation' is often understood to be the primary aim of the work of an ethicist in the scientific research context. Yet it remains unclear what this involves. Questions are raised such as: what is reflection/deliberation? How should ethicists enhance reflection? What are the consequences of such an enhancement of reflection on the

deliberation about research choices? How much should this deliberation be broadened? And what is the specific input of an ethicist in this deliberation? This workshop aims to act as a platform to discuss and critically engage with these questions. Confirmed invited participants are Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent, Rosalyn Berne, Ulrike Felt, Armin Grunwald, Alfred Nordmann and Arie Rip. Abstract deadline will have passed, but readers may be interested in attending. For further information, please contact one of the organizers: Simone van der Burg: s.vanderburg@utwente.nl; Federica Lucivero: f.lucivero@utwente.nl; Lotte Krabbenborg: l.krabbenborg@rug.nl; or Dirk Haen: d.f.haen@utwente.nl.

The **British Sociological Association's Medical Sociology Group's annual conference** is to take place on **1-3 September 2010 at Durham University, UK**. We look forward to welcoming you to the 2010 Annual Medical Sociology Conference. The conference will celebrate our international links - exploring and comparing developments within Medical Sociology. In 2009, the MedSoc Annual Conference attracted over 290 delegates from around the world. The event was hailed a great success and very much enjoyed by all. Past delegates have referred to the event as a 'must' for anyone within the medical sociology arena and those within closely related fields. The annual conference provides delegates with the opportunity to discuss the discipline's hot topics within a real community of medical sociologists. Abstract Submission for the conference is now open. The organizers welcome submissions for oral papers, poster presentations and symposia. Please visit the BSA web site For more details: www.britsoc.co.uk/events/medsoc.htm. The **closing date for submissions is Friday, 30 April 2010**. Queries about the conference or about abstract submission can be directed to: bsamedsoc@britsoc.org.uk.

Abstracts are invited for the session, **"Dynamics and development in innovation systems, niches, regimes and transitions,"** at the **ERSCP-EMSU conference 25-29 October 2010 in Delft**, The Netherlands. In recent decades, a lot of research has been done into innovation and transition processes. These processes have been studied from different perspectives, e.g. the multi-level perspective and innovation systems – both at the technological, the sectoral and the regional level. Lately, more and more knowledge is gained on the dynamics within innovation systems, technological niches, regimes

and transition pathways. This session aims at bringing this new knowledge together, critically reflect on the strengths and weaknesses, point out potential linkages and propose conceptual improvements. The following topics will be addressed: Dynamics within or development of technological innovation systems – including the Functions of Innovation Systems perspective; Dynamics within or development of sectoral innovation systems; Dynamics within or development of regional innovation systems; Dynamics within or development of niches and regimes and the relationships between these dynamics; Dynamics within transition pathways; and Conceptual or methodological contributions addressing dynamics and development of innovation systems, niches, regimes or whole transitions. We welcome both theoretical and empirical abstracts/papers on these subjects. Empirical papers on both developed and developing countries are welcome. The session aims to bring the most interesting papers to a special issue in a high-level journal. If you are interested in participating in this session, please submit your abstract (max. 250 words) **before the 8th of March 2010** at the conference website (www.erscp-emsu2010.org/); choose theme 2d. Please send the abstract also to l.m.kamp@tudelft.nl. The ERSCP/EMSU Conference is a joint effort by TU Delft, TNO and The Hague University of Applied Sciences and will take place in Delft, the Netherlands, on 25-29 October 2010. The conference title is 'Knowledge Collaboration & Learning for Sustainable Innovation'. More details on the conference and how to submit abstracts can be found at http://www.erscp-emsu2010.org/.

A Call for abstracts has been issued for the international conference, **Tentative Governance in Emerging Science and Technology - Actor Constellations, Institutional Arrangements & Strategies, October 28-29, 2010, University of Twente,** The Netherlands.The conference is organized by the Institute of Innovation and Governance Studies (IGS) of the University of Twente (www.universiteittwente.nl/research/igs). Internationally, the conference will be run as a key event of the European Forum for 'Studies into Policies for Research and Innovation' (Eu-SPRI Forum; succeeding the PRIME Network of Excellence; http://www.euspri-forum.eu/). For emerging science and technology (EST) governance becomes tentative when it is designed as a dynamic process to manage interdependencies and contingencies. Tentative governance aims at

creating spaces of openness, probing and learning instead of trying to limit options for actors, institutions and processes. It answers political and organizational complexities with explorative strategies, instead of relying only on orthodox or preservative means. Tentative governance is a particularly pertinent issue for EST such as nanotechnology, life sciences, genomics and other emerging fields of innovations with the potential to radically transform domains and sectors,. These fields are subject to a broad array of inherent uncertainties related to technological shape, configurations and applications and the resulting societal benefits and risks. At the same time, actor constellations and practices related to knowledge production, innovation and societal appropriation are in the process of emerging and largely differ from established technologies. This poses specific challenges to the governance of these fields, which has to address ill-defined and sometimes 'moving targets'. Simultaneously, promises and expectations abound. Many actors from government, academia, industry, and civil society expect that EST will constitute "key technologies of the future" and that some may even lead to a "next industrial revolution". Thus, developing appropriate govern-ance modes seems all the more important. However, modes of governance are usually attuned to established technologies. Innovative modes of governance under headings such as 'reflexive governance', 'transition management', 'Construc-tive Technology Assessment', 'Ethical, Legal and Societal Issues (ELSI) Studies', or 'Real-Time Technology Assessment' are only now emerging. What we are seeing, in other words, is a co-evolutionary growth of innovative modes of governance and constellations, practices and technologies in EST. Hence, it can be argued that governance modes, be they regulatory approaches, institutional arrangements or modes of coordination among various actor constellations turn out – and probably even need – to be tentative in order to respond to the uncertainties and to be prepared for further dynamics. We assume that tentative govern-ance is neither a particularly desirable or worrisome approach, but rather an empirical phenomenon. The aim of the conference is to identify and elaborate the specific governance challenges of EST and to discuss ways of responding to them. Papers may address these issues conceptually or empirically for EST in general or for a specific innovation. We invite interdisciplinary contributions from policy and regulatory governance studies, legal studies, higher education studies, science and technology studies, technology assessment and innovation

studies. Please submit all proposals at www.igs.utwente.nl/international_conference_tenta/ **by 16 March 2010**.

Thinking With Insects: Entomological Reflections on History, Medicine and Politics, the workshop, is to be held at the **London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine**, Anthropologies of African Biosciences Group, **20-22 May 2010**. Attendance is free. Knowledge about insects has informed models and manipulations of human societies, from apiary inspired labour reform in Victorian Britain to large- scale resettlement schemes for controlling sleeping sickness in colonial Africa. Religious, cultural, economic and political authority has been framed by knowledge of bugs; analysis of their behaviours has challenged our concepts of sociability, intentionality and language. Investigations of their habitats have informed how we construct, cultivate and manage public space. Insects are not only embedded in ecosystems but in cultural understandings; folklore, fiction and media constitute the insect as pest, pollinator or pestilence. In many ways, entomology is a political science par excellence; insect knowledge is enmeshed with the problems of governance, population welfare and ecological stewardship. Insect interventions – vector control, pest eradication, specimen collection and colony cultivation – register the evolving relationship between science, society, and technology. Politics and the Superorganism: What can the collective dimensions of insect existence tell us about our conceptions of political order? The Places of Entomology: How might investigations of insect activity nuance our understanding of concepts such as landscape, territory or nation? The People of Entomology: Who are the bug-men and women? What do these insect engagements tell us about the social relations of science, the culture of scientific expertise and the conceptualization of public participation in science? Insect Interventions: What are the implications – in terms of social and technological complexity, expertise and mobility – of choosing to focus on insect vectors in public health campaigns? This workshop will bring together scholars doing innovative work on the intersections of insect and human worlds. Combining historical, anthropological and sociological insights with the experiences of entomologists, we will explore the political dimensions of insect-knowledge, probing the question, "how can we think with bugs?" Please register with Linda Amarfio: Linda.Amarfio@lshtm.ac.uk. See also http://aab.lshtm.ac.uk/.

The Stimulated Body and the Arts: The Nervous System and Nervousness in the History of Aesthetics, the International Interdisciplinary Conference, is to be held on **17-18 February 2011 at Hatfield College, Durham University**, UK. This conference will discuss the history of the relationship between aesthetics and medical understandings of the body. Today's vogue for neurological accounts of artistic emotions has a long pedigree. Since G.S. Rousseau's pioneering work underlined the importance of models of the nervous system in eighteenth-century aesthetics, the examination of physiological explanations in aesthetics has become a highly productive field of interdisciplinary research. Drawing on this background, the conference aims to illuminate the influence that different medical models of physiology and the nervous system have had on theories of aesthetic experience. How have aesthetic concepts (for instance imagination or genius) been grounded medically? What effect did the shift from animal spirits to modern neurophysiology have on aesthetics? The medical effects of culture were not always regarded as positive. The second focus of the conference will be the supposed ability of excessive reading, music and so on to 'over-stimulate' nerves and cause nervousness, mental and physical illness, homosexuality and even death. It will consider questions regarding the effects of various theories of neuropathology and psychopathology on the concept of pathological culture. What kinds of culture could lead to such over-stimulation? How was this medical critique of culture related to moral objections and changes in gender relations, politics and society? How was it linked to medical concern about lack of attention and willpower? This interdisciplinary conference brings together scholars working in a wide range of fields, including not only the history of medicine but also in subjects such as art history, languages and musicology. Abstracts for 20-minute papers (maximum 250 words) should be submitted electronically to the organisers **by 31 July 2010** at the following address: James.kennaway@durham.ac.uk. See also www.dur.ac.uk/chmd/.

Technoscientific and Social Dynamics of Health and Healthcare, Organized by ESA's Research Network 24 Sociology of Science and Technology Network (SSTNET) and the Helsinki Institute of Science and Technology Studies (HIST), is to be held **on 8-9 October 2010 at the Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki**. Health and

healthcare have been an important research topic within sociology and the science and technology studies (STS), as well as the medical sociology community for a long time. Since the 1980s there has been increasing pressure within the health and healthcare sector to adapt under political, economic and social pressures to re-orient the public sector in ways that have been seen to increase its competitiveness and cost-efficiency. Neoliberalism and new public management, for example, represent trends within the healthcare sector that appear to be here to stay, in that they have re-oriented the public sector towards private markets, thus making it more competitive. At the same time citizens and patients are demanding more and more of the very same sector which is placed under these constraining pressures. More recently, however, there have been calls to critically re-asses the 'market turn' in public services and to re-establish a stronger and more robust public sector (see for example Moore, 1995 on Public Value Theory). Embedded in these mundane social, political and economic practices, science and technology shapes and is being shaped by society. Such mutual shaping results in continuities and discontinuities in human history. The goal of this workshop is to explore the role that science and technology plays in this transformative relationship in contemporary society where new patterns and dynamics within health and healthcare emerge. New technologies, therapies, medicines and practices within the health and healthcare sector are seen to provide the basis for lowering costs and improving services. And yet, new technological artifacts, allowing for important steps forward both in medical research and healthcare are also very expensive (ex. TACS, MRI etc.) and one of the explanations for increasing costs in health care. Research is expected to provide an ever increasing flow of solutions to an ageing European population and health care markets are thought to provide answers to the demands of consumers. This trajectory of thinking has been critically assessed within the STS community (Mol, 2008). Within this context we are particularly interested in theoretical and empirical analyses that examine the changing terrain within the healthcare sector as it relates to research, healthcare practices, as well as professionals and patients. For further information, contact Aaro Tupasela, aaro.tupasela@helsinki.fi.

Politics of Design, the International Workshop, is to be held on **24-25 June 2010, in Manchester**, UK. See www.sed.manchester.ac.uk/research/marc/. In the last decade numerous STS trained scholars engaged in a venture of unpacking design practices.

Yet, to study the practical course of design means to be simultaneously involved in the subject of politics and in the particular sort of politics that is centred on objects (Latour & Weibel, Making Things Public). Recent studies in political philosophy and STS have argued that politics is not limited anymore to citizens, elections, votes, petitions, ideologies and particular institutionalised conflicts (DeVries, What is Political in Sub-politics?), and have reformulated the question of politics into one of cosmopolitics (Stengers, Cosmopolitics; Latour, Politics of Nature) and ontological politics (Mol, Actor Network Theory and After). The "political" is not defined as a way of codifying particular forms of contestation but as opening up new sites and objects of contestation (Barry, Political Machines). Looking to assess the multifarious ways design can be "political" and the various sites of politics of design, this workshop will explore a range of questions pertaining to theory and methodology: To what kind of politics can we get access when we strive to unravel design not through ideology but through the work of designers, their rich repertoire of actions, their controversies, concerns, puzzles, risk-taking, and imagination? And likewise, what kinds of politics are embedded in the objects of design, with their multiple meanings of materiality, pliability, and obduracy? How does design's potential to bring an ever-greater number of non-humans into politics contribute to the re-composition of the common world, the cosmos in which everyone lives? What are the politics of the relations invoked by design practices? Is design "political" because it brings together land and NGOs, gravity laws and fashions, preservationists and zoning regulations, architectural languages and concerned communities, dives and stakeholders, land registers and modernists, and if so, how? What are the multiple design sites where political action might be seeping through? How is politics carried out today in sites often unrelated to the traditional loci of political action: in building development companies, planning commissions, building renovation sites, urban spaces, local communities, architectural offices, public presentations of designers? And what can we learn from the different, even unexpected forms of concernedness that we may come across in such contexts? How and under which conditions does design become one of the means through which politics is being carried out? How does design turn the "public" into a problem - and thus engage and mobilise it - triggering disagreements and generating issues of public concern? How do designers and planners make their

activities accountable to citizens? If the "political" is considered a moment in the complex trajectory of design projects, processes and objects, what are the methods we use to account for them? How can we map, track, trace and document ethnographically and historically these moments of becoming political? The workshop is expected to attract a diverse group of scholars from the fields of STS, architecture, geography, political economy, environmental psychology and planning, design studies, sociology, cultural studies and political sciences.

The next conference of AAHPSSS (the **Australasian Association for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science**) will take place at the **University of Sydney**, in the Unit for History and Philosophy of Science (New Law School building), on **July 9-11, 2010**. Information about accommodation and registration is on the AAHPSSS website at www.usyd.edu.au/aahpsss/ AAHPSSS2010-conference.html.

Language as a Scientific Tool: Managing Language as a Variable of Practice and Presentation is the title of the conference at the **Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, 29-30 November 2010**. Abstract deadline will have passed, but readers may be interested in attending..

Sentient creatures: Transforming biopolitics and life matters is the conference hosted by the **University of Oslo, 15-17 September 2010**. The concepts of biopower and biopolitcs, so eloquently and significantly laid out by Michel Foucault, are quite possibly insufficient to our understanding of past and contemporary living. Just think about zoonoses including the 'swine flu' pandemic, and the ways in which the production of facts about the human body have been and continue to be built upon the observation and manipulation of animals. These and similar examples suggest that two correctives or re-emphases are required. First, studies of life and the living alert us to the fact that biopolitics is not only about humans, in the form of the human individual, or in the form of the human population, it is rather about an assemblage of matters of life. Second, there is neither a self evident or totalising human power over life, nor an unproblematic politics of life. The relation between life and politics needs both theoretical and empirical specificity. To expand slightly on each of these: First, even a narrow focus on the life of living humans immediately takes in nonhumans and other than human lives. Securing life and making life live

is always more than human. Indeed, humans are and always have been conditioned upon non-humans: as in laboratory medicine, in our ways of producing and taking life - for food, and as crucial entities in debates about who 'we' think 'we' are. Animals are objects, but also subjects, symbols and signs. Second, if lives are practised in many places and with many others, then how do we start to understand the lives that are being and have been made? Past work has tended to underline various practices of control and technologies of knowledge and surveillance. Perhaps rather than an overarching framework we need narratives and ethnographies of the living, taking in the multi-sited, multi-logic and multiple ways in which lives are and have been assembled, disassembled, practised and possibly policed and politicised. Instead of asking only how is and has control and knowledge been extended over life, we should also look at the imperfect living practices which often defy orders, escape detection, fail to produce or only loosely hang together. An aim of this conference is to bring historically oriented narratives and approaches together with contemporary studies, hence to bring 'the archive' into an exchange with, for instance, ethnographic ways of working. It is to link the ways in which we narrate the past now, with ways of approaching and re-presenting the present. Thus our questions will not only evolve around 'what´s going on', 'what are these transformations', but also the question of method; how to do the work empirically as well as theoretically. The conference will take place at the Thorbjørnrud hotel outside Oslo. The event is a joint venture with CULTRANS, www.cultrans.uio.no, and the projects Newcomers to the farm', 'Animals as objects and animals as signs,' 'standardization and visualization of animals,' 'Nature and Science in Politics and Everyday Practices' and the Research network 'DRUGS'. If you want to take part in the conference: Send an abstract of about 400 words to beate.trandem@ilos.uio.no presenting your research interest and the paper you want to present at the conference. **Deadline: March 15 2010**. Deadline for a short version of the paper will be May 15. There will be a conference fee covering hotel and food expenses.

The **7th Pan-European SGIR Conference**, with the section "Constructing the Knowledge Society: A Global Challenge," will take place in **Stockholm** on **9-11 September 2010**. The importance of various forms of knowledge for socio-economic development is a key element of the contemporary discourse in politics, economics and social sciences.

From a historical perspective, breakthroughs in development of the economy, culture and society have always been connected to the generation and application of new knowledge. But in the second half of the 20th century science, information processing and highly qualified human resources acquired such enormous significance that modern society has been increasingly described as a "knowledge society". This section aims at discussing a variety of challenging questions related to the role of knowledge in the contemporary globalised world and its potential to help overcome the global crisis. Papers in this section might address questions such as: When, how and what kinds of knowledge can become an economic product? How does technological change affect regional development? How are innovation and regional competitiveness connected? What are causes and consequences of regional disparities in educational levels? Why some regions innovate and others do not? How do political leaders and media gatekeepers influence the production and diffusion of information? How is science represented, perceived, understood and criticized in the society? How do cultural memories persist or change over time? How are supranational, national and regional identities constructed? How does international transfer of knowledge contribute to development of sender and recipient countries and regions? What is the role of migration streams for the circulation of knowledge? See www.gesellschaftswissenschaften. uni-frankfurt.de/index.pl/sgir2010/submit_paper, or email Demyan Belyaev, demyan.belyaev@urz.uni-heidelberg.de.

The **VIII Latin American Meeting of Social Studies of Science and Technology**, on Science and Technology for Social Inclusion in Latin America, takes place on **July 20–23, 2010 in Buenos Aires**. See www.esocite2010.escyt.org. Fifteen years after the first Latin American Meeting of Social Studies of Science and Technology, Buenos Aires will be host again the host for the 2010 ESOCITE Meeting. The growing attendance and the development of new institutions noticed throughout the past meetings, highlights the rising consolidation of the field of Social Studies of Science and Technology within the Latin American countries. Nowadays, the VIII ESOCITE Meeting faces two important challenges: to further strengthen the field of Social Studies of Science and Technology in Latin America and to argue for a public discussion about the role of scientific and technological knowledge in the region, its uses in societies which requires the mobilization of S&T in

order to find solutions for long-standing and important problems such as that of democratization, inequality, development and social cohesion, among others. Indeed, throughout the last decades, citizens, governments and researchers in Latin America have done vast efforts to develop institutions and projects to produce both: useful knowledge for its societies and relevant findings for the international scene. However, social inequalities at most of these countries have barely diminished until today. In broad terms, the employment of scientific and technological knowledge in order to mitigate this situation has been only marginal. In this sense, the motto for the VIII ESOCITE Meeting: "Science and Technology for Social Inclusion" means the chance to boost the debate about the ways in which science and technology can (or should) contribute to improve the social cohesion and to reduce the social gap in Latin American countries.

The **Annual Conference of the Danish Association for STS** - DASTS, on innovation and learning in science, technology and society, is to take place on **10-11 June at the Danish School of Education, University of Aarhus**. For more information: www.dpu.dk/dassts2010.

Critical perspectives on security, the conference at the **University of Maastricht on 27-28 May 2010**. The conference will be organized around four major themes, of which the fourth builds upon the other three: Security-related concepts, such as risk, vulnerability, safety and uncertainty: How are these concepts defined and theorized? How is the notion of security understood in different disciplines? To what social ends? How are issues related to security empirically studied? What questions are asked? What are the drivers and effects of "securitization"? What methods are followed in each discipline to empirically study security? How can different empirical evidences be comparatively brought together? Comparative perspectives: What do studies on security in the global south and north have in common? What have they mutually to learn from each other? Similarly, how can interdisciplinary cross-fertilisation on security bring out newer insights? In what way, for instance, could studies on technological risks be useful for finding newer ways of approaching migration and developmentalism? Ways to rethink security: What commonalities and differences exist across disciplines and across geo-political regions? In what way can comprehensively critical perspectives on security be developed? What aspects of security have not been yet studied and why? Which aspects

need newer understandings? across the disciplinary boundaries. Abstract deadline will have passed, but readers may be interested in attending.

The **European Academic Heritage Network UNIVERSEUM** would like to announce its **11th annual meeting**, to be held at the **University of Uppsala, Sweden, 17-20 June 2010.** UNIVERSEUM invites submissions of papers devoted to academic heritage in its broadest sense, tangible and intangible, namely the preservation, study, access and promotion of university collections, museums, archives, libraries, and buildings of historical and scientific significance. Graduate students are especially encouraged to attend. The main theme of the conference is University Heritage: Present and Future, however papers on other topics are welcomed too. Academic heritage institutions traditional roles are collecting, preservation, research and teaching. Increasingly, they are expected to develop public programs and exhibitions as well as to assume a stronger role in marketing their university's identity. These roles can pose considerable challenges. How can we position ourselves within the growing constraints of generating external funding, creating new audiences and keeping our institutions identity? Presentations are limited to 20 minutes, including 5 minutes for discussion. Please send proposals of no more than 200 words (use the abstract template) to the email address below **before 15 March 2010**. Include a short biography highlighting main research interests (no more than 50 words). Email for proposals & info: universeum@gustavianum.uu.se. More info, abstract template and preliminary programme: http://www.gustavianum.uu.se/universeum2010.

The **Society for the History of Technology** will hold its **annual meeting** in **Tacoma, Washington from September 30 to October 3, 2010**. The Program Committee invites paper and panel proposals on any topic in the history of technology, broadly defined. Sessions dealing with non-Western technologies are particularly welcome. Of special interest for 2010 are proposals that engage in themes that resonate with the concerns of the specific locale. These include: Consumption: In the popular imagination, the Tacoma-Seattle area is associated with several important corporate entities (Boeing, Microsoft, Nintendo, Starbucks, etc.) whose goods and services are deeply embedded in global consumer culture. At a moment in time when consumption, sometimes excessive, sometimes globalized, sometimes exploitative, is of great concern to both the public and policy-makers,

Tacoma is an appropriate place for historians to (re)consider technologies of consumption. We are especially interested in papers that see production and consumption as coterminous processes and which historicize consumption as part of broader processes in the history of technology. We define consumption very broadly to include the public's active engagement with technologies and technological systems, which may include environmental, communications, and obsolete technologies. The Program Committee encourages sessions dealing with topics appropriate to the meeting location, such as aerospace and maritime history, labor history, forest products, information technology, and themes relevant to the Pacific world. We also encourage historians of technology to reach out to scholars in aligned and/or related fields when constructing research proposals as one way to create a more interdisciplinary environment. Finally, we invite papers and panel proposals that emphasize the longue durée, particularly those that problematize demarcations such as modern/premodern, colonial/postcolonial, and preindustrial/industrial. As always, sessions dealing with pre-modern, Medieval, and ancient topics are especially welcome. The Program Committee's highest priority in evaluating paper and panel proposals is scholarly excellence. The Committee welcomes proposals for individual papers or sessions, as well as works-in-progress from researchers of all stripes (including graduate students, chaired professors, and independent scholars). It welcomes proposals from those new to SHOT, regardless of discipline. Multinational, international, and cross-institutional sessions are also desirable. We especially encourage proposals from non-Western scholars. For the 2010 meeting the Program Committee continues to encourage unconventional sessions; that is, session formats that vary in useful ways from the typical three/four papers with comment. These might include round-table sessions, workshop-style sessions with papers that are pre-circulated electronically, or "author meets critics" sessions. We also welcome poster proposals for presentation in poster sessions. Please note that in general we discourage panels with more than three papers. The **deadline for proposals is 31 March 2010**. Please submit your proposals to shot.tacoma2010@gmail.com. Proposals for individual papers must include: 1. a one-page abstract (maximum 600 words); and 2. a one-page curriculum vitae, including current postal and e-mail addresses. Proposals for complete sessions must include: 1. a description of the session that explains how individual papers contribute to an overall

theme. 2. the names and paper titles of the presenters. 3. for each presenter, a one-page summary (maximum 600 words) of the paper's topic, argument(s), and evidence used. 4. for the commentator, chair, and each presenter: one-page c.v., with postal and e-mail addresses. For more information about the Society for the History of Technology and our annual meeting, see www.historyoftechnology.org/ or contact SHOT Secretary Bernie Carlson at shotsecy@virginia.edu. A Call For Papers: **Special Issue of Minds and Machines on The Construction of Personal Identities Online** has been issued by Guest Editors Luciano Floridi and Dave Ward. **Closing date for submissions: 15 December 2010**. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are building a new habitat (infosphere) in which future generations will spend an increasing amount of time. So, how individuals construct, shape and maintain their personal identities online (PIOs) is a problem of growing and pressing importance. Today, PIOs can be created and developed, as an ongoing work-in-progress, to provide experiential enrichment, expand, improve or even help to repair relationships with others and with the world, or enable imaginative projections (the "being in someone else's shoes" experience), thus fostering tolerance. However, PIOs can also be mis-constructed, stolen, "abused", or lead to psychologically or morally unhealthy lives, causing a loss of engagement with the actual world and real people. The construction of PIOs affects how individuals understand themselves and the groups, societies and cultures to which they belong, both online and offline. PIOs increasingly contribute to individuals' self-esteem, influence their life-styles, and affect their values, moral behaviours, and ethical expectations. It is a phenomenon with enormous practical implications, and yet, crucially, individuals as well as groups seem to lack a clear, conceptual understanding of who they are in the infosphere and what it means to be a responsible informational agent online. This special issue of Minds and Machines seeks to fill this important gap in our philosophical understanding. It will build on the current debate on PIO, and address questions such as: How does one go about constructing, developing and preserving a PIO? Who am I online? How do I, as well as other people, define and re-identify myself online? What is it like to be that particular me (instead of you, or another me with a different PIO), in a virtual environment? Should one care about what happens to one's own PIO and how one (with his/her PIO) is perceived to behave online? How do PIs online and offline feedback on each other? Papers comparing and evaluating standard approaches to PI in order to analyse how far they may be extended to explain PIO are also very welcome. Submissions will be double-blind refereed for academic rigor, originality and relevance to the theme. Please submit articles of no more than 10,000 words to D.Ward2@herts.ac.uk in .doc or .pdf format.

Opportunities available

Two Junior Research Fellowships are offered at the **Science Museum, London**, with a bursary of GBP 1,000 a month. This is an exciting opportunity to carry out research on the unparalleled collections of the Science Museum, London. To mark the centenary of its founding as an independent museum in 1909, the Science Museum is offering two (2) junior research fellowships to enable postgraduate students explore the riches of its scientific, technological and medical collections and the Science Museum Library. The Science Museum has the largest and most significant collections relating to science, technology and medicine. With over 300,000 objects in its care, the Science Museum has particular strengths in the history of western science, technology and medicine since 1700. This collection is supported by the books, journals and archives which are available in the Science Museum Library. The Science Museum's research programme has the aim of promoting scholarly research which furthers our understanding of the development of science and technology. The museum is not constrained by disciplinary boundaries and welcomes applications from students from any appropriate subject areas. Applicants are at liberty to propose any theme which sheds light on the Science Museum's collections. The precise topic will be chosen by the Science Museum in order to make the best use of the Science Museum's collections while taking into account the successful candidate's educational background, interests and strengths. The bursary for this Junior Research Fellowship is £1,000 per month for up to three months and is intended to cover

travel to and from the museum and living expenses. There will be very limited funds available to cover exceptional research costs, agreed in advance. The exact timing of the fellowship will be by arrangement, but will take place between July 2010 and March 2011. Applicants should send their curriculum vitae, which should show the candidate's education, qualifications and any publications, with a covering letter, which should give a brief explanation of how this fellowship would advance your academic development and why you wish to carry out research on the Science Museum's collections, preferably by email. Please supply the names and addresses of two academic referees. Applicants should send a copy of their application to their chosen referees before submission, asking their referees to comment on their suitability for this Junior Research Fellowship. They should ask their referees to send their references in confidence directly to the address below – preferably by email – by Friday 19th March 2010. As there will not be a formal interview, applicants should ensure that they provide all the information needed to make a decision. The **deadline for applications is Friday 12th March 2010**. They should be sent to peter.morris@nmsi.ac.uk. If you have any queries (or need any additional information) please contact Peter Morris at peter.morris@nmsi.ac.uk. For further information, www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/about_us/about_the_m useum/research/sm_research_internships.aspx

The Science Museum, London also offers research opportunities including bursary support for **Visiting Researchers.** The 2010 application deadline will have passed by the time this issue reaches readers, but we mention the opportunity for future reference.

Maastricht University (NL) has a **vacancy for a researcher on an EU project (20 months)**. In October 2009, an EU project has started titled: **ENGENDER: Inventory of good practices in Europe for promoting gender equality in health**. The project is funded by DG Sanco, the directorate for Health and Consumer Issues of the EU and will last for two years. The project is coordinated by the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm Sweden, and consists of 9 associated partners, among which Maastricht University. There is a wider group of collaborating partners representing more countries, Public Health Institutes and NGOs over Europe. The project researcher will be the main responsible for compiling the database of those good practices upon which policy briefs will be based as final deliverables of the project. We are looking for a

candidate with good communication and networking skills, fluent in Dutch and English, with a sound understanding of gender and health issues and a background in (public) health research, health policy and management or anthropology/sociology with a specialization in gender & public health. The tasks will be conducted during the project's lifetime and an **appointment of about 20 months is foreseen starting March or April 2010** (fte's can be discussed).The researcher will be based at the Department of Health, Ethics & Society (HES) of the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences of Maastricht University. Email your interest (including a CV) to Ineke Klinge, assoc. professor of Gender Medicine, i.klinge@hes.unimaas.nl.

The Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Cambridge is seeking a **University Lecturer in Philosophy of Science**. We intend to appoint a University Lecturer in philosophy of science. Responsibilities include contributing to all aspects of undergraduate teaching and supervising graduate students, in addition to taking a prominent part in leading research in the field in the Department and taking on administrative responsibilities. Shortlisted candidates will be informed in late-March and will be invited to the Department to present seminar papers and for interview. The successful candidate will be expected to take up the position on or before 1 October 2010. Appointments will be for a probationary period of five years, with appointment to the retiring age thereafter, subject to satisfactory performance. See: www.hps.cam.ac.uk/jobs/lectureship.html.

Warwick University is seeking an **Assistant Professorship in Science, Politics and Society.** A new regular junior post has opened up in my department. Some people on this list may be interested in applying. I should say that while you will be working in a sociology department, you need not have a Ph.D. in sociology. Relevance to the research area of science, politics and society is essential, however. You should have completed a PhD or equivalent in a relevant discipline and have a demonstrable record of teaching and research within the field, broadly defined, of science, politics and society. An ability to teach quantitative methods and to work across disciplinary boundaries is also essential. You will carry out undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, research activities and administrative duties for the Department and contribute to the new Science, Politics and Society (SPS) strategic priority area. Here are the details: https://secure.admin.warwick.ac.uk/webjobs/jobs/ac ademic/job20446.html. The closing date/time for

applications is midnight (British time) at the end of **Friday 12 March 2010**.

The University of Cambridge has issued a call for applications for the **Two-Year Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2010-12, in Science, Medicine and Society in Africa**. The study of the role of science and medicine in contemporary Africa is a growing field. Undoubtedly some of the current attention to this subject has been produced by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, but the issues go beyond this to include fundamental questions about the definition and role of science in African societies, the history and role of African science professionals and scientific education, the ethics, popular perceptions and interpretations of medical and scientific research in African communities, and expectations of (and disappointments with) medical provision. This two-year postdoctoral fellowship will be held jointly at the Centre of African Studies and the Department of History and Philosophy of Science. The Fellow will be housed in the Centre and the post administered from there. He/she will report to the Director and Management Committee. The stated aims of the Mellon Postdoctoral scheme include the fostering of connections between different departments of the University and the encouragement of cross-disciplinary work and teaching. We are therefore looking for an imaginative and critical scholar, able to forge links between areas of study and keen to advance the growing field of the study of science, medicine and society in Africa. The successful candidate will have a PhD in the Social Sciences or Humanities. Likely fields include social anthropology, history, sociology, philosophy, psychology and cultural studies as they relate to the study of science and medicine in Africa. The Centre of African Studies is an interdisciplinary centre, first established in 1965. A lively group of scholars, drawn from the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences contributes to the Centre's active seminar and conference programme. In recent years the Centre has also strengthened collaborative links with African institutions. The Centre is currently entering a period of change and growth. 2010 sees the launch of a new interdisciplinary M Phil in African Studies, convened by Professor Megan Vaughan, with options taught by academics across the humanities and social sciences. A research cluster on the theme of Science, Medicine and Society in Africa is being built up and there is great potential in the Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship for further embedding this theme in work in the Centre, linking it to the new M

Phil teaching programme and to the outstanding work already being carried out in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science. For further information about the Centre of African Studies and its activities see: www.african.cam.ac.uk/. Application information: Dorian Addison, da211@cam.ac.uk.

The Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) seeks applicants for a **Visiting Assistant Professor in the Science, Technology, and Society/Public Policy (STS/PP) Department**. This position will start on August 23, 2010. The STS/PP Department offers a B.S. in Public Policy and a M.S. in Science, Technology, and Public Policy, as well as a wide range of minors (Environmental Studies, Science and Technology Studies, Public Policy, Science and Technology Policy, Historical Perspectives in Science and Technology) supporting RIT's general education program. More information about our program can be found at http://stspp.rit.edu. This opening is for a one-year visiting position. The area of specialization is open; however, preference will be given to candidates whose work reflects an integration of environmental studies; public policy; and science, technology, and society. We seek candidates with demonstrated potential to be excellent teachers and researchers, and with interest in working in a collaborative, interdisciplinary, intellectually stimulating environment. Candidates with backgrounds that integrate the science and engineering fields with the social sciences and humanities are encouraged to apply. The successful candidate will have an opportunity to teach at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. Candidates should have or be close to completing a Ph.D. in an appropriate discipline. Candidates should apply online at https://mycareer.rit.edu. Search for IRC# 36537. Requested application material includes: a letter of application; a curriculum vitae; a statement of research and teaching interests; evidence of teaching effectiveness (if available); at least one sample publication; and the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of three professional references. Questions about the position can be directed to: Dr. Franz A. Foltz, Chair, Search Committee, Department of STS/Public Policy, Rochester Institute of Technology, 92 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY 14623-5604, (585) 475-5368, or franz.foltz@rit.edu. Applications must be submitted **by March 14, 2010**.

Nature has an opening for an **Op-Ed Editor**. As

part of its development, the international weekly science magazine *Nature* is introducing a new section in which will appear timely columns by authors from anywhere in the world, offering views about topics of the moment. The subject matter will encompass the world of scientific research and researchers, and associated societal and policy issues. This section, a critical aspect of the journal's development, will require a dedicated editor, and the role will occupy one half of his/her working week. The ideal candidate will have fast and highly creative skills in commissioning opinionated material; a global overview of science-related policy; and social issues and strong editorial skills. The other half of this editor's role will be to take joint responsibility, with the Editor-in-Chief of Nature, for the weekly commissioning and editing of Nature editorials, which are written and edited by the journal's editorial staff. The new post will be based in London or Washington, and will report to the Chief Magazine Editor, Tim Appenzeller. Applicants should supply a CV, examples of relevant work, and a statement of what impacts they think they would deliver in the role. Please write to londonrecruitment@macmillan.co.uk, with "Nature Op-Ed Editor" in the subject line, or check the NatureJobs listings for more details of how to apply. **Deadline: Monday 15 March 2010**.

A number of **PhD positions** are soon available at **The IT-University of Copenhagen** in a broad area of fields including: Science and Technology Studies, Computer Supported Cooperative Work, Health Care IT, Organizations and IT, Globalization and Technology, Mutual Shaping of Culture, Organizations, People, and Technologies, Through Practices of Design and Use. See the call here: www1.itu.dk/graphics/ITU-library/Intranet/ Personale/Stillingsopslag/VIP/Stillingsopslag%2020 10/PhD%20call_spring%202010_text.pdf. The general guidelines for applicants at the IT University of Copenhagen can be found here: www1.itu.dk/sw117103.asp. For more information about applications in the field of STS in the DOIT research group: find more information here: http://www1.itu.dk/sw49258.asp **The deadline for application is March 24.**

There is a vacancy for a **postdoc researcher** at the **Centre for Society and Genomics, Social Sciences Department, University of Wageningen (NL)**, on the topic of open source and common knowledge approaches in plant breeding research. As post-doc researcher you are expected to identify and "follow" the use of open source tools (markers) and genes in

different institutional settings in India and the Netherlands; To study whether and how these open source and common approaches change and/or reduce the dichotomies between technology-designers and technology-users and between private/public and common knowledge production systems; and To indicate how open source and common approaches create new opportunities for tailoring biotechnologies to location-specific needs of development. The objective of the research program - "Genomics and the production of commons: Open source as a method "to go beyond" public and private knowledge production" - is to investigate what types of commons are emerging through open source approaches and how do they evolve in time. The research will be focused on studying research networks using open source genomic information (molecular markers) for the development of agricultural food crops, questioning whether these varieties (can) remain commons; varieties possessed and developed in common. The research focus is on agro-food research networks in which Indian and Dutch research institutions participate in the development of new plant varieties for low-income farmers in dry-land areas of Andhra Pradesh, India. As post-doc researchers it is expected that you develop and apply a critically-based, technographic research methodology-technographic in the sense that it aims to map, analyze and deconstruct open source and commons plant breeding research activities; critical in the sense that it considers relations of power in plant breeding technologies and indicates opportunities for institutional rearrangements to strengthen the negotiating power position of stakeholders and resource-poor client groups. Candidates are asked to have a PhD in social sciences with special attention for social-political aspects of plant breeding; Thesis in science and technology studies and/or in critical social theory; Fluent in English; Capable to work in a team, composed of 4 PhD researchers, one post-doc researcher and two senior researchers focusing on analyzing on open source and commons knowledge approaches; and Proven writing capabilities. Contact Email bea.prijn@wur.nl. Application via www.academictransfer.com/ employer/WUR/vacancy/3275/lang/en/. **Deadline: March 5, 2010.**

The Amsterdam School for Social Science Research offers one **paid PhD position and two Postdoc positions** to work on the research project 'The Eating Body in Western Theory and Practice', financed with an ERC Advanced Grant, project leader prof. dr. Annemarie Mol. Starting date some

time between April 1 and September 1, 2010. There are three sub-projects involved. (1) The eating body's health: limiting calorie intake versus maximising satisfaction; (2) The eating body and other eaters: on different ways of relating ndividual and collective; (3) The eating body and its environment: on absorbing food, excreting waste and different bodily boundaries. More information: www.assr.nl/vacancies/EatingBodies.html.

Lund University declares the following position open for application: **Postdoctoral research position (up to two years) in Innovation Studies**, full time, placed at Centre for Innovation, Research and Competence in the Learning Economy (CIRCLE). CIRCLE is an interdisciplinary research Centre of Excellence spanning several faculties at Lund University and Blekinge Institute of Technology. Since its creation in 2004 the Centre has established itself as the leading national centre for research on R&D, innovation, entrepreneurship and growth, and is, with more than 35 researchers, the largest of the five national research centres in this general area. Innovation Studies is an interdisciplinary research field including research on innovation systems, entrepreneurship, university-industry relations, innovation processes in firms, research and innovation policy, knowledge creation and competence building, innovation, development and globalization, and geographical aspects on innovation. The announced position is for full time employment, and is limited to two years. The initial employment is limited to one year, but can be prolonged to two years. The tasks associated with this position are primarily research activities within the project "Organisational Change for Innovation and Institutional Entrepreneurship in Health-Care Systems [ICIS]". This is a collaborative project involving researchers in Sweden, Norway and Finland. The purpose of the project is to investigate organisational change underpinning the creation and modification of clinical practices in the health care system. Main research questions are: (1) how do institutions facilitate and/or hamper organisational innovation in the Nordic health-care systems?, and (2) how do key actors influence the course of events and aim to change institutional settings? Within this predefined problem area, the post doc will have autonomy to design, carry out and publish his/her own research. The postdoctoral position entails research at 75% of full time. For the rest of the time the holder may attract external funding for additional research, teach or pursue third task activities. Working language at CIRCLE is English, and all CIRCLE courses are taught in English. See

www.circle.lu.se/o.o.i.s?id=9727&news_item=4454

The Nicholas C. Mullins Award is awarded each year by the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) for an outstanding piece of scholarship by a graduate student in the field of Science and Technology Studies. The prize consists of a check for $US 1,000 and a plaque. The competition is for graduate student papers in the field of science and technology studies, including unpublished papers, published articles, and dissertation chapters. Dissertation chapters should be adapted so as to make them "stand-alone." The work may not be older than two years at the time of submission. A graduate student can only make one submission a year. The intended readership for the papers is a general STS audience. All papers must be submitted in English. The paper should not exceed 10,000 words, including title, notes, and references. Papers longer than the limit will be disqualified. The **deadline for submission is May 15, 2010**. Papers submitted after this date will not be considered for this year's competition, and must be resubmitted the following year. Further details on the Mullins Award and other 4S Prizes can be found here: http://www.4sonline.org/prizes/mullins.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Life Members' Prize in Electrical History, supported by the IEEE Life Members' Fund and administered by the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), is awarded annually to the best paper in the history of electrotechnologypower, electronics, telecommunications, and computer sciencepublished during the preceding year. Any article published in a learned periodical is eligible if it treats the art or engineering aspects of electrotechnology and its practitioners. The article must be written in English, although the journal or periodical in which it appears may be a foreign language publication. The prize consists of a cash award of $500 and a certificate. To nominate an article, please send a copy (paper or electronic) of the article to each member of the prize committee. **Deadline for the 2009 prize is April 15, 2010**. For information, write to Andrew J. Butrica (chair), abutrica@earthlink.net.

The Faculty of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Lausanne has an opening for a **full time position of Full Professor or Assistant Professor** (tenure track) in **Social studies of sciences and technologies**. Applicants must possess a Ph.D. in social sciences or an equivalent title. The

candidate must be fluent in English and French. Starting date: 1st August 2010 or 1st February 2011. Interested candidates should send their letter of application, curriculum vitae, and list of publications to: rhssp@unil.ch. They should also send in duplicate the above-mentioned documents with five main publications to the following address: Président de la Commission, "Etudes sociales des sciences et des techniques," Faculté des Sciences Sociales et Politiques, Décanat, Anthropole, 1015 Lausanne, Switzerland. The full job description and hiring conditions are available at: www.unil.ch/ssp/page15565.html. **Application deadline: 20th March 2010**

News about Education

A Ph.D. Course, "Socio-technical theory and analytical methods," is open for applicants. The 5 ECTS credits course is to be held in **Lyngby and Aalborg, Denmark, June 7-8th, 2010 and August 17-18th, 2010**. A Ph.D. course in Socio-technical Theory and Analytical Methods will be offered in collaboration between Aalborg University in Denmark and the Technical University of Denmark. The course is open to both Ph.D. students within as well as outside of the Doctoral Program in Design & Innovation, and will draw upon the field of Science and Technology Studies (STS) as a fruitful venue for addressing innovation and design (broadly conceived). The course is intended for beginners as well as those already familiar with STS. Supervision during course work will emphasize the individual participants' Ph.D. projects in relation to the course's subject matter. The course is divided into two interrelated parts, where the first will provide a brief, yet focused introduction to STS, delimited to the approaches: Actor-Network Theory (ANT); Social Construction of Technology (SCOT); Domestication of Technology; and Symbolic Interactionism (through the notion of 'boundary objects'), with particular emphasis on the first two. In the second part, these STS approaches will be treated more specifically in relation to how the theoretical constructs and frameworks for analysis serve toward the understanding of innovation and design. The course underscores in its examination of design and innovation through STS, the idea of actor engagements, as well as the material, symbolic and discursive aspects in the configuration of design and innovation processes and practices. The course will address issues such as activities of the firm and networked collaborations, and design-use relationships in innovative undertakings. Participants are expected to prepare a brief project description as part of the application (see further details below, in connection with the application procedure). This will also help the organisers in their course preparations. For the first part of the course, participants will be given a syllabus and a brief assignment to prepare a short case presentation (power point) for when we meet for the course, and to be critiqued and further discussed with the instructors and fellow participants. In the interim between Parts 1 and 2 of the course, the participants will be asked to develop a working draft (on the order of 10-15 pages), drawing on the relevance of the course's subject matter for the participant's theoretical orientation and/or actual analytical treatment. The course instructors will provide constructive critique and suggestions for improvement on the submitted draft, when the course meets again in August, for the second part. The idea with the work on the draft is that the Ph.D. student may consider including the work in part of her/his dissertation chapters following the completion of the course. A course leaflet in pdf. may be accessed at: http://filer.design-forskeruddannelse.dk/ForskerskolenFiles/22/Ph_D. Please register by sending in your application by e-mail to Yutaka Yoshinaka: yosh@man.dtu.dk. **Deadline for applications is Monday, April 12, 2010.** The application should contain a brief document (2-3 pages), submitted in Word, comprising of a project description, including a delineation of your tentative research questions and empirical domain of inquiry for the project at hand. Please indicate also, to the extent possible at the time of your application, your motivation for wishing to enrol in the Ph.D. course. Here you may relate the course's subject matter (STS) to any main theoretical and methodological challenges or concerns you may have at present, and are keen on addressing and working with during the course. Applicants will receive notification of acceptance shortly after the application deadline. The maximum number of participants is 15.

King's College London has an **M.Sc. Programme in Medicine, Science & Society**. What is the

impact of President Obama's policies on the global economy of embryonic stem cell research? What ethical and regulatory issues does the current boom of personal genome tests raise? Issues like these lie at the core of the MSc Medicine, Science & Society at the Centre for Biomedicine & Society (CBAS), King's College London. This MSc explores new and important areas for Science and Technology Studies (STS) and the social sciences, ranging from stem cells to nanomedicine. It explores the implications of innovative biomedicine for identities, innovations, bioethics, regulation, science, medicine, and healthcare. The MSc is well suited to social science, science and humanities graduates. Full/part-time options are available: www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/sspp/interdisciplinary/cbas/ msc/index.html. MSc information leaflet: www.kcl.ac.uk/content/1/c6/02/50/21/MScMedicine ScienceSocietyFlyer.pdf.

King's College London, new for 2010, has an **M.A. Programme in Bioethics & Society**. Developments in the biosciences raise important ethical issues that are increasingly being addressed by multidisciplinary research teams from the fields of philosophy and social science through, for example, the Wellcome Trust Strategic Award that created the London and Brighton Translational Ethics Centre (hosted at CBAS). This innovative MA in Bioethics & Society enables students to combine philosophical ethics modules taught by staff at the world famous Centre of Medical Law & Ethics (CMLE, School of Law) with social science and ethics modules from our CBAS MSc in Medicine, Science & Society. Students will be able to pursue their Dissertation with staff from CBAS and/or CMLE. Full/part-time options are available: www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/sspp/interdisciplinary/cbas/ mabas.html.

News from the field

Spontaneous Generations: A Journal for the History and Philosophy of Science has issued a **call for papers for its Volume 4: Scientific Instruments: Knowledge, Practice, and Culture**. Spontaneous Generations is an open, online, peer-reviewed academic journal published by graduate students at the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology at the University of Toronto. In addition to articles for peer review, opinion essays, and book reviews, Spontaneous Generations is seeking contributions to its focused discussion section. This section consists of short peer-reviewed and invited articles devoted to a particular theme. This year, the theme is "Scientific Instruments: Knowledge, Practice, and Culture." See below for submission guidelines. We welcome submissions from scholars in all disciplines, including but not limited to HPS, STS, History, Philosophy, Women's Studies, Sociology, Anthropology, and Religious Studies. Papers from all periods are welcome. The journal consists of four sections: a focused discussion section devoted to Scientific Instruments (see below). (1000-3000 words recommended.); a peer-reviewed section of research papers on various topics in the field of HPS. (5000-8000 words recommended.); a book review section for books published in the last 5 years. (Up to 1000 words.); and an opinions section

that may include a commentary on or a response to current concerns, trends, and issues in HPS. (Up to 500 words.) With the "practical turn" in history and philosophy of science came a renewed interest in scientific instruments. Although they have become a nexus for worries about empiricism and standards of evidence, instruments only rarely feature as primary sources for scholars in the history and philosophy of science. Even historians of technology have been accused of underutilizing the evidence embodied in material objects (Corn 1996). The fundamental questions are not settled. First, there is no general agreement as to what counts as a scientific instrument: Are simulations instruments? Can people function as instruments? Do economic or sociological instruments operate in the same way as material instruments? There is a second, related debate about how scientific instruments work: Is there a unified account? Do instruments produce knowledge or produce effects? Do they extend our senses (Humphreys 2006) or embody knowledge (Baird 2006)? Third, HPS has seen a variety of approaches to fitting instruments into broader historical and philosophical questions about scientific communities and practices: Shapin and Schaffer (1985) relate instruments to the scientific life, Galison (1997) gives instrument makers equal footing with theorists and experimentalists within

the trading zone of scientific discourse, and Hacking (1983) elevates instruments to central importance in the realism-antirealism debate. Finally, it seems plausible that there are methodological concerns specific to scientific instruments: What lessons can we draw from anthropology, material culture, and other allied fields? We welcome short papers exploring the history and philosophy of scientific instruments for inclusion in Spontaneous Generations Volume 4. We **recommend that submissions intended for Volume 4 be sent by 26 February 2010** to accommodate the peer review process. For more details or to submit a manuscript, please visit the journal homepage at http://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/Spontaneous Generations/.

There is a **call for chapter abstracts for the book, Luciano Floridi's Philosophy of Technology: Critical Reflections**, to be published by Springer, Philosophy of Engineering and Technology Book Series. The chapter abstract (200-500 words) **submissions deadline is April 15 (flexible)**, to hilmi@bilkent.edu.tr. Chapter submissions until June 15, 2010 to hilmi@bilkent.edu.tr. The collected volume focuses on Luciano Floridi's Philosophy of Technology and will explore both the philosophical and empirical aspects of his theory. Here is a sample of the issues that we intend to cover within the framework of the collected volume: The nature of information; Ethics and Information Technology; Knowledge and Technology; The notion of 'being informed' and its formal analysis; Floridi's notion of 'Levels of Abstraction'; Philosophy of Computing and AI; Philosophy of Technology and Education; Floridi's notion of 'infosphere'; Cognitive Technology and 'inforgs'; The informational turn as a fourth revolution after the Copernican, the Darwinian and the Freudian revolutions; and Online identity and Floridi's informational structural realism. Chapters should normally be between 7000 and 10000 words in length, although longer chapters, of up to 15000 words, might also be accepted for publication.

Science Studies, the journal, has issued a **call for abstracts for its special issue on 'Cultural Analysis as Intervention.'** To do cultural analysis – understood as a broad, qualitative mode of inquiry – is to intervene in the fields of study and application. How may we understand, conceptualize, study and handle these interventions? This is the pivotal question which this Science Studies Special Issue seeks to address by raising discussions concerning the performativity of the activities, materials,

engagements and products making up cultural analysis. With this issue, we wish to interrogate the interventions performed and enabled by and through cultural analysis, whether as new modes of mattering (Law 2004), agential cuts (Barad 2003) or through the transformation of matters of fact into matters of concern (Latour 2004). We also ask how these interventions are enacted and discernable – and how perhaps they may be done differently. The aim is to investigate and challenge the status and roles of cultural analysis, perhaps seeing it as a form of activism or ontological politics (Mol 1999). The editors of this special issue invite you to take part in and contribute to this inquiry into 'intervention' as an inevitable implication of doing cultural analytical research on and inspired by Science, Technology and Society (STS). Research papers may be empirical, theoretical, methods-oriented, or a mixture of these three categories. We look forward to receiving abstracts of 150-200 words briefly sketching the purpose and outline of the paper by **no later than March 1st 2010**. Please send your abstract to ren@hist.sdu.dk. The authors of selected abstracts will subsequently be asked to contribute with full length research papers (max 10,000 words references and attachments included). This full paper must be submitted by August 1st 2010. All papers are subject to double peer review. Read more about Science Studies and author guideline on http://www.sciencestudies.fi/.

The Web Exhibit, "Bright Idea: The First Lasers," by the American Institute of Physics is online at http://www.aip.org/history/exhibits/laser/ . Military agencies wanted a death ray, and they were willing to pay for it. That was one of the forces spurring scientists in a race that ended with the invention of the laser in 1960, fifty years ago this May. A new exhibit on the award-winning Web site of the Center for History of Physics, American Institute of Physics (AIP) tells the remarkable story of the laser's invention using the voices of the scientists themselves. "Bright Idea: The First Lasers," which AIP created in cooperation with several leading scientific and engineering societies, is told by noted author and historian Spencer Weart, who worked with the leading historians of lasers to prepare it. "We wanted to show how difficult and exciting it was to invent the laser," says Weart. "Now you can hear it in the scientists' voices." In a burst of creativity at the dawn of the space age, rival teams at five American corporations and universities devised three different kinds of lasers. The result was not the death ray weapons imagined in science fiction, but a revolution in

communications, entertainment, medicine, and scientific research itself. The exhibit is enlivened with sound clips from the AIP's collection of oral history interviews of scientists, plus many photographs of people, documents and objects. Viewers can read, see and hear about the curious background of ideas and social forces in the decades of development leading to the first lasers -- the half-

formed ideas, near-misses, proud triumphs, and bitter controversies over who should get credit. "The exhibit brings science to life for students and the public," says Gregory A. Good, who is the director of the Center for History of Physics at AIP. Some of the images in the Web exhibit were provided by the Electricity Collections at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

Contents of this issue