

EASST *Review*

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Organising STS

Editorial

By Estrid Sørensen, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, EASST Council member

Increasingly often scholars who are working in the larger STS centres are visited and interviewed by younger colleagues who are interested in mapping the scholarly history of STS. Our field has reached a stage where there is a need to define it, not only in terms of its empirical fields and theoretical approaches, but as a tradition. This work of identification is accompanied by louder and louder voices discussing how the future of STS will and should look. Arguments and disagreements often pivot around the issue of institutionalisation: should we strive for institutionalising STS as a field with degrees, professorships and an acknowledged status throughout the academic fields, or will such stratification restrict the creative theoretical and empirical nerve of STS, which flourishes at its best in open-minded and unconstrained networks? Sheila Jasanoff (2010) has metaphorically described a similar distinction as one between STS as an autonomous island coalescing out of an archipelago of knowledge-making, with its own native habits of production and trading or as a program of interstate highway constructions among existing disciplinary states.

For some thirty years STS has been primarily a heterogeneous group of scholars coming together to share their common enthusiasm and insights in the study of science and technology. Maybe we are still such a bunch, but we are also professors teaching STS, we are researchers searching for young scholars to continue and develop the work we have started, we are actors on the labour market looking for STS vacancies, we are applicants who want to see STS projects funded, and we are members of departments wishing that the journals in which we publish will be ranked at the top in the bibliometric system of our country or our discipline. We are also authors feeling exploited by commercial publishing houses which are profiting economically from the hard work we put into our books and articles and we are experts saddened to see scholars in the broader fields of social sciences and humanities expressing their views on science and technology in ways which we feel are inferior to the explanations we could have given, had we ourselves been consulted, etc.

This loosely associated group of scholars has not only become larger and its scholars grown older. We have become bound up in the increasing complexity of structural constraints in the contemporary academic world. Many of us are involved in organising infrastructures for STS to meet the diverse needs that have developed over the years. Sometimes such efforts are co-ordinated more broadly, and sometimes they are the result of either individual activity or of local groups. Even though a view-from-above makes some major accomplishments visible – such as the international ESST masters degree and the STS representation in the ERC – the various efforts to develop our field seem rather randomly scattered across the European landscape.

In 2010 the EASST Council hosted a meeting of representatives of STS associations and other similar interested groups from most European countries to discuss the position in the different national situations. These situations are indeed extremely diverse. Some countries have few competing centres, others are characterised by networks of smaller groups. In some countries it is possible to gain STS degrees; some have professorships and STS scholars represented on academic political bodies. In some countries STS is primarily represented by senior academics while in others early career scholars are the most active. Some national academic systems categorise STS as an established scholarly field, while other more disciplinary oriented systems have no category into which STS can possibly be fitted. In some countries STS scholars tend to prefer a situation of loose networks, while in others they strive for institutionalisation.

As is often the case in Europe, different national situations create different needs and require different types of solutions. There does not seem to be any one solution as the best way forward for STS in the European countries, whether by institutionalisation or through networks. For either way of developing STS nationally, increasing visibility and broader acknowledgement of STS on a cross-national European level seem beneficial. The EASST Council over the past few years has taken steps in this direction, some of which will be launched in 2012. Among these is the introduction of three

new awards. The awards are meant to support and acknowledge scholars in our field who have engaged in particularly productive ways to enhance the field of STS. Just as important as the awards is the need to increase awareness of STS as a field in its own right. Apart from paying tribute to the individuals receiving the rewards and to the activities for which they are awarded, awards draw attention to the awarding organisation. We all gain from being in a field that has awards as instruments to increase visibility and acknowledgement of the field. The awards were introduced in the last issue of the EASST Review and the procedure for applications will be available shortly. In subsequent Reviews there will be launches of more measures taken by the EASST Council to both create visibility and also

offer support for whatever strategies are followed nationally and regionally to organise the field.

STS has moved from its initial start-up endeavour to becoming a consolidated field in Europe. It is exciting to be part of this important development. Decisions to be taken over the coming decade about the ways to organise STS will be decisive for how our field will develop in Europe. In this process it will be imperative that lively discussions and ideas and experiences are shared in our field about the way forward for STS in Europe. The cover image of this Review suggests metaphorically that a combination of an archipelago island and interregional highway constructions is indeed thinkable.

Easst Awards

In EASST Review 30 (4) December 2011, EASST announced three new awards that will be made at the EASST / 4S Conference in October 2012. A full description can be found there but in summary these are:

Ziman Award

In honour of John Ziman this award will be made for a significant innovative cooperation in a venture to promote the public understanding of the social dimensions of science.

This could involve, for example, a forum or discussion community, or an interface with non academic users. Selection will be based on originality and influence.

Amsterdamska award

In honour of Olga Amsterdamska this award will be made for a significant creative collaboration in an edited book in the broad field of science and technology studies.

Selection will be based on an anthology in the broad field of STS, a substantive contribution to the field; the quality of the editing, as reflected in the quality of the volume as a whole; interdisciplinarity, while not a requirement, will be valued; inclusiveness across career stages will also be valued.

Freeman award

The Freeman award will be made for a publication which is a significant collective contribution to the interaction of science and technology studies with the study of innovation.

Selection will be based on the successful development of social approaches to the dynamics of innovation, originality, and better understanding of the pursuit of innovation for societal and environmental goals.

The general conditions of the awards are as follows:

- An award of €1000 will be made in each case
- Activities or publications in the time period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2012
- Call for nominations – deadline 30 June 2012
- Collaborations should have a distinctive European dimension
- Self-nominations accepted
- The award process will be managed by the EASST Council and may involve appropriate reviewers from outside the Council
- Submissions for one award may be considered for another if deemed appropriate
- Council members and reviewers are not eligible for the award during the time of their service

A form for making nominations will be available shortly. Please look out for further announcements via the website and Eurograd or contact the EASST office (admin at easst.net) if you would like to be kept informed.

EASST / 4S Conference Copenhagen, October 17-20 2011

Design and displacement – social studies of science and technology

The EASST / 4S conference is little more than 6 months away and there are lots of exciting developments!

Final Reminder about Conference Abstract Submissions

For the Joint EASST/4S conference 2012 we invite papers that broadly address the dynamics and interrelationships between science, technology and society. Papers which address the meeting's theme 'Design and Displacement' are especially relevant, but papers on any topic in STS are welcome.

Abstracts can be submitted to open streams or to one of the 106 panels which have been grouped into 10 subject clusters see www.easst.net/conferences/easst2012.shtml. You are also able to submit closed session proposals.

- **Deadline 18th March 2012 submissions must be made via the conference submission website at http://convention3.allacademic.com/one/ssss/4s12/index.php?&rr_key=true**
- Please note that this is a site independent of EASST and 4S and you need to set up a (free) account with it before submitting (if you don't already have one).

You have heard about Copenhagen but what about Copenhagenization?

The city of Copenhagen was founded more than 800 years ago, and is known for combining the old-world charm of its medieval origins with the vibrant life of a modern European metropolis. Copenhagen is the capital of Denmark, but with merely 1.5 million inhabitants, the city is human in scale. A network of car-free pedestrian zones and cobbled squares creates a lively and attractive downtown area with cafés, cinemas and museums. The high quality public transportation system, consisting of the metro, buses, and trains connects the centre with its suburbs and the airport (a 20-minute ride). For tourist information:

www.visitcopenhagen.dk/tourist.

At the 4S/EASST conference 2012, the local organizing committee invites you to explore

not only the city of Copenhagen, but also the phenomenon of Copenhagenization. This concept refers to the status the city has acquired as a site for experimental design, green city development, and bicycling. When Broadway on Manhattan was turned into a bike path, this was talked about as an instance of Copenhagenization.

In line with the overall theme of the 2012 4S/EASST conference, Design and Displacement, the local organizing committee wishes to discuss Copenhagen as a socio material space, which constantly evolves through design experiments and their partly unexpected effects. On **Wednesday October 17th** (the day before the formal conference begins), they aim to 'localize' the conference and address the concept of 'Copenhagenization' as an example of a range of specific design experiments in relation to city planning and sustainability. There will be an opportunity to zoom in on interventions in relation to traffic planning, bicycling, culture, gastronomy, etc., and look at how they disturb existing technical, organizational, and cultural spaces. Throughout the conference New Nordic food will be served, and on Wednesday there will be tasters and exhibitions about this theme in the registration area.

EASST welcomes this initiative which encourages delegates to reflect on the conference location. Further details of these pre-conference activities will be available shortly. If you have any comments or questions you are welcome to contact Ursula Plesner, Department of Organization, CBS (email: [up.ioa\(at\)cbs.dk](mailto:up.ioa(at)cbs.dk)).

EASST 2012 Pre-conference Doctoral Workshop linked to the Conference – Call for Submissions

What does it mean to do STS at the margin? 16th October 2012, Copenhagen

This workshop is inspired by the great experience at the EASST 2010 Trento Pre-conference PhD workshop: 'Weeds, Offcuts, Issues and Troubles' and the series of 'Flows, Doings, Edges' workshops held over the past years. At these events, participants discussed issues from their research, relating to empirical or theoretical issues which did not fit, practical and technical obstacles or frozen themes.

At the 2012 Pre-conference Workshop we engage with a theme which crops up again and again in lots of PhD students' research practice: feeling isolated in the position from which we do our research from. To address this theme, the main idea of the workshop is to develop conversations about experiences of doing STS at a variety of margins, including – but not limited to – margins in terms of discipline, location/geography, gender, race, economic status, age-related and language.

Drawing on our distributed experiences we will engage in collective reflection about strategies and tactics of being positioned as an STS student at a margin. Which are the paths that students and scholars are following? Are there other ways? Do we have to build niches – e.g. sub-specialities, feminist inspired solidarity groups, ...? Are there spaces for these ideas within the community of STS scholars? How can we create mechanisms for a productive interaction from our own positions?

At this workshop we will talk about possible similarities/dissimilarities among the problems and frustrations we experience and (more or less) cope with at these marginal(ised) positions. Therefore, the workshop will provide ample room for informal discussions in workable groups that allow new spaces of possibilities to open up; new points of view can emerge.

Please send us an abstract in which you describe your research and how you conceptualise yourself and your work to be positioned at a margin. How does your research take place at a margin; how is your position marginalised? What does it mean for you to do STS at a margin?

- **The abstract should be up to 500 words and submitted to students@easst.net by 15th May 2012.**

The workshop is organised by Ingmar Lipert (Augsburg University) and Juan F. Espinosa Cristia (University of Leicester).

- **Participation Requirements**

Participants have to show evidence of registration at the EASST / 4S conference.

If you apply at the same time for conference support by EASST (free registration), please note this when submitting an abstract to us.

The number of participants will be limited. EASST is providing financial support for this workshop.

EASST Support for Conference

Attendance

EASST is inviting applications from those needing financial support to attend the EASST/4S conference in Copenhagen 2012. Funding is limited and will be concentrated on those coming from countries which are normally under-represented at EASST conferences (particularly those from Southern or Eastern Europe). It will also be targeted at students or others without institutional support for conference attendance.

General rules

- Applicants must be EASST members.
- Applicants must have had an abstract accepted for the EASST/4S conference or for the pre-conference PhD Workshop.
- Financial support will take the form of free conference registration. Applicants must have other means to cover travel and accommodation costs.
- The Allocation Committee will aim to make awards to a variety of institutions and will not normally make awards to those who have received EASST funding in the past.
- Applications need to include the following:
- A completed application form. The form will be available shortly from our conference page at www.easst.net/conferences/easst2012.shtml
- Confirmation from the track conveners or conference organisers of an accepted abstract (available after May 1st) or confirmation of an accepted abstract from the PhD Workshop organisers.
- Complete Applications (including evidence of support) must be sent to conferencesupport@easst.net and be received by 15th May. Decisions will be notified by June 7th.

After the event:

- Those who receive awards are required to send a short report (500-1000 words) regarding the theme or a plenary session attended to the editor of the EASST Review for consideration for publication. Details of deadlines and address to send reports will be provided with information about the award.

What Works Where and for Whom?

Notes of the workshop Science Technology and Development, held 12-14 December 2011 at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Rob Hagendijk, Harro Maat and Annapurna Mamidipudi

A global map of scholarly activity in STS will show spots on all continents but undoubtedly the larger dabs are in the US and Northwest Europe. This geographical concentration reflects overall global differences in academic facilities and research investments that, again in very general terms, conditions the geographical and topical focus of research. The field of STS is not an exception to the rule. Yet, there are good arguments to say that STS could (and should) employ more of its conceptual toolkit and scholarly energy to issues and phenomena in other parts of the world. These arguments have been presented at EASST and 4S conferences over the years through individual papers, sessions and roundtable discussions. In a roundtable session at the last 4S conference in Cleveland, Sheila Jasanoff nicely summarized these arguments by stating that STS takes asymmetries and symmetries seriously. And that also applies to the political and intellectual geographies of STS.

This note presents the activities and some of the outcomes of the workshop 'Hotspots of Development', held last December in Amsterdam. The workshop was yet another opportunity to address the asymmetric geographical distribution of STS in a hands-on manner. It actually is the third in what is now a series of such workshops following the 4S/EASST Roundtable about the problem. And as in previous years EASST and other sponsors helped to create facilities to invite young scholars from outside Western countries to bridge, if only partly and temporarily, the institutional gaps that obstruct exchange and collaboration. Once again, the overall workshop format was to connect early-career STS scholars (originating from or focusing in their work on developing countries) with each other, create an opportunity to present their current work and explore further issues in the STS field through sessions with invited speakers. We received over twenty applications of which in the end a group of nineteen early-career scholars attended the workshop. All participants worked on development-related topics and by and large half of the group had their undergraduate training from an institution outside Europe or the US. There was a relatively large share of participants from India.

The programme alternated presentations from invited speakers with presentations from participants. In the following sections we will highlight some of the themes and issues that came up during the workshop.

The central theme of the workshop was the identification and analysis of geographical, institutional and conceptual change. We coined the localities where change is most prominent 'hotspots of development'. Rather than a map-making exercise to find all the possible hotspots, the idea was to see how concepts and approaches in STS are able to identify and understand particular hotspots and what insights an STS approach reveals. In other words, the workshop's aim was to explore and discuss theoretical questions and empirical cases of the 'hotspots' where science, technology and development intersect. In the exchanges, the variety of study areas and topics the participants were engaged in appeared to match very well with the more general and conceptual issues brought forward by the speakers. In this respect the workshop was a creative, stimulating and rich experience.

Shifting the attention to development does not imply an entirely unfamiliar set of topics and issues to deal with. STS studies in Western settings dealing with the (imagined) social underpinning of path-breaking science and experimental technologies have their equivalents in non-Western settings. An example is neuroinformatics (combining nano-, bio-, and information and communication technologies) and how this entwines with India as one of world's largest democratic nations (Ravi Shukla)¹. If and how new technologies such as nanotech and biotech travel from one part to the other and how this creates new symmetries and asymmetries between and within countries was a recurrent issue in other work as well. Despite a long record of dissent, protest and unfulfilled promises, biotech solutions to food crops keep on reappearing as a silver bullet against hunger and poverty. A recent example is Bt Brinjal, a pest-resistant GM variety of aubergine, experimented

¹ Names in brackets refer to workshop participants and speakers.

with in India (Andreas Mitzschke). Nanotechnology seems to move along a similar path of what Nick Cullather called imagineering, exemplified in a study on (dis)similarities of nanotech research in the Netherlands and Chile (Carla Alvial). Some of the presentations provided interesting comments on these developments, for example by questioning the notion of 'advanced science' by showing how Indian scientists made a low-cost 'tinkered' nano-microscope (Wiebe Bijker). Moreover, these technologies assume innovation is about distribution of top-notch equipment from high-tech labs and centres where analysis of global innovation processes point towards a more bottom-up or bottom-of-the-pyramid model (Luc Soete).

In cases where innovative changes in society are more widespread and have a longer history, the picture does not seem to be very different. A study on the introduction of soy-bean in India in the 1970s shows almost equal high levels of expectation among scientists and politicians and as much dissent and adjustment from the side of the proclaimed beneficiaries, in this case farmers in rural India (Richa Kumar). Typically in agriculture user conditions depend on a range of factors, many of which are beyond immediate control, resulting in diverging meanings in engineering contexts and user contexts of, for example, a notion like efficiency. Studies on irrigation technologies in Morocco (Saskia van der Kooij) or a comparative study on the use of hydrodynamic models in the deltas of the Netherlands and Bangladesh (Arjen Zegwaard) showed many of such tensions. Uncontrolled and unknown factors also spoil engineers' dreams in urban context as for example in a study on shifting fuel sources (natural gas instead of diesel and petrol) in urban transport in Ahmedabad (Lakum Mukesh). These examples also showed the close connection between science, technology and governing institutions, trying to regulate and control developments. A strong case is the global network of disease control, in particular the development of vaccines, largely determining from their administrative centres what is supposed to work where and how, therewith eroding local competencies to work on diseases (Stuart Blume). Interestingly, attempts to portray global solutions from a single source can also be found outside official institutions, exemplified by the System of Rice Intensification (Dominic Glover). This raises all sorts of question about the way so-called indigenous knowledge

can be connected or integrated in formal centres of knowledge and policy (Arie Rip).

Several workshop participants worked on areas where government control is much less established or in a state of recovery after disruption. A clear example is a study on evaluation research in Afghanistan (Tjitske Holtrop). The absence of a strong state perhaps creates all sorts of extra (official and unofficial) layers of protocols and rules. Similar dynamics come forward in studies in Israel (Adi Inbar) or in specific disaster-stricken areas in India (Chandrika Parmar). What comes out is that in places where activities of established governing agents disappear or are disrupted, local power dynamics fill in these gaps by creating rules and regulation on their own terms. An interesting example came from a presentation on farmer suicides in India where rural elites hijack the situation to defend their position towards a global audience (Esha Shah). Similar dynamics come out in a study on foreign aid agents in Kyrgyzstan and their interaction with the country's patron-client relations (Yulia Poskakukhina). Such environments not only restrict research work but also create opportunities for new creative ways to make use of 'power gaps' in local circumstances, shown in a presentation on research in remote areas in former Soviet territory where area maps were discussed with local people to blend different forms of knowledge (Shailaja Fennell).

Various studies focused on climate issues. Where much of the debate seems to concentrate on atmospheric studies and global effects, in reality a variety of new research and technologies are promoted as dealing with climate change. STS has an extensive conceptual toolkit to challenge assumptions and envisioned effects. This equally applies to technologies to exploit wind and solar energy (Suyash Jolly) or anticipated effects of growing a crop like *Jatropha* for biofuel (Eveline de Hoop). Many of the issues and themes in these studies also appeared in related topics that seem to strengthen the ties between global relevance and universal knowledge. Sustainability and biodiversity are examples of this and came out clearly in studies sustainable consumption (Vivek Mathur) and conflicts over natural resource conservation (Aarthi Sridhar). One study looked at how such dynamics intersect with issues of poverty and community development (Kirsten Ulsrud). Various of these studies are framed as transitions studies, putting emphasis on the fact that research and technology operate under changing conditions. This is central in a study on

how governments and research institutes in Asia portray such changes (Frans Sengers) and how they materialise this in new technologies and regulatory mechanisms (Micha Velthuis). These various dynamics were nicely put together in a more systemic account, showing how systems respond differently to different forms of shock and stress (Andy Stirling).

A workshop like this proves the relevance and variety of ways in which STS can contribute

studies in which global dynamics, international development and humanitarian principles are central. An interesting effect of the shared background of various participants was an invitation to hold the next workshop in India. Whether this will be realized or not, the workshop has proved that STS has increasingly become a field that stretches beyond Europe or other Western nations throwing up new exciting questions, research opportunities and challenges.

The birth of the Belgian Network for Science, Technology and Society (BSTS network)

Pierre Delvenne and François Thoreau, for the Belgian STS network

Overview

The inaugural conference of the Belgian STS Network took place on September 30, 2011 at the Royal Academy for Arts and Sciences (Brussels, Belgium). Before getting into the details of this event and addressing the future challenges, we first want to look back on what has been achieved in this respect over the past years or so.

The roots of the idea of a Belgian STS network can be traced back about 2 years to a few PhD students carrying out their research within the broad field of social studies of science and technology. Working within the same tiny country, they couldn't refrain from noticing how much easier it was to meet each other by plane than by train, for instance at international conferences such as the ones of 4S or EASST.

They came to discuss how Belgium indeed doesn't seem to really have an STS culture, compared to other European countries like France, the United Kingdom or the Netherlands. Indeed, it is quite difficult to trace back a history of STS in Belgium. It is more correct to say that there have always been researchers *interested* in STS (perhaps especially in the late 1980s, not really in the 1990s, before a recrudescence in the late 2000s) while there was no real *feeling of belonging* to a community of scholars from the field — notwithstanding some individual exceptions. Conventional boundaries between universities, faculties, disciplines and methodologies are quite strong in our country, with academics being rather separated from practitioners, not to mention the North from the South.

Nevertheless these young researchers somehow shared a same general spirit, which they felt in fact *belonged* to the field of social studies of science and technology; a spirit of reflexivity, openness, engagement, and enthusiasm about mutual learning from multiple perspectives.

So they arranged to meet again — by train this time. What started with one or two informal discussion gatherings between a few people, soon became regular and more structured meetings, including people from all over the country that hadn't met before, from political science, law, sociology, philosophy and so on. And there you go, the idea of a network, whatever clear shape it would take, was born.

Up until now we've had about 6 of these meetings, where in the morning we mainly brainstormed about the opportunities for a Belgian STS Network, and in the afternoon the different participants presented their institute and work, discussion always receiving a central place throughout the day.

We have zoomed in on specific topics like Technology Assessment, sustainable energy systems, GMOs, nanotechnology, radioactive waste management, electromagnetic fields. But we've also discussed more methodological issues, like the difference between quantitative and qualitative approaches, the merits and challenges of participation and so on.

Along the way more fundamental questions also came to the foreground, like do we see STS as *transdisciplinary* or *multidisciplinary*, do we want to stick to description or do we also want to be more explicitly normative, how dominant is or should constructivism be within the field of STS, or how do we deal with the

feeling of the risk of irrelevance and disengagement on the one hand, that of lack of scientific thoroughness and respectability on the other hand.

To briefly address the roots and the rationale for establishing a network such as BSTS, one important point contrasts with the past activities related to STS in Belgium. Indeed, from the earlier meetings on, there has been a strong feeling, which we believe is widely shared among the members of the network, that we were *making community*. This might sound like a caricature, but the Belgian STS network is building bridges — with English as a working language — in a country that keeps tearing itself apart.

Now, in a short timeframe, we have already achieved significant steps. The network greatly contributed to mapping and locating the different emanations of STS thinking in Academia and beyond. It helped people to better identify which kind of topics are currently being addressed in an STS manner, and how. As a matter of fact, the network gained recognition as a “group of contact” from the FNRS (the Federation Wallonia-Brussels’ research funding agency), which is a first step towards institutionalisation. Lastly, it obviously brought to light the existence of an active and dynamic STS community, as the presence of a number of colleagues from France, the Netherlands, Spain or the UK at the inaugural conference attests (around 90 participants attended the inaugural conference).

Obviously, we wish to go further and to take steps towards formal institutionalisation. As a network, we wish to provide the STS-related researchers with critical insights and a relevant learning framework. Sure enough, we will strengthen the communication on the initiatives taken by each of the members. But we also wish to organize events on our own. There are many options. One of them is to organise an annual meeting, possibly less formal than this one, and maybe more organised around a single topic. Another one is to organise seminars or reading groups, around specific authors or major texts that attract the interest of a significant amount of members. Yet another one consists in organizing intensive summer schools, on the model of the Dutch WTMC for instance. A last one, if it appears to make sense and there is enough capacity around, would be to launch a dedicated high-quality publication. But that takes us too far in the future. At the moment, BSTS is driven by a rather informal steering committee, made of 6 PhD students or postdocs from the North and the

South of the country. The next step will be to formalise the network and appoint a President, a vice-President, and 5 regular members. This should be done at the next meeting, which will happen in Liège in early May, 2012. Members of the steering committee are presently busy with writing a constitution for the BSTS network. Some personal contacts have already been established, for instance with some BSTS members visiting Sally Wyatt, the President of the very active Dutch WTMC, and one invited lecture to the second meeting of the Spanish STS network (to be held on 23-25 May, 2012, in Gijón, Asturias). Getting closer to EASST activities and networks also stands as one very important objective for the BSTS network’s near future.

The inaugural conference of the BSTS network

So let’s get back to our inaugural conference. We had the great honour to hear three distinguished speakers who greatly contributed to shape the field of STS as we know it today. The way we conceived the conference was to slightly move from theoretical knowledge and most fundamental questioning to more practical insights into how this knowledge is or may be relevant in nowadays societies. The first two speakers, Dominique Vinck and Robin Williams, addressed the big issues in contemporary STS; which are the driving forces? Which are the most pressing issues to address with technological so-called “innovations”? Then the third speaker was Arie Rip, who situated STS theory in the real world, at the interface with other relevant institutions. Finally, a panel of high-level practitioners, including an STS scholar very active in the field of public engagement, engaged further with these debates, speaking from their professional situation and experience. Throughout the day, we decided to allow much time for discussion and for opening the floor to debate.

Lastly, but most importantly, BSTS today has received some funding from a number of partners who agreed to become “institutional members” of the network. This made the organization of the inaugural conference possible. In addition, we also need to mention the FNRS for its support within the framework of the “group of contact”. The institutional members of BSTS today are:

- Spiral — a research institute from the Université de Liège that already has a specific unit of research dedicated to STS

- CITA and CRIDS at the Faculté universitaire ND de Namur
- IST – “Instituut voor Samenleving and Technologie” (TA institute in Flanders)
- “Modern and Contemporary worlds unit” at the Université Libre de Bruxelles
- SCK-CEN: Center for the study of nuclear energy
- SEED – Centre for the sociology of the environment at the Université de Liège (Arlon)
- The Université catholique de Louvain – Mons, and the service of Professor Schiffino, previously at Fucam.
- VITO – Center that deals with technology for ecology and economy (vision on technology). VITO, Vlaamse instelling voor technologisch onderzoek.

The programme of the inaugural conference, held on September 30, 2011, was the following:

Inaugural Conference of the Belgian Network for Science, Technology and Society

Royal Academy of Belgium, Room King Baudouin

1 Rue Ducale, Brussels

September 30th, 2011

09:30 – 10:00: Registration and coffee

10:00 – 10:15: Welcome and introduction

10:15 – 11:15: **Session 1 – Trends in STS questioning**

Keynote speaker : Dominique Vinck (Université Pierre Mendès, France, Grenoble, FR)

Discussion

11:15 – 12:15: **Session 2 – STS: Anticipating socio-technical futures? Or caught in the novelty trap?**

Keynote speaker : Robin Williams (University of Edinburgh, UK)

Discussion

12:15 – 13:30: Lunch break

13:30-14:30: **Session 3 – STS in the wider world**

Keynote speaker: Arie Rip (Universiteit Twente, NL)

Discussion

14:30-15:00: Coffee break

15:00-16:30: **Session 4 – On the potential contributions of a STS network**

Chair: *Francois Mélard* (Université de Liège, B)

Panel: *Nicole Dewandre* (European Commission)

Robby Berloznik (IST, Flemish Parliamentary Technology Assessment)

Wolfgang Eberle (IMEC)

Sarah Davies (Center for Nanotechnology in Society, Arizona State University)

Discussion

16:30-17:30: Reception

Mission statement of BSTS

The Belgian “Science and Technology Studies” (STS) Network brings together scholars from a wide range of scientific disciplines, from Belgium and beyond. It provides an open and flexible interface in order to share disciplinary perspectives, foster collaborations and raise the voice of a community of scholars, under the banner of STS.

The Belgian STS Network follows three key goals:

1. Foster learning and genuine cross-fertilization from multiple disciplinary perspectives, e.g. through established and less established methodological reflections or concerns. It focuses mostly on a series of relevant thematic issues:

- a. Energy and sustainable development
- b. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
- c. New and Emerging Science & Technologies (NEST)

2. Reinforce collaborations and partnerships among the different academic units, research centres and Technology Assessment (TA) institutions active in the arena of STS, in Belgium but also on the international scene. For this purpose, it aims at working on joint publications of high scientific standards as well as organizing conferences and workshops open to practitioners and decision-makers.

3. Strengthen the voice and visibility of the STS community, especially in the Belgian science-policy landscape. The Belgian STS Network promotes a research agenda of anticipatory governance of science and technologies: foresight, engagement, integration and reflexivity. For this purpose, it takes positions on societal issues according to the experience of its members, and it has a communication strategy aimed at reaching both the scientific, the industrial and the political community.

The Belgian STS Network brings together scholars from disciplines such as sociology, law, political science, history, philosophy, engineering, economics, anthropology, psychology and environmental policy. It is also open to interested natural scientists, engaged professional bodies or relevant policy actors. Naturally, it is open to

insights and advice from leading international scholars active in STS. Lastly, the Network encourages scrutiny with regard to its own functioning, i.e. the role of scholars from social

sciences and humanities in contemporary societies.

Website: www.stsn.be

EASST Review hopes to run a series of reports about STS developments in different countries / regions with information about new or existing national STS associations. We are happy to receive further contributions

EASST and the EASH

Harro van Lente, EASST Council member

In general, the funding of science in Europe is under stress. The social sciences and humanities even seem to be at greater risk. On 20 December 2011, I attended the founding meeting in Amsterdam of the European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities (EASH) to represent EASST. The meeting was an initiative to mobilize the countervailing powers of the social sciences and humanities (SSH) in Europe, in particular in response to the sober outlooks of the European funding scheme. While the budgets of the Framework programs have gone up during the last decade, the relative portion for SSH has decreased. For instance, the total budget for FP 6 has been 18 billion euros and for FP7 it has been around 50 billion, including amounts of 270 million and 620 million for SSH, respectively. At first sight, these are impressive numbers, as is the total number of researchers involved. Estimates are that in higher education and public sector research the EU has about 1,2 million researchers; about 380.000 of them in SSH (source: EU-Büro des BMBF). At the meeting, for instance, was a representative of the CARMEN network, a global body of about 20,000 researchers of the Middle Ages. Therefore, with its membership of around 1000 at peak level, EASST is a small player in this setting. Yet, EASST has a special position here, given our relationships with natural scientists and engineers, as subject of study and collaborators in many projects, such as technology assessments.

Under the new 80 billion EU framework programme, now introduced as Horizon 2020, not only the relative portion, but also the absolute funding of SSH will probably diminish. Yet, the general ambition of Horizon 2020 seems to invoke a lot of social science themes. The ambitions are elaborated into targets concerning employment, R&D, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption (the '20-20-20' targets), education and poverty. The

constituent 'Grand Challenges' are organized into three priorities, which all focus on growth:

- Intelligent Growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation
- Sustainable Growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy
- Inclusive Growth: fostering a high employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion

This tension between the generic social science ambitions that are voiced and the diminishing support for social sciences has led to the formation of EASSH. The idea is to form an alliance of alliances, to mobilise the SSH community across Europe by facilitating their interactions at EU and national level. There have been, for instance, meetings with members of European Parliament and with Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn. An open letter has been drafted and signed by many, including EASST president Fred Steward. The Open Letter seeks to bring to the attention of the European Commission and national governments the concerns of the SSH research communities in Europe. The letter stresses the necessity for a varied and strong research programme in SSH. It argues that the EU strategy to develop innovative, inclusive and sustainable societies, asks for research areas such as cultural change, demography, education, the economy and globalisation, identity politics and social cohesion, poverty relief and global governance as well as many others.

For more information see:

<http://www.eash.eu/openletter2011/>. EASST will continue to contribute to the development and actions of EASH and attend the First General Assembly of EASH on 27 – 28 March in Brussels.

A pioneer in trouble: Danish Board of Technology are facing problems

Michael Sjøgaard Jørgensen, Department of Management Engineering, Technical University of Denmark.

Member of the Danish Board of Technology's Board of Representatives; msjo@dtu.dk

Incredible, but true!

In October 2011 the new Danish centre-left government proposed to cut the whole public funding of one of the important Danish democratic public institutions, the Danish Board of Technology, and use the annual public funding (1.5 million Euros) for other research activities. The proposal came from a unanimous research policy committee in the Danish parliament as part of the proposal for financing an increase in the national research budget with around 40 million Euros within the Danish national budget for 2012.

Many persons within the Danish community of technology assessment and technology and democracy practitioners were shocked. How could this happen? Also many politicians were astonished and criticized the decision.

We had just one month earlier got a new government after 10 years of right wing government. Who would have expected that a centre-left government as part of its first annual budget would accept a proposal from civil servants in the Ministry of Finance to reduce the public funding of Board of Technology to zero?! The explanation seems to be lack of knowledge about the Board of Technology among the several new parliamentary research spokespersons in the research policy committee. The Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education who is the supervising authority of the Board of Technology tried afterwards to get support for the controversial proposal by playing down the role of the Board of Technology in Danish discussions about technology and the impacts on people, on society and on the environment. The Ministry proposed to close down the Board arguing that the Danish society 'is facing new challenges'.

The Board is supposed to organise 'discussions about technology, to evaluate technology and to advise the Danish Parliament (the Folketing) and other governmental bodies in matters pertaining to technology'. The Board is an independent body established by the Danish Parliament in 1995 and is the successor to the Technology Board, which was set up as a

statutory body in 1986. The Parliament's Research Committee is the Board's liaison to the Parliament.

The work of the Board has also been important outside Denmark where it is seen as one of the pioneers within participatory methods to assess societal impacts of new technologies and develop visions for a more sustainable and democratic future. The Board has, for example, inspired the development of the scenario workshop method.

What now?

The Ministry sent the bill on the abolition of The Danish Board of Technology out for public consultation and got around 111 responses back, both from Danish and international stakeholders. Almost all responses argued against the proposal to abolish the Board and described the importance of the Board both nationally and internationally. This included Fred Steward's response on behalf of EASST which said, like other international stakeholders, that Denmark loses a lot of international credibility if the Board is closed down.

At the first discussions in the Parliament of the bill on the abolition of The Danish Board of Technology on 9th February 2012 the responsible Minister Morten Østergaard and almost all the political parties' research spokespersons expressed the wish to continue The Danish Board of Technology's work and expertise.

The spokespersons focused on the Board's efforts to date as an international role model for democratic dialogue. The Minister, as well as the spokespersons, referred to the positive impression the many national and international responses had made on them. The spokespersons also mentioned the Board's skills in methodology, foresight and facilitation.

This debate in the Parliament and the recent discussions between the Ministry and the Board seem to imply that the Board of Technology will survive, but in a modified structure, maybe as a foundation.

The political parties' spokespersons expressed the need for the Board to continue to

‘serve the democracy’. However, besides developing the modified structure of the Board a very crucial aspect of the future of the Board is whether all the nice words about the need for the activities of the Board from the Minister and the political parties’ spokespersons will materialise into funding from the Parliament. This is needed for the Board to actually carry out, for example, foresight activities and democratic processes for the Parliament and the different political committees in the Parliament. An important indication will be the negotiations about the national budget for 2013, which will start in a few months. Will funds be set aside in that budget for the then fund-based Board of Technology to organise democratic dialogues etc. or will the Board have to organise themselves like any other consultancy company who has to find customers with own funding for every activity?

You can continue to follow this emerging story via

<http://www.tekno.dk/subpage.php3?article=1851&topic=kategori11&language=uk&category=11>

EASST made the following submission to the consultation on the proposed closure of the Danish Board of Technology:

The European Association for the Study of Science and Technology represents more than 1000 professors and researchers in Europe specializing in the social, political and economic aspects of science and technology. Founded in 1981 we are holding our 15th international conference at Copenhagen Business School in October 2012.

Europe increasingly recognizes that science, technology and innovation policy needs to engage more effectively with the grand societal challenges of our time such as climate change. We are therefore astonished and dismayed that the future of the Danish Board of Technology, an international pioneer in public engagement in the social assessment of technological innovation, is under threat.

Our members in several European countries have worked very productively with the Danish Board of Technology in recent years, in particular with the project on World Wide Views on Global Warming.

The Danish Board of Technology has played, for over 20 years, an inspiring innovative role in designing forms of pluralist and participative expertise, both in Denmark and in Europe overall. Because of its experience and legitimacy, its abolition would mean a real loss for society at large and for Denmark’s pioneering achievements in particular. The reasons that it was set up remain the same today – the need to link the world of scientific and technical research with the general public. The knowledge produced by DBT has a large and increasing community of users, in research policy, industry, academics, NGOs, etc., and the demand for this kind of knowledge and assessment is higher than ever.

Our research community has been encouraged by the stance of the current Danish government on climate change. It is seen as a renewal of Denmark’s role as a global leader on environment, innovation and the linking of scientific knowledge with societal challenges. The termination of the Danish Board of Technology would send an entirely different message to the wider world.

It is difficult to believe that this is the intention. If there is an argument that it is a small sacrifice that must be made to maintain expenditure on scientific research then this is deeply mistaken. The reality is quite the opposite. The future of science and technology depends on building a deeper relationship of trust between academics and the public. To abandon an institution that has made a unique contribution to this goal would actually be a disservice to the research community itself as well as the wider society.

We sincerely hope that further consideration by all of the interests concerned will agree that the proposal to end the Danish Board of Technology should be rejected.

Book Review

Making and Unmaking Intellectual Property: Creative Production in Legal and Cultural Perspective, edited by Mario Biagioli, Peter Jaszi, and Martha Woodmansee.

By Mige Laukyte

“We want to make IP ‘strange,’” say the editors of this book, and certainly they succeed in doing so. As is suggested by the book’s title, *Making and Unmaking Intellectual Property*, that purpose is achieved by *unmaking* the received wisdom about intellectual property (IP) so as to *make it anew*, an objective the book’s twenty-six contributors work toward in an effort to forge what P. Jaszi calls postmodern copyright, and what, by extension, might be called postmodern IP.

The effort, in short, is to give us new tools with which to rethink IP in light of the social, technological, and cultural changes which make up the new context of creative production, with its new set of challenges, and the “ground plan” for this reconstructive endeavor is also the map that guides us as we move through the book. However, this layout—giving us five different angles from which to approach IP—in no way boxes the subject matter into closed compartments, for the boundaries are fluid and the map is actually a tool we can use in making connections of our own among the ideas presented to us. Let us see, then, what these five subject headings are.

The first of them—“High and Low: IP Practices and Materialities”—looks at patents from a historical point of view, with a focus on such basic patent notions as invention (M. Biagioli), patent text (Kara W. Swanson), and patent drawings (William J. Rankin): conventionally regarded as a technical part of the patent process (this is especially true of patent texts and drawings), these notions are cast in a new light that enables us to appreciate how integral they are to this process and how they affect it.

The second grouping of titles—“Before and after the Commons and Traditional Knowledge”—revolves around the Anglo-American conception of IP as based on a creed described as “possessive individualism” (Y. Benkler), from which flows a range of ideas, the building blocks of IP, such as property, public domain, and ownership. Thus, for example, in “Inventing Copyleft,” C. Kelty argues how these

building blocks of IP have been exploited to make moral claims about what is legitimate in the use and development of software, thus indirectly supporting the thesis offered by M. Strathern in “Social Invention,” arguing that property (and other concepts related to it, such as property rights) are all boundary objects subject to the interpretation of the parties involved.

The third grouping—“IP Crimes and Other Fictions”—is centered around the practice of piracy and overturns the classical negative connotation that typically attaches to the pirate as a freebooter. L. Liang, for example, argues that IP piracy is what we need to fight the practice of “earning vast sums of money from the nothing of data and culture” (p.178), while M. Woodmansee illustrates how eighteenth-century pirate-publishers contributed to the rise of many world-famous humanists, arguing that what the pirates did then was “not only lawful but morally justifiable” (p. 192). The other authors grouped under this heading proceed in a similar vein by deconstructing other ideas and practices related to piracy. In “Characterizing Copyright in the Classroom,” for example, T. Gillespie questions the intentions of corporations in supplying schools with educational material that imparts lessons about not infringing IP: in a discussion that takes us back to Benkler’s “possessive individualism,” Gillespie argues that this material is predicated on the idea of copyright as an exclusive property regime, and thus serves only the interests of corporations.

Under the fourth heading—“Old Things into New IP Objects”—the reader again finds an opportunity to question some old assumptions about patent law. Thus, in a historical account, D. J. Kevles illustrates how the new system for protecting property was built from scratch by animal breeders and plant innovators. A. Pottage and B. Sherman explain how cloning techniques in plant breeding have forced us to revisit our familiar distinction between what is tangible and what is not. In a discussion of pharmaceutical IP policy in Argentina and Mexico, C. Hayden brings out some deep flaws in the whole idea of

the public domain in distinction to the sphere of IP protection. J. Kahn brings race and ethnicity into the equation, drawing our attention to the role these aspects play in shaping patent law. And P. Samuelson draws us into the world of software interfaces in yet another insightful illustration of what it means to make and unmake IP.

The final grouping of articles—"Doing and Undoing Collaborative IP"—lays out the variety of ways in which collaboration is possible in the IP domain. In a historical analysis complementing the arguments K. W. Swanson puts forward in the first grouping in "Authoring an Invention," E. Lincoln undoes the traditional concept of author, this time focusing on women printmakers in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Italy. In a discussion of stand-up comedy, D. Oliar and C. Sprigman challenge the belief that the best way to protect one's IP is by legal instruments, arguing that social norms afford better IP protection than any institutionalized anti-infringement policy. In "Patenting Life," F. Murray analyzes the way the academic and the economic cycles of credit interact (the former revolving around publications, the latter around patents): she does so by discussing the so-called onco-mouse patent, again shedding new light on a basic IP concept (that of a patent), by considering

its use in the academic and research community. The book ends with the previously mentioned discussion by P. Jaszi, who discusses the shift that copyright has made from modernism (in the 1990s) to postmodernism (currently and in the future to come) through the lens of such IP concepts as fair use and authorship. In so doing he picks up the ideas scattered throughout the book and links them up in a statement of "postmodern copyright" considering what it would look like if it could answer the concerns raised in the book, and whether the conceit of postmodern copyright is at all possible.

This book, in summary, offers a forward-looking discussion alerting us to the limitations of IP law as a body of ideas, rules, and practices that may have run their course: in pointing out these limitations, the book urges us to "look beyond the necessarily tight boundaries of IP textbooks" (p. 10) and to discover "the interesting slippages between practice and its legal conceptualization" (p. 11). And so, in responding to this exhortation, it becomes our challenge to take the insights and analyses we are offered and work them into something of an overarching scheme that can be used as a basis on which to proceed in solving "on the ground" the many issues brought to our attention.

Conference/Event Announcements and Calls for Papers

The following announcements first appeared on the EASST-Eurograd email discussion list. To join easst-eurograd and receive messages as they are posted follow the instructions at <http://www.easst.net/joineurograd.shtml>

Messages are also included in EASST Review if they are still relevant at the time of publication.

For this edition we are **not** including all the separate calls for papers to panels of the EASST / 4S conference. Please see the article above for information about the conference and you can download all the panel descriptions at http://www.4sonline.org/files/open_panels_12.pdf.

It is also possible to view the EASST-Eurograd archive via the link above.

Call for Conference Papers - "NeuroCultures - NeuroGenderings II"

University of Vienna

Date: 13 - 15 September 2012

Please find attached and below the CfP for this international and transdisciplinary conference.

For paper submissions, please use the online tool on our conference site

<http://neurocultures2012.univie.ac.at>

Abstracts should be submitted by **25 March 2012**.

No conference fee for participants.

We will do our best to provide travel funds, but strongly encourage participants to apply for travel funding at their home institutions.

<http://neurocultures2012.univie.ac.at>

<http://gender.univie.ac.at/>

Email: neurocultures2012.gender@univie.ac.at

In March 2010, participants of the international and transdisciplinary conference "NeuroGenderings" put together an expert group to critically examine research on the sexed brain. Scientists from Europe, the US, Canada and

Australia from different disciplines such as neuroscience, neurocultures, the humanities, social and cultural studies, gender studies, feminist science studies, and science and technology studies, launched this network to improve reflective analysis within/of the neurosciences and to initiate dialogue across disciplinary borders. The aim of this group is to elaborate innovative theoretical and empirical approaches to address the question of sex and gender in the brain; to analyze the social and political underpinnings of the ongoing “cerebralization” of human life and especially of gender; to evaluate the current state of neuroscientific methods, evidence, and interpretations regarding sex/gender in the brain, and to discuss the impacts of neuroscientific gender research in socio-political and cultural fields.

Some of these approaches can already be read in a special issue of *Neuroethics*, “Neuroethics and Gender” (papers published online first available at:

[http://www.springerlink.com/content/120989/?Content+Status=Accepted; the final issue will be available in late 2012](http://www.springerlink.com/content/120989/?Content+Status=Accepted;+the+final+issue+will+be+available+in+late+2012)).

In co-operation with the network NeuroGenderings, the Gender Research Office at the University of Vienna will launch a three-day Conference entitled “NeuroCultures – NeuroGenderings II”. We aim to expand the network and invite scholars and students who engage with neuroscientific research as neuroscientists and/or brain science studies scholars with insights from the social and cultural studies of science, technology, and medicine, as well as from feminist and queer theory to discuss current developments in the field of neurocultures and gender.

Call for Papers

The aim of the conference “NeuroCultures – NeuroGenderings II” is to improve reflective scientific approaches concerned with sex/gender and the brain, and to gain particular insight into the transformation or persistence of gendered norms and values that accompany the mutual entanglements between brain research, various disciplines and public discourse. With the expansion of the domains of neuroscientific knowledge, today we are witnessing an abundance of emerging neurocultures (such as neuropedagogy, neuroeconomics, neuromarketing, neurotheology, neuroaesthetics, among others) in which bio-

socio-cultural relations are (re-) negotiated within research, neuro-(technological) applications, and public discourses. We use the notion of the “cerebral subject” – the cultural figure of the human according to which all we need to be ourselves is our brains (Ortega & Vidal 2007) – to describe how thought, behaviour, subjectivity and identity are collapsed with the brain’s biology in these neurocultural fields. The cerebral subject is a specific kind of subject; the brain vocabulary produces a culturally and historically specific version of the human and, as such, impacts individual, social, cultural and political spheres.

Gender aspects have to be seriously taken into account within these endeavours on various levels: their empirical significance, the close entanglement of neuroscientific research with society, the impacts of neurofacts and neurotechnologies (in the broadest sense) on socio-cultural gender symbolisms and gendered power relations. Additionally, the hybrid conceptions of neurocultures have to be questioned in terms of their potentials for disrupting nature-culture dichotomies on both material and epistemological levels.

Contributions to these discussions are welcome in the following thematic strands:

I. Empirical NeuroGenderings: Empirical research on aspects of gendering the brain including biological and socio-cultural aspects; analyses on methodological aspects and biases in the construction of sex/gender in brain research; research on the constructive processes in brain imaging, their relevance in knowledge production and in the transgression of brain concepts and findings into popular discourse; approaches from feminist and queer neuroscience in relevant fields.

II. NeuroCultures and Brain Plasticity: Analyses of empirical research on brain plasticity, including a critical discussion of the concept itself and its impact on gender-related aspects in society; discourses on current forms of neurobiological determinism that frame all processes of thought and action explainable and predictable in terms of the brain’s structures and functions, irrespective of whether these structures and functions are innate or formed by experience.

III. Image and Politics of the Cerebral Subject: Social movements’ uses of brain arguments on gender and sexuality for progressive or conservative agendas; re-politicizations of critical analyses of the cerebral subject and gender; questioning the lack of societal, political and economic situatedness and reflections of gender and intersectional categories; the cultural

appeal of using the brain to account for gender and sexuality; social and political uses of brain-based arguments on sex, gender, sexuality, but also class, race, age.

IV. Power und Politics of NeuroCultures/NeuroGenderings: Emergence of a neurogovernmentality with its technologies of power and the market economy, as these are implemented into technologies of the self, where the individual brain functions as the target of control, repair and manipulation; gender dimensions of social neurosciences, neuroeconomy, neuropedagogy, neurotechnologies in general, and particularly in neuroenhancement technologies where these converge with notions of convertibility and modifiability of the brain, and are embedded in paradigms of individual optimization within modern meritocracy.

V. Transdisciplinary and NeuroGenderings: Studies on gendered brain narratives from the perspectives of history, sociology, philosophy, cultural studies, and arts; analyses of popular culture's accounts of brain and gender.

VI. Theory and Epistemology of NeuroGenderings: Theoretical and epistemological discussions about concepts as feminist materialism; approaches from gender, feminist & queer technoscience that address the fragmentations of the border between nature-culture-technology, the relations between sex, gender, and brain; other important notions/critical tools that are developed in feminist and queer scholarship.

VII. Other gender relevant fields of research.

Contributions to this conference can be submitted for oral presentation (20 min) or for a poster presentation. For paper submissions, please use the online tool on our conference site:

<http://neurocultures2012.univie.ac.at> and indicate the strand in which you aim to present your paper/poster. Abstracts for papers/posters should not exceed 3000 characters (including spaces).

Deadline for proposal submission: 25 March 2012.

The papers will be selected within a short time frame and confirmed by mid-May 2012.

On behalf of the Gender Research Office and the NeuroGenderings Network

Prof. Dr. Sigrid Schmitz

The Amsterdam Privacy Conference (APC) is a biennial conference organized by the Amsterdam Platform for Privacy Research (APPR), a group of more than 50 researchers at the University of Amsterdam who are involved with privacy aspects in their daily activities. They all approach this topic from different angles, such as law, philosophy, economics, computer science, medicine, communication studies, science and technology studies, political science, etc. Through an interdisciplinary approach and joint discussion, APPR increases both the Understanding and awareness of privacy issues. More information can be found on: <http://www.appr.uva.nl/appr-en/main.cfm>,

submission of abstracts deadline March 15th

From smartphones to cloud computing, from big data to social media, the exploding use of information technology and its many applications will be a source of massive social and economic changes for years to come. Privacy is one of the areas widely believed to be affected by these changes. Developments such as digital surveillance, electronic profiling, social media, 'do not track', privacy-friendly business models, digital records, database interconnection, business intelligence and behavioral marketing have a profound effect on privacy in all its facets.

In the past, privacy has mostly been addressed from a single perspective, for example legal, philosophical, sociological, technical, medical or psychological. At present, however, it is acknowledged that privacy has many facets, and researchers and professionals worldwide are working together to address privacy from a truly interdisciplinary approach.

This unique interdisciplinary conference is taking place October 7-10 at the intimate venue of Felix Meritis in the heart of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. It is organized by the Amsterdam Platform for Privacy Research (APPR), an initiative of the University of Amsterdam with active participants from such diverse disciplines as philosophy, law, economics, informatics, social sciences, medical sciences and media sciences.

APC 2012 will bring together leading experts in the field of privacy who will formulate, discuss and answer the challenging privacy questions that lie ahead of us.

Keynote speakers will include renowned scholars and leading practitioners, such as Alessandro Acquisti (Carnegie Mellon University), Peter Hustinx (EDPS), Helen Nissenbaum (New York University), Sandra

Petronio (Indiana University), Priscilla Regan (Washington), and many more.

The conference will explore emerging and critical trends in privacy, including but not limited to:

- Privacy by design
- Value and principles of privacy
- Privacy and healthcare
- Economics of privacy
- Privacy in the internet age
- Privacy and security

See <http://www.apc2012.org/> for more and up-to-date information.

For further information and questions, please contact Bart van der Sloot: info@apc2012.org

The College of Humanities of the EPFL is pleased to invite you to a series of four public lectures by Dominique Pestre, Professor at Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris, and Invited Professor at the College of Humanities, EPFL, Switzerland.

Science, Technology, Economy and Society. Contemporary World and its Heritages

Science and technology are central in today's world – but some of their consequences are highly debated. These debates are not launched by irrational people and raise important questions. The four conferences that Dominique Pestre will give in March will consider the variety of today's sciences, the scientific and economic changes that happened over the last decades, the way risks are evaluated and managed, the demands of civil society to be part of the solutions – and the way scientists and engineers could answer them

Wednesday March 7th 5:30 PM, EPFL, Room ELA 2

"The Logic of Scientific Knowledge. Evidence, Experimentation and Ignorance in Physics and Biology"

Wednesday March 14th 5:30 PM, EPFL, Room ELA 2

"Risk and Risk Societies. Two Centuries of Knowledge and Risk Management"

Wednesday March 21th 5:30 PM, EPFL, Room ELA 2

"The Great Transformation. Science, Economy and Society over the Last Thirty Years"

Wednesday March 28th 5:30 PM, EPFL, Room ELA 2

"The Governance of Innovation People's Participation in Technological Choices Today"

Location: <http://plan.epfl.ch/?room=ELA%202>
Information: Claude.Zwicky [at] epfl.ch

Flying University of Transnational Humanities

- Summer School for Graduate Students and Young Scholars -

July 15-18, 2012

Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea

Application deadline March 16th

Introduction

The Flying University of Transnational Humanities (FUTH) is an annual summer school for graduate students and young scholars interested in the transnational paradigm of humanistic inquiry. FUTH takes its name and immediate inspiration from Poland's Flying University, an underground institution that offered an alternative education outside the confines of state control and government censorship. The program is particularly concerned with developing critical understandings that resist the ideological and conceptual hegemony of the nation-state and the epistemological and hermeneutic conventions that support it. This does not mean that FUTH seeks to dispense with the "national" and construct a reified "transnational" with which to replace it, or to foster "transnationalism" as an ideological alternative to "nationalism." Rather, FUTH aims to free our imaginations from essentialist approaches to the nation or the state and to offer new ways of thinking about the political, social and cultural order of the world, both past and present.

The Flying University of Transnational Humanities is accordingly:

- **Trans-cultural:** FUTH not only critically examines the production and circulation of (trans-)national knowledge and culture, but it also problematizes imagined geographies of the "East" and the "West." We explore periods, places, and subjects as fluid and hybrid, rather than as confined and constrained by geopolitical or cultural boundaries.

- **Trans-disciplinary:** FUTH seeks to comprehend the complex nature of various trans-

cultural issues through trans-disciplinary approaches. To that end, FUTH is open to scholars, educators, researchers and students from all academic specializations.

- **Trans-institutional:** FUTH is an intellectual network, founded and run by a global consortium of scholars, departments, and institutions. With the support of this network, we hope to facilitate trans-cultural and trans-disciplinary collaborations.

Program

Started in 2010, the Flying University of Transnational Humanities is organized annually—usually in the summer—by the Research Institute of Comparative History and Culture (RICH), Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea. FUTH consists of a series of advanced lectures, student presentations and feedback sessions where renowned scholars from RICH's partner and other institutions are invited to share their knowledge, insights and perspectives. Student participants are required to study the recommended readings in advance. They are also expected to present their own scholarly work related to the theme of each year. The official language of FUTH is English, although the possibility of trans-lingual practices is being considered. Graduate students and recent PhDs interested in the transnational turn in the humanities and social sciences are welcome to apply with a presentation proposal.

The overarching theme for the first three years (2010-2012) is “borders.” There have been numerous studies on how borders are constructed, negotiated, and policed and how they are simultaneously transgressed, challenged, and renegotiated. Borders are no longer seen simply as physical divisions but as discursive practices and cultural institutions. However, the multiplicity and hybridity of borders (e.g., national, cultural, geographical, gender, political, economic, *etc.*), as well as their transnational scalability (e.g., local, national, supranational, global, *etc.*), have yet to be intensively investigated. To address this gap, the first FUTH “Regions and Regionalization” in 2010 examined regions as sites of bordering practices and processes. In 2011, the second FUTH “Border-crossing Self” extended the scope of discussion to explore the ways in which the construction and performance of subjectivities and identities are connected to the demarcation and transgression of borders.

The third FUTH will take place at Hanyang University, July 15-18, 2012, under the title of “Borders of Knowledge.” As numerous

empirical studies in intellectual history, sociology of knowledge, and history/sociology/anthropology of the social, human, and natural sciences have convincingly demonstrated for several decades, the production, dissemination and use of knowledge, though seemingly universal, are always embedded in specific social, cultural, and historical contexts. Often, the subject, the object and the modus operandi of knowledge are defined, construed, and constrained by (national) borders. Knowledge and its associated practices thus shaped may in turn reinforce, reproduce or redefine those very borders. How then, does knowledge travel across borders? Rather than following the naïve modernist assumption that knowledge is spread because it is true and/or is channeled through universally transferable methodical practices, one should approach the travels of knowledge as themselves explananda rather than merely explanans for other phenomena. For instance, one may ask, what are the ways in which locally-produced knowledge is translated, adapted, appropriated, or contested in different local contexts? By the same token, one may also ask, how does knowledge, despite its local origins, come to acquire a proclaimed universality or globality? With such questions as a basis, the third FUTH in 2012 aims to provide graduate students and young scholars with a unique opportunity to critically examine the making and unmaking of the borders of knowledge—including the social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, and other forms of knowledge.

Lecturers (surname-alphabetical order)

- **Alice L. Conklin** (Department of History, Ohio State University, U.S.A.)
 - **Christian Fleck** (Department of Sociology, University of Graz, Austria)
 - **Sari Hanafi** (Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, American University of Beirut, Lebanon)
 - **Johan Heilbron** (Centre Européen de Sociologie et de Science Politique de la Sorbonne, France / Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands)
 - **Michael Kim** (Graduate School of International Studies, Yonsei University, Korea)
- And other lecturers will be announced soon.

Eligibility / How to Apply

FUTH 2012 welcomes applications from graduate students as well as recent PhDs of all fields who are interested in the transnational

paradigm of humanistic inquiry and also currently conducting research on topics related to the theme of the making and unmaking of borders of knowledge. All student participants are expected to give a full paper presentation on their own scholarly work.

Applicants should fill out the form on our website (<http://www.rich.ac/eng/fly/apply.php>) and send it as attachment to hk.transnational@gmail.com along with their CV, research statement and an abstract of proposed presentation. **The deadline for applications is March 16, 2012.**

Costs / Accommodation

There is a registration fee of USD 80. While accommodation including breakfast and lunch will be provided, participants are expected to arrange their own funding for travel and daily living expenses. Partial travel grants may be awarded to a limited number of applicants.

For further details, please contact:

Research Institute of Comparative History and Culture

College of Humanities, Hanyang University
Seoul 133-791, Korea

E-mail: hk.transnational@gmail.com

Fax: +82-2-2298-0542

Website:

<http://rich.ac/eng/fly/introduction.php?pageNum=5&subNum=1>

Relocating Science and Technology. Global Knowledge, Traveling Technologies and Postcolonialism. Perspectives on Science and Technology Studies in the Global South

Max-Planck-Institut für ethnologische Forschung;
organisiert durch

Richard Rottenburg (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology/Martin

Luther University Halle-Wittenberg); Norman Schräpel (Martin Luther

University Halle-Wittenberg); Vincent Duclos (University of Montreal)

19.07.2012-20.07.2012, Halle, Max-Planck-Institut für ethnologische Forschung

Deadline: 15.03.2012

As an interdisciplinary endeavour to study knowledge systems and technologies, Science and Technology Studies (STS) have become popular

within the humanities and social sciences over the last three decades. However, most of the canon as well as recent scholarly work concentrate on Euro-American techno-science. Social scientists involved in STS focused mainly on the centres of western scientific knowledge production, thereby neglecting large parts of the world. While the relationship between technoscientific knowledge and postcolonial orders has been the subject of increasing discussion within the last two decades (Seth 2009), it is only recently that scholars have tried to establish a more sustained dialogue with postcolonial perspectives on science and technology (Harding 1998; Anderson 2002; Redfield 2002; Rottenburg 2009; Philip, Irani & Dourish 2011). In 2008, Richard Rottenburg, Trevor Pinch, Otto Sibum and Suman Seth organized a conference on Places of Knowledge: Relocating Science and Technology Studies at Cornell University. This workshop is a follow-up to this meeting. By focusing on the concept of the 'Global South' in conjunction with that of 'postcolonialism' we wish to draw attention to ever more globalizing dynamics of power, fashion, money or institutional problematizations. Accordingly, the workshop asserts the need to relocate STS by re-considering the interconnectedness of knowledge production, technology design and transfer, geopolitical categories and the particular issues, that different contexts produce. It is our contention that perspectives from the Global South may contribute not so much in describing nation states or specific regions in a historical moment, but enable us to better understand the interconnected processes that drive science and technology within a globalized world. We particularly call for contributions and participants that focus on non-classical STS contexts (i.e. the Global South). Contributions with case studies from Africa, Latin America and Asia are expected to challenge or at least to comment on existing methodological and theoretical concepts within STS. Taking the interstitial spaces in global networks of science and technology production as a starting point we especially encourage contributions on the following themes:

Interconnectedness

We are interested in exploring the ways in which science, technology and place are interconnected. This involves the analysis of power relations, patterns of networks or the ways technology and knowledge travels. Topics covered will include, but are not limited to: - The

linkages between global capital flows, economic growth, and the emergence of local technoscientific practices (in biomedicine, IT, agriculture etc.). - How relations between different epistemic communities are reshaping the map of global knowledge production. - The reconfiguration of the experiences of space, proximity, or belonging triggered by technologies apparently 'flattening' the world through constant expansion.

Historicity

The involvement of historical events and developments play a crucial role in understanding today's knowledge and technical systems. We would like to produce a diachronic perspective from contexts in Africa, South America and Asia on topics like: - The impact of colonial legacies on current technoscientific practices - Postcolonial dependencies and knowledge production - Perspectives on the History of Sciences in the Global South

Locality

Context and practice is at the heart of a social science perspective on Science and Technology. Especially in the Global South scholarly work on locality is lacking. We would like to bring a number of studies together that may concentrate on the following and other topics:

- The incommensurability and invisibility of other cultures of science
- A critical outlook on the participation of STS in development aid
- The multiple uses or misuses of science and technology in development agendas (ICT4D, e-governance etc.)

Submission of Abstracts & Participation
Keynote speakers will be invited and announced in late February 2012 on the website of the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (<http://www.eth.mpg.de>). Please send your abstracts (250 words) before 15 March 2012 to Bettina Mann (mann@eth.mpg.de) and Norman Schräpel (norman.schraepel@ethnologie.uni-halle.de). You will receive a notification of acceptance in April 2012. The deadline for papers of approximately 5.000 words is 15 June 2012. Travel costs will be covered for all presenters, who send in their papers in time.

There is no registration fee, however the number of participants is limited. If you are interested in joining the workshop as a participant on your own account, please register with Bettina

Mann (mann@eth.mpg.de) by 15 June 2012 at the latest.

Link to complete Call for Papers: http://www.eth.mpg.de/cms/files/events_pdf/2542/12_CFP_Relocating_Science_Technology_final1.pdf

All postgraduate researchers are invited to take part in the

University of Salford's Postgraduate Annual Research Conference (SPARC).

This year's conference is taking place on Wednesday 30 and Thursday 31st May 2012.

It's free to attend and a great way of developing presentation skills, sharing ideas, publicising your research to new audiences, getting feedback, and meeting researchers from other disciplines and universities.

We are inviting 250-word abstracts for a range of presentation formats. Please see the website for more details about SPARC and how to apply www.salford.ac.uk/research/sparc

The closing date for abstracts is Friday 16 March 2012

Any queries, please contact us on sparc@salford.ac.uk

PhD level research students invited to submit a paper for DPhil Day 2012. **Monday 28th / Tuesday 29th of May 2012**

18TH SPRU DPHIL DAY, University of Sussex.

SPRU - Science and Technology Policy Research at University of Sussex invites abstracts from all disciplines and topics related to the study of science, technology and innovation in society. The abstracts will be peer-reviewed by SPRU doctoral students and research staff. Whether you are a conference veteran, or you are yet to submit your first conference paper, we want your abstract.

DPhil Day is an established platform from which current PhD researchers can share their work and receive critical feedback from peers and the wider academic community in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The day is organised entirely by research students, with SPRU academic faculty and researchers in attendance. The purpose of the day is not to discuss the results of finished projects but rather works in progress. Advanced progression through your PhD is not required.

Presentations for second year students and onwards should be a maximum of 15 minutes. Special sessions will be run for first year students, with presentations of 10 minutes each.

Abstracts should not exceed 250 words, showing in a concise manner the research question that is being addressed, its relevance and the methods used to answer it.

Submission deadline: Monday 16th April

Please use the form at the following link to submit an abstract:

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/spru/documents/dphil-day-app-form.doc>.

Completed forms should be sent to dphilday2012@sussex.ac.uk

Acceptance of the abstract will be notified by e-mail to the author.

If you would like to express interest without committing to a specific abstract please email us now at dphilday2012@sussex.ac.uk so that we may kindly remind you nearer the time.

DPhil Day also incorporates D'Skills Day, a series of workshops and panels delivered by SPRU research staff and aimed specifically at PhD students. Previous workshops have included topics such as funding post-doctoral research and publishing your work.

General information including a list of last year's papers can be found at the [SPRU DPhil 2012 website](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/spru/dphil2012). Please contact Jake or Cian by email at dphilday2012@sussex.ac.uk with any questions.

We look forward to welcoming you to SPRU in late May,

Cian, Jake, Diego, Chux and the DPhil Day 2012 organising team.

Please find attached the call for papers for the **4th annual meeting of The Society for the Study of Nanoscience and Emerging Technologies (S.NET)**, to be held at the University of Twente, the Netherlands, on **October 22-25, 2012**. The four-day conference will assemble scholars, practitioners and policy makers from around the world interested in the development and implications of emerging technologies. Contributions from philosophy of technology, STS and innovation studies are more than welcome!

Deadline for submission of abstracts is **April 2, 2012**.

For more information:

www.utwente.nl/snet2012

On behalf of the local organizing committee:

- Marianne Boenink (Department of Philosophy), m.boenink@utwente.nl
- Bärbel Dorbeck-Jung (Department of Legal and Economics Studies), b.r.dorbeck-jung@utwente.nl
- Anne Dijkstra (Department of Science Communication), a.m.dijkstra@utwente.nl
- Kornelia Konrad (Department of Science, Technology and Policy Studies), k.e.konrad@utwente.nl

Call for papers

One-day Conference Associations and Science Lisbon, 11th June 2012

Deadline 20th March

Scientific associations are among the most under-studied subjects in the sociology of science. Although being part of the array of institutions that participate in the Mode 2 production of knowledge, their role in contemporary science is seldom discussed. Scientific societies, professional associations, non-profit organisations devoted to promoting public understanding of science, there is a multitude of associations, some new, some centuries old, some national, some international, that can fit the label of scientific associations. Their involvement in issues such as the development of scientific disciplines, scientific publication, research ethics, policy advice, career advancement, or knowledge dissemination needs to be addressed.

This one-day conference aims discuss the final results of a research project concerning scientific associations but also to give an opportunity for other researchers to present their work in this and other connected areas. Papers from an historical, sociological, or anthropological (or other sciences) perspective are welcome. Please send an abstract (200 words max) until the 20th of March to ana.delicado@ics.ul.pt <<mailto:ana.delicado@ics.ul.pt>>.

Project SOSCI Scientific Societies in Contemporary Science, PTDC/CS-ECS/101592/2008

Team: Ana Delicado (coord.), Raquel Rego, Inês Pereira, Cristina Palma Conceição, Cristiana Bastos, Patrick Figueiredo and Luís Junqueira

Institutions: Institute of Social Sciences - University of Lisbon, CIES-ISCTE-IUL,

**Egenis and GARNet Workshop:
Making Data Accessible to All**

University of Exeter 12-13th July 2012

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/lifesci/news/geworkshop>

Plant scientists are often required to donate data to open access databases (for instance, by the BBSRC data management policy). They are also encouraged to make use of these databases in order to boost their research and speed up discovery. It is not yet clear, however, whether and how these practices are affecting experimentation within the plant sciences, and whether data donation and use on a large scale has been effective in fostering innovative research. The focus of this workshop is to discuss issues surrounding data donation, publication and use from the viewpoint of plant biologists, with the aim to produce a series of recommendations about the problems involved in data dissemination in plant science, which could be used to inform funders/publishers' policies.

On the first day, participants will discuss issues surrounding data donation and use. On the second day, we will consider how data can and should be disseminated, and examine possible metrics to track data use and thus evaluate the usefulness of data dissemination tools within the plant sciences.

For more information please visit the workshop website:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/lifesci/news/geworkshop>

Or contact one of the organisers: Sabina Leonelli S.Leonelli@exeter.ac.uk; Ruth Bastow ruth@garnetcommunity.org.uk; Irene Lavagi I.Lavagi@warwick.ac.uk or Berris Charnley B.Charnley@exeter.ac.uk

Call for Participation

**EIS PhD Summer School: Energy
Innovation Systems and Their Dynamics
Globalizing Networks and Local
Anchoring
21-25 May 2012 in Aalborg, Denmark**

Innovation in the energy area is of essential importance for changing the energy systems in direction of more sustainable and climate friendly systems. In recent years an increasing number of studies of characteristics and dynamics of the energy innovation systems have appeared. Parallel to the growing scientific attention, there is a considerably growing societal attention in many countries to energy innovation; also as an important industrial matter and a matter of economic development, competitiveness, and job creation. Hence, there is tendency to perceive the search for solutions to the climate and sustainability challenges, not as an external issue, outside societal economy, but as an integrated part. Research on energy innovation systems and their dynamics constitutes an important scientific field for assessing and discussing the opportunities and realism of this perspective.

The 'EIS PhD Summer School on Energy Innovation Systems and Their Dynamics' is an advanced course for PhD students that work with aspects of innovation and technological change in the energy area.

The summer school brings together leading scientists in the field of innovation system studies in the energy area with a small group of PhD students to share their own and others' knowledge and experience on the topic and to discuss research perspectives and research potentials in the field. Moreover, the summer school will include a one day event of mutual discussions between researchers and practitioners in the energy area.

Course contents

The summer school will introduce the participants to contemporary analysis approaches and key concepts in the study of energy innovation systems and their dynamics. This includes approaches focusing on the energy sector in general, on particular energy technologies, on industrial areas/product areas related to energy change, and on the resulting effects with respect to moving towards sustainability and climate friendly systems.

The PhD course will have special attention to the theme 'globalizing networks and local anchoring'. In addition to different innovation system perspectives (e.g. national, regional, sector-specific, technology-specific), network and interaction oriented approaches are discussed. Moreover, indicators of energy innovation systems are addressed. Empirical material from a broad range of energy

technologies will be discussed and strategy and policy perspectives will be addressed.

Discussion and feedback on the participants' own PhD projects will be included in the course. All participants will act as junior discussants during this part of the course.

Faculty at the EIS PhD Summer School is amongst others:

- Poul Houman Andersen, Aarhus University (main organiser of the summer school)
- Staffan Jacobsson, Chalmers University of Technology
- Bengt-Åke Lundvall, Aalborg University
- Mads Borup, Technical University of Denmark
- Antje Klitkou, Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education (NIFU).
- Marko Hekkert, Utrecht University

The final program and contents might be subject to change.

Attendance:

The number of participants is limited to maximum of 20 PhD students.

We welcome applications from PhD students in innovation system studies and related analysis fields with empirical focus on the energy area, on 'green' technology development in the energy area, etc.

Application and deadline:

Applications should be sent to Jette Gents, jege@dtu.dk. Please write 'Application for EIS summer school' in email's subject field.

Deadline for applications: April 10, 2012.

The application shall include

- Name
- Start date and expected end date of PhD study
- Institutional affiliation
- Educational background prior to PhD study
- Brief description of the PhD project (max 15 lines). The project description must include project title and description of the project's subject including theoretical-analytical approach and empirical focus.

The applicants will be given notice shortly after the deadline.

The PhD students are expected to spend approximately a week of reading before the

summer school and, in addition, time for writing an extended abstract and preparing a presentation of own research. Reading material and assignments will be sent to the students in due time before the summer school.

4 ECTS points will be granted to PhD students that complete the course.

Venue: Hotel Scheelsminde, Aalborg, Denmark, <http://www.scheelsminde.dk>, see more below.

Course fee: Due to funding from the Danish Council for Strategic Research it is possible to offer a course fee of only 6000 DKK (approximately 800 Euro) including accommodation and all meals.

Contact and information:

Section secretary Jette Gents, Technical University of Denmark, jege@dtu.dk, (+45) 4525 4427.

About Aalborg

Hotel Scheelsminde is situated 4 kilometres from centre of Aalborg - next to a large green area, open for walks and runs. Aalborg is a multi-faceted city, they say, - full of contrasts. A city with a lust for life and all of its pleasures. It's also grand on a manageable scale. All the major city attractions are concentrated within easy distance. From fast-paced fun to peaceful oases. From a foaming draft beer to sublime gastronomy. From the Viking era to the Middle Ages, to modern art. The city has about 150.000 inhabitants and a well-known university, as well as the famous Jomfru Ane Gade. The birth place of Utzon (the Sydney Opera House), the place where Aalborg Akvavit is brewed. www.visitaalborg.com.

Aalborg is easy reachable, thanks to good flight connections to Copenhagen and direct flight connections to Amsterdam, Berlin, Paris, Oslo and London (check out www.aal.dk). The city is also within reasonable driving range (approximately driving time from Hamburg or Copenhagen: 4.5 hours). Taxi fare between the hotel and Aalborg Airport is approximately DKK 250 (EUR 34), and between the hotel and Aalborg city centre is DKK 120 (EUR 16).

About EIS

EIS - 'Strategic research alliance on Energy Innovation Systems and their dynamics' is a collaboration between nine universities and research institutions in Denmark and abroad that carry out leading research on the topic of energy and innovation: Technical University of Denmark, Aarhus University (Denmark), Aalborg University

(Denmark), Chalmers University of Technology (Sweden), Copenhagen Business School (Denmark), EAWAG (Switzerland), NIFU - Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education (Norway), Utrecht University (the Netherlands), and ZEW - Centre for European Economic Research (Germany).

EIS is funded by the Danish Council for Strategic Research, the Programme Commission on Sustainable Energy and Environment and by the partners. See www.eis-all.dk. Contact: Mads Borup, mabo@dtu.dk.

The EIS PhD Summer School is planned to run again in 2014.

Science in Public Conference 2012

Hosted by the Department of Science and Technology Studies, University College London
20th and 21st July 2012 at UCL

CALL FOR PAPERS

Now in its 7th year, the Science in Public conference brings together those strands of academia which consider the relationships between science and 'the public', multiple publics, and the public sphere. This conference provides a wide-ranging platform for discussing and debating emerging cross-disciplinary perspectives, as well as showcasing recent and developing research findings. Delegates come from many disciplines: science and technology studies, history of science, geography, psychology, cultural studies, media studies, sociology, science communication, development studies, English literature, science policy studies and more.

This year, the conference will host the initial meeting of the **Science in Public Research Network**: an opportunity for academics and others interested in research to meet, discuss the field, and stay in touch beyond the conference.

This year, we invite two main types of submissions:

1) *Single presentations* – You are welcome to submit an outline for a proposed presentation on any topic falling broadly under the remit described above. Presentations can build on work by multiple authors (e.g. a team of researchers or a graduate student and their supervisor(s)), however it is normally expected that only a single person will present the work on the day. Accepted presentations will be grouped together into similar thematic areas to produce a wider streamed session consisting of multiple

linked presentations. Individual presentations will be approximately 15 - 20 minutes in duration, with additional time left within each session for questions and discussion.

2) *Panel proposals* – Within a panel proposal you should describe the overall theme of the panel, as well as the areas of focus for each of the contributors within the panel. Please also clarify what format your panel will take – e.g. a series of individual (linked) presentations, or a more discursive format. We are particularly keen to encourage interdisciplinary panels from multiple different institutions / research projects on key public science issues e.g. climate change, geo-engineering, energy policy. Panel proposal submissions should include an overarching panel abstract as well as individual abstracts for each of the presentations on the panel. Panel sessions will be allocated a 1.5 hour slot.

Potential contributors should email an abstract of up to 300 words to Yin Au (yin.au.11@ucl.ac.uk) by 2nd April 2012. In addition to your abstract(s) please include a presentation / panel title as well as full contact details (name, affiliation, email) of all contributors and session organisers.

All submissions should be emailed to (yin.au.11@ucl.ac.uk). For any wider queries regarding the conference or to discuss the suitability of your session ideas please contact either Simon Lock (simon.lock@ucl.ac.uk) or Karen Bultitude (karen.bultitude@ucl.ac.uk).

Successful submissions will be notified by 1st May 2012. We look forward to welcoming you to the conference in July, and to continuing the lively discussions in this area.

The conference website can be found at: www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/sip2012

Cycle de conférences de Charles Edquist sur les politiques de l'innovation 6 mars, 20 mars, 3 avril 2012 de 16h30 à 18h00 CNAM, Paris

Charles Edquist donnera trois Conférences sur les politiques d'innovation. Ces conférences sont conçues de façon à intéresser un large public, parmi les membres de l'IFRIS et au-delà. Charles Edquist, spécialiste de l'analyse des systèmes d'innovation, discutera des politiques d'innovation en faisant référence à la fois aux STS et aux études de l'innovation.

Public Procurement for Innovation as Mission-oriented Innovation Policy

20 mars 2012

CNAM 2 rue Conté, 75003 PARIS. Accès 35 - Amphi G. Planté (35.1.1)

Discutant : Benjamin Coriat, CEPN, Université Paris 13

This seminar focuses on public procurement for innovation as a very powerful demand-side innovation policy instrument to be exploited in the mitigation of grand global challenges (climate, energy, health, etc). The paper intends to provide some clarification on what should be regarded (and what should not) as innovation procurement. We define what we mean by public procurement for innovation and categorize it according to three dimensions: (i) the user of the purchased good; (ii) the character of the procurement process; and (iii) the cooperative or non-cooperative nature of the process. In addition, we illustrate which are the main stages in innovation procurement processes and exemplify them with six cases. These six cases evidence the potential of public procurement for innovation which can contribute to satisfying unsatisfied human needs and to solving societal problems.

The Knowledge basis of the Innovation Process

3 Avril 2012

CNAM 2 rue Conté, 75003 PARIS. Accès 37 - 1er étage - Salle des conseils (37.1.49)

Discutant : Pascal Petit, CEPN, Université Paris 13

This seminar will focus upon the important links between research, learning/education and innovation in public policies. Research and Development (R&D) and competence building are two important inputs to the innovation process. R&D increases the stock of available knowledge. Basic R&D, dominantly resulting in radical innovation, has traditionally been an activity partly financed and carried out by public agencies. Much of applied R&D, mainly resulting in incremental innovation, is financed and performed by firms. The relations between firms, universities and public research agencies are important mechanisms in innovation systems. Competence building is a matter of transferring existing knowledge among individuals and organizations in the systems. Both formal learning (schooling) and informal learning (taking place in firms and in networks) are important processes in innovation systems, but – as opposed to R&D –

highly neglected in innovation research. The knowledge basis of the innovation process also includes knowledge about innovation processes and about the operation of innovation systems as such.

Charles Edquist is the Holder of the Ruben Rausing Chair in Innovation Research at CIRCLE, Lund University, Sweden. During October 2011 - April 2012, he is a guest professor at Institut Francilien Recherche Innovation Société (IFRIS), Paris. He has published around 15 books and numerous articles on innovation processes, innovation systems and innovation policy. This includes his 1997 book entitled “Systems of Innovation: Technologies, Institutions and Organizations” and “Small Country Innovation Systems: Globalization, Change and Policy in Asia and Europe” (2008), as well as various publications on innovation policy. The impact of his research is indicated by the fact the he is among 50 (or so) most cited innovation researchers in the world. He was one of the founders of CIRCLE (Centre for Innovation, Research and Competence in the Learning Economy) in 2004 - www.circle.lu.se - as well as its director during the first seven years, when the research staff increased from zero to 40 persons. Currently he works mainly on issues related to innovation policy as a writer and an advisor.

CALL FOR PAPERS - INNOVATIVE STUDIES: INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL (ISIJ)

Volume 2, Issue 1

Info. at

http://www.cscjournals.org/csc/journals/ISIJ/journal_cfp.php?JCode=ISIJ

Computer Science Journals (CSC Journals) invites researchers, editors, scientists & scholars to publish their scientific research papers in Innovative Studies: International Journal (ISIJ) Volume 2, Issue 1.

The Innovative Studies: An International Journal is an independent, peer-reviewed journal devoted to sharing ideas and discussing on science and technology innovations. It publishes scholarly and practitioner-oriented papers, books, case studies, review essays, and book reviews related to innovation, creativity, change management, case studies, technology strategy and planning etc.

CSC Journals anticipate and invite papers on any of the following topics: Case Studies; Knowledge Assets and Management; Change

Management; Management of Emerging/ Disruptive Technologies; Creativity; New Product/Process Development; Diffusion of Innovation; New Venture Management; Entrepreneurship/New Technology Start-Up; Project and Program Management; Environmental Issues in Technology Management; R&D Management; Innovation; Technology Alliances and Collaboration; Innovation in SME; Technology Assessment and Evaluation; Innovative Studies in Computer Science and Engineering Fields; Technology Strategy and Planning.

Important Dates - ISIJ CFP - Volume 2, Issue 1.

Paper Submission: March 31, 2012

Author Notification: May 15, 2012

Issue Publication: June 2012

For complete details about ISIJ archives publications, abstracting/indexing, editorial board and other important information, please refer to [ISIJ homepage](#).

We look forward to receive your valuable papers. If you have further questions please do not hesitate to contact us at

cscpress@cscjournals.org.

Our team is committed to provide a quick and supportive service throughout the publication process.

J. Stewart

Computer Science Journals (CSC Journals)

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Tel: + 603 6207 1607, + 603 2782 6991

Fax: + 603 6207 1697

Url: <http://www.cscjournals.org>

Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute

Engaging India: Human and Social Dimensions of Science and Technology June 3 & 4, 2012 University of Calgary Calgary, Alberta

Trouble viewing? Go to link:

http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=6o7focab&v=001GW57Qq-hwGRaLtXryPw_U1yWKmeLBO18-OyD2-wVy0MzTH8D0rUJE0jbXMfepMJVnRZemJ3G6oTPmXUYoHQLiqpMxZ9s_tN8BEMfzcJXOgELTG7fsRQcc9C7vMD-ZaxEC3TJdHhPD7AaFSKpg5OP-PXszXXDdmoR

It is our pleasure to announce that the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute will be organizing a national conference entitled Engaging India:

Human and social Dimensions of Science and Technology to take place on Sunday and Monday June 3 and 4, 2012 at the University of Calgary.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Individuals interested in submitting a panel or paper proposal for presentation during the conference are requested to complete the attached form.

Proposals are to be submitted by April 15, 2012.

Panel and paper proposals are invited in the following areas:

- Religious and Cultural Perspectives on Science and Technology
 - Humanities and Digital Media
 - Art, Architecture and Environment
 - Energy, Environment, and Sustainability
 - Food Sustainability: Agricultural production, Food distribution, and Accessibility
 - Water: Resource management for life sustainability
 - Nano Technology: Critical Human and Social Issues
 - Age, Gender and Health
 - Education Technologies and Accessibility
- Conference Theme

Scientific and technological research can and has contributed significantly to solving sustainability and development challenges in our world today. As an important complement to this research, a better understanding of the human and social dimensions of science and technology is essential in order to ensure that new scientific ideas are applied appropriately in diverse cultural contexts, and support improvements that are equitable among and within nations. It is therefore essential that the relationships between science, technology, and society be integrated into the broader sustainability and development research agenda.

The rapid changes that our contemporary societies are undergoing today in response to a series of distinct but interrelated dynamics, among which are advances in science and technology, offer the potential for social change conducive to peace, nonviolence, sustainable development, justice and respect for human rights. However, if pressures such as demographic change, urbanization, competition for scarce resources, migration and diversity are inadequately managed, they may also give rise to major challenges such as intolerance and conflict. In order to analyze such challenges, to make sense of their implications and to respond to them adequately,

the resources of the social and human sciences are indispensable. Similarly, humanities studies, which have a crucial role in promoting critical thinking, have a major contribution to make to global, regional and national responses to contemporary social and ethical challenges faced by major strides of scientific and technological advancements.

Conference Objectives:

- To provide the opportunity for colleagues from humanities, social sciences, and science and technology disciplines to have dialogues on significant issues involving Canada-India research and scholarly collaborations around the major theme of the conference.
- To showcase the current India-focused research and scholarly activities being conducted by the faculty and researchers at Canadian Universities.
- To bring together representatives from Academy, Industry, Government, and Non-governmental Organizations to reflect on the strategic directions for Canada-India academic, economic, and business collaborations.

Panel Proposals:

Panel_Proposal_Form_1_of_2_-_Presentation_Information:

http://www.sici.org/images/uploads/application_forms/EI_-_Panel_Proposal_Form_1_of_2_-_Presentation_Information_distributed.pdf

Panel_Proposal_Form_2_of_2_-_Presenter_Information:

http://www.sici.org/images/uploads/application_forms/EI_-_Panel_Proposal_Form_2_of_2_-_Presenter_Information_distributed.pdf

Individual Paper Proposals:

Individual_Proposal_Form :
http://www.sici.org/images/uploads/application_forms/EI-Individual_Proposal_Form_distributed.pdf

Panels and papers that deal with contemporary India-related issues of human and social impact of scientific and technological knowledge on development and sustainability are particularly encouraged. Panel and paper proposals in other areas of India studies are welcome. All decisions on the acceptance of the panel and paper proposals will be made by a multidisciplinary National Program Committee.

Local hospitality including accommodation and meals will be provided by the conference to presenters and panelists. Canadian and Indian conference presenters will be

responsible for their own local and international travel expenses. Subject to availability of funds, some modest travel subsidy may be available to graduate students and junior faculty whose proposals have been accepted and are to present at the conference for travel within Canada.

For further information about this conference please contact:

Mariam Elghahuagi
Communications Officer
Shastri Indo- Canadian Institute
Tel. 403 220 2847
Cell 403 478 7950
melghahu@ucalgary.ca
www.sici.org - Canada Office
www.sici.org.in - India Office

St. Antony's International Review

A peer-reviewed journal of international affairs based at the University of Oxford - is currently seeking submissions for a special issue entitled "Power, the State, and the Social Media Network."

We welcome the submission of abstracts (max. 400 words) on themes pertaining to the relationship between state power, social media, and political communication, conduct, and control.

The deadline for abstracts is May 4th, 2012.

Please see the call for papers for further information on style, topic, and submission guidelines.

Please submit any queries, correspondence, and abstracts to the editors.

Scott Hamilton & Benjamin Martill
scott.hamilton@politics.ox.ac.uk
benjamin.martill@politics.ox.ac.uk

17th EURAS Annual Standardisation Conference - Standards and Innovation

18 - 20 June 2012

Kosice, Slovakia

EXTENDED DEADLINE: 18 March 2012

Organised by the Faculty of Economics at Matej Bel University in Banska Bystrica (UMB) Faculty of Economics at the Technical University of Kosice (TUKE).

We welcome original and innovative submissions papers from all areas of standardisation. But the theme of the 17th EURAS conference is the significance of standards and standardisation for

innovation. At this point in our history, innovation is critical for helping to move forward from the global economic crisis, mitigate the impact of climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and help resolve the food crisis. The critical role of standards and standardisation for innovation has long been recognised. As codified knowledge, standards acquire an even greater role in the development of the global knowledge economy. We particularly welcome theoretical and empirical papers that will contribute to greater awareness of how and where standards can facilitate, hamper, or otherwise impact on innovation in all its many dimensions. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- * Standardisation & infrastructure development
- * Standards, globalisation and national authenticity
- * Conformity assessment for innovation
- * The relation between standards and the development of science / technology / society / economy
- * Standardisation, globalisation and innovation
- * Education on standardisation and innovation
- * Legal and regulatory issues in standardisation
- * Standards setting and implementation processes
- * History and future of standards
- * Standardisation policies
- * Economics of standardisation
- * Management of standards
- * Research and standardisation
- * Standards and technology transfer
- * Quality standards and management strategies
- * Markets and dominant technologies
- * International accounting standards

Full papers (up to 40 double-spaced pages; pdf, rtf, or .doc format) should be submitted to Kai Jakobs at Kai.Jakobs@cs.rwth-aachen.de.

Authors of accepted papers are expected to serve as discussants upon request. All papers will be reviewed (double blind) by members of the Programme Committee. All accepted papers will be published in the conference proceedings, as part of the 'EURAS Contributions to Standardisation Research' book series. Particularly good and relevant papers will be fast-tracked to the review process of either the EURAS-Yearbook or the Int. Journal of IT Standards and Standardization Research (JITSR). The conference provides the opportunity to get feedback on standardisation education papers intended for the special issue of the International Journal of Technology and Design Education.

For more detailed information please consult the EURAS website www.EURAS.org.

Organisers

The EURAS Board
 General Co-Chairs
 Marta Orviska (UMB, SK)
 Vincent Soltes (TUKE, SK)

Programme Committee

Knut Blind (Fraunhofer FOKUS & TU Berlin, DE; RSM. NL) Tineke Egyedi (TU Delft, NL) Vladislav Fomin (Vytautas Magnus U., LT) Stephan Gauch (TU Berlin, DE) Ian Graham (U. of Edinburgh, UK) Jean-Christophe Graz, (UNIL, CH) Vladimir Hiadlovsky (UMB, SK) John Hudson (Bath University, UK) Eric Iversen (NIFU STEP, NO) Kai Jakobs (RWTH Aachen U., DE) Geerten van de Kaa (TU Delft, NL) Peter Kristofik (UMB, SK) Detlev Langmann (AKM, DE) Pauline Mazumdar (U. of Toronto, CA) Arturas Medeisis (Vilnius Gediminas TU, LT) Ivana Mijatovic (Belgrade U., SRB) Marta Orviska (UMB, SK) Megan Quinlan (Imperial College London, UK) Tomas Sabol (TUKE, SK) Eberhard Seifert (WU Vienna, AT) Vincent Soltes (TUKE, SK) Klaus Turowski (Magdeburg, U., DE) Taavi Valdlo (Ministry of Economic Affairs, EE) Henk de Vries (Erasmus U. Rotterdam, NL) Marc van Wegberg (U. of Maastricht, NL)

Deadlines

Paper submission: 18 March 2012
 Notification: 8 April 2012
 Final paper due: 29 April 2012

Local Organisation and Enquiries

Marta Orviska, marta.orviska@umb.sk
 Emilia Jakubikova, emilia.jakubikova@tuke.sk

Conference Venue

Hotel Yasmin, Kosice, <http://www.hotel-yasmin.sk/>.

For more information about Kosice: <http://www.kosice.sk/>.

For more information about EURAS <http://www.euras.org>.

Images and Visualisation: Imaging Technology, Truth and Trust

17-21 September 2012

Norrköping, Sweden

Chaired by:

Brigitte Nerlich, University of Nottingham, UK
 Andrew Balmer, University of Manchester, UK
 Annamaria Carusi, University of Oxford, UK

Both Leonardo da Vinci and John Constable claimed that painting is a science. This science has been explored extensively in traditional aesthetics and art history. Given recent advances in science and visual engineering, creating images for science, of science and for the translation (interpretation) of science has become at one and the same time commonplace, even easy, and even more scientific. The aim of this conference is to bring together experts from across the natural and social sciences, with curators, artists, producers and users of images based on advanced visual engineering. By exploring emerging challenges at the interface between advanced visualisation technologies, truth and trust we want to stimulate talk, interaction and collaboration between the arts, humanities and (natural, medical, engineering, computer) sciences, in a context where both science and (visual) art are increasingly converging and, at the same time, disciplinary boundaries still separate those working across them.

To learn more about this conference, please visit:

<http://www.esf.org/index.php?id=9115>

British Academy Conference: Modelling for Policy

17-18 May 2012, London

How well models and computational techniques produce evidence to predict and manage infectious disease risks? This conference discusses what kinds of tools models and computational techniques are available to and used within public health policy-making processes. By contributions from epidemiology, climate research, risk governance and economics, we will engage in a dialogue on the benefits and limitations of modelling methods across research and policy domains.

Welcome!

More information and registration:

http://www.britac.ac.uk/events/2012/Modelling_for_Policy.cfm

Convenors: Dr Erika Mansnerus and Professor Tony Barnett, LSE Health, London School of Economics

PHYSICS, ASTRONOMY AND ENGINEERING

XXXII Congress of The *Italian Society of the Historians of Physics and Astronomy* (SISFA) which is being held in Roma in collaboration with the *Research Centre For Theory and History of Science* (RCTHS) and *Faculty of Engineering, University of Roma La Sapienza*.

Venue: Faculty of Engineering, University of Roma "La Sapienza", Italy

International Plenary Speakers

- Marco Ceccarelli ([University of Cassino, Italy](#))
- Jean Dhombres ([Centre Alexandre Koyré/CNRS/EHESS, France](#))
- Peter Heering ([University of Flensburg, Germany](#))
- Radim Kocandrlé ([University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Czech Republic](#))
- Walter Noll ([Carnegie Mellon University, United States of America](#))

.....*Further information is coming*

Please deadlines, presentation, aim et al here: <http://www.rcths.eu/>

4th annual meeting of The Society for the Study of Nanoscience and Emerging Technologies

University of Twente, the Netherlands, on **October 22-25, 2012**.

The four-day conference will assemble scholars, practitioners and policy makers from around the world interested in the development and implications of emerging technologies. Contributions from philosophy of technology, STS and innovation studies are more than welcome!

Deadline for submission of abstracts is **April 2, 2012**.

For more information: www.utwente.nl/snet2012

On behalf of the local organizing committee:

Marianne Boenink (Department of Philosophy), m.boenink@utwente.nl

Bärbel Dorbeck-Jung (Department of Legal and Economics Studies),

b.r.dorbeck-jung@utwente.nl

Anne Dijkstra (Department of Science Communication),

a.m.dijkstra@utwente.nl

Kornelia Konrad (Department of Science, Technology and Policy Studies),
k.e.konrad@utwente.nl

CIT-PART Final Workshop
Decision-Making on Complex and Sensitive Issues - A Case for Citizen Participation? Experiences with Xenotransplantation

Tuesday, 12 June 2012

09.00 – 17.00

Wien-Haus, Avenue de Tervueren 58, Brussels

The workshop aims at stimulating a discussion about the particular challenges of citizen participation in complex and knowledge intensive

policy fields. It addresses policy makers, NGO-representatives (patient, consumer, and animal rights organizations), researchers, practitioners in citizen participation and participatory technology assessment as well as in the area of bioethics and xenotransplantation research and, last but not least, the interested public. The CIT-PART project is being funded by the European Commission under the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities Programme of the Seventh Framework Programme.

For more information see:

www.cit-part.at/final_brussels.php

Contact and registration: lang@ihs.ac.at

Opportunities Available

The **MSc in Digital Anthropology at UCL**, now accepting applications for its fourth year, is a world leader in the training of researchers in the social and cultural dimensions of information technologies and digital media. www.ucl.ac.uk/anthro/digital-anthropology/

Facebook and YouTube. eBooks and massively-networked gaming. Mobile communications and the Internet of Things. Digital technology has become ubiquitous, woven not only into pedestrian artefacts and the built environment but into our social and spiritual lives. Museum displays migrate to the Internet, family communication in the Diaspora is dominated by new media, artists work with digital films and images. Anthropology and ethnographic research is fundamental to understanding the local consequences of these innovations, and to creating theories that help us acknowledge, understand and engage with them. Today's students need to become proficient with digital technologies as research and communication tools. Through combining technical skills with appreciation of social effects, students will be trained for further research and involvement in these emergent worlds.

This MSc (nominally one year of full-time study) brings together three key components in the study of digital culture:

1. Skills training in digital technologies, including our own Digital Lab, from multimedia fieldnotes and video editing to digital asset management and virtual ethnography.

2. Anthropological theories of virtualism, materiality/immateriality and digitisation.

3. Understanding the consequences of digital culture through the ethnographic study of its social and regional impact and issues of the digital divide.

University College London is one of the highest rated universities in the world according to the Academic Ranking of World Universities and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

Alumni of the Digital Anthropology programme have secured positions in both the public and private sectors, at organisations in fields ranging from design to marketing, game development to open content advocacy. The programme has fostered research engagements and placements with Skype, Microsoft, and Google among others. A major grant just awarded to department staff by the European Research Council will focus on social networking across a disparate array of countries, and a foundational edited volume on Digital Anthropology (edited by and featuring a number of staff within our own department, along with many other leaders in the field) is scheduled to be released this summer from Berg Publishers.

The programme is suitable both for those with a prior degree in anthropology but also for those with degrees in neighbouring disciplines who wish to be trained in anthropological and related approaches to digital culture. There is scope for those with specialist interests to work closely with information system designers,

curators, communication specialists as well as our own digital studio. In addition to its importance for careers such as media, design and museums, digital technology is also integral to development, theoretical and applied anthropology.

For further information about this programme contact Dr. Lane DeNicola (l.denicola@ucl.ac.uk). General and country-specific information for international applicants can be found at the International Office website:

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/international-students/>

Applications are now handled exclusively online:

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate-study/application-admission>

While the general application deadline is not until 3 August 2012, applicants who may have funding or visa contingencies are advised to apply by 1 March (or earlier, depending on the funding programmes being applied to).

University College London has over 3,500 research staff and 17,000 students, ranking among the top three multi-faculty research and teaching universities in the UK. Located in the heart of Bloomsbury among the unique research resources of central London, which include excellent museum facilities as well as a dense network of specialist research and higher education institutions, the College provides an outstanding research base. The Department of Anthropology combines social and biological anthropology and material culture. Members of the Department carry out research in 49 countries, edit four international journals and run five research seminar series and specialist postgraduate research groups. There are over 140 postgraduate students funded by AHRC, ESRC, NERC, MRC, London University, British Academy, Institute of Zoology, Natural History Museum, Overseas Research Studentships, staff research programme awards, and various national governmental and international awards. UCL is thus one of the largest centres in the world for the training of PhD students in Anthropology.

The Dept. of Anthropology at UCL is the world's leading centre for the study of Material and Visual Culture (we have eight specialist staff in material and visual culture). We currently supervise approximately fifty PhD students specifically in this field, including many with topics in Digital Anthropology. Amongst other activities members of this group edit the Journal of Material Culture, the journal Home Cultures, and several book series and (in collaboration with NYU) the weblog at materialworldblog.com.

The Department encourages pure and theoretical research as well as providing strong links with applied and development projects. As well as holding top research standing, the Department has been rated excellent in successive teaching quality audits. There are 8 taught Masters courses and several undergraduate degrees (BSc Anthropology, BSc in Human Sciences, and Intercalated BScs in Medical Anthropology).

Dr. Lane DeNicola
Lecturer in Digital Anthropology
Department of Anthropology
University College London

The University Paris Est Marne-la-Vallée (UPEMLV), France, invites applications for a full-time tenured position at the rank of reader, assistant professors with seniority or full professor, for a University professor specialized in science and technology studies and/or organization studies.

Application deadline March 27th

The position will start on September 2012, and is open to French scholars with HDR and "qualification", as well as to non-French candidates without "qualification" currently teaching as readers or full professors in a university.

Applicants will have a solid record of research, peer reviewed publications at international level, and teaching experience in the field of science and technology studies and/or organization studies. Experience of public and/or private technical and/or scientific organizations is expected.

Research

The successful candidate will join one UPEMLV's research teams belonging to the Laboratory of Excellence SITES (www.ifris.org)

SITES is a multidisciplinary network of research groups which head is located on Cité Descartes in the environment of University Paris Est Marne-la-Vallée (www.univ-paris-est.fr/fr/). It gathers about 150 researchers, belonging to several higher education and research institutions located in the Parisian area: Université Paris Est Marne-la-Vallée, Université Paris Nord, EHESS, CNAM, CNRS, INRA, INSERM, IRD.

SITES focuses on the study of innovation processes in society. It deals with changes of

knowledge regimes through the transformations in the social conditions of production and governance of science and technology at various scales of time and space.

SITES includes a platform that develops and offers tools and methodologies for analyzing and characterizing textual databases, in order to trace scientific and technical knowledge dynamics.

Teaching

Teaching responsibilities span all levels from 1st year from BA to Doctoral levels. Teaching load varies between 128 and 192 hours a year depending upon courses taught. Undergraduate courses are delivered in French. English or French can be used at the Masters and doctoral levels.

Service

The position requires involvement in the organization and management of training activities, especially in the frame of the Masters programs linked to SITES research groups at the Cité Descartes (LATS and SenS).

Application

Candidates are invited to get in touch with Professors Catherine Paradeise (Catherine.Paradeise@univ-mlv.fr) or Ashveen Peerbaye (Ashveen.Peerbaye@univ-mlv.fr) to detail the formal content of applications and procedure.

Salary

Gross yearly salary amounts between 41 000 € and 65 000 € depending upon past experience in similar duties.

Application forms can be downloaded from the Galaxie national website where completed files have to be uploaded (we can help!) **between February 23 and March 27**. Selection interviews between April 3 and May 25

Opportunities for one Situating Science Strategic Knowledge Cluster in Canada (www.situsci.ca) Post-Doc to be held at the University of Saskatchewan

Post-doctoral Fellowship in the Philosophy and History of Science and Medicine
Deadline April 1, 2012.

The Departments of Philosophy and History at the University of Saskatchewan invite candidates for a one-year (renewable for a second year) post-doctoral fellowship. This award is

associated with the SSHRC Strategic Knowledge Cluster grant, "Situating Science" (www.situsci.ca), a national cluster promoting communication and networking between humanists and social scientists studying science and technology.

Qualifications:

The successful candidate should have completed a PhD in History, Philosophy or Science, Technology and Studies by September 2012. Applicants exploring sub-themes of epistemology and/or history of experimentation are preferred.

The Project:

The successful candidate will work closely with faculty and graduate students at the University of Saskatchewan associated with the Situating Science Cluster. In particular, the post-doctoral fellow will help coordinate an international conference and a smaller workshop associated with the Cluster's activities. Salary and benefits to \$35,000 with the possibility of teaching opportunities that may be negotiated. Office space will be provided.

The University of Saskatchewan has a strong group of faculty and thriving graduate programs in the Department of History, Philosophy and English whose expertise range from early modern science and medicine to contemporary philosophy of science and technology, and history of medicine and psychiatry.

More information on the objectives and themes of the Situating Science Cluster can be found on the website: www.situsci.ca/project-summary More information on the University of Saskatchewan Node can be found here: <http://www.situsci.ca/node/university-saskatchewan-0>

How to Apply:

Applications must include: a research proposal (maximum 3 pages), curriculum vitae, and 2 letters of reference sent directly to the address below by April 1, 2012.

Please send inquiries and complete applications to:

Larry Stewart, Department of History
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada S7N 5A5
E-mail: l.stewart@usask.ca

A detailed description of the Cluster grant behind "Situating Science" can be found here: <http://www.situsci.ca/project-summary>.

Faculty members and activities in the “Atlantic Node” of Situating Science can be found at: <http://www.situsci.ca/node/university-kings-college-0>.

Further questions about the Cluster or the application procedure should be directed to Kregg Hetherington: kregg.hetherington@dal.ca.

ABOUT SITUATING SCIENCE (WWW.SITUSCI.CA)

Created in 2007 with the generous funding of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Strategic Knowledge Cluster grant, Situating Science is a seven-year project promoting communication and collaboration among humanists and social scientists that are engaged in the study of science and technology. Situating Science explores a set of four interrelated themes through networking, conferences, workshops, lecture series, and other activities. These themes are:

- 1 - Historical Epistemology and Ontology
- 2 - Material Culture and Scientific/Technological Practices
- 3 - Scientific Communication and its Publics
- 4 - Geography and Sites of Knowing

More information on these and on our activities, publications, videos, and network can be found on our website: www.situsci.ca

North West Doctoral Training Centre CASE award: Applications are invited for a PhD Collaborative Studentship in Sociology jointly funded by the ESRC and by Lancashire County Council, England, UK

Co-producing care and home: ‘Homeshare’ as an intervention in patterns of social isolation and labour mobility

This is a funded PhD studentship based in the Department of Sociology, Lancaster University, 2013-2016. The proposed research is an empirical and theoretical investigation of the implementation of a ‘Homeshare’ scheme in North West UK. The project involves ethnographic and online research and the successful candidate will work with academic, policy and provider collaborators. This project is an opportunity to make a significant contribution to policy and practices of care and support.

Background to the project: ‘Homeshare’ is a concept and a practice which aims to foster combined solutions to the need for care and the need for housing/employment. Someone who needs help to live independently in their own home is matched with someone who has a housing need and can provide a little support.

The research problem: Developing a ‘Homeshare’ scheme involves creating understanding between multiple actors and agencies. It also requires an understanding of local specificities and sensitivities. Further, researching the development of ‘Homeshare’ involves exploring the changing nature of ‘care’ and ‘home’ in the current UK context of care governance and severe housing shortage and identifying and attending to issues of effectiveness and also of safety and vulnerability of homesharers.

In addition to empirical research facilitating and evaluating the development of ‘Homeshare’ in the North West, the empirical research will be related to recent insights in social studies of health and medicine and Science and Technology Studies in order to contribute to the growing body of literature exploring the meanings of care in practice.

The project is led by Dr Maggie Mort and Dr Vicky Singleton. If you would like more information about the project please contact Vicky.

(d.singleton@lancaster.ac.uk)

Funding: A 3 year stipend at £13,590 p.a., (under review for 2012), plus £750 training support grant and UK/EU student fees for 3 years (subject to residency status)

Essential pre-requisites: An ESRC recognised Masters is preferred. However, applications from candidates with alternative relevant experience are welcome. Part-time applications are also welcomed.

Start date: 1 October 2012

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 detailing their reasons for applying for this studentship to Rachel Hemmings (spgadmissions@lancaster.ac.uk; telephone: (01524) 594178).

Application due date: Friday 16th March 2012 for both the letter of application and the online PhD in Sociology application form.

Publications

Politics of Urban Runoff: Nature, Technology, and the Sustainable City

Andrew Karvonen
The MIT Press, Urban and Industrial
Environments Series

Keywords

Urban political ecology, science and technology studies, sustainable urban development, civic environmentalism

Synopsis

When rain falls on the city, it creates urban runoff that causes flooding, erosion, and water pollution. Municipal engineers manage a complex network of technical and natural systems to treat and remove these temporary water flows from cities as quickly as possible. Urban runoff is frequently discussed in terms of technical expertise and environmental management, but it encompasses a multitude of such nontechnical issues as land use, quality of life, governance, aesthetics, and community identity and is central to the larger debates on creating more sustainable and livable cities. In this book, Andrew Karvonen uses urban runoff as a lens to view the relationships among nature, technology, and society. Offering theoretical insights from urban environmental history, human geography, landscape and ecological planning, and science and technology studies as well as empirical evidence from case studies, Karvonen proposes a new relational politics of urban nature.

After describing the evolution of urban runoff practices, Karvonen analyzes urban runoff activities in Austin and Seattle—two cities known for their highly contested public debates over runoff issues and exemplary stormwater management practices. The Austin case study highlights the tensions among urban development, property rights, land use planning, and citizen activism; the Seattle case study explores the city's long-standing reputation for being in harmony with nature. Drawing on these accounts, Karvonen suggests a new relational politics of urban nature that is situated, inclusive, and action-oriented to address the tensions among nature, technology, and society.

About the Author

Andrew Karvonen is a Research Fellow at the Manchester Architecture Research Centre

in the University of Manchester's School of Environment and Development and a Visiting Research Fellow at the Center for Sustainable Development at the University of Texas at Austin.

Endorsements

"Karvonen tackles a complex environmental issue by providing very good case studies and well-imagined solutions without relying on clichéd approaches found in other studies. The case studies provide concrete examples for explaining the shortcomings of more traditional and compartmentalized approaches to environmental governance, and the possibilities of a more nuanced 'civic environmentalism.' That he has grounded his theory in concrete examples related to contemporary policy concerns is refreshing."

- Martin V. Melosi, Hugh Roy and Lillie Craz Cullen University Professor and Director of the Center for Public History, University of Houston

"Andrew Karvonen blends literary theory, history, the social and natural sciences and other disciplines to shed new light on the relationship between urban ecology and environmental politics. His book helps to reveal the often hidden but important connections among people, nature, and technology and, at its best, informs us about better, more effective approaches to environmental policy and management."

- William Shutkin, President, Presidio Graduate School; author of *The Land That Could Be: Environmentalism and Democracy in the Twenty-First Century*

"In *Politics of Urban Runoff*, Andrew Karvonen explores the hydro-social dynamics of the modern city through a wealth of insights, not only spanning the bio-physical dimensions to urban space, but also changing cultural, ecological, political and technological aspects of urban nature."

- Matthew Gandy, Professor and Director of the UCL Urban Laboratory, Department of Geography, University College London; author of *Concrete and Clay: Reworking Nature in New York City*

Where Nobody Has Gone Before: A Collection of Commentaries about Science, Technology, Society, and the Future by Timothy McGettigan

Available exclusively from Amazon in Kindle format for (the insanely low price of) \$0.99 US:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B006UKHR3W>

Some of the commentaries in this collection were written to be entertaining, while others are more serious. What is common to all of the essays is an emphasis upon radical social transformation.

As each new day dawns in the information society, human civilization forges ahead into new territory where, as the title of this book suggests, nobody has gone before. With more than seven billion humans on our planet, precedent is literally upon us everywhere we look.

For example, just imagine what might occur if Aubrey de Grey's prediction comes to pass and scientists are able to achieve the impossible: human immortality! Thanks to new frontiers in medical science, de Grey is certain that in the near future humans will age as slowly as the Greek gods.

This is pure speculation, but that is what humans do best. This is how humans have survived and thrived as the unique problem-solving creatures that we have become. We solve problems and redefine reality by inventing elaborate fantasies and then, through the magic of "problematic innovation" invent the facts that, step-by-step, transform far-fetched fantasies into bedrock realities.

If you doubt my word, then I invite you to read on.

Where Nobody Has Gone Before: A Collection of Commentaries about Science, Technology, Society, and the Future is exclusively available at Amazon Books in Kindle format for \$0.99 US.

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B006UKHR3W>

[Timothy McGettigan](#) is a professor of sociology at CSU-Pueblo and is the author of numerous articles and books that explore the topics of science, technology, society and the future.

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The new issue of **Tecnoscienza** | Italian Journal of Science and Technology Studies is now on line

Tecnoscienza, Vol 2, No 2 (December 2011)

<http://www.tecnoscienza.net/index.php/tsj/issue/current/showToc>

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<http://www.tecnoscienza.net/index.php/tsj/user/register>

Tecnoscienza (ISSN 2038-3460) is a biannual on line, peer reviewed, open access journal in Italian and in English.
www.tecnoscienza.net

Table of contents, Vol 2, No 2

Cover I Am Whatever You Want Me To Be by Daniela Kostova, p. 0

Essays

Attila Bruni, *Davide Modè*

7+2: studiare le trame del lavoro in centrale operativa, p. 3

[*7+2: studying the texture of work in a centre of coordination* – Eng. Abstract]

Silvia Bruzzone

La sicurezza nella pratica dell'antincendio boschivo. Assonanze e dissonanze tra comunità di pratiche, p. 29

[*Safety in bushfire fighting* – Eng. abstract]

Debates

Paolo Landri, Bruno Latour

Introducing "La fabrique du droit". A Conversation with Bruno Latour, p. 55

Claudia Attimonelli, Francesca De Ruggieri, Giuseppina Pellegrino, Vincenzo Susca

Tecnomagia, o del ritorno agli oggetti, p. 69

[*Technomagic, or going back to objects* – Eng. Abstract]

Review Essays

Andrea Mubi Brighenti

Tecnologie della visibilità. Annotazioni sulle pratiche di sorveglianza, p. 85

[*Technologies of Visibility. Notes on Current Surveillance Practices* – Eng. Abstract]

Cartographies

Cornelius Schubert

In the Middle of Things. Germany's ongoing Engagement with STS, p. 103

Book Reviews

- Boris Castel, Sergio Sismondo, *The Art of Science*, University of Toronto Press, 2008.
by Chiara Ambrosio
- Adele E. Clarke, Laura Mamo, Jennifer Ruth Fosket, Jennifer R. Fishman, Janet K. Shim (eds.), *Biomedicalization. Technoscience, Health, and Illness in the U.S.*, Duke University Press, 2010.
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by Maurizio Teli
- Ulrich Dolata, ***Wandel durch Technik. Eine Theorie soziotechnischer Transformation*** [*Change by means of technology: A theory of sociotechnological transformation*], Campus, 2011.
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EDITORIAL OVERVIEW

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OBSERVING ENGAGEMENT

Constitutional Moments in Governing Science and Technology - Sheila Jasanoff

Commentary: **The Broad Challenge of Public Engagement in Science** - Rinie van Est

Technologies of Democracy: Experiments and Demonstrations - Brice Laurent

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Commentary: **Participating Despite Questions: Toward a More Confident Participatory Technology Assessment** - David H. Guston

DESIGNING ENGAGEMENT

Constructing Productive Engagement: Pre-engagement Tools for Emerging Technologies - Haico te Kulve and Arie Rip

Commentary: **Engagement Agents in the Making: On the Front Lines of Socio-Technical Integration** - Shannon N. Conley

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Commentary: **On Identifying Plausibility and Deliberative Public Policy** - René von Schomberg

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Commentary: **Nanoethics and the Breaching of Boundaries: A Heuristic for Going from Encouragement to a Fuller Integration of Ethical, Legal and Social Issues and Science** - Julio R. Tuma

ATTESTING ENGAGEMENT

What Happens in the Lab Does Not Stay in the Lab: Applying Midstream Modulation to Enhance Reflection in the Laboratory - Daan Schuurbiers

Commentary: **Lab-Work Goes Social, and Vice-Versa: Strategising Public Engagement Processes** - Brian Wynne

Taking Our Own Medicine: On an Experiment in Science Communication - Maja Horst

Commentary: **Experimenting with Engagement** - Bruce V. Lewenstein

Engaged, Embedded, Enjoined: Science and Technology Studies in the National Science Foundation - Edward J. Hackett and Diana R. Rhoten

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Contents of this issue

- 3 Organising STS. Editorial by Estrid Sørensen
- 4 EASST Awards
- 5 EASST / 4S Conference October 2012 Updates
 - Final reminder for conference abstracts
 - You have heard about Copenhagen but what about Copenhagenization?
 - EASST 2012 Pre-conference Doctoral Workshop – Call for Submissions
 - EASST Support for Conference Attendance
- 7 What Works Where and for Whom? Notes of the workshop Science Technology and Development, held 12-14 December 2011 at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. By Rob Hagendijk, Harro Maat and Annapurna Mamidipudi
- 9 The birth of the Belgian Network for Science, Technology and Society (BSTS network). By Pierre Delvenne and François Thoreau, for the Belgian STS network
- 12 EASST and the EASH – Social Sciences and Humanities Strike Back. By Harro van Lente, EASST Council member
- 13 A pioneer in trouble: Danish Board of Technology are facing problems. By Michael Søggaard Jørgensen, Department of Management Engineering, Technical University of Denmark. Member of the Danish Board of Technology's Board of Representatives
- 15 Book Review. Making and Unmaking Intellectual Property: Creative Production in Legal and Cultural Perspective, edited by Mario Biagioli, Peter Jaszi, and Martha Woodmansee. By Migle Laukyte
- 16 Conference Announcement and calls for papers, Other Events
- 32 Opportunities Available
- 36 Publications