

# EASST *Review*

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# Democracy, coming soon to a theatre near you.

Editorial: Ann R. Sætnan

Democracy - it's spreading! And not by decree or through definitions and demands from its self-declared past masters. In fact, it's not really clear just what is spreading in the name of democracy. It remains to be seen what the people of Tunisia, of Egypt, of Bahrain, of Libya, of Yemen, of Croatia, of Algeria, of here and there in the US and probably elsewhere as well by the time you read this (<http://www.truth-out.org/time-lapse-mapping-global-protests-and-uprisings-video68665>) will, in some temporarily final analysis, demand or choose or create or even just settle for. We live in interesting times, and for once that seems not to be merely a Chinese curse. Note, for instance, that these uprisings seem particularly successful as long as they remain non-violent!

Democracy is growing at EASST as well. Of course, EASST has always been a democratic organization, emerged out of a combination of grassroots activism and funding opportunities. Readers interested in EASST's history will find much of interest in Aant Elzinga's 1997 EASST memoire, available on our web site at <http://www.easst.net/oneasst/about.shtml>.

Since then, EASST has continued to grow. It is simply not practicable for an organization of EASST's size (we are nearing 4-digit membership) to be run by consensus at general meetings, held in the interstices at our conferences every second year. Between general meetings, we are governed, according to bylaws passed by the general meetings, by an elected council. Council meets once or twice a year and confers via email between meetings. Council is led by our elected President and administrated by our paid part-time manager, both of whom prepare materials as an information basis for Council decisions, run day-to-day affairs according to their respective mandates, and send out queries to Council members when policy decisions need to be made more urgently than can wait until the next regular meeting.

This is a pretty standard model of organizational democracy, but that doesn't mean we can pat

ourselves on our collective backs and sigh contentedly. As mentioned, we have grown. We are nearing 4-digit membership levels, and a model of democracy that works fine for a small organization might be inadequate to maintain a sense of shared community in a larger one. Furthermore, expectations towards democracy have changed. Elections at intervals, varyingly attended meetings at same – in an era of constant and instantaneous communications, those seem fairly minimal elements to qualify as a “democracy”. That said, our last general meeting had record attendance and we took time to discuss substantive policy matters at some length.

One of the items we discussed was the need for a more functional web site. We need a web site with management features that will allow us to continue to service a growing membership without increasing our administrative costs – features like on-line membership renewals, automatic reminders, updateable personal profiles. And while we're at it, we want to offer features that can support direct membership involvement and interactions. With a clear mandate from a well-attended general meeting, the Council set about gathering bids for such a web site. The process was not without its conflicts and sorrows, but we are now happy to announce that the solutions will soon be coming on line.

Assuming you are reading this issue on line, you are now on EASST's interim web site. Please browse around and explore it. Please send us comments: What do you like? What don't you like? What features would you like to find here in future? Come back and watch for new developments. And regardless of inevitable imperfections, please take the web site into use. Your Council has envisioned it as an infrastructure – a theatre, if you will – for grassroots democracy, organizational transparency, and community building; but, it will only serve those ends if you, the membership, take it into use. Democracy cannot simply be staged; it must be enacted. “Use it or lose it” as the saying goes. Shape it or take it as it comes. We're hoping for the former!

## Farewell, Michel!

One of the founding fathers of actor-network theory retires.

By Morgan Meyer



Michel Callon giving his retirement lecture. Photo by Catherine Lucas. Reproduced with permission from both.

“Have you heard that Michel Callon is retiring?” When he heard this question, Hervé Dumez, a researcher at the Ecole Polytechnique in Paris, realised one important thing. At least for him, a sentence like this is not performatif. That is, these words will not *do* much to him; they will not have much of an effect upon his work, his thinking, his practices. Why? Because, we might argue, Callon is very likely to continue to change the way people think about science, politics and society, even though he no longer officially works at the Centre for the Sociology of Innovation at the Ecole des Mines. His texts will continue to be read and cited, he will (hopefully) carry on to do research and publish new work, his influence is set to last. The biggest change is perhaps taking place on the smallest possible scale: his colleagues at the Mines are now left to work without his scientific leadership and he himself can now take the time to focus on other things in life.

To honour Callon’s work, the Centre for the Sociology of Innovation (CSI) organised a

conference on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December last year and edited a book *Débordements. Mélanges offerts à Michel Callon* (Presses de Mines, 2010). If this would be a dry and mainstream conference report or book review, I would now write something along the lines of: “This article is organised as follows. In the first part, I will concentrate on the conference and in the second I will focus on the book”. But I won’t. The theme of the conference and of the book being “overflows”, I won’t care about frames, disciplines and academic conventions in this farewell piece.

I’ll start with some useless information. At exactly 7.45am on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December, 12 people showed up in room V115/116 at the Ecole des Mines, the room in which the conference was going to be held. The mission of these people – 10 PhD students, a postdoc and the secretary of the CSI – was simple: move some tables out of the room and move about 150 chairs into the room. Their eyes: looking tired; this was definitely not a time when they usually start working in the morning. But all

had volunteered and offered their help. About 15 minutes later everything was ready, one hour and a half before the conference was due to begin! But luckily, the cafeteria of the Ecole des Mines opens early in the morning. Luckily, someone brought croissants and *pains aux chocolats*. Luckily, the 12 people that gathered this morning are a group of lively, eager, and funny persons. This is, perhaps, one of the key ingredients that has made the CSI such an intellectually stimulating place ever since its foundation in 1967: the fact that it is a small, rather informal structure composed of people that know each other (and each other's work) very well. 10 permanent members of staff, 4 engineers, 3 postdocs, 17 PhD students, that's it. This is perhaps a message for policy makers, university vice-chancellors and politicians in general: you don't need to create big structures or big departments in order to create people – the likes of Callon and Latour – who will have a big effect, people who will change the way a lot of other people think and transform their research questions, or create new ones altogether. You need a pleasant and homely structure. A small, communal structure can do. "One of Callon's talents has been clearly to create a collective", Madeleine Akrich, current director of the CSI, would later say in her introductory talk at the conference.

Enough numbers and talk about politics, we need names... The authors of the articles in the aforementioned book: Rémi Barbier, Rémi Barré, Andrew Barry, Dominique Boullier, Geoffrey Bowker, Franck Cochoy, Patrick Cohendet, Jean-Pierre Courtial, Hervé Dumez, Dominique Foray, Raghu Garud, Joel Gehman, Armand Hatchuel, Antoine Hennion, Jean-Alain Héraud, Sheila Jasanoff, Alain Jeunemaître, Pierre-Benoît Joly, Patrick Llerena, Peter Karnoe, Pierre Lascoumes, Bruno Latour, John Law, Loet Leydesdorff, Christian Licoppe, Donald MacKenzie, Alexandre Mallard, Peter Miller, Annemarie Mol, Fabian Muniesa, Hervé Penan, Dominique Pestre, Trevor Pinch, Arie Rip, Nigel Thrift.

Most of these people either gave talks or were present at the conference. The key talks that were given that day were an introduction by Madeleine Akrich; a scientometric analysis of Callon's work by Loet Leydesdorff; a talk on salmon farming in Norway by John Law; an unfinished theatre piece on climate change by Bruno Latour; a closing talk by Callon himself. All along the conference, there were 3 roundtables on themes to which Callon has made important contributions: technical democracy, the boundaries between economy and sociology, and the role of technology and policy in the

construction of the economy. For those readers interested to know more about what was discussed at the conference: a great part of the contributions that day can be found in the *Débordements* book (and about half of the chapters in that book are in English).

A few more words on Callon's career: He was professor of sociology at the Ecole des Mines de Paris, director of the Centre for the Sociology of Innovation from 1982 to 1994, and chairman of the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) from 1998-1999. He received the John Desmond Bernal Prize from the 4S in 2002 for his distinguished contribution to the field of STS and the silver medal by the French CNRS in 2007. As the readers of *EASST Review* certainly know, together with Bruno Latour and John Law he is one of the founders of actor-network theory. The concepts he has coined or redefined are many, including "actor-network", "translation", "performativity", "hybrid forum", "principle of generalised symmetry" and "technical democracy". Some of his classic texts are his edited book *The laws of the markets* (1998) and co-authored book *Agir dans un monde incertain: essai sur la démocratie technique* (2001, translated at MIT Press) and his articles "Some elements of a sociology of translation: domestication of the scallops and the fishermen of St Brieuc Bay" (1986) and "Techno-economic networks and irreversibility" (1991). His "adisciplined" list of publications is long and impressive. And his contributions have had an effect on many disciplinary fields: STS, research policy, scientometrics, economic sociology, technical democracy. In his own speech at the conference, Callon talked of his "multiple personality disorder" saying "the patient that I am goes from the state of economist, to that of sociologist, then to that of management scientist, then to that of anthropologist, and then again to that of economist and sociologist, without this cycle ever stopping, and detaches himself, with each role change, from his previous identities, without ever being allowed a concrete identity. *Commuto ergo sum* [...]."

Callon's retirement raises some general questions for the field of STS. Who will be the next key thinkers in STS? A whole generation of key figures is now retiring or close to retiring age, including Donna Haraway, Bruno Latour, John Law, Arie Rip and Brian Wynne. A few have recently passed away (David Edge, Susan Leigh Star, Olga Amsterdamska). So who's next? Or has the world of STS evolved, matured, developed in such a way that there simply is no space for new ground-breaking thinking? Or is it because our

scientific institutions become unable to leave enough thinking time for researchers to develop in-depth ideas. After all, universities and research centres all over the world have become increasingly project-driven, assessment-obsessed, niche-focussed, impact-fanatical, bureaucratically-burdened and new-public-management-infected. Is there enough room to produce creative knowledge about science and technology in such settings?

The speech Callon gave when he received the CNRS silver medal gives us some clues. He says: “The first word that comes to my mind to describe situations propitious for research work is that of *otium*. [...] As you know, *otium* stands for the leisure time available, and that we devote to thinking, away from business, away from economic and political activities. *Otium* nevertheless means neither withdrawal, nor reclusion, nor confinement. *Otium* is the time that you keep to yourself, it's the time that we devote to travelling, to sabbaticals, it is the moments when one is attentive to what is not programmed. I'll maybe look a little bit old fashioned and against the grain of current productivism if I say to you that without *otium* there can be no true scientific research. But I immediately reassure those who might be afraid, here, when hearing the words leisure and free time. *Otium*

should not be separated from *negotium*, from the activity that leads us all to engage in the public space to publish, to exchange, to conduct business, to care for the life of the city. The alternation between *otium* and *negotium* has to be practiced continuously. Neither *otium* nor *negotium* are distinct moments in a career, they are present at all times”.

Callon's personal balance between *otium* and *negotium* is likely to change, now that he retires. But, there are chances that he will be producing more work in the near future around his current research interests: sociology and economics of innovation; anthropology of economic markets; experts, concerned groups and political decisions; patients organisations.

A final souvenir from the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2010. Callon has just finished his talk. The people in the room all stand up and do a standing ovation. A quite rare and moving thing to see in academic circles. But, for sure, a form of applause and approval that is well suited...

For more about this event, see [http://www.csi.ensmp.fr/indexpop.php?page=porpCallon&lang=fr#e\(25\).jpg](http://www.csi.ensmp.fr/indexpop.php?page=porpCallon&lang=fr#e(25).jpg)

## Review of EAAST Conference Track V: “Techno-scientific Reconstruction of Capitalism” By: Katerina Psarikidou, Sociology, Lancaster University, UK

Science and technology clearly play a dramatically important role in shaping contemporary socio-cultural realities. STS has evolved as the specific sociological approach for investigating, interrogating and observing the mutual co-construction of techno-scientific innovations and society and the often hidden political work involved in defining what belongs to our common world (Latour, 2004). The EASST010 conference provided a lively forum for stimulating discussion on different thematic areas which fell under the general theme of ‘science and technology ... as performative domains of the “social” (EASST, 2010).

Following the general framework of the conference, Track 5, “Techno-scientific Reconstruction of Capitalism”, facilitated a thought-provoking debate by shifting our attention from “the social” to the “economic” construction and making

of science and technology. Inarguably, since the Lisbon agenda of 2000, there has been a powerful agenda to transform knowledge and information (or “knowledge as information” (Amin and Cohendet, 2004) into significant resources for turning the European economy into “the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth” (European Commission, 2000). Along the lines of the “knowledge economy” narrative and the extensive commoditization of knowledge for the successful implementation of the capitalist imperative of profit maximisation, the “Knowledge-based Bioeconomy” has emerged as a master economic narrative to describe the economic advances generated by a knowledge production around life and biological processes which could facilitate greater use, exploitation and transformation of biological resources (DG Research, 2007). Along these lines,

both knowledge and nature are seen as resources for the reproduction of capitalism; in what Sunder Rajan (2006) has called a new “phase and face of capitalism”, knowledge is conflated with information, scientific knowledge is conflated with technology and technological advances get conflated with societal change, and “life-as-information” gets controlled and subsumed within capitalist processes (Thacker, 2005).

The papers of the track raised several dimensions and areas of interest, where techno-scientific innovation is shaped by specific economic imaginaries, but also shapes specific socio-economic futures and justifies specific policy agendas, while marginalising other possible solutions and alternative agendas. Examples for further elaboration came from different contexts, all equally involved in the commoditization of knowledge and life for the construction of a techno-scientific promissory vision for future profit and the public good in their own image. Although papers included examples from both the biomedical area (such as regenerative medicine and the medical implications of nanotechnology) and green biotechnological techno-fixes (such as biofuels and the corporate practices of carbon emissions management), a disproportionate attention has been given to the techno-scientific innovation related to the “eco-capitalist” variants of the technocapitalist imaginary. In contrast to this tendency, some papers also aimed to address the limits to biocapitalism’s ability to overcome crises of profitability and ecological limits, as well as possible alternative agendas and projects of social surplus (see Gibson-Graham, 2006), whose value may go beyond the purely materialist terms of the calculative market unit.

The panel articulated and explored a great problematic around these issues, situating techno-scientific practices in the centre of a capitalist renovation of contemporary economies. However, a greater attention needs to be paid to the way that these processes finally contribute to the ‘making’ of contemporary societies, our everyday social relations and practices. In particular, how does the techno-scientific re-construction of capitalism affect or change the social relations of production and traditional labour processes (Marx, 1976)? Moreover, what are the different sorts of materialities involved in the hybrid geographies of technoscientific innovation and what could be their

role in constructing or non-constructing capitalism? Could we re-consider or re-construct techno-science in a non-capitalocentric framework, where a diverse range of economic forms and practices are scattered over the economic landscape (Gibson-Graham, 1996)? These questions need to be addressed if technoscientific innovation is to be reconfigured beyond a reconstruction of capitalism.

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# EASST 2010 - Practicing Science and Technology, Performing the Social

## Session Review- Track 34: Surveillance in Society

By: **Manuela Farinosi, Ph.D., Department of Human Sciences, University of Udine, Italy**

From 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2010 I had the privilege to attend the *EASST010 - Practicing Science and Technology, Performing the Social* in Trento, Italy, thanks to an EASST financial support. There were 41 thematic tracks based on several topics across science, technology and innovation studies. Considering my background and my research interests, I decided to follow up the track 34, “Surveillance in Society”, where I also presented a paper entitled *Toward horizontal control: user generated content and private sphere in the web 2.0 environments*. The convenors of the track were Anders Albrechtslund (Aalborg University, Denmark), Kees Boersma (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands), Christian Fuchs (University of Salzburg, Austria), Peter Lauritsen (University of Aarhus, Denmark).

The vast majority of the presentations revolved around two different notions of “surveillance”: a modern one, which is focused on the Panopticon metaphor (Bentham, 1995), on the Foucault (1976)'s theorization of disciplinary power, and mainly on some classical concepts linked to the definition of “surveillance”, such as “Big Brother” (Orwell, 1949), “capitalism” (Marx) or “bureaucracy” (Weber); and a post-modern one, focused on a kind of surveillance more decentralized, dispersed, democratic and - sometimes - also positive and empowering. This second notion of control aims to demolish Foucault's Panopticon and replace it with concepts like that of “sousveillance” (Mann, Nolan & Wellman, 2003), “oligopticon” (Latour, 2005), “lateral surveillance” (Andrejevic, 2005), “participatory surveillance” (Albrechtslund, 2008). The topics of the discussions were varied, interesting and challenging and covered especially two fields: 1. DNA or, more generally, biology and healthcare; 2. Web 2.0 platforms or, broadly, computer surveillance.

With regard to healthcare, *Balancing protection and autonomy in the design of an intelligent environment to support nursing home-caregivers* (Francesco Botto, Chiara Leonardi, Luca Sabatucci, Angelo Susi, Massimo Zancanaro - FBK-IRST CIT, Italy) presented the results of a research project -

called ACube - based on a network of sensors that can be distributed in the environment or embedded in users' clothes to support medical staff and allow an unobtrusive monitoring of nursing homes guests. The data obtained through the sensors allow staff to identify emergency situations and to prevent potential risks. The analysis presented was focused on 40 health professionals and the findings highlight the importance of ethics, privacy and dignity issues in the design of this kind of intelligent environment. Another contribution was proposed by Jørgen Tietze (Aarhus University, Denmark) - *Performing surveillance in Danish health care* - who presented the results of an empirical qualitative study focused on the impacts of the infrastructure for performance measurement of patients with schizophrenia. This system represents a sort of oligopticon and the mechanism of performance measurement can be seen as a durable technology for creating visibility and allowing surveillance through indicators. Also Peter Lutz's contribution (University of Copenhagen, Denmark) - *From visible to invisible: body surveillance in aging home care* - was based on healthcare technology. He presented the findings of an ethnographic project conducted in the USA and Sweden among old people who receive home care and adopt an emergency response system able to call a call center just by pushing a wireless button. Lutz observed different situations among the users of this system: American users sometimes prefer not use it in order to render their problems less visible and not make their families worry about them. Swedish users, on the contrary, tend to perceive this technology as a component of welfare services. Furthermore in Sweden the call center doesn't call their relatives and therefore the older people do not hesitate to phone and render in this way their body more visible. The results show that body surveillance and body visibility depend on how they are linked with social relations.

*From the beginning: children as subjects and agents of surveillance* (Gary T. Marx and Valerie Steeves) pointed out child-surveillance technology, from pre-natal testing to RFID-enabled clothing, nanny cams and genetic testing. Many times the impacts of monitoring continue also after the child

is born and governments can use surveillance to identify deviations from the norm. The issues raised are very often underestimated.

Johanne Yttri Dahl (NTNU and the Norwegian Police University)'s contribution - *DNA - the Norway: black boxing the evidence and monopolizing the key* - reflected on the topic of the expansion of forensic DNA databases in Norway and on the controversy related to the fact that at the time there was just one DNA laboratory with a monopoly on DNA analysis in Norway. She presented the findings of some in-depth interviews of key stakeholders on the use of DNA evidence in courts and discussed several aspects regarding monopolizing forensic DNA suppliers. Also the presentation by Thomas Lemke and Torsten Heinemann (Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Main, Germany) - *Biology and Citizenship: DNA testing for family reunification as a technology of surveillance* - was focused on DNA testing as a form of surveillance. They presented a case study centered on the use of DNA testing to establish biological relatedness in immigrant family reunification in Germany and on its legal, social, ethical questions, such as privacy, informed consent and right not to know. In particular, they highlighted that the German authorities refuse immigrants the right to informational self-determination and the possibility that their genetic data will be erased once the test is completed.

With regard to the Web 2.0 platforms, Marisol Sandoval (University of Salzburg, Austria) examined *A critical empirical case study of consumer surveillance on web 2.0*. Starting from a critical political economy perspective, she presented the findings of a content analysis of privacy policies and terms of use of the 52 most widespread web 2.0 sites and pointed out that more than 92% of them show personalized ads to their users, 90% sell aggregated user data to third parties, around 67% use the contact details of user for sending him/her personalized advertisements. In the light of these findings web 2.0 sites can be considered a sort of huge treasure houses of personal data which place users under constant economic surveillance in order to increase capital accumulation. Also the contribution of Matthias Schafranek University of Salzburg, Austria) - *The art of rent in web 2.0 surveillance business* - was focused on the current mode of capitalist accumulation in web 2.0 platforms. His analysis describes the shift from the traditional logic of rent extraction from information to the new rent construction based on the real time tracking of online users and the development of a new capitalistic logic that he called "biopower rent".

A very inspiring presentation about the surveillance in web 2.0 platforms was that of Christian Fuchs, *Critique of the political economy of web 2.0 Surveillance*. He analyzed from a critical point of view the role of surveillance in web 2.0 capital accumulation processes and discussed the relationship of the net and economic surveillance, introducing the notion of the Internet produsage commodity, talking about the role of targeted/personalized advertising and, finally, discussing forms of resistance, opt out possibilities and alternative and non-commercial web 2.0 platforms.

Some reflections about the topic of alternative web 2.0 platforms have been proposed also by Francesca Musiani (Mines Paris Tech, France). Her contribution, *Encrypted fragments: rethinking privacy and security with(in) peer-to-peer*, explored the dawn of peer-to-peer social networks and the consequent and probable evolution of privacy and security. She presented the findings of the analysis of two case studies - Wuala and Tribler - and argued that storing and sharing in a network of peers present several advantages in terms of user privacy because such networks reconfigure data management practices and service provider's status. According to Musiani P2P social networks, and more generally decentralized Internet based services, may be read as a re-empowerment of users.

User empowerment was the topic of my contribution too (*Toward horizontal control: user generated content and private sphere in the web 2.0 environments*). I presented some results of a qualitative analysis of 145 essays written by Italian students. The aim of the study was to understand how young people frame the topic of control in the web 2.0, and especially, to identify the metaphors used to describe online platforms and the social environments they mention when they speak about the impacts of online diffusion of personal content on offline life. The findings showed that the metaphor of Bentham's Panopticon does not seem to adequately and completely describe the new online environments and the actual practices of online self-publication and horizontal control that nowadays characterize social media platforms.

Alongside these two macro-categories - healthcare and Internet - there were also other contributions which dealt with surveillance from different points of view.

Finn Brunton and Helen Nissenbaum (New York University, USA) introduced the topic of resistance practices. *Vernacular resistance to data collection and surveillance: a political theory of obfuscation*

was based on the analysis of a particular form of resistance to surveillance in everyday life - obfuscation - and on the evaluation of different kinds of obfuscation and different motivations.

Also the contribution of Christopher Gad (University of Copenhagen, Denmark) and Lone Koefoed Hansen (Aarhus University, Denmark) - *Resistance is fertile - On art and oligoptics* - was focused on the topic of resistance. They reflected on how contemporary art investigates surveillance situations and presented a singular case study: "Surveillance Shoe | Legoland", a performative artefact by Jill Magid, composed of a stiletto with a videocamera pointed at the leg of the artist. This artefact reflects in a certain sense Latour's concept of "oligopticon" and criticizes the specific, fragile and limited nature of surveillance phenomenon. According to the author it represents a statement about the resistance possibility.

Michael Krause's presentation - *The other side of the surveillance society: media competition and the quest for increasing liveness as key dynamics behind the "culture of control"* - linked the international deregulation of TV and radio broadcasting - and the consequent increase of media competition - to the emergence of public crime and security discourse, and noted that behind the so called "culture of control" it is possible to identify two key socio-cultural dynamics: media competition and the production of ever greater levels of liveness. The contribution of Sara Degli Esposti (Universidad Carlos III, Madrid, Spain) and Vincenzo Pavone (IPP-CSIC) - *Public assessment of new security technologies: beyond the trade-off between privacy and security* - moved some critiques against the classical privacy/security dilemma. They analyzed through group interviews and individual questionnaires how the lay public perceives security technologies. The findings of their research show that citizens do not assess surveillance in abstract terms but in relation to specific contexts. Some people interviewed were aware and concerned about privacy invasion by government, while some others approved of the adoption of surveillance technologies to improve their security.

A singular case study was that presented by Nair Sumitra (Virginia Polytechnic Institute, USA) and Pant Aditya (MIT, USA), *Digitizing NREGA: small and medium private enterprise as mediators for democracy?*. Using qualitative ethnographic observation and interviews, they investigated the socio-technical context of the digitization of the *NREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act)* in India by private entrepreneurs. This process

can be read as a sort of mediation between State and the citizen, a way to ensure transparency and accountability. Their work explored the normative vision and the policies behind the construction of these entrepreneurs and their role in the project of democracy.

In light of all these contributions it is possible to remark that the field of "surveillance studies" has grown considerably in the last years. As demonstrated by the researches presented in Trento several scholars are trying to analyze a multifaceted reality and to move beyond the classical surveillance framework. New smart and ubiquitous ICTs are challenging the notion of surveillance itself. In this scenario we have to rethink the concept and look for new theory more appropriate for representing the current scenario.

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# EASST Conferences

By: Sonia Liff for EASST Council

## Looking Backwards ...

EASST\_010 was the first EASST conference where the programme was organised along a track model. When EASST Council met recently they reflected on this aspect of the conference. Their view was that this was a significant innovation which had worked well. Council would like to see future conferences run on this model. It was felt important to summarise issues that arose with the use of this format so that they can be passed on to future conference organisers.

The general view was that the tracks had succeeded in giving an effective and meaningful structure to the conference. It was felt that having tracks of variable length was a good feature since it meant that those attending the conference did not have to spend the whole time on one theme but could also sample other sessions (thus retaining something of the broad feel that EASST conferences have had traditionally). It was also a benefit that the organisation of the conference (in terms of dividing up papers into sessions, organising chairing and so on) was spread across a wider group of people through the involvement of conveners. This has become increasingly important as conferences get larger. It was felt that EASST should find some way to acknowledge this contribution from conveners.

Council has also had feedback from the local conference organisers who experienced their interactions with track conveners largely positively but did find that the coordination work was substantial. It is clear that there were tensions between conveners and local organisers in a few cases relating to numbers of papers per session (which was important to fit with available rooms) and with communication routes between organisers, conveners and paper-givers. Council also heard that some conveners experienced the process as involving more work on their behalf than they were expecting.

Fred Steward has written to a representative of the conveners of each track asking for their feedback on the way the format worked for them and whether they had any practical suggestions about how to improve the operation of the track system for future conferences.

EASST is in the process of redesigning its website and one idea under discussion is the possibility of on-line space for individual conference tracks and / or on-going working groups where those involved in a particular topic could post abstracts (and / or papers); share draft programmes and discuss other organisational issues. Track conveners were also asked whether they would have found this provision

useful.

If anyone else would like to make an input to this consultation into how the track model worked in Trento, its use for future conferences, or any other aspects of conference organisation, they are welcome to send their views and suggestions to [admin@easst.net](mailto:admin@easst.net).

## Looking Forwards ...

The next EASST-only conference will take place in 2014. Council are interested in hearing from any group who would be interested in hosting this conference. On the basis of recent evidence the conference is likely to involve over 800 participants. Conferences are usually organised by a local organising committee supported by a wider programme committee and the EASST Council. EASST is in the process of developing its administrative systems and may be able to provide more support in this regard than it has been able to do in the past.

EASST Council would particularly welcome expressions of interest from a location, or an approach to organising, that will be likely to further develop participation from those coming from parts of Europe currently under-represented within EASST (this particularly applies to Southern and Eastern Europe).

A successful conference requires a strong local organisation. Traditionally conferences have been organised from one academic organisation. However Council would also be interested in receiving proposals from groups who could achieve this strength via a different kind of network – say those within different institutions in the same location or as a partnership between institutions in different locations.

Conferences work well when they provide good opportunities for informal interaction as well as the more formal parts of the programme. This can be achieved in a small compact location but EASST has also had successful conferences in large cities. Council would be interested in hearing how organisers would achieve this objective in their proposed location.

The location and the approach to organising the conference needs to provide a range of accommodation which is affordable for participants in different circumstances and makes possible an overall conference fee that will allow wide participation. Expressions of interest should include an outline budget. Organisers often have limited time flexibility and, if this is the case, please give an indication of available dates. It is difficult to find a date that suits teaching periods in all countries but early July or

September seem to be most acceptable.

Council is happy to answer any further questions from interested parties and would expect to have further informal discussions before reaching a firm decision. Please send any proposals to [admin@easst.net](mailto:admin@easst.net) by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011.

**And in the meantime ...**

The next **4S conference** is being held at the Crowne Plaza Cleveland City Center Hotel, **Cleveland, Ohio, USA** from **November 2 - 5, 2011**. Due to the disasters in Japan, **deadline for abstracts has been extended to April 1**.

The next **joint EASST / 4S conference** is being held at Copenhagen Business School, **Copenhagen, Denmark** around the **15-17<sup>th</sup> October 2012**.

## New benefits for Members and enhanced website

By: Sonia Liff for EASST Council

As has already been signalled we are in the process of developing new services for member. The first stage of this will be to set up a log in for each member. You will shortly be receiving an email explaining how to do this.

Once the log in is established you will be able to update the information we hold for you such as postal and email address. You will also be able to see the subscription history we hold (which years you were a member) and, for payments in the future, there will also be fuller financial details of what you have paid and when. We hope that this will make it easier for members to keep their details up to date and reduce queries about subscriptions. We have delayed asking for subscriptions for 2011 until this new system is in place but again you will receive information about this shortly.

The log in will also allow you to add information about your academic interests and outputs that can be searched by members, looking for colleagues working on particular issues. This directory feature could be used when establishing working groups or other forms of collaboration. It will be possible for other members to contact you without having your email disclosed.

These features will be introduced before the complete redesign of the website. A subgroup of the Council is working on the features we would like to see here. This will be a mix of enhanced content likely to be of interest to members and opportunities for interaction between members and the wider community. More information will be available on this as it develops but if anyone would like to suggest features and types of information they would like included on the website please do let us know via [admin@easst.net](mailto:admin@easst.net).

## Conference Announcements and Calls for Papers

**Call for participation: Advancing RTD through Gender-Fair Recruitment and Retention Strategies.**

Location: Campus of the **University of Vienna**, Seminar room of the Institut für Ethik und Recht in der Medizin, Old Chapel, court 2.8, Vienna, Austria

Date: **19th - 20th May 2011**

Interactive Preparation Phase: December 2010 – April 2011

Support Phase: June – Autumn 2011

Recruitment, promotion and retention procedures often favour a social group and disadvantage others. The mechanisms leading to this inequality are not always obvious. Guidelines can be circumvented,

procedures can have unintended effects. Refined Gender Action Plans can establish procedures and structures that reduce bias and inequality in the recruitment and promotion of researchers. Well-grounded gender policies not only add to justice women but they can also create a more productive working climate and retain highly qualified and motivated staff in RTD.

The target group for this workshop are research institutions in Europe, who want to implement or improve Gender Action Plans. Targeted participants are persons responsible for implementing gender equality policies. At this workshop participants will - supported by gender experts - develop specific and

feasible Gender Action Plans, which they can take home for implementation at their organisation or company. Experts having confirmed to attend the workshop include Prof. Alison Woodward (Vrije Univesiteit Brussel) and Prof. Ulrike Felt (University of Vienna). Further experts will be invited according to the specific demands of the participating organisations.

This workshop offers

- extensive information on Gender Action Plans, in general and in respect to individual requests,
- an exchange of experiences and ideas among those advocating gender equity at their different research organisations; and
- support by highly qualified gender experts responding to participant's individual requests.

The workshop agenda will be drafted interactively by participants and organisers together. Participants will actively co-develop it by submitting their ideas, requirements, and questions. Online conferences on specific topics will be offered.

During the two-day workshop in Vienna most of the time will be dedicated to developing, adapting or refining Gender Action Plans interactively with other participants and gender experts, which are to be introduced at the respective organisations of the participants.

Additionally there will be online discussions (web conferences, Skype) in small groups with highly specialised and renowned experts, who will give advice on real problems and help to evaluate available evidence in the light of the participants' own institutional circumstances. Topics will be selected according to the specific requirements of participants.

There is no conference fee, during the workshop lunches are free. *Places are limited!* Registrations are handled on a first come – first serve basis.

You can register for this workshop at <http://www.genderinscience.org/registration.html>. Further information on the workshop is available at <http://wilawien.ac.at/genset> or send your requests to Wissenschaftsladen Wien – Science Shop Vienna, [wilawien@wilawien.ac.at](mailto:wilawien@wilawien.ac.at).

This workshop is part of the genSET project, which is funded by the European Commission under FP7 and is supported by a network of leading pan-European science institutions as patrons, among others, Fraunhofer and the European Science Foundation.

*Christine Urban, Regina Reimer, Michael Strähle*  
**Centre for Science Studies and Centre for Gender and Women's Studies, Lancaster**

**University, UK** announces a 4 day intensive taught course: **Feminist technoscience studies: articulating the human and the non-human, 23<sup>rd</sup> May – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2011**. This is an MA level module of interest to UK and international MA students, PHD students and those contemplating further study in this field.

Recent feminist research affords generative possibilities for rethinking relations between people, animals and machines. Figured as entanglements of the human and nonhuman, the aim is to find alternatives to the forms of human exceptionalism that have dominated modern thought, and more particularly technoscience. At the same time, a feminist commitment to a scholarship of care reminds us to attend closely to questions of how difference is made, and when and how it comes to matter. This course draws on founding and emerging feminist scholarship on the human and nonhuman to articulate these relations and commitments.

**Course format:** Lectures, group discussion, poster presentations, debate, field trip to relevant empirical location, video-link presentations with key international scholars.

**Course Tutors:** Professor Maureen McNeil, Professor Lucy Suchman, Dr. Celia Roberts and Dr. Vicky Singleton

**Guest Tutors:**

Professor Karan Barad, Professor of Feminist Studies, UC Santa Cruz, USA (via video-link)

Professor Donna Haraway, Distinguished Professor Emerita of History of Consciousness and Feminist Studies, UC Santa Cruz, USA (via video-link)

Professor Myra Hird, Professor and Queen's National Scholar, Queen's University, Ontario, Canada.

Please express your interest, and queries, to us at: [spgadmissions@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:spgadmissions@lancaster.ac.uk)

**Fee:** £225 per person (excluding accommodation). Advice on reasonable accommodation can be provided.

A workshop on "**Personal Identities after the Information Revolution**" is to take place at the **University of Hertfordshire, UK, 17 June 2011**, and the **deadline to respond to the call for papers is 15 March 2011**. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are building a new habitat (infosphere) in which we are spending an increasing amount of time. So, how individuals construct 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 misconstructed, 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 an ethically responsible informational agent online. The workshop will address this gap in our philosophical understanding by addressing 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? Do customisable, reproducible and disposable PIOs affect our understanding of our PI offline? How are we to interpret cases of multiple PIOs, or cases in which someone's PIO may become more important than, or even incompatible with, his or her PI offline? What is going to happen to our self-understanding when the online and offline realities become intertwined in an "onlife" continuum, and online and offline PIs have to be harmonised and negotiated? We welcome submissions addressing similar questions, or comparing and evaluating standard philosophical approaches to personal identity problems by analysing how far they may be extended to explain PIO, or seeking to complement the already available approaches. If in doubt, please feel free to contact Luciano Floridi ([l.floridi@herts.ac.uk](mailto:l.floridi@herts.ac.uk)). Please submit extended abstracts (between 1000 and 1500 words all included, preferably in MS Word format) for papers suitable for 40-minute presentations to Luciano Floridi ([l.floridi@herts.ac.uk](mailto:l.floridi@herts.ac.uk)) by 15 March 2011. A number of bursaries for graduate students presenting papers will be available, on a competitive

basis, to contribute to travel and accommodation expenses. Please specify if you wish to apply for one. Successful submissions will be selected for two special issues, to be published one by Minds and Machines and the other by Ethics and Information Technology. The workshop is part of a series of meetings organized by the AHRC-funded project "The Construction of Personal Identities Online". More information about the project is available [here](#).

**A Ph.D. course in Sociotechnical Theory and Analytical Methods** will be offered at the **Technical University of Denmark (DTU)**. The course is intended for students already familiar with Science and Technology Studies (STS), as well as those who may be relatively new to the field. Course supervision will emphasize the individual participants' Ph.D. projects, in relation to the course's subject matter. 5 ECTS credits, offered in two parts: **Part 1 is June 7-9, 2011 (2.5 days) and Part 2 is August 22-23, 2011 (2 days)**. The location is the Technical University of Denmark (DTU Lyngby Campus, Denmark). The course addresses analytical challenges and methodological issues, focusing on Actor-Network Theory (ANT) and Social Construction of Technology (SCOT), while engaging also Domestication of Technology, 'Post-ANT' and the notion of Boundary Objects, in a more delimited capacity. Central to the course will be 1) working reflexively with how the empirical material plays a role in one's scoping and building of theory; and 2) conversely, how theoretical insights help in guiding analytical work based on one's empirical material. The course is open to both participants within, as well as outside of, the Doctoral Program in Design & Innovation. The maximum number of participants is 15. Participants are expected to prepare a brief project description (see further details below), in connection with the application procedure. In addition, once accepted, participants will be given a syllabus to read prior to the course, as well as a brief 15-minute presentation of their project to date, for when we meet for the first part of the course. During the interim between the June and August course dates, the participants are to develop a working draft (on the order of 10-15 pages), drawing upon relevant aspects of the course's subject matter. It may be a position paper with the aim to address the dissertation's theoretical scope and orientation, and/or work on the actual analytical treatment of some empirical material depending on how far into the dissertation work the participant is at that point in time. The draft is intended for the participant to produce and receive

critique on writing that would be relevant for the dissertation work, and which may ultimately be incorporated into the dissertation later on. Application to the course may be made by e-mail to Yutaka Yoshinaka: [yosh@man.dtu.dk](mailto:yosh@man.dtu.dk) and should contain the following: A brief document (2-3 pages), submitted in Word, comprising of a project description, including a delineation of some tentative research questions and indication of the empirical domain of inquiry for the project at hand. Your motivation for wishing to enrol in the Ph.D. course. 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. **Deadline for applications is Friday, April 15th, 2011.** Applicants will receive notification by Friday, May 6th, at the latest. Participation in the course is free of charge, while any expenses toward accommodation or transportation for participating in course, must be met by the participants themselves. Course instructors: Assoc. Prof. Yutaka Yoshinaka, Technical University of Denmark (DTU), email: [yosh@man.dtu.dk](mailto:yosh@man.dtu.dk) and Post Doc. Søsler Brodersen, Technical University of Denmark (DTU), email: [sbro@man.dtu.dk](mailto:sbro@man.dtu.dk).

**Invitation to the Joint European Summer School on Technology Enhanced Learning 2011,** <http://www.JTELSummerSchool.eu>  
Platani , Greece, May 29 – June 4, 2011  
First Announcement: Deadline for applications: March 18, 2011.

We are pleased to announce the 7th Joint European Summer School on Technology Enhanced Learning, to take place from Monday, May 30th to Friday June 3rd, 2011. Pre-summer school activities are organized all day on Sunday, May 29th.

The summer school aims to encourage participants to adopt a critical stance in thinking about the role of technologies in providing opportunities for learners and the potential of these opportunities in terms of learning.

The summer school provides a learning environment where participants get opportunities to: develop their research skills; increase their knowledge base; collaborate with others in their own and complementary research areas; engage in debate; have access to experts in the field; and discuss their own work.

The programme will include lectures from a broad range of domains which contribute to advancing the field of Technology Enhanced Learning. TEL research projects are encouraged to provide students with a perspective of the state-of-

the-art research under study in their working groups. The programme will also include practical and methodological workshops and opportunities for doctoral candidates to develop their personal research. Students will have opportunities to present and discuss their doctoral work.

Applications should be submitted online before Friday, March 18, 2011. The online application form will be available from Friday, January 28, 2011 at [www.JTELSummerSchool.eu](http://www.JTELSummerSchool.eu).

Applicants will be required to submit:

- a CV outlining their educational background and work experience (maximum one page);
- a letter of motivation, explaining why they want to participate in the Summer School (maximum one page);
- a statement explaining how they think they might contribute to the Summer School and in particular how they can contribute to developing STELLAR Grand Challenges (maximum one page);
- a letter of support from their PhD advisor, which should include a statement of the level of support the institution is able to supply.

#### **Support**

This year the JTEL Summer School will benefit from special funding from the STELLAR Network of Excellence in Technology Enhanced Learning and the European Association of Technology Enhanced Learning.

For further information please visit: <http://www.prolearn-academy.org/Events/summer-school-2011>

#### **Awareness for future events**

To receive other calls for doctoral events in TEL or just to keep in touch with your peers in the field, feel free to subscribe to the new Mailing list for PhD candidates in TEL (<http://lists.teleurope.eu/listinfo.cgi/phd-candidates-teleurope.eu>). You will also be able to post moderated messages.

Kind regards, Cristina

#### **Gender, Bodies & Technology listserv invitation.**

In Spring 2010 the Women's and Gender Studies Program at Virginia Tech hosted an interdisciplinary conference entitled Gender, Bodies & Technology (GBT) that attracted international participation from over 120 scholars working in this exciting field of research from a wide range of disciplinary approaches. Feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive and requests to strengthen and build a network of scholars in this area were strongly articulated. We invite scholars whose work relates to the Gender,

Bodies and Technology nexus to join our growing listserv.

Please visit our website which includes an archive of the 2010 conference:  
<http://www.cpe.vt.edu/gbt/>

We invite you to join the listserv which serves as a place to share about new works, publications and art exhibitions, as well as circulate relevant calls for papers and job postings. The list is also an opportunity to network with other scholars in this area of research and to build a sense of community among those of us that otherwise might not cross paths due to our own disciplinary locations. We are also in the process of drafting a call for papers for a 2012 conference, details of which will be forthcoming.

Also, please feel free to forward this invitation and subscription instructions to folks (or other relevant listservs) that you know who might be interested in joining the list:

To subscribe to the list:

1. Access your e-mail.
2. Address a new message to [listserv@listserv.vt.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.vt.edu).
3. In the body of the message, type: subscribe [GenderBodiesand\_Technology] [First Name] [Last Name]

Feel free to contact me with any questions or if you have trouble subscribing to the list. My email: [selber@vt.edu](mailto:selber@vt.edu).

Thank you,

Sharon Elber

GBT Coordinator

<http://www.cpe.vt.edu/gbt/>

Women's and Gender Studies Program

Department of Sociology

Virginia Tech

USA

**Call for Papers: 10th Annual IAS-STS Conference Critical Issues in Science and Technology Studies, May 2-3, 2011**, Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society (IAS-STS), **Graz, Austria**.

The IAS-STS in Graz, Austria, which is hosted by the IFZ - Interuniversity Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture ([www.ifz.tugraz.at](http://www.ifz.tugraz.at)), promotes the interdisciplinary investigation of the links and interactions between science, technology and society, technology assessment, as well as research on the development and implementation of socially and environmentally sound technologies. Therefore, IAS-STS hosts international fellows and research associates through its fellowship

programme. Additionally, the institute organizes an annual conference on "Critical Issues in Science and Technology Studies".

CONFERENCE THEMES

**1) Gender – Technology - Environment**

— Special session 1: *Issues of Inclusion and Exclusion in Web 2.0* For this part of the conference, contributions on the topic Issues of Inclusion and Exclusion in Web 2.0 are looked for. Web 2.0 is considered as user-centred and democratic: Everybody is said to be able to participate and it seems that nearly everybody does. However, this is not the case of course. The Internet with all its interactive applications is not as colourful as it could be, it does not represent the real world and it is definitely not democratic per se. In this session we want to discuss

- boundaries and possibilities,
- theoretical inputs and empirical research,
- gender, queer and intersectionality issues of the current Internet.

Besides a critique on the current Web 2.0, we will discuss utopias as well how can the Internet be further democratized?

— Workshop: The Concept of Heteronormativity and its Methodological Implications. Conference participants interested in joining this workshop please contact Birgit Hofstätter ([hofstaetter@ifz.tugraz.at](mailto:hofstaetter@ifz.tugraz.at)) by **March 31, 2011**.

**2) Ethical, Legal and Social Aspects of Human Genetics and Agricultural Biotechnology**

A main focus of the conference will lie on research projects providing a critical analysis of human genetic research or of agricultural biotechnology. Researchers investigating either ethical, legal and social aspects of genetic testing in the medical domain or risk policy and wider governance issues related to agricultural biotechnology are especially encouraged to contribute.

**3) Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)**

SCP seeks to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems. New strategies and concrete tools are needed to change individual and institutional patterns of consumption and to enhance corporate responsibility (CR) of organisations. Researchers investigating patterns of consumption and intervention strategies to promote sustainable lifestyles among both public and private consumers or working within the thematic field of ecological product policy are encouraged to give a presentation. Research projects integrating product assessment tools such as LCA, carbon footprint, MIPS or related methods are also of special interest.

— Special Session 2: Trans-disciplinarity in

sustainability studies. We invite presentations dealing with concepts, models and experiences of trans-disciplinary research (TDR) in the context of ecological and social sustainability. We are interested in reflecting the possibilities and limits of this type of research. The trans-disciplinarity panel will be organized along specific sessions, and we are looking forward to experience based or conceptual papers with a focus on one of the following issues:

1. Integrated knowledge production: An important aspect of TDR refers to topics of the production of new and integrated knowledge. We shall discuss questions about the ways in which different kinds of knowledge - represented by the different actors participating - are both being treated and integrated in the research process.

- How do TDR actors work together to develop mutual learning, new understandings and to produce new and integrated knowledge?
- How does social learning relate to knowledge integration?

2. (policy) Intervention: Interventions resulting from trans-disciplinary research activities may prove the specific relevance of this specific type of research. We would like to reflect on the potential for interventions based on empirical papers, which describe interventions that have been taking place in the context of carrying out TDR, and under what circumstances that happened.

- Which kinds of interventions take place in TDR?
- How can TDR be designed in order to allow for interventions?

3. Societal relevance of trans-disciplinary research: TDR is considered being a useful tool for solving complex "real world" problems. The added value of this mode of research is often ascribed to its societal relevance and a high potential for societal impact. In this session we want to discuss the societal relevance on the basis of concrete cases.

- How do specific cases illuminate the societal relevance of TDR-activities?

- Which methodological tools can be applied to assess the societal relevance of TDR?

The sessions will be affiliated to the final conference of the project "Sustainable behavior at work and in private life" organized in parallel to the IAS-STS conference.

— "Sustainable behavior at work and in private life" - final conference. The first part of the conference deals with the specific characteristics and quality criteria of trans-disciplinary research projects. The experiences gained in the project "Sustainable behavior at work and in private life"

are contrasted with contributions of other researchers in the field of sustainability. The second part of the conference is limited to the German speaking audience and will be organized as a half-day workshop. The main inputs and conclusions will be summarized and fed back to the IAS-STS conference.

4) **Energy and Climate.** Presentations in this field should develop appropriate measures and strategies for the promotion of renewable energy sources and for the transition to a sustainable energy system. Regional governance, climate policy strategies, innovation policy, technology assessment, and the role of users in the area of energy technologies should play an important role.

—Special Session 3: "How do you manage? Unravelling the situated practice of environmental management." People manage their environments, all of us in everyday life, and some more specifically as professionals. Many of the decisions we take and activities we practice, in everyday life as well as in professional roles, have consequences on our environments. In order to explore more sustainable ways of living in this world, however, we need to better understand these various forms of environmental management. This session will discuss environmental management as a practice, as a situated unfolding of social relationships, desires, routines, and materials. Thereby, we aim to gain insight into some of the processes by which sustainability and unsustainability are being produced.

Contributions to this session may address, but need not be limited, to the following questions: How do people "manage" their environments in everyday life? How do those who are explicitly considered environmental managers understand their mission, opportunities and limitations? How do particular forms of knowledge, organizations and implementation instruments structure the engagement of the "manager" and her subject matter? And how does this subject matter itself figure as an active participant in the process? The session is organised by IFZ in cooperation with the Environment, Management and Society research group (<http://www.ems-research.org>).

5) **Information and Communication Technologies.** The fifth focus of the conference will be put on novel developments based on ICT from an STS perspective. Topics like ICT and agency, ubiquitous computing or ICT and mobility shall be analysed with respect to their wider social and political implications. Further issues of interest are the social shaping of ICT developments, innovation policies, risk management and participatory

approaches to the design of ICT systems and applications.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL DETAILS

##### **Participants**

The 10th IAS-STS conference invites all current and former fellows of the Institute for Advanced Studies as well as other interested researchers in the area of science and technology studies. The conference provides a forum to discuss on a broad variety of topics in the STS field and especially papers are encouraged which include some aspects of the above mentioned conference themes.

##### **Abstracts**

Abstracts should include no more than 250 words, comprising detailed contact information, affiliation and specification of the conference theme you are referring to. Submission of abstracts should please be send to Birgit Hofstätter ([conference@ifz.tugraz.at](mailto:conference@ifz.tugraz.at)) by *Monday, January 24, 2011*.

We also appreciate proposals for poster presentations and specific sessions in the line with the conference themes. Proposals for sessions shall include a preliminary title of the session, names of possible speakers and a short outline on the issues to be discussed (max. 250 words) and should be send to the above mentioned email address by *Monday, January 24, 2011*. We also welcome participants attending the conference without presenting a paper themselves.

##### Conference fees\*

100 € (including conference folder, coffee breaks, lunch sessions). No conference fees for current fellows of the IAS-STS fellowship programme 2010/11 and for graduate or PhD students.

##### *Grants covering conference fees*

Participants from central, eastern and south-eastern Europe may apply for a reduction or exemption from conference fees. Please announce your application in the online registration form, which will be available soon after confirmation of accepted abstracts. Registration will be open until **Monday, March 21, 2011**.

##### *Grants partly covering travel expenses*

We can offer grants partly covering travel expenses for:

- graduate or PhD students
- participants from central, eastern and south-eastern Europe

Up to 50 percent of the travel costs with a maximum amount of 100 € can be reimbursed.

Participants from developing countries can apply for a reimbursement for 50 % their travel expenses up to a maximum amount of € 500. If you would like to apply for a travel grant, please checkmark it in

the registration form. Reimbursement for travel expenses will be given only after submitting your original tickets (eg. train, flight tickets, etc.).

##### **Registration**

Registration for the 10th IAS-STS conference on "Critical Issues in Science and Technology Studies" will be open until **Monday, March 21, 2011**. The online registration form will be accessible by the beginning of February 2011.

**Conference Venue:** IFZ- Inter-University Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture Schlegelgasse 2, 8010 Graz, Austria  
For more information: [www.sts.tugraz.at](http://www.sts.tugraz.at). Mag.a Birgit Hofstaetter IFZ - Interuniversitaeres Forschungszentrum fuer Technik, Arbeit und Kultur Inter-University Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture Schloegelgasse 2, 8010 Graz, Austria Tel./Phone: +43/316/813909-26; Fax: +43/316/810274 E-Mail:

[hofstaetter@ifz.tugraz.at](mailto:hofstaetter@ifz.tugraz.at);

<http://www.ifz.tugraz.at> Das IFZ ist der Grazer Standort der Fakultät fuer Interdisziplinäre Forschung und Fortbildung (IFF) der Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt. IFZ is the Graz unit of the Faculty for Interdisciplinary Studies (IFF) of the Klagenfurt University. *iasinfomail* mailing list [iasinfomail@mlist.tugraz.at](mailto:iasinfomail@mlist.tugraz.at) <https://mlist.tugraz.at/mailman/listinfo/iasinfomail>

##### **BSHM Neumann Book Prize - Call for Nominations.**

The British Society for the History of Mathematics is pleased to announce the biennial Neumann Prize for 2011. The prize is awarded for a book in English (including books in translation) dealing with the history of mathematics, aimed at a broad audience and published in 2009 or later. The prize is named in honour of Peter M. Neumann O.B.E., a former President and longstanding contributor to the Society. The winner of the prize of £600 will be announced in autumn 2011. Nominations for the prize are invited from individuals and publishers. Nominations should be sent to the chair of the judging panel, Martin Campbell-Kelly at [m.campbell-kelly@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:m.campbell-kelly@warwick.ac.uk). Publishers should send three copies of their nominated book(s) to Professor Martin Campbell-Kelly, Chair: BSHM Neumann Prize, Department of Computer Science, Warwick University, Coventry CV4 7AL, United Kingdom. — Tony Mann School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences University of Greenwich Old Royal Naval College Park Row, London SE10 9LS Phone: 020 8331 8709 Fax 020 8331 8665

[A.Mann@gre.ac.uk](mailto:A.Mann@gre.ac.uk)  
<http://staffweb.cms.gre.ac.uk/~A.Mann/>

The **10th Annual IAS-STs Conference, "Critical Issues in Science and Technology Studies,"** to take place on **May 2-3, 2011 in Graz, Austria**, has issued a call for papers. The IAS-STs is hosted by the IFZ - Interuniversity Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture ([www.ifz.tugraz.at](http://www.ifz.tugraz.at)), which promotes the interdisciplinary investigation of the links and interactions between science, technology and society, technology assessment, as well as research on the development and implementation of socially and environmentally sound technologies. IAS-STs also hosts international fellows and research associates through its fellowship programme. Special sessions include "Issues of Inclusion and Exclusion in Web 2.0." For this part of the conference, contributions on the topic "Issues of Inclusion and Exclusion in Web 2.0" are looked for. Web 2.0 is considered as user-centred and democratic: Everybody is said to be able to participate and it seems that nearly everybody does. However, this is not the case of course. The Internet with all its interactive applications is not as colourful as it could be, it does not represent the 'real' world and it is definitely not democratic per se. There also will be a workshop on "the Concept of 'Heteronormativity' and its Methodological Implications." Conference participants interested in joining this workshop please contact Birgit Hofstätter ([hofstaetter@ifz.tugraz.at](mailto:hofstaetter@ifz.tugraz.at)) by **March 31, 2011**. Another Special Session is dedicated to "Trans-disciplinarity in sustainability studies." We invite presentations dealing with concepts, models and experiences of trans-disciplinary research (TDR) in the context of ecological and social sustainability. We are interested in reflecting the possibilities and limits of this type of research. The trans-disciplinarity panel will be organized along specific sessions, and we are looking forward to experience based or conceptual papers with a focus on one of the following issues: 1. Integrated knowledge production: An important aspect of TDR refers to topics of the production of new and integrated knowledge. We shall discuss questions about the ways in which different kinds of knowledge - represented by the different actors participating - are both being treated and integrated in the research process. How do TDR actors work together to develop mutual learning, new understandings and to produce new and integrated knowledge? How does social learning relate to knowledge integration? 2.

(policy) Intervention: Interventions resulting from trans-disciplinary research activities may prove the specific relevance of this specific type of research. We would like to reflect on the potential for interventions based on empirical papers, which describe interventions that have been taking place in the context of carrying out TDR, and under what circumstances that happened. Which kinds of interventions take place in TDR? How can TDR be designed in order to allow for interventions? 3. Societal relevance of trans-disciplinary research: TDR is considered being a useful tool for solving complex 'real world' problems. The added value of this mode of research is often ascribed to its societal relevance and a high potential for societal impact. In this session we want to discuss the societal relevance on the basis of concrete cases. How do specific cases illuminate the societal relevance of TDR-activities? Which methodological tools can be applied to assess the societal relevance of TDR? The sessions will be affiliated to the final conference of the project "Sustainable behavior at work and in private life" organized in parallel to the IAS-STs conference. Information on further special sessions is available at [http://www.ifz.tugraz.at/index\\_en.php/article/articleview/2070/1/74/](http://www.ifz.tugraz.at/index_en.php/article/articleview/2070/1/74/). The 10th IAS-STs conference invites all current and former fellows of the Institute for Advanced Studies as well as other interested researchers in the area of science and technology studies. The conference provides a forum to discuss on a broad variety of topics in the STs field and especially papers are encouraged which include some aspects of the above mentioned conference themes. Abstracts should include no more than 250 words, comprising detailed contact information, affiliation and specification of the conference theme you are referring to. **Submission of abstracts** should please be sent to Birgit Hofstätter ([conference@ifz.tugraz.at](mailto:conference@ifz.tugraz.at)) by **Monday, January 24, 2011**. We also appreciate proposals for poster presentations and specific sessions in the line with the conference themes. Proposals for sessions shall include a preliminary title of the session, names of possible speakers and a short outline on the issues to be discussed (max. 250 words) and should be sent to the above mentioned email address by Monday, January 24, 2011. We also welcome participants attending the conference without presenting a paper themselves. Registration for the 10th IAS-STs conference on "Critical Issues in Science and Technology Studies" will be open until Monday, March 21, 2011. The online registration form will be accessible by the beginning of February 2011. IFZ- Inter-University, Research Centre for

Technology, Work and Culture, Schlögelgasse 2, 8010 Graz, Austria. For more information: [www.sts.tugraz.at](http://www.sts.tugraz.at).

The **Summer School on Smart Homes and Health Telematics**, entitled "**Toward useful services for elderly and people with disabilities**," is to take place on **16-22 June 2011 in Montreal, Canada**. See [www.icost2011.org](http://www.icost2011.org). Smart Environments can be considered as an augmented environment capable of utilizing embedded computers, information appliances, micro/nano systems and multi-modal sensors, in which computational intelligence is ubiquitous to provide contextual, proactive and personalized services to people. Current advances in such enabling technologies make it possible to build real Smart Environments and hence provide the opportunity for novel applications and services to be delivered for improving the quality of life and health of people in their home and outside. In the near future, elderly and people with disabilities will avail of smart assistive technology to assist with carrying out daily living activities, to socialize, to enjoy entertainment and leisure activities all whilst maintaining good health and wellbeing. These Smart Environments are complemented through the role of health telematics. Health telematics

approaches utilize advanced networks and telecommunication technologies to provide healthcare remotely. Combined with Ubiquitous technologies in Smart Environments, health telematics can radically transform the way health-related services (diagnosis, therapy and assistance) are conceived and delivered.

On **Thursday June 30th 2011, at 4.00 p.m.**, Professor dr. L.A. Leydesdorff, appointed as Professor of 'Communication and innovation in the dynamics of science and technology,' will deliver his **Inaugural Lecture**:

*De ontwikkeling van kennis in wetenschappelijke communicatie:*

*Onzekerheid en codificatie in anticipatorische systemen*

[The development of knowledge in scholarly discourse:

Uncertainty and codification in anticipatory systems]

Prof. Dr D.C. van den Boom, Rector Magnificus of the University of Amsterdam, requests the pleasure of your company in the Aula of the University (entrance Singel 411, corner Spui).

## Opportunities available

**Tenure Track Faculty Positions for a Center in "IT and Society" at IIIT-Delhi.** IIIT-Delhi, a Govt of Delhi sponsored, research-led Institute of higher education in IT and allied areas, is setting up a group/Center on "ICT and Society" for conducting research in that area, and is looking for tenure-track faculty members for the same. This center will bring together researchers in the area of sociology, policy, psychology, philosophy (particularly those relating to knowledge) and other relevant HSS. In collaboration with IT faculty of the Institute, it is hoped that the center will study the interface between IT and society, and dynamics of this interface.

For the center, the Institute is looking for faculty members in the areas of sociology, psychology, arts, and philosophy, policy, law, etc., i.e. areas with which IT has a strong relationship. A candidate must have a PhD in an appropriate area, and a keen interest in conducting interdisciplinary research in the area of "IT and Society" (a track record of research in this area is highly desirable, but not essential). A person with an Engineering or science degree followed by PhD and research in a suitable HSS area will probably be best suited. The Institute is also looking for an eminent senior researcher/scholar with vision and ability to attract young and talented faculty to lead this center - The person should be an. The faculty in this group/center are also expected to teach a HSS courses to students in IIIT-Delhi. It is also expected that the center will also have a PhD program in "Digital Humanities" and will have MPhil programs in various areas.

IIIT Delhi ([www.iiitd.ac.in](http://www.iiitd.ac.in)) is a young, research-led, academically and administratively autonomous institute created by Govt of Delhi with a vision of become a globally respected academic Institution in IT and allied areas. Being unencumbered by past, it has employed many measures to help it achieve its vision, making it one of the most vibrant and exciting academic environments in India and an ideal place for a young researcher who wishes to work and make an impact/ difference in these exciting times in India. It has recruited 17 faculty members in 2 years, most PhD from US, and has built strong research groups in areas like Security, Biometrics, Mobile computing, Data management. The institute provides a decent compensation, and allows a faculty member to supplement it through research grants (like "summer salary from grants" concept of US), summer sabbaticals in R&D

labs/companies, consultancy, etc. It will soon have a modern campus at Okhla, with a Metro station within 4 km, where it will have modern, good quality, and spacious accommodation for faculty. Delhi is widely regarded as one of the best cities in India for living, with excellent air and train connectivity.

For applying, send an email entitled "Faculty Position in IT and Society" with your CV containing the names of at least three referees, to the Director - [Jalote@iiitd.ac.in](mailto:Jalote@iiitd.ac.in). The Institute will be conducting recruitment in US during March 1-8, 2011. More information on this is available at: <http://www.iiitd.ac.in/facultyus.html>

### **European Research Council funded scholarship in the Centre for Gender & Women's studies: Teenage sexuality, 'healthy' subjectivities and the HPV vaccine.**

Applications are invited for a three-year funded PhD studentship in the Centre for Gender and Women's Studies, **Department of Sociology, Lancaster University 2011-2014**. The scholarship is part of a European Research Council funded project entitled "Prescriptive Prescriptions: Pharmaceuticals and 'Healthy' Subjectivities". This interdisciplinary project is based in Sweden and the UK, led by Dr Ericka Johnson (Gothenburg), Dr Cecilia Åsberg (Linköping) and Dr Celia Roberts (Lancaster). The project explores how 'healthy' subjects are prescribed - defined and framed - by pharmaceuticals and aims to challenge and expand upon theories about the medicalization of healthy subjects. It examines the cultural meanings and expectations attached to four prescription drugs, and compares the policies and practices around their use in two European countries, Sweden and UK.

The available PhD position will be a sub-project looking at the introduction of the HPV (cervical cancer) vaccine to the UK. Research questions in this sub-project include: how regulatory regimes and policies reflect and dictate cultural norms; how prescription practices convey understandings and expectations of appropriate sexual behaviour; and why this behaviour is medicated in girls but not in boys. Results will shed light on the subjectivities created for the users by looking at how policymakers, GPs, schools and parent groups deal with issues of sexuality and responsibility for teenagers and pre-teens. A similar project will be conducted in Sweden and it is expected that the PhD

student in Lancaster will informally collaborate with the PhD student in Gothenburg.

The PhD will be conducted in conjunction with the project's other elements and the PhD student will encounter approaches from the fields of Science, Technology and Society, Gender and Women's Studies, and Post-Humanist studies. In addition to research and (optional) courses at Lancaster University, this PhD will also involve shorter periods of course work at the Universities of Linköping and Gothenberg (Sweden) with the project team. These visits are fully funded.

A funding package of £28,600 is available for this studentship. There may also be opportunities for teaching work in the Department of Sociology.

The Lancaster PhD will be supervised by Dr Celia Roberts and one other (to be decided). If you would like more information about the project, please contact her by email [Celia Roberts](mailto:Celia.Roberts@lancaster.ac.uk) or by phone 44 01524 592205.

**Start date:** 1 October 2011

**Application process:**

Applicants should complete the standard PhD in Sociology application procedure at <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/sociology/prospective/phd/application.htm>. They should also send a letter of application to [Rachel Hemmings](mailto:Rachel.Hemmings@lancaster.ac.uk).

**Application due date:** 1 April 2011 for both the letter of application and the online PhD in Sociology application form.

**Industry-funded PhD in Sociology:**

**Living data - making sense of health biosensors. Department of Sociology, Lancaster University**

Applications are invited for two funded PhD studentships in the Department of Sociology, Lancaster University 2011-2014. The successful candidates will conduct ethnographic and online research on how people make use of health and medical data in the areas of reproductive health or personal genomics. These studentships form part of a wider international program of research on biosensors funded by Intel Corporation Research.

**Studentship 1: Reproducing and Conceiving Data.** The study will follow the material practices of people in the course of conception and pregnancy, with special emphasis on the connection between data-monitoring and other health-related and everyday life practices. Following a cohort of people attempting conception and experiencing pregnancy, it will map the intersections and contradictions between online activities (including recording, gathering, comparing, interpreting, discussing, visualizing, networking), everyday

practices such as eating and exercise, clinical examination and testing and other social processes.

**Studentship 2: Personal Genomics Data.** This study will address a broad range of activities and sites related to the production, circulation and use of personal genomics, from attempts at DIY sequencing to the development of sophisticated statistically-informed analyses of biological test results by specific interpretative communities. It will ask how knowledge gained through Direct-To-Consumer testing intersects with formal medical expertise, and the more experiential knowledge produced in health advocacy groups.

The project is led by Dr Celia Roberts, Dr Adrian Mackenzie and Dr Maggie Mort. If you would like more information about the project, please contact them at [celia.roberts@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:celia.roberts@lancaster.ac.uk); [a.mackenzie@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:a.mackenzie@lancaster.ac.uk) or [m.mort@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:m.mort@lancaster.ac.uk).

Funding: A 3 year stipend at £15,590 p.a., UK/EU student fees for 3 years, and research expenses will be paid for both studentships.

**Start date:** 1 July 2011

**Application process:** Applicants should complete the standard PhD in Sociology application procedure at

<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/sociology/prospective/phd/application.htm>.

They should also send a letter of application to Rachel Hemmings, [spgadmissions@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:spgadmissions@lancaster.ac.uk); telephone:(01524) 594178).

**Application due date:** 1 April 2011 for both the letter of application and the online PhD in Sociology application form.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Editorship of *Social Studies of Science*  
CALL FOR INTEREST**

The journal *Social Studies of Science* (3S) invites bids for the journal Editorship. The aim is to announce a new Editor by the time of the annual meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science in November of 2011, with transfer from the journal's current Editor, Michael Lynch, projected for completion by September 2012. The new 3S Editor is expected to fill the position for a minimum of five years.

A Task Force has been appointed to coordinate bids and to assist the process, led by Lucy Suchman and including Steven Epstein and Sally Wyatt. A decision on the new Editorship will be taken by the journal's Collaborating Editors and Editorial

Advisors, in consultation with Sage Publications Ltd.

Candidates for the Editorship of the journal should send expressions of interest, requests for details on preparation of a bid, and any other inquiries to Lucy Suchman, [l.suchman@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:l.suchman@lancaster.ac.uk). The deadline for the receipt of bids is **June 30, 2011**.

**Professorship at Linköping University.** The Department of Technology and Social Change at Linköping University will hire a new full professor during 2011 (employment will commence July 1, 2012). The position is defined within the broad area of Science and Technology Studies and/or Science, Technology and Society. As yet the position has not been announced but this notification is posted as it will be, in February 2011, before this website is updated again.

For information about the Department of Technology and Social Change, please see: <http://www.tema.liu.se/tema-t?l=en&sc=true>. This is also where the position will be advertised in February 2011. For further information, please contact Jenny Palm ([jenny.palm@liu.se](mailto:jenny.palm@liu.se)).

**The Innovation Studies Group at Utrecht University** would like to draw your attention to these upcoming positions and invite interested candidates to contact Dr. Alexander Peine (e-mail: [a.peine@geo.uu.nl](mailto:a.peine@geo.uu.nl); Tel: +31 30 2532782) or Prof. Dr. Harro van Lente (e-mail: [h.vanlente@geo.uu.nl](mailto:h.vanlente@geo.uu.nl); Tel: +31 30 2537807). **Post-doctoral position: Socio-technical scenarios and strategy articulation in the fields of Nanomedicine and energy** (full-time for the duration of 18 months). While the shape of nanotechnology applications and their eventual embedding in society and economy are uncertain, controlled speculation about applications and

impact is possible with the help of socio-technical scenarios (see the results of the TA NanoNed program, [www.nanoned.nl](http://www.nanoned.nl)). Socio-technical scenarios as a constructive technology assessment approach build on insights from science, technology and innovation studies and on stakeholder knowledge. The postdoc will develop scenarios and organize stakeholder workshops aimed at articulation of strategic implications and potential impacts in the areas of Nanomedicine and energy. The project will be conducted in cooperation with a parallel project at the University of Twente. **PhD-positions: Articulation of sustainability in Nanomedicine and energy** (full-time for the duration of 4 years). The PhD project will explore the co-evolution of nanotechnology and articulations of sustainability in the fields of Nanomedicine and energy. While it is common knowledge that technology co-evolves with societal and individual needs, little is known about the early dynamics of this co-evolution. This project strives to illuminate these early dynamics by zooming in on the articulation of sustainability in the two complementary fields of Nanomedicine, where sustainability is related to the increasing pressure on health care systems in aging societies, and energy, where sustainability is defined by the quest to alter current regimes of energy production and use. To this end, the project will address how these broad ideas of sustainability are articulated and translated into more concrete ideas of “needs” as they are aligned with forms and definitions of nanotechnology in the ongoing streams of R&D activities and projects in the field.

**The Leo Apostel Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies (Brussels University)** offers **Post Doc positions and PhD scholarships** in a broad range of research fields including science and technology studies.

See <http://www.vub.ac.be/CLEA/news/joboffers>.

## News from the field

The **British Society for the History of Mathematics** is pleased to announce the biennial **Neumann Prize for 2011**. The prize is awarded for a book in English (including books in translation) dealing with the history of mathematics, aimed at a broad audience and published in 2009 or later. The prize is named in honour of Peter M. Neumann O.B.E., a former President and longstanding contributor to the Society. The winner of the prize of £600 will be announced in autumn 2011. Nominations for the prize are invited from individuals and publishers. Nominations should be sent to the chair of the judging panel, Martin Campbell-Kelly at [m.campbell-kelly@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:m.campbell-kelly@warwick.ac.uk). Publishers should send three copies of their nominated book(s) to Professor Martin Campbell-Kelly, Chair: BSHM Neumann Prize, Department of Computer Science, Warwick University, Coventry CV4 7AL, United Kingdom.

**André Feldhof wins the 2010 ESST Award for Aspiring Undergraduates in Science Technology and Society (STS)**. The recipient of the 2010 ESST European Award for Aspiring Undergraduates in Science, Technology and Society (STS) is André Feldhof, a BA student in European Studies at Maastricht University, the Netherlands. The award committee thought that Feldhof's paper offered an informed and elaborate account of the connection between development of policies towards sustainable development in China and the relationship between this Asian country and the European Union. The European Masters Programme in Society, Science and Technology (ESST) is sponsoring an award of 1,000 euros annually for the best undergraduate paper in Science, Technology and Society. Undergraduates studying at any European university are eligible to apply and the competition is open to students in any field. For more information see [www.esst.eu](http://www.esst.eu).

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