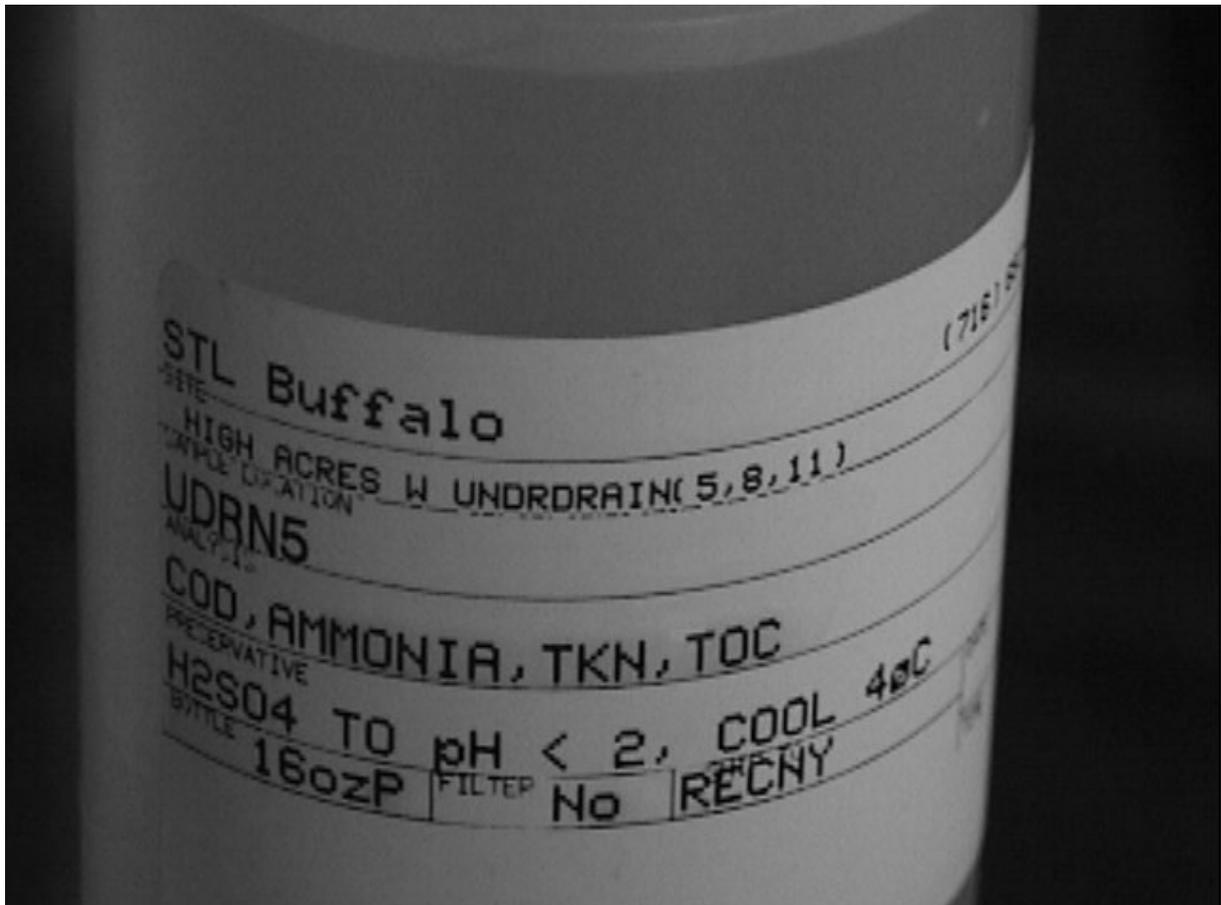


EASST

Review

Volume 24 (1) *European Association for the Study of Science and Technology* March 2005



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EASST Review (ISSN 1384-5160) is published
quarterly, in March, June, September and
December. The Association's journal was called
the EASST Newsletter through 1994.

Subscription: Individual membership fee: EUR
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frontpage illustration:

A sample bottle for quality control of ground
water, in Texas, U.S.A. See the report by Ragna
Zeiss.

Actor Network Theory and Psychology: What about their Connection?

by Márcia Moraes

Department of Psychology, Universidade Federal Fluminense, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

I would like to raise two correlated questions: first, what is the meaning of the notion of network, such as currently proposed by Bruno Latour? And second, once we have delimited this notion of network, how important is it for psychology, particularly regarding the study of cognition?

Some authors search in the notion of network an alternative for the epistemological discussions in the field of psychology (Moraes, M. 1998; Ferreira, A. 2000) In these papers, the discussions on whether psychology is or is not a science could be restated not in the sense of looking for frontiers between science and non-science, or between psychology and common sense, but rather in the sense of questioning the alliances established between psychology and the other areas of study. What is peculiar to psychology is to keep an always horizontal relationship with other fields of study. Psychology's object of investigation would be designed from such connections.

In some of his texts written after *We have never been modern* (Latour 1998; 1999; 2002b), Latour becomes more precise and underlines with this self-criticism the real meaning of the network notion, its extent, its novelty. In one of these works, the author states that there are four points in the actor-network theory that do not work well: 'the word theory, the word actor, the word network and the hyphen that joins the actor to the network' (Latour, 1999). The reflections that follow the author's self-criticism are the most interesting for psychologists.

What is wrong with the word 'network?' The digital metaphor has made this term popular in such a way that it can be disastrous. The notion of network, such as made popular by the Internet, implies an idea of information circulation without transformation. The network, like a rhizome, (Deleuze and Guattari, 1980) is marked by transformation. The focus is on the action, on the production and transformation work present in the networks. In the notion of network, what

matters is not only the idea of tie but also what these ties produce and which effects result from such alliances. What is an actor? This notion has been mistaken many times for the traditional sociology actors, for the individual as the source and origin of an action. The actor is anything that is *acting*, i.e., it is defined by the effects of its actions. This implies that an actor is not defined by what it does, but rather by the effects of its actions.

The pair actor-network, including the hyphen, is to Latour (1999) not enough to account for the action that is distributed in the network, for the processes of producing the world. This is because the pair actor-network has many times been taken as the pair individual-society. But that is not what it is about.

Should we then consider the actor-network theory as a frame of reference, as a theory which we can apply to several domains, including psychology? The actor-network theory is not a theory whose principles are given beforehand. It is rather a method, a way to follow the building and production of facts. It is not enough to say: look over there, right there, there are connections and alliances! Then we are talking about a network! Not at all. It is not enough to point out the alliances. The matter is not the use of a frame of reference in which we can insert the facts and their connections (Latour 2002a).

What matters is to follow the production of differences, the effects, the traces left by the actors -- interesting production, because it must be considered as a process distributed among all actors. There is no primary, central agent from which the production of the world emanates: (...) "there is no maker, no master, no creator that could be said to dominate materials, or at the very least, a new uncertainty is introduced as to what is to be built as well as to who is responsible for the emergence of the virtualities of the materials at hand" (Latour, 2002-b).

But what about psychology? From my point of view we should not only place the contributions

of the actor-network theory at the heart of an epistemological debate. It seems that this question must be placed in a different level, a pragmatic one: what do we do with that? There is an important thesis in the actor-network theory: the idea of production. This thesis makes us think about the social not in terms of the relationships among men, but rather in terms of process. This may be an important lesson to psychology: rather than being about ties among individuals, it is about following the ties between human and non-human and, moreover, it is a matter of asking about the effects produced by such ties. The term social here does not denote the matter of which something is made, but the process through which the facts and cognition are built. Thus, a social psychology is not one that deals with man in society, but tracks and follows the process of producing men and objects. The non-humans have an *acting*; they produce effects on the world, change our actions, redefine our cognition.

What consequences can we extract from the notion of network if we perform a strike of its characteristics on psychological knowledge itself? A Psychology of cognition, taken in this sense, is not about studying the general rules that characterize the functioning of each and every cognition. It is another sense of psychology that is unveiled, a psychology we could call an *Aesthetic of Cognition*, taking the word *aesthetic* in a wide sense of building, of production that does not come from valued prejudices, such as good versus bad. We say aesthetic of cognition in the sense of an immanence art which can only be referred to the plan of its practice, so that, from this point, it is possible for us to follow the way such cognition is produced. Cognition is understood from an uncertainty which must not be taken as a weakness, but rather as its creative power, as what it bears of network or rhizome. Psychology as knowledge about cognition would then be a knot of the actors' network and, as such, produced, negotiated, an effect of the impacts and negotiations between humans and non-humans. It is not anymore, as in the epistemological focus, a matter of evaluating the rationality of psychological knowledge. It is rather a matter of following, in the scope of its practices and studies, the way how a certain rationality, a certain form of intelligibility is produced.

In my own research work I am studying cognition, specially perception, among blind children. My focus isn't to study cognition as an

attribute of a person, but to study cognition in network. Which are the alliances that make possible perception among the blind ones? I'm working with a theatre group of blind children, students of a special school for blinded people in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. We are observing a theater group of 3 blind and 7 visual handicaps, from 11 to 15 years old. I consider this group as a cognitive field in which perception is engaged. Perception is a result, a consequence of the connections among the children, the characters, the play and everything that is related to the play. I am not interested in general rules that define perception, but what matters in this work is to follow the way perception is modified and created by the play. So, when we investigate how the blind perceive the world we want to ask about the *alliances* that are made at the same time between the world perceived and the subject. At last we try to discuss again the notions of subject and object, body and perception. I think that in this way it is possible to talk about Psychology as non-modern knowledge.

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Constructivism in Science and Technology Studies and Beyond?

by Stefan Bösch

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Report on the conference of the GWTF (German Society for Science and Technology Studies), Berlin, November 26-27 2004.

As researchers in science and technology studies we have become comfortable with constructivism. The provocative charm of a concept aligning epistemic practices with everyday ones and disputing the claim of exceptionality of scientific knowledge eventually faded away, however. Meanwhile we have accepted that scientific knowledge is not the result of discovery but of a process of construction situated in laboratories. The omnipresence of the term 'construction,' however, signifies that there are ambiguities to be analysed in the discourse of science and

technology studies. What are the consequences to draw from this situation? Are we currently observing a change of paradigms?

The presentations at the conference ultimately propose three possible answers to this key question. The *first* group of speakers made a plea for further development of the constructivist paradigm, but in a more sophisticated way. The strategies presented for refinement differed. One means is to analyse the inherent tensions of this paradigm and articulate the key problems to be resolved (Martina Merz). Another is to enlarge the scope of conditions and factors responsible for 'constructing,' e.g., with respect to gender-sensitive technology development (Andrea Wolfram). A third is to refine central concepts such as 'interpretative flexibility,' and discuss

potential variations and their heuristic potential (Uli Meyer/Ingo Schulz-Schaeffer). The *second* perspective related constructivism to concrete design. On the one hand, there was an emphasis on the creative spill-over to be obtained in a transition from constructivism to the practice of design, under the auspices of actor-network theory (Thomas Berker). On the other hand, a warning was issued about too much optimism in the potential to extract concrete design strategies from the sociological reconstruction of technological developments. The variety of problems of transfer should be considered and investigated (Armin Grunwald). The *third* group of presenters discussed the prospect of moving beyond constructivism. One direction is the methodological acumination of the constructivist paradigm. In one talk the “post-constructivist” was conceptually focused on material and performative practices to analyse ‘unknown unknowns,’ in the debate on a sociology of scientific ignorance (Peter Wehling). A second direction was the enlargement of relevant settings. It may be fruitful to draft a conceptual framework for trans-human interaction that takes the different levels of social interaction into account (societal, organizational, inter- and intra-individual) (Roger Häussling). Others focused precisely on the linkages between science and society - the “structural coupling“ between science and justice - against the backdrop of network analysis (Thomas Heinze), or as a dynamic model of technological change between technology, actors and institutions (Raymund Werle).

In addition to these varied perspectives responding to the main question, two special lectures took up central points not to be missed when reflecting upon paradigmatic shifts.

Wolfgang Krohn reminded us in his plea for “deliberative constructivism“ not only to take the problem of observation in the sociology of science serious with respect to its consequences, but also to be aware of the problem of cultural relativity in the justification of knowledge. It requires a constant negotiation of the boundaries of science. Concluding the conference, Wolfgang Bonß, in a discussion of modernization theories, pointed out how the standard view of scientific capacity, established in the so-called ‘first modernity,’ is undergoing a process of relativisation. The production of scientific knowledge is not only a rational enterprise; the debates on scientifically induced catastrophes are also relevant to understand the dynamic of this evolution. What we observe in general is a shift from a “dialectics of enlightenment“ to a “dialectics of scientification.“ As a consequence we would have to discuss and specify the problem of the justification of knowledge not only in a broader setting (including institutional questions) but also in a way reflected in modernization theory.

An all-embracing answer to the question of the “after” is impossible and was not the main emphasis of the organization team. The focus was much more on screening the present debate and investigating new programmatic territory. The wealth of questions thrown up demonstrated that the provocation of the central question achieved its aim. Obviously, the question hits a nerve in science and technology studies. The intention is to publish a selection of contributions in the newly established Internet-forum. Science, Technology and Innovation-Studies (STI-Studies).

Objects of Knowledge in Organizations

by Ragna Zeiss

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Report on 'The Power of Objects in Shaping Workplace Practices', a sub-theme at the 20th Colloquium of the European Group for Organizational Studies (EGOS)

From July 1st to 3rd the European Group for Organizational Studies (EGOS) held its 20th Colloquium on *The Organization as a Set of Dynamic Relationships* in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The Colloquium attracted over a thousand participants from 44 different countries. The conference was divided in 43 different sub themes of which *The Power of Objects in Shaping Workplace Practices*, the sub theme I attended, received most abstracts. The convenors, Silvia Gherardi (University of Trento) and Antonio Strati (University of Trento), were inclusive in order to enhance discussion between participants with various backgrounds. The sub theme consisted of eleven sessions (some parallel), each consisting of five papers, spread over the three days.

The convenors have organized other workshops in the past on what they call 'practice-based studies'. Scholars who investigate processes of learning and knowing in work and organization have become increasingly interested in practice (how activity is carried out in the workplace and how this relates to knowing in practice and organising processes). Practice-based studies are thus an emergent field within the sociology of organization and informed by different approaches (situated learning theory, activity theory, workplace studies, actor-network theory, etc.). At the EGOS conference specific attention was paid to the role of objects in learning and knowing.

What is an object? This was a question that came to the fore time and time again. The participants referred to many different things as objects, amongst which networks, team meetings, electronic patient records, pens, and water samples. They could be discursive (ideas are regarded as real things in practice) or material.

Some argued that we cannot *a priori* distinguish what is an object and what not: we have to study how objects emerge and become referred to as objects. Sometimes objects and humans (if one can distinguish them) engage in relationships. Cristiano Storni (University of Trento) argued that a new unit of analysis then emerges which is neither human nor an object (or non-human). This is of course a familiar debate for people familiar with Science and Technology Studies (STS). I had really been looking forward to discussing the relation between objects and learning and knowing in organizations, however, often very localised practices were studied and sometimes the relation to wider institutional practices, or the knowing and learning in these practices, remained unclear. At times, this resulted in repeating insights well-known (at least) in the STS literature for some time now. Yet, sometimes the study of localised practices also offered new ways of thinking about practices. Below I will mention a few papers which I found particularly interesting (unfortunately I cannot mention all of them) and which revealed something about the relation between objects and organizations.

Christian Heath (King's College London) spoke about how objects become commodified and given value in a collaborative process at auctions in the UK. With help of conversation analysis and a videotape which showed the gestures made by the auctioneer, he investigated in detail how the ownership of objects is transferred and how the value of objects gets constituted in only a few moments. The constitution of value in this setting seems a contingent process, yet, the process of auctioning has to provide legitimacy and trust in the final value of the object. In a few seconds, the career of the object and the social relations around the object can change totally. The value of the object is thus not inherent in the object itself, but established by social relations and the organizational setting. However, this particular organizational setting would not exist if there

would not be objects to auction. This mutual construction of object and organizational practices came back in many papers. One other example was a study in which the role of a pen was investigated in meetings of a group of designers (Ulla-Maaria Mutanen, University of Helsinki). The pen orchestrated the dynamics of the conversation (handing someone the pen is giving someone the right to speak in a group of designers; the expert who holds the pen temporarily holds the future of the product in his/her hands) and made it possible to work collectively. The pen thus expands someone's agency temporarily and can (re)order a situation.

Other's showed how objects do not change situations by creating new orders, but are regarded as stable factors in an ever changing environment. Silvia Jordan (University of Innsbruck) presented a paper which showed that objects can fulfil different roles for different people in a department of anaesthesiology. For inexperienced nurses who started to work in this department, objects provided stability in an environment of otherwise ever changing routines and workplaces. The nurses preferred standardised technologies to the newest devices, because being able to rely on the instruments was necessary for them: the routinisation of cognitive processes took place through technical objects. However, experienced nurses showed less trust in the technological devices; for them the objects were more ambiguous. Christian Heath added that ambiguity results from treating the technology as independent, whereas it always has to be skilfully interpreted: one needs to know under what circumstances one can ignore an alarm and under what circumstances one needs to pay attention to it.

Laura Lucia Parolin (University of Trento) continued talking about medical settings, however, she discussed what happens when the object is absent. She investigated a case of telemedicine and found that classifications and labels of the object are necessary to be able to talk about it. General Practitioners (GP's) and cardiologists use standardized typologies to be able to communicate about a specific patient. It was interesting to see that the cardiologist had a need for more specific labels than the GP. Categorisations were also important in my own paper which argued that in order to create a water sample that complies with the water quality regulations, the water sample (or object) has to be materially constructed by adding a preservative to the sample bottle to neutralise the

substances that may otherwise affect the amount or characteristics of the substance that needs to be measured. For the water company it would be easier to take one sample with which all regulatory substances could be measured, however, the water has agency and can resist certain classifications. At first the object has to be created materially to be transformed into a number at a computer screen later on where it can re-order and transform information obtained from analysing the sample. Here we enter the realm of virtual objects.

Paolo Landri (Institute of Research on Population and Social Policies, Italy) explored how information and communication technologies redistributed competences and performances at Italian public schools. Dirk Bunzel (Keele University) investigated how customer service became virtual, and dematerialised, in an Australian coastal hotel. In order to provide the guests with the best service, the hotel simulates service scenarios and designed an ideal guest. The virtual service has become so 'real' or 'hyperreal' to use Baudrillard's concept that employees can be sanctioned on basis of their encounter with a virtual guest which Bunzel calls neither real nor entirely fictitious, but a *Phantom* (based on texts by Günther Anders). He argued that the ontological status of the imaginary object (the guest) can shape hotel practices.

A paper by Gianni Lorenzoni and Alessandro Narduzzo (both from the University of Bologna) however stressed that objects can still be material and fulfil a special role in organizations. The Swatch Creative Lab (that produces most of the famous watches) stores concepts of watches, also the ones that were not selected for the market. This archive of material objects (both successful and unsuccessful) is what they call a 'huge repertoire of solutions, combinations of colours, ideas, material, and concepts' that designers can use for inspiration and that are in that sense objects of knowledge or objects of knowledge construction. It provides an organizational memory.

The main conclusions were that objects and organizations always co-perform; that objects are never alone, but always interpreted and experienced in a particular setting at a particular time; and that objects often transform and that these transformations should be studied. A number of questions was raised as well. How can objects be studied? Is the researcher part of or apart of the practice in which the object plays a

role? If objects can be regarded as boundary objects, what is the 'in between' boundaries? If objects can be regarded as objects of knowledge, should we pay more attention to the unaccomplished, to what is not learned and how it is not learned? Should we not study more how objects sometimes do not bridge boundaries, but create them, limit interaction, and resist certain practices? A sociology of attachment is needed: what happens when people get attached to (or dependent on) objects? Objects and organizational practices are mutually constructed, but there are also multiple constructions: what role do these play in organizations? If one wants to study an artefact to understand organizational functioning, is there a way to find out in advance which objects are strategic and will bring us an understanding of organizational processes or can we only know this retrospectively? What happens if we give agency to objects? In other words: what are the political implications of practice-based studies? And who are we writing for? Who

is the subject and who has the power to define an object? If there is no object without a subject, is there a subject without an object? If the authority of the subject (an author, a doctor) is challenged, what happens to the object? (Robert Grafton Small, University of Leicester, suggested that academics going to conference might feel like an appendix to their paper, because it is the paper going to the conference and no one at the conference knows whether you really are the author).

These questions suggest many possibilities for further research projects. Personally, I would especially be interested in more research that explicitly addresses the role of (material) objects in learning and knowing in organizations; research that attempts to combine a micro approach with the opportunities and limits (which can be difficult to address with help of an actor-network approach) the institutional or organizational environment may provide and set.

Recent Dissertations

Oana Mitrea, *Understanding the Mobile Telephony Usage Patterns. The Rise of the Mobile Communication 'Dispositif'*. PhD thesis, Graduiertenkolleg "Technisierung und Gesellschaft" (postgraduate school "Technology and Society"), Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany, 2003.

The dissertation focuses on the interlaced rebuilding of communication, movement, and information due to the integration of the wireless telephony in the daily life. The theoretical objective is to highlight the value of the *dispositif* concept for the study of the aforementioned process. This goal is supported by an explorative online study conducted between 2002-2003 in Germany on 151 respondents between 13-65 years, that analyses the different behavioral patterns and attitudes among various groups of users, as well as non-users.

The core of the theoretical part of the dissertation consists in the construction of a

dispositif model that explains wireless telephony constitution, usage, and impact. The model outlines technology, subjects, usage, perception, representation, and socio-cultural frames. The reciprocal interactions between the mobile telephony apparatus, human subjects (as designers and users), and various usage programs (mobile communication, information and orientation, personal assistant, supervising, and entertainment), lead to the rebuilding of communication, information, entertainment, and supervising "arrangements". Further, in a historical chapter dealing with the constitution of the *dispositif*, avatars of communication and mobility structures are presented in connection with the underlying transformations from science to technical implementation and diffusion. I support the thesis that the current mobile telephony represents a mature and functional phase of a manifold *dispositif*, which has historically constituted through redefinition and creative rebuilding of programs and structures

belonging to earlier avatars and competing *dispositives*.

The empirical part of the dissertation examines the results of the quantitative study conducted to validate and correct the theoretical model and to identify the formative effects of the *dispositif*. Findings indicate that the usage of wireless telephony creates a specific communication structure featuring particular purposes, content, situations, actions and partners, which is mainly oriented toward spatial and temporal coordination of communicators. The analysis also concentrates on the relation between mobile communication (verbal and written) and other communication forms enabled by face-to-face contacts or technical *dispositives*. Two positioning analyses of the existing communication forms in the situational and affective field (conducted through Multidimensional Scaling) show that the usage and perception of mobile telephony and SMS are subjects of interaction with the usage and perception of face-to-face communication, fixed telephony, and the e-mail. Thus, concurrent and complementary *dispositives* continuously influence each other by ingeniously manipulating their programs for competitive purposes. Concerning the constitution of communicative mobility, the effect of technology usage on movement is reinforced mainly at the attitudinal/representational level. Particular localization patterns and chronotypes structured by technology usage are revealed. Other results relate to the images and attitudes towards technology and its users and to several social effects of mobile telephony usage, such as the strengthening of close family relations and the extension of the network of acquaintances. The last part of the thesis comprises of study conclusions, methodological discussion, and suggestions for further research.

Yvette Bartholomé, *Society as a Laboratory. Donald T. Campbell and the History of Social Experimentation*, PhD Thesis, University of Groningen, Netherlands, 2004.

This thesis focuses on experiments with people, more specifically on the methods that are widely used in the social sciences for such experiments. In the first decades after the Second World War, American social scientists in particular developed a large set of methods which they dubbed ‘experimental and quasi-experimental designs’

for ‘social experimentation.’ Soon this methodological paradigm became *the* international armamentarium for testing the effectiveness of ameliorative policies. Well-known early examples of social experiments that affected the lives of many people are large-scale projects such as ‘Head Start’ that tried to improve the education of disadvantaged preschool children, ‘Sesame Street,’ testing the effects of the educational television program, or the ‘New Jersey Negative Income Tax Experiments’ that had to establish whether or not guaranteeing an income to poor working families reduced their willingness to work. This thesis offers new perspectives on experimental and quasi-experimental methods and the claims they incorporate. Looking behind the conventional façade that presents research methods as simply a technical set of rules, I investigated their origins and development. Doing so, I arrived at the conclusion that they do not just discover reality but also reshape reality into their image.

The methods for social experimentation that became most famous were mainly provided by the American psychologist Donald T. Campbell (1916-1996). Together with a number of associates, Campbell developed a new array of ‘true’ and ‘quasi-experimental’ research designs to be followed by social scientists. The first publication on such designs was a 1963 book chapter entitled ‘Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Research on Teaching’ that Campbell wrote with the statistician Julian Stanley. Campbell and Stanley used the label of ‘true experimental designs’ for experiments comparing randomly composed groups of subjects, and that of ‘quasi-experimental designs’ for the alternatives used when random allocation of people to groups was impracticable. These designs with corresponding concepts such as ‘internal’ and ‘external validity’ became highly influential and established Campbell’s reputation as an eminent methodologist of the social sciences. I wondered how these methods could become as successful as they did. Trying to find an answer, I studied the people who accepted, applied, and applauded these methods, as well as people who resisted them.

The first, introductory chapter embeds my question into theoretical viewpoints developed in the field of Science and Technology Studies (STS) that has also focused on scientific experimentation. Since the explanations for the success of quasi-experimental methods in the social sciences propounded in this thesis bear on

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and elaborate some of the theoretical notions of STS scholars, I discussed some of their current conceptions of experimentation in the natural and subsequently the social sciences. Together, these studies have toppled experimentation from its privileged position as a self-evident practice that straightforwardly confirms or refutes scientific theories. Yet at the same time, STS studies ‘emancipated’ experimentation as an interesting scientific practice in itself. By investigating how experimentation reflected and shaped prevailing societal values, these studies showed that science and society are inextricably entwined. Experimentation is not an isolated practice, it is not exempt from societal demands and influences and cannot simply impose its outcomes and answers on society. Of the discussed theories, Bruno Latour’s ‘translation’ concept in particular plays an important role in the following chapters, as well as Theodore Porter’s theory about the advance of quantification in science and society alike.

The following chapters analyze the experimental and quasi-experimental methods developed for social scientific research. Every chapter investigates implicit or explicit claims that the proponents of these methods make. Combined, these chapters aim to explain the overwhelming success of this methodology in the 1960s and 1970s as well as give a critical appraisal of that success. The second chapter starts with a short biographical overview of Campbell’s social and particularly academic background, which illustrates the development of psychology from an academic into an applied discipline. Yet, apart from Campbell, the subject of chapter two is the methodological paradigm of quasi-experimentation. It describes the sizable set of strict research rules that Campbell and his associates grouped under the heading of ‘experimental and quasi-experimental designs for scientific field experimentation.’ The chapter goes into a range of articles and volumes that in the course of four decades distinguished ever more ‘threats to validity’ – factors that could disturb the outcomes of experiments – and steadily extended the list of methodological remedies to counteract their detrimental force. My quite extensive discussion of these fears of subjectivity and countering firewalls serves to illustrate the strong urge to substitute personal judgments by judgments based on standardized procedures.

In order to explore how quasi-experimental methods could expand, this chapter also goes

deeper into the much used rhetoric of ‘the laboratory being exchanged for the field.’ Campbell and his associates regarded their quasi-experimental research designs as the only way to move psychological research beyond the confined laboratory, right into the ‘field’ and to preserve scientific rigor in real life. Moreover, they suggested that ‘natural’ research settings – as opposed to the ‘artificial’ lab – would produce real, working knowledge. I investigated the key role of this ‘lab-to-field’ metaphor in the success of quasi-experimentation by analyzing it in analogy to Bruno Latour’s (1988) study of Pasteur’s famous experiments with anthrax vaccine. In doing so, I reversed the traditional image of social research transferring its sphere of action into real life. Social experimentation, I argued, is not so much a matter of *leaving* the laboratory as of *extending* it, that is of turning society into a lab. In order to allow experimentation, society has to meet many demands and problems have to be recasted to fit the experimental mould. Whereas the format of true, randomized experiments most often demands too much in this respect, quasi-experiments can be seen as the result of negotiations about how much to retain of laboratory methods and how much to adjust them. Quasi-experimental methods thus not only transformed the field into a laboratory, but also underwent a transformation themselves in crossing from lab to field.

Chapter three investigates the rise of a new research field in the 1960s, that of evaluation research, in which quasi-experimental methods obtained a prominent role. The success of quasi-experimentation in this field is analyzed by using the ‘translation’ concept of Bruno Latour. Translation presupposes that findings can only be turned into facts if they manage to interest and attract others that seize upon them for their own reasons. Moreover, facts can only move to other audiences and contexts if they undergo transformations that grant them a new or wider relevance. The translations explored in this chapter exemplify how the meaning of existing methodological concepts was changed in order to tailor them to the explicit interests of a new clientele of policymakers.

For instance, the *term* quasi-experimentation is generally thought to be coined by Campbell. Yet, this chapter shows that it was used long before as a catchall for all kinds of experimentation that could not live up to ‘true’ experimentation. Campbell changed its meaning into a clearly

defined set of research designs with particular characteristics. Moreover, the brief history of the term quasi-experimentation can be read as a tale of standardization in itself. Campbell chose the name quasi-experimental from many names that circulated for experimental designs departing from the laboratory-based ideal. The chapter also explores older methodological concepts and ideas that Campbell chose to incorporate in his methodology and how he reassembled them into a new methodological framework. He relabeled already existing experimental designs and developed a new set of categories – ‘internal’ and ‘external validity’ – in order to classify the designs in a novel way. This transformation granted the experimental designs a new meaning and usefulness.

The chapter’s second part analyzes which new demands incited Campbell to remodel methods in the way that he did. At the time he developed his methods for quasi-experimental research, the American government was expanding rapidly and social scientists offered their services to growing groups of administrative officials. Theodore Porter (1995) in particular explained why administrative officials appealed to the knowledge and skills of social scientists. He analyzed the growing importance of standardization, quantification and ‘mechanical objectivity’ in societies distrusting administrative officials. ‘Mechanical’ objectivity gave administrators as well as scientists an aura of trustworthiness based on the promise to exclude personal whims and arbitrariness. In various important practical domains, trust in numbers substituted trust in persons. After all, decisions based on numbers appeared to be fair and impersonal. In this chapter, I argue that social scientists were not just forced to turn to standardized, quantitative forms of knowledge-production, but also took great advantage of changed demands. By producing knowledge in the format that policymakers asked for, social scientists capitalized on changes in administrative practices.

Campbell, too, chose to seize the opportunities that this new type of government offered. He translated the distrust that policymakers experienced into the methodological solutions that he had to offer. Apparently, he succeeded in reaching this new clientele, since his methods are considered to set the tone in the new field of evaluation research that arose in the Kennedy-Johnson era in the 1960s. The newly established field of evaluation research attracted people from

disciplines as diverse as psychology, economics, sociology, education, and political science. Campbell himself, however, did not become involved in any actual evaluations of social programs. He remained the methodologist who stood by the sideline commenting on what was to be done. This position in particular enabled him to write a programmatic statement for evaluation researchers in which he framed his utopian ‘Experimenting Society.’ In this ideal society, scientific experimentation was strongly linked with American democracy. In Campbell’s view policymakers had to be educated in the prerequisites of proper experimental evaluations in order to realize such a democratic ‘Experimenting Society.’ Consequently, Campbell not only was one of many scientists who standardized social scientific research to meet changing administrative demands, but also forced his standardized research protocols upon decision-makers.

Campbell’s translation attempts, however, were not always successful. The fourth chapter discusses the most clear counter example. It studies Campbell’s strong efforts to combine the benefits of cultural anthropology and psychology. Whereas psychology could only become a truly universal discipline by testing its theories across many different cultures, Campbell argued, anthropology could only become ‘scientific’ by turning into a much more quantitative and standardized discipline. To this aim, Campbell engaged himself in a cross-cultural study of perception comparing the susceptibility to visual illusions among both Americans and Africans, as well as a research project that investigated ethnocentrism that was executed in various countries all over the world. In these cases he also tried to turn societies into labs. Detailed research manuals ensured uniform research conditions, thus regulating the behavior of researchers and participants alike. Again, Campbell had ample attention for possible sources of bias. The methods employed in these projects were set as an example to anthropologists. The lists of ‘threats to validity’ and their accompanying quasi-experimental research designs were translated into a set of methodological considerations to be used by anthropologists; a strategy that was supposed to grant them a wider relevancy.

In order to market his methods to anthropologists, Campbell proposed a sort of trade to them. In exchange for the cross-cultural comparisons that interested psychologists,

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anthropologists could be imparted in better research methods. Some anthropologists enthusiastically welcomed the standardized methods that Campbell presented. Others, however, were more reluctant. In the course of time, a more quantitative and standardized methodology remained controversial within cultural anthropology, which largely remained a qualitative discipline. The strategy of translation thus failed to gear cross-cultural research methods to the specific interests of anthropologists. The methodological improvements that Campbell and his co-workers presented to anthropologists as vital for their research were dismissed as completely irrelevant. Most anthropologists argued that they had their own, specific research themes, which they investigated with their own methods. On the other hand, psychology in general did not become a cross-cultural science. Only a small number of psychologists followed Campbell's example. Honoring him as a 'founding father,' they established a separate sub-discipline of psychology which they named 'cross-cultural psychology.' Yet, in spite of their endeavors to retrospectively turn Campbell's cross-cultural adventures into a success story, even nowadays their field is full of controversy, with methods at the root of the ongoing debate. The epilogue to chapter four briefly sketches the endless polemic between 'cross-cultural-psychologists' and so-called 'intercultural psychologists' which is the unintentional legacy of resistance to standardization by anthropologists in the past. The decisions made by Campbell and his allies still set the agenda for the issues heavily debated today.

Finally, the concluding chapter five expands on the main issues in the previous chapters. It further discusses the argument that methods not only help to lay bare reality but also profoundly reshape it. Even though experimental and quasi-experimental methods claim only to show 'reality as it is,' they impose certain standards on the societal situations they study and thus remake society to their own image. In sum, these social scientific research methods simultaneously are shaped by and shape reality. This complexity, however, does not render research methods invalid and certainly not redundant. Rather, it makes them into much more powerful devices than simple sets of technical procedures and rules.

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Matthias Adam, *Theoriebeladenheit und Objektivität. Zur Rolle von Beobachtungen in den Naturwissenschaften (Theory-ladenness and objectivity. On the role of observations in science)*. Dissertation Bielefeld University 2002. Published in the series Epistemische Studien, No. 2 (edited by Michael Esfeld, Stephan Hartmann, Mike Sandbothe), Frankfurt/M., Ontos-Verlag, 2002, 276 pp.

Ever since the work of Paul Feyerabend, Russell Hanson and Thomas Kuhn in the 1960s, the thesis of the theory-ladenness of scientific observation has attracted much attention both in the philosophy and the sociology of science. The main concern has always been epistemic. It was argued –or feared– that if scientific observations depend on prevalent theories, an objective empirical test of theories and hypotheses by independent observation and experience is impossible. This suggests that theories might appear to be well confirmed by observation, and yet it is not likely that they are largely true or empirically adequate. While some philosophers like Ian Hacking have argued that serious theory-dependence is less common than often assumed, sociologists such as David Bloor, Stephen Shapin, Karin Knorr-Cetina or Harry Collins have based their constructivist programs for the sociology of science on strong claims of theory-ladenness.

The study takes a fresh look on the epistemic problem of theory-ladenness and addresses two main questions. First, it is investigated to which extent various types of observation can be taken to be theory-dependent. Second, it is asked what the epistemic consequences of different types of theory-dependence would be. For the purposes of the study, a broad notion of observation is adopted which is intended to encompass the whole empirical basis of science. It therefore includes not only sensory perceptions, but also the empirical results of measurement and experimentation. A number of dimensions of observations are then distinguished, in particular the roles of perceptive faculties and of measurement instruments, the semantic constitution of observation results, and the scientific assessment of the trustworthiness of empirical results. The mode of theory-dependence in each of these dimensions is assessed on the basis of arguments and findings from the psychology of perception, the philosophy of language and the philosophy of

science.

The study defends two main claims. First, it is argued that the theory-dependence of an observation should not be considered an all-or-nothing affair. Instead, observations can be theory-dependent in some of their dimensions, while they are theory-independent in other dimensions. In addition, while direct perceptions are often in many of their aspects theory-independent, measurements that lead to sentential (as opposed to pictorial) data often draw on theories in many respects. Second, it is claimed that theory-ladenness should not be taken to be epistemically detrimental as such. Instead, the epistemic evaluation of theory-ladenness depends very much on the specific kind of theory-dependence and the status of the influencing theory. Theories can have a positive epistemic role, for instance, when they contribute to expanding the range of observable phenomena or hint at possible sources of experimental error. It is argued, therefore, that observations can on the whole be taken to be objective not despite of their theory-dependence, but because they are partly theory-dependent, partly theory-independent.

Hajo Greif, *Wer spricht im Parlament der Dinge? Über die Idee einer nicht-menschlichen Handlungsfähigkeit*, (*Who Speaks in the Parliament of Things? On the Idea of Non-human Agency*), PhD thesis, Graduiertenkolleg “Technisierung und Gesellschaft” (postgraduate school “Technology and Society”), TU Darmstadt, Germany, 2004. To be published by Mentis, Paderborn, autumn 2005.

This thesis in the philosophy of science undertakes a critical reconstruction of popular theories in the natural and social sciences that propose a revision of conventional notions of agency. Within the field of science and technology studies, Actor-Network Theory (as most prominently advocated by Bruno Latour) claims that non-human agents, from technical apparatus to science’s would-be passive objects, are sharing and shaping human life-worlds. In evolutionary biology, Selfish Gene Theory (as introduced by Richard Dawkins) subsumes the explanation of the evolution, structure and behaviour of organisms under the laws of genetic replication, where genes appear as optimising economic agents.

In Part I, the two theories are compared in order

to identify methodological aims, structural properties and motifs common to them despite all apparent differences: Firstly, both theories, with regard to new evidence in their fields, aim at metaphorical redescrptions of their explananda for the sake of improving on established theories in the sociology of science and in evolutionary biology respectively. Secondly, in redescrbing the behaviour of genes, microbes and other things as actions, categories of agency are not simply ascribed more liberally. Instead, the behaviours of agents in general, both human and non-human, are explained in terms of functions—as non-intentionally selected effects. Thirdly, those functions are analysed in a broadly semantic sense. The analyses amount to postulating the existence of meaningful relations in the world that do not presuppose speaker intentions in any way, while themselves forming necessary preconditions for the latter. Finally and consequently, both theories imply that there is no *a priori* possibility of distinguishing between intentional action and causal efficacy. Instead, the gradual emergence of intentional phenomena from non-intentional processes is proposed.

In Part II, the above set of propositions distilled from Dawkins’ and Latour’s theories is matched against an explication adopted from the programme of teleosemantics. This programme in the philosophy of mind and language (as brought forward by Ruth Millikan and Fred Dretske) seeks to explain intentionality in terms of evolutionary history. On the basis of findings in biology and developmental psychology, it is firstly argued that naturally occurring representational functions, established by variation and natural selection, are historically and systematically prior to forms of linguistic behaviour. According to the observation that such functions occur at evolutionary stages where no conscious goal-directed behaviour obtains it is maintained that, secondly, intentionality as meaning is independent of intentionality as purpose. Thirdly, the rules and norms of linguistic representation, too, are held to be subject to (quasi-) evolutionary processes in speakers’ life-worlds. Instead of being based on speakers’ intentions and explicit conventions, the meaning of a word or sentence is fixed by repeated successful uses in the speakers’ environment. In consequence, an evolutionary account of intentionality will not only provide a finely graded scale of intentional phenomena; it will also amount to reversing the standard philosophical order of intentionality, thus

depriving the conscious mind of its alleged privilege on meaning.

Given this naturalistic, anti-rationalist account of intentionality, theories of the Dawkins / Latour kind, while not being able to prove the existence of non-human agency, may be understood as attempts at conceptually adapting to scientific and technological developments which are transforming human life-worlds in unanticipated ways. When the conditions of meaningful speaking thus change, such attempts may prove to be viable cognitive strategies.

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Ruth Mourik, *Did Water Kill the Cows? The Distribution and Democratisation of Risk, Responsibility and Liability in a Dutch Agricultural Controversy on Waterpollution and Cattle Sickness*, PhD Thesis, University of Maastricht, Faculty of Arts and Culture, Department of Technology and Society Studies, 2004.

Modern societies are increasingly faced with new risks as a result of the co-evolution of society and technology. From 1975 to the

present, more than three hundred Dutch dairy farmers have been confronted with cattle that experienced serious health problems. These problems were allegedly related to polluted surface water but science was not able to establish a causal link between the water pollution and the cattle sickness. Such scientific uncertainty typically accompanies new risks and causes difficulty in scientifically, politically, and judicially determining which party must be held responsible and or accountable for the situation. In this thesis the fierce controversy between the dairy farmers, governmental bodies, scientists and insurance companies is studied to establish how the distribution and democratisation of responsibility and liability occurs, when society is faced with these new risks and the accompanying scientific uncertainty.

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Dear Members,

In this, my second letter as EASST President, I have first to make an apology to anyone who has wanted to take up or renew their membership since the beginning of the year. Transferring the EASST Secretariat from Amsterdam to Surrey has involved some time consuming research to clarify our legal status and to optimise financial arrangements so that banking will be accessible from the UK but avoid constant conversions between currencies. We hope shortly to be in operation again, with new and more convenient procedures for paying your membership fees. In the meantime, any membership queries or address updates can be sent to admin@easst.net. You can soon expect to be receiving requests for payment of 2005 dues, so that we can keep up the good work on the EASST Review, on the web site, and on conferences and workshops.

The new EASST web site at www.easst.net is up and running thanks to the good work of Richard Rogers, providing a stylish window on EASST activities and a different way of accessing both the EASST Review and the Eurograd mailing list. In future we hope to add more dynamic features, and also develop content to address the needs of different audiences.

In this non-conference year we have been able to fund two workshops, as a result of an open call for applications from the previous EASST council in Autumn 2004. The first of these workshops, held in Amsterdam on April 27th-29th 2005 was organized by Sally Wyatt and Brian Balmer, and focused on the role of mid-range theory in STS. The second sponsored event for this year is the Fifth Triple Helix conference, organized by Fondazione Rosselli and held in Turin from 18th to 21st May 2005. Both events have promised reports for future editions of the EASST Review.

In preparation for the 2006 EASST conference, the team at Lausanne are already working extremely hard on both the intellectual theme and the physical arrangements. The EASST Council met there in April, enjoyed warm hospitality, were surprised by a sudden unseasonal snowfall and narrowly avoided arrest for fare evasion on the metro. We were very impressed by the

dynamic team and the beauty of the surroundings. More details on the 2006 conference will be in the next EASST Review.

My thanks to all those who continue to put their efforts into keeping EASST in operation – to the EASST Council, and particularly Ann Rudinow Saetnan for acting as secretary and Ragna Zeiss for heroically taking on the role of treasurer, to Chunglin Kwa for continuing to dedicate so much effort to editing the EASST Review and to Richard Rogers for all his work on the web site.

Best wishes,

Christine Hine

EASST President
Guildford, 9th May 2005

WTMC Summer School - Advance Announcement

15-19 August 2005, Ravenstein, Netherlands

WTMC is very pleased to announce that Professor Thomas J. Misa of the Illinois Institute of Technology (www.iit.edu/~misa) will be the anchor teacher for the 2005 Summer School. Professor Misa is the author of a number of well-known books and articles. His most recent book is *Leonardo to the Internet, Technology and Culture from the Renaissance to the Present* (2004, Johns Hopkins University Press). Together with Philip Brey and Andrew Feenberg, he edited *Modernity and Technology* (2003, MIT Press). His 1998 book, *A Nation of Steel, The Making of Modern America*, won the Dexter Prize for Best Book in the History of Technology.

While much of Professor Misa's work focuses on the history of technology, he has also written about the (inter)disciplinary nature of STS, comparative methodologies and technology and the city. Professor Misa's interest in understanding processes of socio-technical change will be a useful perspective for everyone concerned with both historical and contemporary cases.

In addition to lectures and workshops led by Professor Misa, the Summer School will include contributions from other scholars in the field.

The workshop will be facilitated by WTMC coordinators, Sally Wyatt (Summer School contact person, s.m.e.wyatt@uva.nl) and Els Rommes. Further programme details will be available in April.

The workshop will be held in the usual place, Studiecentrum Soeterbeeck (www.kun.nl/soeterbeeck).

WTMC members have the opportunity to register first for the Summer School. We would like to ask you to register early if you are planning to attend. That way, we will know how many places we have for PhD students from elsewhere, and how much more widely we need to extend our advertising.

To reserve your accommodation, please complete the attached registration form and mail it to Marjatta Kemppainen:

u.m.kemppainen@utwente.nl by 15 May.

Costs:

-fee EUR 555 (PRIME & EASST members);
EUR 645 for everyone else.

-accommodation EUR 45 (incl. breakfast)/night
-meals EUR 25 for lunch and dinner/day

Conferences and Calls for Papers

Invisible Enemies: The Cultural Meaning of Infection and the Politics of Plague, an international conference, will take place at the **University of Zürich**, September 21-24, 2005. The keynote speakers: Sander Gilman, Christoph Gradmann, Ilana Lowy, Ruth Mayer/Brigitte Weingart, Wolfgang Preisler, Nancy Tomes, Paul Weindling. Infectious diseases are back. With the commercial launch of penicillin in 1945 pathogenic microorganisms seemed finally under control; with the WHO's victory in 1979 over smallpox, the great epidemics seemed conquered and the threat of infection practically overcome. Yet only a year later, a new deadly infectious disease came to the

fore: Aids. Since then, infectious diseases have made a global come-back: tuberculosis, the disease of poverty is proliferating in the Third World and the ghettos of Western metropolis; the HI-Virus is spreading along the labyrinthine ways of sexual encounters or like wildfire through some African States; SARS and other possibly deadly new influenza viruses from the South of China travel to new destinations along international air routes. Epidemics, old and new, are eminently global. In-depth and critical analysis of the current situation in its global context is required, which will have to go beyond the purely biochemical or epidemiological levels. For infectious diseases follow not only

epidemiological, but also cultural patterns; they are fought using measures of defense and protection, which have always combined both military and hygienic-medical dispositives. In order to understand their history, we need to pay attention to the political and cultural logic of infectious diseases, their mode of action, and social attitudes towards them. They are associated with a myriad of phantasms and fears. Even their medical description is structured by metaphors rooted not in the laboratory but in political and cultural traditions. Tuberculosis was considered by the 19th century bourgeoisie to be *chic*, while cholera was feared as an *asiatic* or *oriental* disease. Syphilis on the other hand was taken to be a sign of threatening female sexuality. And after World War I, typhus was fought as a characteristic disease of East European Jews, down to the genocide of these _ bacillus carriers during World War II. In the last twenty years, Aids has been associated first with gays, then with loose sexual morality before it turned into an unfortunate disease plaguing the Third World and SARS might well become an asiatic disease. Many of these representations are rooted in the language of bacteriology, which from its beginnings in the 1870s spoke of pathogenic microorganisms as invisible enemies to be conquered in the body, just as defensive military battles are a matter of life or death for the social organism. Only recently has the idea of an 'equilibrium' or of 'co-existence' between humans and microbes gained ground, not only in immunology but also in popular perceptions. Discourses about infection feature tiny, invisible, contagious and uncontrollable organisms as well as transgressions of boundaries through intimate or fleeting contact. Infection immediately conjures up quick proliferation and dissemination, and the uncanny and potentially deadly transmission of infectious diseases. Infection readily supplies a host of metaphors for describing social processes in the language of epidemics. In our age of increasingly global networking and circulation of people and goods, infection has become the master metaphor. It shapes the emergent political and social discourse of order and its associated technologies of surveillance for controlling borders and immigration; which might be understood as reactions against the potential uncontrolled contacts, migrations and disorder brought by globalization. Such discourses culminate in the -- largely Western -- fear of bioterror, e.g. the fear of a generalized attack by islamistic terrorists or

'rogue states' using anthrax, smallpox or the Ebola-virus as weapons; and which justifies a heightened level of epidemic control on the part of States. This international conference at the University of Zurich is devoted to the discussion of cultural perceptions of infectious diseases and their metaphorical spin-offs in past and present political discourse. We aim to bring together epidemiological investigations with cultural and social analyses of public discourses on infectious diseases and their political dimensions. Historical contributions will situate contemporary discussions in the wider historical context, and provide points of comparison between older conceptions and phantasms associated with plagues with contemporary representations and political action. Contributions from the fields of epidemiology, history, sociology, literature, philosophy and cultural studies are welcome. For more information, contact Myriam Spoeri, spoerri@fsw.unizh.ch.

For its 10th EURAS Workshop to be held in **Tallinn, Estonia** on June 2 - 3, 2005, the *European Academy for Standardization* (EURAS) solicits papers on all aspects of standards and standardisation, and in particular on those related to standardisation in an enlarged Europe. EURAS workshops are interdisciplinary. Sample topics include, but are not limited to: Standards and technology; Economics of standards; Standardisation policies; Legal and regulatory issues in standardisation; Standards setting and implementation processes; History of standards and the future of standardisation; Impact of standards; and Education on standardisation. We welcome theoretical and empirical work, academic case studies as well as contributions from standardisation practitioners. Full papers (up to 20 double-spaced pages; pdf or MS-Word format) should be submitted, preferably by e-mail, to Jörg Gröndahl (groendahl@econ.uni-hamburg.de), Department of Economics, University of Hamburg, Von-Melle-Park 5, 20146 Hamburg. Authors of accepted papers will be expected to serve as discussants upon request. All papers will undergo a double blind peer-review process. Particularly good and relevant papers will be fast-tracked through the review processes of the EURAS-Yearbook or of the Int. Journal of IT Standards and Standardization Research (JITSR). For more detailed information, please consult the EURAS website (www.EURAS.org).

Murat Aydemir has issued a call for papers for *Indiscretions: At the Interaction of Postcolonial and Queer Theory*. Ross Chambers' analysis of the gay sexual "tourism" of Roland Barthes, both abroad and at home, stands as a challenge to those assuming that the epistemological and political projects of queer theory and postcolonialism are self-evidently governed by the same spirit, or garner similar effects (Loiterature, 1999, 250-69). According to Chambers, Barthes' anti-narratives of cruising, whether set in the commercial district of Saint-Germain-des-Prés in Paris or in Morocco, studiously "forget" the (post)colonial context that makes young Maghrebi men available for the writer's melancholic and desirous scrutiny. The dreary and hapless cruising detailed in "Soirées de Paris" furnishes an ongoing story that has no point, that remains pointless; the generous Moroccan sexuality of "Incidents" delivers a series of pointed details without a story. (Both texts are part of the posthumously published 'collection Incidents', 1992.) The establishment of the urban everyday in the former text and of the exotic in the latter, Chambers argues, are both conditional on the foreclosure of the (post)colonial from bearing on the practices and expressions of gay male desire. Thus, Barthes' cruising in Paris and Morocco, Chambers concludes, requires "the double forgetting of the colonial." (258) Chambers' analysis may be limited in that it concerns a specific (and perhaps specifically gay male) practice. But Chambers' reading can also be taken as exemplary in that it foregrounds a set of urgent questions. Does the study of queerness, lesbian, gay, or other, implicitly mandate not getting the (post)colonial point? Conversely, does (post)colonial expertise require one to miss the queer point? And, how can the two be productively and relevantly be recombined? *Indiscretions: At the Intersection of Postcolonial and Queer Theory* proposes to take to task both theoretical discourses in relation to each other, bearing in mind that that relationship may be intimate, mirroring, conflict-ridden, and/or mutually exclusive. As Chambers asks, "What incidences-interactions, intersections, intrications, mutual interruptions-join them?" (251) Such questions are especially pressing now that the exoticizing erotics that Barthes exemplifies seem largely superseded by the new islamophobia and racism of Europe (and The Netherlands in particular) that legitimize themselves precisely by citing the attitudes towards (homo-)sexuality of Islamic immigrants.

At the same time, the institutionalization of queer theory and postcolonialism as separate areas of specialization has hampered academics in intervening intellectually and activistically in today's heady concatenation of sexual and cultural issues. The simultaneity of these developments forces a re-evaluation of the pitfalls and possibilities of postcolonial and queer politics in relation to each other. With its social as well as semiotic connotations, the titular notion of "indiscretions" may serve as a productive pointer to access and organize the discussion. Also, it invites contributors to be less than discreet with their employment of the two bodies of theory at issue, intersecting the one with the other. *Indiscretions* advocates the close analysis of instances and aspects of culture in which a) discretionary power, the social authority to tell the difference, renders discrete cultural and sexual identities, as well as in which this power is haunted or enchanted by a potential for density, for indiscretion, that eludes it; b) cultural and sexual identities and practices become discrete or indiscrete in relation to each other; c) postcolonial and queer theory can grasp, render discreet and legible, aspects of cultural and artistic texts, as well as of instances and aspects in which they fail to do so; c) postcolonial and queer theory can render discrete and/or indiscrete aspects of each other. For more information, refer to <http://www.rodopi.nl/senj.asp?SerieID=THAMY> RIS.

The Third "Milano Workshop" on *The Physical Sciences in the Third World: A social history of science and development* will take place in **Bogotá, Colombia**, June 11-13, 2005. Through a Grant awarded by the Universidad Nacional de Colombia to Commemorate the World Year of Physics 2005, we are pleased to offer accommodation to participants in case of financial hardship. Thanks to an agreement between the University and the Intercontinental Hotel Tequendama, participants will be accommodated at this 5 stars hotel (<http://www.inter-tequendama.com.co/>). To apply contact: meeting05_bog@unal.edu.co. Deadline: 15 april, 2005. The organization of the Workshop continues to explore alternatives to offer further support to participants interested in presenting papers. For more information: <http://www.fisica.unal.edu.co/milano/index.html> or <http://www.brera.unimi.it/milan/start.html>.

Contact Prof. Alexis De Greiff,
meeting05_bog@unal.edu.co or Dr. Leonardo
Gariboldi, leonardo.gariboldi@unimi.it.

The *Albert Einstein Century International Conference* will be held at the **Palais de l'Unesco, Paris**, France, 18-23 July, 2004. (See <http://einstein2005.obspm.fr>; contact meeting.einstein2005@obspm.fr.) The main purpose of this international conference is to put in perspective the work of Einstein and the recent developments of the following (potential) scientific and philosophical topics : Cosmology, Theory of Unification, Theory of the Gravitation and Nature of Space - Time, Compact Objects and high energies phenomena in the Universe, Nature of the Quantum World, Brownian Motion, Philosophy, Politics, Biography and other aspects. It will be a question of seeing how the questions raised by Einstein, approximately one century ago, guided the scientific research though sometimes the answers were founded in a way which was not considered by Einstein.

The 7th Conference of the European Sociological Association (ESA), *Rethinking Inequalities*, will be held on September 9-12, 2005 in **Torun, Poland**. The *Research Network Sociology of Science and Technology (SSTNET)* has announced that changes in society and in science and technology have led to an erosion of traditional institutional boundaries between these spheres. Nowotny, Scott and Gibbons use the term Agora to describe an emerging new public space "where science and society, the market and politics co-mingle." The Agora denotes a space in which knowledge is contextualized. What is emphasized here for scientific knowledge is not completely different with technical knowledge. Boundaries of science and technology are transgressed by politics, economics and the civil society. This phenomenon is not completely new. But more than in the past science and technology are evaluated by utilitarian standards and expected to produce novelty and innovation. At the same time, however, the social impact of these innovations is critically assessed. Frequently the evaluation process includes the public communication of the products and results science and technology deliver - their potential risks as well as their benefits. Among these issues are those concerning a redefinition of certainty and uncertainty, the known and the

unknown, as well as questions of societal inequality and equality. If (scientific) knowledge is a building block of contemporary (knowledge) societies how can public access and participation in the process of knowledge generation and diffusion be facilitated? Do new technologies such as the Internet mitigate societal divides or do they create new ones. Generally, the public plays a more decisive role with respect to issues of accountability, responsibility and legitimacy or transparency and democratic control in the process of development of science and technology. Public communication and understanding of science and technology also encompasses visions, values and ethics conveyed in funding programs, in academic journals and by news journalists. SSTNET website: <http://sstnet.iscte.pt>; ESA conference website: <http://www.7thesaconference.umk.pl>.

The *Digital World Research Centre (DWRC)* at the **University of Surrey**, Guildford, UK, is offering an inter-disciplinary postgraduate programme designed to equip students with the social scientific resources to investigate the role of digital technologies in society, and the technical resources to contribute towards their ongoing development. The programme combines modules from DWRC and other Departments, particularly Sociology and Computing. It will also bring together people from variety of backgrounds. It will provide students with the skills required for a range of jobs involving digital technologies in the IT industry. In particular the course will enable students to: examine these digital technologies and their place in society in a critical and theoretically informed way and utilise a range of research methods to assess the impact of digital technologies; to develop an appreciation of the processes involved in the design of digital technologies; to develop the skills required for analysis and synthesis, communication and presentation, computing, critical reasoning, data analysis, organisation and planning, report and essay writing, problem solving, and interactive group work. This full-time programme is suitable for students with first degrees in social science or computer science. DWRC is a multidisciplinary unit within the School of Human Sciences. It covers sociology, psychology, economics, human factors and human-computer interaction. The University of Surrey campus is located in landscaped grounds just outside Guildford town

centre. Guildford has a lively nightlife and good transport connections to London (50 kms) and London airports. For further information contact: Email: l.hamill@surrey.ac.uk; Web: <http://www.surrey.ac.uk/dwrc/MSc/index.htm>; Tel: +44 1483 689446; Fax: +44 1483 689550.

The 9th Nordic Youth Research Information Symposium, to be held in **Stockholm** on 12-14 January 2006, is dedicated to *Landscapes of Youth*. The landscapes of youth vary over time and space: within more affluent countries and groups we see the rise of new trans-national formations of cultural identities and political activities involving new social movements, not least related to new media technologies. We also see new patterns of values, including those around sexual and gender identities, new practices in education and classroom cultures, as well as post-national ways of (inter)cultural communication, increased mobility, migration and tourism that engender cross-cultural encounters, etc. At the same time, we witness new kinds of cultural, social, economic and political marginalisation, divides and conflicts, both within and between countries. Resources are unevenly distributed across the globe and many young people live in poor circumstances that have changed little over the last century. We need to know more about how such cultural and societal processes affect young people in different parts of the world as regards employment, housing, family situation, education, leisure activities, health, risk, criminality, substance abuse, societal participation, and much more, while also reflecting on the historical and geographical specificities of life contexts and cultures of young people. As youth researchers we are deeply involved in creating the symbolic constructions of youth. We therefore need to confront ourselves with questions concerning the influences of our accounts on young people, and to evaluate our knowledge and its biases, as well as our social origins as researchers. We should reflect on how our research questions are posed. All this certainly has a bearing on the answers given, and on actions and policies taken. NYRIS 9 welcome papers and presentations that can contribute to new insights into all areas of the landscapes of young people. We especially encourages presentations that with a self-critical, trans-disciplinary eye reflect on youth research as a social and cultural process. For more

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information on abstract submission, registration, etc., see www.sh.se/nyris9, or contact fredrik.stiernstedt@sh.se.

The Society for the Social History of Medicine invites submissions for its 2006 Annual Conference, *Practices and Representations of Health: Historical Perspectives*, to be held at the University of Warwick on 28-30 June 2006, organised jointly by the Centres for the History of Medicine at the **Universities of Birmingham and Warwick**. Keynote speakers include: Susan E. Lederer (Yale University), Geoffrey Lloyd (Cambridge), Charles E. Rosenberg (Harvard University). The Programme Committee welcome offers of papers on a wide range of topics that link to the theme of the conference, but particularly encourage papers on the following themes: alternative and complementary health movements; airs, waters and places; medicine and emotions; theatre, music and medicine; child health; old age and death; body shape and image; disability; race, post-colonialism and health; health and the workplace; the historiography of the history of medicine. In addition to single-paper proposals, the Programme Committee seeks proposals for panel sessions. All papers should ideally present original work not yet published or in press. We invite you to submit an abstract by email by 1 May 2005, to Molly Rogers (molly.rogers@warwick.ac.uk). If you are unable to submit electronically, please send eight copies of your abstract to Molly Rogers, Centre for the History of Medicine, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, United Kingdom. Abstracts should be limited to one page and must include your mailing and email addresses, telephone number, and affiliation. Contact Molly Rogers, Administrator, Centre for the History of Medicine, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL, Direct Tel: +44 (0)24 7657 2601.

Ways of Making and Knowing: The Material Culture of Empirical Knowledge is the title of the conference to be held in **London** 11-15 July 2005. The conference is to be held at several participating institutions in London and is sponsored by the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL, the Wellcome Trust, and the Yale Center for British Art. This conference aims to build on exciting new work in the history of material culture to break down the

common historiographical dichotomies between craft skill and scientific knowledge, and to showcase some of the most suggestive studies demonstrating that natural knowledge flowed from an engagement with natural things. The chronological orientation of the lectures and discussions will range from the Renaissance through the nineteenth century. Historians of science and medicine, art historians, and museum scholars from various fields will learn from one another through a programme that mixes lectures with hands-on demonstrations. The conference will be held on several sites where expert curators and representative objects are available, namely Chelsea Physic Garden, the British Museum, the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, the Natural History Museum, London, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and Painshill Park. The conference is open to the public. A detailed programme and registration form are available on www.ucl.ac.uk/histmed or from Ms Carol Bowen, The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL, 21-0 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE, UK (c.bowen@ucl.ac.uk Tel: + 44 20 7679 8163). Registration closes on May 15, 2005.

The International Forum for Social Sciences and Health (IFSSH) will hold its annual conference in **Istanbul**, Turkey, from 21 to 26 August. Topics will include: bioethics; bioterror and weapons of mass destruction: fact or fiction; ecohealth: climate change, health consequences of environmental deterioration and environmental policies; health social science research methodology; human rights, HIV/AIDS and the new epidemics; infectious diseases: challenges for health social science research; issues in rural health and disease; politics of pharmaceuticals; and reproductive health: what is new? For further information please visit <http://www.ifssh.net>.

A Special Issue of *Gender, Work and Organization on Sexual Spaces* is to be edited by Alison Linstead (University of York) and Torkild Thanem (University of Stockholm). There has been considerable and increasing attention given to the issues of both space and time in the social sciences in recent years. Globalization and informatization have on the one hand, contributed to the reduction of the impact of distance and the peculiarities of place as the

speed with which both information and people can travel has produced what Armitage, following Virilio, has called the "dromocracy", or culture of speed. Yet even in this virtually enabled world, studies of complexity have alerted us to the potential impact of local variations and their intensities, which has produced a renewed attention to the importance of the local. Space, as Castells and Bauman in particular have pointed out, has a different meaning dependent on relative advantage and disadvantage. Yet there seem to be few symbolic limits on the ways in which people can reinscribe and reterritorialize their spaces, whether deciding on how to arrange their office furniture, what to do on their holidays or "dogging" in the park. For this special issue we invite contributions which address both theoretical and empirical dimensions of the relations between sex, sexuality and space; the ways in which all kinds of public, private, virtual and inner spaces where sexual relationships, performances and identity work take place and are organized; and how the sexualizing of particular spaces affects organization. This may include: Cross-cultural dimensions of sexuality; Studies of red-light districts; Dance clubs, discos; Holiday resorts; Hotels; Office and workplace dynamics; Factories; Hospitals; Virtual communities; Hi-tech environments; Public spaces - parks, malls, town squares, arenas etc.; Health-related issues; Space-related language and discourse analysis; Sexual spaces in the media and film; Genres of sexual space - e.g. pastoral, romantic, techno, post-apocalyptic. Complete papers should be sent to both editors by March 31st 2006. Please contact the guest editors if you wish to discuss an idea or proposal for a paper. Email Alison on aml500@york.ac.uk or Torkild on tt@fek.su.se.

The Representation of Controversial Objects: New Methods of Displaying the Unruly and the Anomalous in Science and Technology Studies, the Annual Meeting of the Society for *Social Studies of Science* (4S), will take place in the Pasadena Hilton, **Pasadena California** October 20-22 2005. The program committee invites contributions that explore unruly objects in science and technology -- including controversial, invisible, secret, or anomalous things. We are especially interested in showcasing new forms of representation and display, and welcome experimentation with theory, method, and conferencing modes. Please

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submit abstracts through
<http://www.4sconference.org>. Submission
deadline May 1, 2005. Program Chair: Marianne
de Laet, delamet@hmc.edu.

The *British Society for the History of Science* and the Royal Irish Academy holds a one-day conference devoted to 'Science and technology in Ireland, 1780-1920: historical and cultural perspectives,' to take place at the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, **Dublin** on Thursday, the 23rd of June, 2005. This conference aims to bring together historians of science and historians of Ireland to investigate the role of science and technology in Irish society and culture in the long nineteenth century. We are particularly interested in papers that investigate the contribution made by the sciences to civic culture, but welcome papers that deal with any aspect of science and technology in Ireland from 1780 to 1920. Possible topics include: What roles have science and technology played in Ireland's past? What roles have scientific institutions and men and women of science played in Ireland's past? How has science shaped or been shaped by Irish intellectual and public culture in the past? What connections have there been between Irish and British or continental science? A keynote address, entitled 'An Experimental Nation? Innovating in Science and Civic Society in Nineteenth-Century Ireland', will be given by Dr. Jim Livesey, University of Sussex. Further information is available at <http://www.bsbs.org.uk/conf>.

The 3-day conference entitled, *Who needs scientific instruments?* will take place at the Museum Boerhaave in **Leiden**, The Netherlands on 20-22 October 2005. It concerns scientific instruments, their use and their users from the 19th till 22nd of October 2005. The centre of attention of this conference will be the users of scientific instruments. During the conference the users' role will be explored in three different topics: The Status of Instruments; Location & Organisation and Innovation. These topics have been chosen because they cover a large area in the field of the instrument-based history of science. We hope that studying the interrelations of the three distinct topics will result in a new synthesis in which users and their instruments function as cornerstones in the history of science.

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We therefore invite historians of science as well as historians of scientific instruments to give their views and discuss the users and use of scientific instruments. Contact Bart Grob or Hans Hooijmaijers,
wetenschap@museumboerhaave.nl.

Technisierung/Ästhetisierung - *Technological and Aesthetic (Trans)Formations of Society* will be held at **Darmstadt Technical University**, on October 12-14 2005. For the past nine years, the interdisciplinary graduate college "Technisierung und Gesellschaft" considered the technological (trans)formation of society. As the last cohort of doctoral students concludes its studies, the final conference widens the perspective and brings past researches to bear on the interplay of technological and aesthetic dimensions of formative processes in contemporary societies. By foregrounding process, the conference goes beyond the iconic turn in science and technology studies. Rather than focus on images, it will explore the work that goes into producing self and society in the image of technology. This work involves constructions of time and space, it negotiates forces of globalization and localization, it construes self and nature as subject and object of technological shaping. This work also produces tensions between and among aesthetic and technological ideals. Abstracts from a wide variety of disciplines are welcome. These include philosophy, sociology, history, engineering and the natural sciences, art history, linguistics or media studies. Submit 500-word abstracts by April 22, 2005, as a Word or RichText document to TU Darmstadt, Fachbereich 2, Graduiertenkolleg 'Technisierung und Gesellschaft', Karolinenplatz 5 (Fach 1404), 64289 Darmstadt, Germany, E-mail: tagung-graduiertenkolleg@ifs.tu-darmstadt.de. There will be panels on: Aesthetic Anticipation; Art, Technosciences, and Social Criticism; Metaphors in Science and Technology; The Aesthetic Dimensions of Warfare and Urban Spaces and Private Quarters. Other topics might include: Perception and Technologies of Visualization; The Justification of the Self as Post-Human Artwork; Designing Life-Cycles of People and Products; Modeling between Artefacts and practical Usage; Vestiges of Nature; Visions and Visionaries from Science Fiction to Science Fact; Figurative and the Literal Aspects of Technical Discourses; and Bordercrossings: Technology and the Arts. For a more detailed call for papers

and a collection of topical theses go to www.ifs.tu-darmstadt.de/fileadmin/gradkoll/Konferenzen/abschluss/main.html.

Risk and Regulation 2005, the Fourth Annual Research Student Conference, will take place on 15 - 16 September 2005 at the **London School of Economics**. (See www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CARR/events/riskAndRegulationResearchStudentConference.htm.) CARR is an interdisciplinary group of social scientists based at LSE involved in research in organisational, political and legal aspects of risk and regulation. We are organising a Fourth Conference for research students whose intended or current research focuses on a topic related to CARR's agenda. We would welcome both expressions of interest in attending the conference and proposals for papers to be considered for presentation. In addition to students' presentations, the Conference will include keynote speeches and a series of 'Master Classes,' led by members of CARR. The aim of the 'Master Classes' is to explore in detail conceptual and methodological issues in researching risk and regulation. We encourage students in all phases of their PhD research to present their 'work in progress' including conceptual issues and problems, empirical findings, methodological issues or research strategies. This is not intended to be a conference featuring completed research; rather it will be a forum for constructive discussion and debate between research students, and a contribution to the progress of their research. Discretionary bursaries may be available towards travel and accommodation for those presenting. Apply online at: www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CARR/events/riskAndRegulationResearchStudentConference.htm or send your title and a 200-word abstract of a paper (to be presented for no more than 20 minutes) to regulation@lse.ac.uk by 24 June 2005.

The *British Society for the History of Science's* Annual Meeting will take place at the **University of Leeds**, UK, on 15-17 July 2005. A provisional programme has now been announced, co-located with the 2005 meeting of the International History, Philosophy and Science Teaching Group. This is our largest meeting of recent years, featuring over thirty sessions on aspects of

the history of science, technology and medicine in all periods. The programme is available online at <http://www.bsbs.org.uk/conf/2005annual/programme.html>.

Cultures of eBay: making sense of social and economic aspects of the eBay 'phenomenon,' the first independent UK conference, will take place on August 24th-25th 2005, Colchester, **University of Essex**. See <http://www.essex.ac.uk/chimera/culturesofebay.html>. The conference aims to look at the cultural, social and economic aspects of eBay. The announcement is a call for early expressions of interest in attending, as well as being a call for papers and posters, in order to gauge the demand for this one-off conference. The idea for this conference originated from an ongoing ESRC project (RES-000-23-0433) at Chimera, a department of the University of Essex, which began in February 2004 and is due to end in January 2006. Results of this research project will be disseminated at the conference. The overall aim of this conference is to bring together academics, and practitioner groups from both business and the voluntary sector, to explore and 'make sense' of the cultural, social and economic aspects and implications of eBay, the Internet auction site. This conference explores a phenomenally successful form of e-commerce, the Internet auction. Specifically, the conference will concentrate on one such Internet auction site, eBay - chosen for its market dominance. With 70% of all online auctions currently taking place through its site (Rowley, 2000), eBay represents 'the world's largest personal online trading community'. Initially set up in 1995 with collectors in mind, eBay enabled easier access to collectibles (vid. Bunnell and Luecke, 2000) - where the traditional inefficiencies of person-to-person trading such as geographical fragmentation and imperfect knowledge (ibid.) could be offset through computer-mediated communication (CMC). Dubbed "the perfect store" (Cohen, 2002), its success has been phenomenal both in financial terms and in the number of users it has attracted. Indeed, eBay is fast becoming an e-commerce mainstay and household name with 125 million registered users worldwide (eBay, 2004), and it is now the UK's number one e-commerce site (Nielsen Net Ratings, May 2003 cited eBay, 2004). Online auction sites have revolutionised the way we

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browse and shop for second-hand, antique and collectible items. However, they also provide new ways and new spaces to perform and display knowledges and 'knowingness,' particularly in relation to material culture. eBay differs substantially from almost every other 'virtual store' or e-commerce site in carrying a stock of mostly second-hand items, which are described and loaded on to a database by thousands of individual sellers themselves. Accordingly, very contrasting consumer and collecting knowledges are brought to bear on such items than for mainstream new goods e-tailing. eBay is also a highly unusual site in the way that 'communities' are enabled and identities performed through the site's own community spaces (discussions around topic threads and asynchronous chat boards) - mediated by material culture in buying, selling and browsing practices. Yet eBay remains largely unexplored by the academic literature beyond its reputation (feedback) system, particularly in terms of the key issues it raises around knowledge, identity, community and collecting practices in an e-society. This conference seeks to redress these gaps in the literature. But eBay also has considerable relevance for government and practitioner groups. The research will raise key issues for government and policy surrounding the potential for eBay to be a source of self-employment, particularly for 'disadvantaged' groups or those requiring flexible work, and increasingly important consumer issues such as the misselling of goods and the growing problem of fraudulent behaviour over the Internet. eBay additionally has significant implications for UK economic competitiveness in terms of the practices, structures and systems architecture of e-commerce, which include web site design and the distribution systems for both goods and money in an Internet era.

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry is holding a meeting examining the significance and reception of John Dee's work on Saturday 28 May 2005 at the English Department, Birkbeck College, 30 Russell Square, London beginning at 10.45am. For a registration form please see www.ambix.org or contact Dr Anna Simmons on A.E.Simmons@open.ac.uk or at the Department of History of Science, Technology and Medicine, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA. UK.

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University College London's STS Departmental Seminar invites you to a special one-day meeting on 17 June 2005 *exploring J.G. Crowther: science journalism, science policy, science & society*. J.G. Crowther was not a scientist, but his name is familiar to historians of science in Britain in the twentieth century. His writing about science and its social relations brought his ideas to wide attention, and his contributions to science journalism, publishing and policy were substantial. However, there is relatively little written about the man, his work and his influence. This informal meeting aims to bring together existing scholarship on Crowther, and to identify areas for future research. Anyone interested to offer a paper on any aspect of Crowther's work is invited to contact Jane Gregory, jane.gregory@ucl.ac.uk. If you would like to attend the meeting, please email jane.gregory@ucl.ac.uk and further details will be sent to you in due course. Registration is free.

Enabling the Past: New perspectives in the history of disability is to take place on Friday 17 - Sunday 19 June 2005 at the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, **University of Manchester**, UK. Disability is an innovative field, traversing a wide range of subjects and themes including historical dimensions. This conference aims to explore this diversity, consider new perspectives and offer dynamic directions for further research. For latest details and registration form, see <http://www.chstm.man.ac.uk/events/enabling-the-past.htm> or contact the conference organisers: Dr Julie Anderson, julie.anderson@manchester.ac.uk; Dr Ana Carden-Coyne, a.cc@manchester.ac.uk.

The *First European Communication Conference* will take place at **KIT, Amsterdam**, The Netherlands, November 24-26, 2005 (see www.ecc2005.nl). The First European Communication Conference will be held at the KIT (Royal Tropical Institute), Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The general theme is "Fifty Years of Communication Research in Europe: Past and Future". With this conference, communication researchers everywhere in Europe celebrate the establishment of many university departments of our discipline half a century ago, as well as the 50th anniversary of leading journals of our field, such as "Gazette" and "Publizistik". For the first

time, both European associations of communication and media studies, ECCR and ECA, jointly invite scholars to convene and present their research to an international audience. Researchers on communication from various disciplines and from various approaches (including interpersonal, organizational and mass communication) are invited to submit papers for this conference. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to the following: 1. 50 years of communication studies: Historical development of communication research as a discipline in Europe; Does European communication research exist at all?; European communication research in an international context; The forgotten questions in communication research; Expectations and prospects for the next 50 years of European Communication research. 2. State-of-the-art research and theory building: Assessments of the theories and methods developed in the field during the past half century as well as analytical work on lessons learned; Critical summaries of research findings in the various (sub)fields of European communication research; Comparative intra-European communication research; Innovative methodologies, pedagogies and theories; State-of-the-art research findings; Future studies in communication: issues and methods. Young scholars, in particular, are encouraged to propose papers with reflections on the future. The top young scholar paper on the future of European Communication Research will be awarded the "Gazette price for academic excellence." The conference will offer both plenary sessions, parallel meetings in working groups as well as poster sessions. The organizers also solicit ideas and proposals for round tables and panel discussions. Abstracts for papers, sessions, round tables and posters (not more than 800 words) should be sent by May 1st to the Department of Communication Science, University of Amsterdam, c/o Johannes von Engelhardt, Kloveniersburgwal 48, NL-1012 CX Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The first page should include the title, the name of the author(s), affiliation, mailing address, fax number, and email address. Abstracts can be mailed electronically to: papers@ecc2005.nl. The abstracts will be judged in an independent peer-review process. Those submitting an abstract will be notified of their proposal status no later than June 1st. For all further information, please direct your questions to: Mr. Johannes von Engelhardt, Department of Communication Science, University of

Amsterdam, Kloveniersburgwal 48, NL-1012 CX Amsterdam, The Netherlands. See <http://www.ecc2005.nl>.

The First Meeting for Postgraduate Students in History of Science will be held in **València** next 18-20 November 2005. The Meeting is supported by the Sociedad Española de Historia de las Ciencias y de las Técnicas and the La Societat Catalana d'Història de la Ciència i de la Tècnica. Our aim is to create a meeting point for young researchers in History of Science, Technology and Medicine. Participants will be able to diffuse their research work, discuss historiographical perspectives and share the problematics encountered along the path of research. The meeting aims to be an informal forum of discussion, in which active participation in the debates is specially encouraged. The meeting is open to postgraduate students in History of Science, Technology and Medicine in Spain or other countries and those who recently finished their PhD. Presentation time will be of around 20 minutes. Papers may introduce original research or methodological issues. Participants should submit an abstract of their paper (ca. 300 words) and a short CV, before 30th June 2005. Registration for the meeting is of 24. We will try to get accommodation for every participant at good rates. Abstracts should be sent to: jihc@iecat.net. More information, <http://www.uv.es/jihc/>.

The *Research Institute for Public Administration* devotes its Annual Fall Conference in 2005 to the development of the European Research Area in **Speyer, Germany**. This year's topic expands the research profile of the institute to the Issue of Science Policy after having dealt with Multilevel Democratic Governance in Europe in 2003 and the development of a European Administration Area in 2002. The overall aim of this conference is to advance the understanding and analysis of the politics and processes of European integration, with the future of the European Research Area and the chances and challenges it offers to the European Research Community center stage. The conference will address a European audience, both academics and practitioners in the area of science policy and science and technology studies. Conference language will be English. There will be three sessions of half-a-day each. The conference will

start with an opening speech and a reception on the evening of 19th of October 2005. The opening speech will be given by Prof. Dr. Frieder Meyer-Krahmer, Secretary of State, Ministry of Science and Technology, Germany (unconfirmed). See http://www.dhv-speyer.de/jansen/ERA_conference/index_e.html.

The 3rd PhD conference in *Economics and Social Sciences* will be held in Turin, Italy on 8-10 September 2005. Please see the call for papers at www.debating.it/torino2005/call_for_papers.htm. More information can be found at the conference website <http://www.debating.it/torino2005/index.htm>

The *International Sociological Association's XVI ISA World Congress of Sociology* will be held in **Durban, South Africa**, on 23-29 July 2006. (See www.ucm.es/info/isa/congress2006/.) *ISA's RC 23 on Sociology of Science and Technology* has released its preliminary program, and has issued a call for papers. SINGLE SESSIONS include: * Science and Technology in contemporary Africa and the Third World. Between international communities and development needs. More than anywhere else, science in developing countries faces a conflict between the need to be part of a rapidly progressing, western-type "world science", and the expectation to contribute to national development. This session will discuss how this conflict shapes the work, careers, and societal roles of scientists in developing countries. * Standardization of science policies? Science policy in highly industrialized countries has adopted an epistemic basis that can be described by catchwords such as "knowledge society", "national innovation systems", "mode 2", "triple helix" and "e- science". The new policies linked to these catchwords are currently traveling through the epistemic communities of science policy and are gaining a strong influence in the science policy of developing countries as well. In this session, the mechanisms by which these Western models travel, the reception of these models in developing countries and their adequacy for the national conditions will be discussed. * Commercialization of Science: errors and fraud. Theoretical perspectives and case studies. Science in academic institutions depends more and more on external non-state funding. This may lead to greater pressures for 'results', in

both life and natural sciences. Among other consequences, normative standards may become laxer, at times inviting behavior that deviates from generally accepted, "Mertonian" norms. The session invites papers that treat the use of false information, plagiarism or fraudulent research and that discuss strategies to prevent these phenomena. Examples considering the input of (inter)national professional organizations or institutions that regard scientific integrity are welcome. * Science and Technology under globalization. Globalization has had a differential impact on S&T structures and processes in developed and developing countries. It has been differential even among developed countries by themselves. How have these changes been perceived in a context of differing S&T systems, both on quantitative and qualitative basis? Further, what changes are taking place in order to adapt to current realities? What qualitative changes may be observed in the relationship between north and south S&T communities? Is center-periphery finally being overcome? * Science for sale?: social, political, and intellectual issues related to property rights in science and technology. As science becomes institutionalized in many locations outside of universities, the issues of intellectual property rights to knowledge and technology become increasingly more important, affecting the ideal of science as a public good. This session will examine the social issues related to intellectual property rights. Topics for consideration include aspects of the social implications of intellectual property rights for the development of science and technology, the impact of intellectual property rights for social and economic development, and governance issues concerning the role that the state and other national and international bodies play in the formation and maintenance of intellectual property rights. * The social and ethical implications of biotechnology. With the ever increasing integration of science and technology into social processes, it becomes more and more evident that it is necessary to step back and reflect upon their lasting impacts. The current debate on the ethics and morality of cloning, even in its exclusively therapeutic level, poses a dilemma difficult to resolve. While scientific advance promises to deliver cures for a number of widespread diseases, at the same time threatens to change the very nature of the human condition it intends to preserve, arousing religious and moral opposition from diverse fronts. This session intends to address the deeper

implications of the current debate for the advancement of science and technology. * Information technologies: New global challenges for Science and Technology? What sort of challenges are faced by Science and Technology in this day and age of ever more rapid and secure transfer of information, in increasingly globalized networked economies facing the demands of market orientation? On the social and political end, what can Science and Technology do for increased demands of more efficient democratic representation. The session aims to discuss these issues and the future of E-science and E-business in general. * Paradigm change in the public image and acceptance of Science and Technology. How is social accountability modifying scientific practice? New funding and evaluation schemes present complex challenges that will be discussed in this important session. * Women in Science and Technology (With RC32: Women). Has the role of female scientists and technologists changed in this knowledge era? How are female spaces created in high technology fields like information and communication technology, and what are their implications on the feminization of labor? Are there any signs of a better balance in leadership positions in Science and Technology, in a local or global perspective? Why are there so few female scientists awarded the Nobel prize? * Futures of Science and Technology (With RC07: Futures). This session is meant to provide a forum for discussing the social consequences of current trends in science and technology and to reflect on the mechanisms and dynamics by which science and technology is produced. These are some of the concerns: What ethics and values drive or are implied in the current advancement in science and technology? What are the future implications of genome cloning and biotechnology in general? What alternative scenarios can be discerned in the (more or less contentious) processes that shape the world's communication infrastructure, including but not limited to the Internet? What prospects are offered by the emerging nano technologies? How are sociologists theorizing these trends, and to what alternative scenarios do they point to? * Scientists' biographies as a mode of probing science in context (With RC38: Biographies). What can be learned from scientists' biographies on the social context that allows for a successful scientific career? * Re-organization of work in the knowledge profession and the use of Information Technologies (With RC52:

Professional groups). The social use of modern technologies, the formation of virtual scientific communities and the democratic (credential-less, interest-driven) exchange of scientific and technological information. Collectivization and de-nationalization of S&T research through growing international collaborative works. Implications for the publishing activity. *The role of science and technology in the world's food production: the case of transgenics, risks and potentials (With RC40: Agriculture). The controversy of transgenics in food production is far from being solved. What are the positions on either side? Interest groups hold their positions firmly. What does society have to say to that respect? What progress has been made in recent years? What is the future of transgenics in agriculture?

RC23 Programme Co-ordinator is Jaime Jimenez, IIMAS, UNAM, Mexico; tel: 52-55-5622 3597; fax: 52-55-5616 2670; jjimen@servidor.unam.mx

A call for contributions has been issued for an Ad Hoc session at the *International Sociological Association World Congress, Durban, South Africa*, July 2006, on: *Security, Surveillance and Social Sorting*. Please send offers to David Lyon, Sociology, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L 3N6 (lyond@post.queensu.ca). The description follows: Security requirements have been raised to a high level of priority in nation-states around the world, following the attacks of 9/11. The resulting increase in the routine surveillance of citizens, and especially of travelers, raises questions of sociological interest regarding the intensified means of technology-dependent governance common to many countries. How effective are these new surveillance measures in procuring security? By what means are risks assessed and threats prioritized? What are the effects on civil liberties of techniques that rely on discriminatory categories? The quality of social existence in a globalizing world is affected directly by the automated identification and social sorting systems that are proliferating, especially at borders, but also within the routines of everyday life. This Ad Hoc session will examine these processes with a view to fostering further international comparative understanding of contemporary surveillance. Two sessions: 1. Profiling processes at borders and airports; and 2. Security and surveillance in everyday life.

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The UK-based national research programme on Innovative Health Technologies (IHT) has joined up with the annual international conference of the HTAi, to open new debate between social science analysis of new health technologies and the perspective of health technology assessment. A two-day parallel workshop is planned which covers current developments in IHTs on the first day, then a joint session with HTA delegates on the second. It is held in Rome, Italy on 20-21

June 2005. Further details of the event are available at <http://www.york.ac.uk/res/iht/events/HTAiRome2005.htm>. Parties should register interest with Stephanie Hazel-Gant at sjg11@york.ac.uk.

The *International Open Source Conference 2005* is in *Genova*, Italy from 11-15 July, <http://oss2005.case.unibz.it>.

Opportunities available

The **University of Oxford's** Modern History Faculty seeks an outstanding historian of science of international standing to fill this important chair, tenable from 1 October 2006. Applications are welcome from scholars working in any area or period of the History of Science, excluding the ancient world and the history of medicine. The professor will have a broad vision of the scope of the history of science, and will be an integral member of the History Faculty, sharing responsibility for the development and delivery of the Faculty's strategies for teaching and research. He or she will have a particular responsibility for graduate studies in the history of science. A non-stipendiary fellowship at Linacre College is attached to the professorship. Further particulars, including details of how to apply, are available from: <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/fp/> or from the Registrar, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD, UK (Tel: 44 1865 270200). The closing date for applications is Monday, 20 June 2005.

The Women's Library, **London Metropolitan University**, is pleased to announce the Vera Douie Fellowship, a visiting fellowship for original research in The Women's Library Collections. The fellow will also arrange a public programme resulting from the research. The fellowship is for £4,500 for a minimum of two months and does not include travel or accommodation costs. The fellow will have use of a carrel at The Women's Library. Applications are particularly encouraged for work: On newly

available collections such as the National Federation of Women's Institutes, the Josephine Butler Society pamphlet collection which is currently being catalogued, The Girls' Friendly Society, our periodicals and zines collection. Research related to our exhibition programme. During this period we will also be working towards a major exhibition looking at debates around prostitution from Josephine Butler onwards so applications related to this area are also encouraged. We are also interested in applications using collections related to women in education and girls education. Research on our visual materials collection and explorations which will enhance their use for teaching. However, applications relating to other aspects of the collections will be given equal consideration. The private donor of the fellowships has requested that applications from women over 35 should be given priority. The fellowship, which will be available each year for the following three years, will commence in September 2005. It is open to anyone currently not employed full time by a HE Institution and it is not necessary to have a post graduate degree. The fellowship is in conjunction with the Gender Interest Group at London Metropolitan University. How to Apply: 1. Write a proposal of 500 words giving details of the research you want to undertake and what kind of public programme might result and who it is aimed at (public event, display, seminar, workshop etc); 2. Enclose your CV; and 3. Give the names of two referees. Please send your applications to Antonia Byatt, Director, The Women's Library, London Metropolitan University, Old Castle Street, London, E1 7NT, or email to: c.norman@londonmet.ac.uk. The

closing date is Friday 27 May 2005. Interviews will be held on Friday 24 June 2005.

Vera Douie became the librarian of the London National Society for Women's Service at the Women's Service Library at Marsham St, London between 1926 and her retirement in 1967. In this role she was the moving force behind the collection that was the forerunner to the present Women's Library. She was active in the women's movement throughout her life and was particularly involved in the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene. During the Second World War she was a fervent campaigner for equal rights and published 'The Lesser Half' on behalf of the Women's Publicity Planning Association in 1943, examining the 'laws, regulations and practices introduced during the present war, which embody discrimination against women'. After the war, she also published 'Daughters of Britain: an account of the work of British women during the Second World War' (1950). When she retired in 1967, she was awarded the OBE for her life's work. She died in 1979.

Fellowships and traineeships are available at the **IPTS - Seville**, one of the institutes of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in **Spain**. Among them, three post-doc positions are available in the "Support to the European Research Area" unit of IPTS, under the following actions: ERAWATCH (Strategic Intelligence Service to Support Research Policy Making); European Foresight; and IRI (Industrial Research and Innovation Analysis). For details and contacts, please see: http://www.jrc.es/home/pages/job_opportunities.htm.

The Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method at the **London School of Economics** offers a 3-year AHRB-funded Studentship for the project "Contingency and Dissent in Science" starting in the academic year 2005/06. Today society is scrambling to figure out how to manage the uses and abuses of science to minimize harm and maximize public benefit. But we face dramatically opposed attitudes to science. On one hand, it is presumed that the correctness of what science teaches does not come into question. On the other, there is widespread dissent even within the scientific community about results, methods and consequences. This project on contingency and

dissent in science aims to develop tools for the scrutiny of the correctness of methods and results in the natural and human sciences based on detailed case studies. It is expected that the PhD research of the student and the research for the project dovetail. The student will work on some aspects of contingency and/or dissent in one of the scientific areas under study in the project (e.g. climate change, RCTs, dissent over high temperature superconductors). The project is directed by Nancy Cartwright and Stephan Hartmann, with Naomi Oreskes from the University of California at San Diego, and is housed by the Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Science. Interested students are invited to send a letter of interest, a Curriculum Vitae, a project outline of 500 words and two letters of recommendation by around the 1st of May 2005 to Prof. Nancy Cartwright, Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Science, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE, U.K. or by email (word or pdf file) to n.l.Cartwright@lse.ac.uk or S.Hartmann@lse.ac.uk. For more information about the project, visit <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CPNSS/projects/ContingencyDissentInScience/Default.htm>.

The Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease (CHMD) seeks applications for a 5-year Wolfson Research Fellowship in Public Health Ethics (tenable from October 2005). Candidates must hold a PhD or equivalent doctorate degree in Ethics or Public Health or Social Science or Medicine and have a significant publication record relevant to the field of ethics in public health. The successful applicant will carry out research in public health ethics, in co-ordination with staff of the CHMD and the Centre for Public Policy and Health. He/she will also contribute to postgraduate teaching in Ethics and Public Health. The Wolfson Research Institute is based in a purpose-built £12m building, including 23 laboratories and 60 offices, on **Durham University's** Queen's Campus, at Stockton-on-Tees but also involving a considerable amount of research at its Durham campus. The Institute forms the research division of the University's Health Strategy Board and as such provides the inter-disciplinary framework within which all health and medically-related research from the three Faculties of the University is brought together and interfaces with the NHS and other partners in the region. This research is organised

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around four broad themes - clinical and health services; the Life Cycle and the life sciences; medical humanities; and public policy, health and well-being - and involves around 200 research staff and students, working at both the Durham and Stockton campuses of the University. The Institute's prime aim is to play a key role in meeting two of the University of Durham's strategic goals: international excellence in agenda-setting research; engagement with policy communities and groups beyond the University, particularly in the north east of England, in influencing policy formation and implementation. Thus the emphasis is upon the impact of research, on making a difference, both within and outside the academy. The Centre Established in 2001 as an interdisciplinary University Research Centre, the Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease (Director: Professor Andreas-Holger Maehle, Dr.med.habil., PhD) provides a focus for research and postgraduate education in the history of medicine, health and disease, and medical ethics. It unites staff and postgraduates from the Department of Philosophy (graded 5 in RAE 2001) and the School for Health, and has associated members in several other University departments. Current major areas of research are the history of medical professional ethics and the history of sex education in the twentieth century. The Centre has recently launched a new taught Master's programme in History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine (starting October 2005). The CHMD regularly organises workshops and research seminars, and hosts conferences. For further details see <http://www.dur.ac.uk/chmd>. The successful applicant will be appointed as a fixed-term (5 years) Research Fellow (Grade II) in the Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease (CHMD), Wolfson Research Institute. He/she will be a member of the Board of Studies of the School for Health. Informal enquiries may be made to the Director of the Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease, Professor A H Maehle. Tel. 0191-334-0701 or -6557. E-mail: a.h.maehle@durham.ac.uk. The closing date for applications is 9 May 2005. Please quote reference number: 0752. In the interests of efficiency, we request that you apply for this vacancy using the on-line application form (<https://jobs.dur.ac.uk>). If you prefer, we can post an application pack to you, if you telephone our answering service on 44 191 3346499.

The Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease (CHMD) invites applications for 2 one-year Masters studentships in the History of Medicine. The studentships are part of the new Taught Masters Programme in History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine (HPSM) of the **University of Durham's** Department of Philosophy, the Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease (CHMD), and the School for Health. They are placed within the framework of the Durham/Newcastle Centre for the History of Medicine, a partnership between the universities of Durham and Newcastle. The studentships are funded from a Wellcome Trust Enhancement Award which had been awarded to the Durham/Newcastle Centre for the History of Medicine. They will be available as of October 2005. The Masters studentships cover fees at home/EU level plus £9,000 maintenance. Students will register for the new MA in HPSM offered by the Department of Philosophy and the School for Health as of October 2005. This one-year (two years part-time) programme combines historical and philosophical approaches to medicine and science. In particular, it provides students with a deeper understanding of historical, cultural and philosophical issues in science and medicine from Antiquity up to the present day. One of its primary aims is to show students how the humanities are relevant to a deeper understanding of past and present medical and scientific issues. The breadth of the course's methods ranges from socio-cultural models to analytical approaches. The programme provides the necessary research training that will either link into further PhD study or act as a stand alone MA; and candidates who have successfully completed the programme will be eligible to take part in the annual Wellcome Trust PhD studentship competition. Further information on the HPSM Masters Programme and the teaching staff can be found on the website at <http://www.dur.ac.uk/hpsm.ma/index.html>. Applications for the two studentships are invited from highly motivated graduates from various backgrounds including arts and humanities subjects, science, and medicine with a high mark on their first degree (or equivalent) who will commit themselves to a dissertation on a subject within the History of Medicine. Overseas applicants are also strongly encouraged to apply. Applications for the studentships should be made to Prof. Holger Maehle, Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease, University of Durham, Queen's Campus, Wolfson Research Institute,

University Boulevard, Stockton-on-Tees TS17 6BH, United Kingdom. Applications must include (a) a statement of up to 400 words outlining your reasons for wanting to pursue postgraduate study in HPSM and highlighting your specific research interests in the History of Medicine, (b) a full CV, (c) the names of two referees. The closing date for applications is 6 May 2005. Simultaneously, applicants should also apply to the HPSM programme. Application forms and general information are available through the Postgraduate Secretary, Department of Philosophy, University of Durham, 50 Old Elvet, Durham DH1 3HN, United Kingdom, Email: philosophy.pgsec@durham.ac.uk. For general information regarding postgraduate study at Durham please see the University website at <http://www.dur.ac.uk/postgraduate/> For information about the HPSM Masters Programme please see the website at <http://www.dur.ac.uk/hpsm.ma/index.html>. For information about the History of Medicine activities at Durham please see the webpage of the CHMD at <http://www.dur.ac.uk/chmd/index.htm>. For specific inquiries about the HPSM Masters Programme contact either Dr Matthew D. Eddy, University of Durham, Department of Philosophy, 50 Old Elvet, Durham DH1 3HN, United Kingdom, e-mail: m.d.eddy@durham.ac.uk or Dr Lutz D.H. Sauerteig, Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease, University of Durham, Queen's Campus, Wolfson Research Institute, University Boulevard, Stockton-on-Tees TS17 6BH, United Kingdom, e-mail: l.d.sauerteig@durham.ac.uk.

The Department of Sociology's Science & Technology Studies Unit (SATSU) at the **University of York** offers an ESRC Collaborative PhD CASE Studentship. Applications are invited from social science students with an interest in health and the social aspects of genetics for an ESRC CASE doctoral studentship, involving collaboration between SATSU and NHS Partners of the Hull York Medical School in the North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Strategic Health Authority. The award covers all tuition fees and a cost of living allowance for three years. The thesis will explore the ways in which health policy at the regional level can anticipate the implications of the 'new' genetics on the structuring of health delivery. Applicants will

need to have Master's training background in Social Sciences and a UK or EU student status in order to receive funding. Mature students are welcome to apply. Closing date for applications is 31st May 2005. The project start date is 1st October 2005, to be completed within four years. The value of the maintenance award is £12,000 p.a. For further information and full details, contact Professor Andrew Webster, SATSU, Department of Sociology, University of York, Heslington, York, YO10 5DD, UK. (e-mail: ajw25@york.ac.uk; web-site: <http://www.york.ac.uk/org/satsu/>). Telephone: 44 1904 433064

Two PhD studentships are available in the Policy, Ethics and Life Sciences Research Centre (PEALS) from 1st October 2005 for three years. PEALS is a collaboration between the Wolfson Research Institute at the **University of Durham**, the Institute of Policy and Practice at the **University of Newcastle** and the 'International Centre for Life' (www.peals.ncl.ac.uk). PEALS has an internationally renowned agenda of research at the interface of the social sciences and the life sciences. The studentships will be awarded to support work in two particular areas of that agenda. The first area, supervised by Robin Williams, Senior Lecturer in Sociology in Durham, will be related to current work funded by the Wellcome Trust concerning the developing uses of the life sciences in support of crime control and public security. These include: the police use of 'forensic intelligence' in criminal investigations; the development of forensic DNA databases in the UK and elsewhere; the establishment and use of other biometric databases (including fingerprint, iris and facial databases) for the control of movement and service entitlement; the ethical, legal and social consequences of recent innovations in forensic genetics (e.g. the analysis of 'bio-genetic ancestry', phenotypical profiling and 'familial searching'). The second studentship, supervised by Erica Haines, Professor of Sociology in Newcastle, will be in the broad area of social and ethical aspects of reproductive and genetic technologies. This could be on one of several topics including: choices in reproduction and the use of reproductive technologies and assisted conception; issues around genetic and other forms of kinship identity and identification; issues in fertility and infertility, including male sub-fertility; embryonic stem cell research;

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questions around the prolongation of life in foetuses and the new born; preimplantation genetic diagnosis; reproduction, screening, birth and disability. However, we would also be interested in receiving applications looking at the social, ethical and legal aspects of genetics and ageing, and of nanobiotechnology. Both students will be registered for a higher degree (initially an MPhil with the expectation of progression onto a PhD, subject to satisfactory progress), one in Durham and one in Newcastle. Each will be supervised jointly by Robin Williams and Erica Haines. Both will have access to the extensive PEALS research networks across both universities and throughout the region. Both students will receive financial support to cover maintenance (£12,000 pa each), research expenses (£1,000 pa each) and fees. Applicants should have a good honours degree (2.1 or above) in Sociology or a related discipline, and have a Masters degree in social science research, including research methodology (or possess relevant research experience). Applications (4 hard copies) should be submitted to either Erica Haines (c/o PEALS Research Institute, Bioscience Centre, Times Square, Newcastle NE1 4EP) or Robin Williams (Department of Sociology, University of Durham, 32 Old Elvet, Durham City DH1 3HN), depending on which studentship you would like to be considered for. Candidates should include with their applications a cv and a 500 word paper outlining their initial research ideas within one of the two areas outlined above. Deadline for applications is May 20th. We hope to hold interviews in early June. Informal inquiries can be made to Robin.Williams@durham.ac.uk or Erica.Haines@ncl.ac.uk

The Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin (Department II; Director: Prof. Lorraine Daston) seeks an outstanding junior scholar for a three-year position (beginning no later than 1 September 2005) as Research Fellow in conjunction with the research project, History of Scientific Observation_, encompassing both the natural and human sciences (details concerning the project and the Institute may be found at www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/projects/department2). Candidates should hold a doctorate in the history of science or related field at the time the position begins and show evidence of scholarly promise in the form of publications or other achievements. The

colloquium language is English; it is expected that candidates will be able to present their own work and discuss that of others fluently in that language. Applications may however be submitted in German, English, or French. The position is primarily devoted to research, with no teaching duties. It is ranked at the BAT IIA level in the German system, which roughly corresponds to that of Lecturer in Britain, Assistant Professor in North America, and Maître de conférences in France. Salary is set by both the position_'s rank and individual factors; please address specific questions to Ms. Claudia Paass (paass@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de). Candidates are requested to submit a curriculum vitae (including list of publications), a research proposal on a topic related to the project (750 words maximum), and names and addresses (preferably including email) of three referees who may be contacted if the candidate is among the finalists for the position to Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Abt. Personal/WiMi Obs, Wilhelmstrasse 44, 10117 Berlin, Germany by May 13, 2005. More information, see http://www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/jobs_en.html. For questions concerning the research project and Department II, please contact Prof. Lorraine Daston (ldaston@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de) or Dr. Fernando Vidal (vidal@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de); for administrative questions concerning the position and the Institute, please contact Mr. Jochen Schneider (jsr@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de). Scholars of all nationalities are welcome to apply; applications from women are especially welcomed. The Max Planck Society is committed to employing more handicapped individuals and especially encourages them to apply.

The Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne, Germany, is starting a PH.D. program and six doctoral fellowships in economic sociology and political economy are available. Fellowships will start in October 2005, and will be awarded for a maximum of three years. The program is open to students from a variety of social science disciplines, in particular but not exclusively sociology and political science. Working languages at the MPIfG are German and English. Doctoral fellows will participate in a graduate school program including courses and summer school sessions (which will eventually be turned into an International Max Planck Research School) and generally in the Institute's intellectual life. Details

of the curriculum will be specified according to dissertation topics and previous training. As the MPIfG is not a degree-awarding institution, degrees will have to be received from a Fellow's home institution. For more information refer to the MPIfG's research program and the MPIfG Doctoral Program on the Social and Political Constitution of the Economy. Applications and further inquiries may be directed to the MPIfG's Head of Administration, Jürgen Lautwein (lautwein@mpifg.de). Applications may be sent by email. They should include a C.V., a list of publications if applicable, two letters of recommendation, and a six-to-eight page proposal for a doctoral dissertation project. The deadline for submission is May 20, 2005. http://www.mpi-fg-koeln.mpg.de/ak/ausschreib_en.html.

Interdisciplinary PhD Studentship in the History of Ornithology are available for an evaluation of an unpublished 17th century French encyclopaedia of ornithology. The aim of this PhD is to evaluate the scientific, historical and cultural significance of an unpublished 17th-century French ornithological encyclopaedia (992 pages): *Traité des Oyseaux* by J.-B. Faultrier (1660) recently discovered by Tim Birkhead. The manuscript was dedicated to Louis XIV's superintendent of finances and eminent patron of the arts, Nicolas Fouquet, in 1660, the year before he was arrested and imprisoned in the fortress of Pignerol. The encyclopaedia was, then, written during a period of political tension, when sponsorship of the arts and sciences was a contested activity. The PhD is a novel, interdisciplinary project between the Departments of Animal and Plant Sciences and French, and will be supervised by Professor Tim Birkhead FRS (<http://www.shef.ac.uk/aps/staffimbirkhead.html>), who is an internationally known ornithologist with a special interest in the history of ornithology and Dr. Emily Butterworth (<http://www.shef.ac.uk/french/staff/butterworth.htm>) who is a specialist in early modern French. This manuscript is unknown to the ornithological community and represents a significant contribution to the history of ornithological knowledge. It is extremely unusual to find such a large and potentially significant manuscript in a field as well known as the history of ornithology. The ultimate goal is to publish the manuscript in full in both French and English. Birds have proved ideal subjects for the study of several

major aspects of animal biology and as a result there is a longer and richer history of scientific ornithology than almost any other discipline. The keeping of birds in captivity has played a central, if subtle role in the development of ornithological science because aviculture allowed the close and detailed observation of birds long before binoculars were available and detailed field observation a possibility. Indeed, the observations of captive birds such as pigeons, poultry, falcons and cage-birds constituted the very beginning of ornithological science. Faultrier's manuscript represents a landmark in the history of ornithology. The studentship is funded by the **University of Sheffield** (12,000 in 2005-06, increasing incrementally), and is available to start in October 2005. The studentship is open to UK citizens and members of the EU, and is tenable for three years, subject to satisfactory progress. Candidates should have a good first degree in French or fluency, an interest in the French language, history, history of science and ornithology. All enquiries should be addressed to Mrs Sue Carter, Dept of Animal and Plant Sciences, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN. S.Carter@sheffield.ac.uk

Cornell University's Department of Science & Technology Studies invites applications for a one-year visiting assistant professorship during the academic year 2005-06. The Department seeks applicants with research and teaching expertise in areas related to biology and society to teach two courses per semester during the academic year. We are particularly interested in applicants who can teach courses on the environment or public health and medicine. A Ph.D. in a relevant field -- history of science, sociology, philosophy, science & technology studies, or history of medicine -- is required. Candidates should send a letter of application, curriculum vitae, evidence of teaching ability, a writing sample, and the names of two references to Biology & Society Search Committee, Department of Science & Technology Studies, 306 Rockefeller Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853. Application materials may be submitted electronically to Biology & Society Search Committee, c/o Debbie Van Galder, dmv1@cornell.edu. To ensure review of your application, please submit all materials as soon as possible; preferably before May 15, 2005.

The Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSHM) invites submissions to its 2005 *Roy Porter Student Essay Prize Competition*. This prize will be awarded to the best original, unpublished essay in the social history of medicine submitted to the competition as judged by the SSHM's assessment panel. It is named in honour of the late Professor Roy Porter, a great teacher and a generous scholar. The competition is open to undergraduate and post-graduate students in full or part-time education. The winner will be awarded 500.00, and his or her entry may also be published in the journal *Social History of Medicine*. Further details and entry forms can be down-loaded from the SSHM's website <http://www.sshm.org>. Alternatively, please contact David Cantor, Division of Cancer Prevention, National Cancer Institute, Executive Plaza North, Suite 2025, 6130 Executive Boulevard, Bethesda MD 20892-7309, U.S.A., Email: competition@sshm.org. The deadline for entries is: 31 December 2005.

The Faculty of Technology in collaboration with the Faculty of Education and Language Studies at the **Open University** invite applications for a 3-year full time PhD studentship on 'The Discourse

of Genomics' starting in October 2005. The project will benefit from connections with the ESRC Centre for the Study of Social and Economic Aspects of Innovation in Genomics (INNOGEN), co-directed by the Open University and the University of Edinburgh. The studentship covers fees and provides a maintenance grant, which will be £12,000 in the 2005-2006 academic year. The student will undertake qualitative research on the language and social construction of innovations in genomics, and the politics of such constructions. He/she will explore these issues through comparisons of genomics controversies such as those over GM crops, medical practices including genetic screening and testing, and stem cell research. Informal enquiries can be made to Peter Robbins (p.t.robbins@open.ac.uk) or Guy Cook (g.cook@open.ac.uk), who will be co-supervising the project. You can download further particulars at <http://technology.open.ac.uk/deanery/recruit.htm>. The Research Degrees Prospectus and an application form can be found at <http://www.open.ac.uk/research-school/prospectus/index.shtml>. Closing date for receipt of applications is 20 May 2005.

Summer Schools

The Second Ittingen Summer School, *Shaping the Future – Science as Intervention*, will be held on August 13, 2005 – August 21, 2005. The Collegium Helveticum of the Swiss Institute of Technology (ETH) and the University of Zurich, the Cohn Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Ideas of Tel Aviv University, and the Center for Junior Research Fellows of the University of Konstanz, in cooperation with the Lion Foundation, invite applications to the Second Ittingen Summer School, which is devoted to the topic "Shaping the Future – Science as Intervention." The Summer School is a one-week intensive workshop, which will take place in a beautiful old monastery in Switzerland from August 13, 2005 to August 21, 2005. It requires active participation, including preparatory reading, small group discussions, and the presentation of short papers. The participants will stay in the hotel of the Kartause Ittingen and receive free accommodation and full board.

Travel costs of European and Israeli participants will be covered in full; participants from other parts of the world will receive a substantial contribution to their travel costs. All material necessary for the preparation of the Summer School, as well as the cultural programme during the School, is free. The main goal of the Second Ittingen Summer School is to explore the tension between the inherent performativity and implied promises of science. The history of science is, and has always been, closely related to the idea that the future of humankind can be – and has to be – actively shaped. Till the seventies science was considered the most important, if not the only social agency that can bring about an improvement of humanity. At the same time this almost unlimited confidence in science was accompanied by anxieties caused by a lack of confidence in the ability of science to control the consequences of its achievements. Thus the topic of "Shaping the future: Science as Intervention"

has at least two different but interconnected dimensions, which will be addressed in the summer school: The first is cognitive, and has been dealt with in the literature as the performative dimension of science. All scientific theories and practices imply a representation of the piece of the world they intend to explain. We will explore the extent to which this representation is “performative” in the sense that it has already shaped the world in a way that allows for an explanation to be offered in terms of the formulation of the problem. Secondly, an conception of science as intervention means that an ethical and political dimension is inherent to it: this is the dimension of “promises”. Scientific theories contain an implicit image of the future, usually a “better future” as they promise more health, happiness, security or comfort for humans. We will inquire into the manifold ways in which these promises impact on political decision making as well as on social, economic and ethical discourses. The opening lecture will be held by Martin Kusch, University of Cambridge, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, who will provide a general introduction to the theme of the Summer School. The Second Ittingen Summer School welcomes applications from doctoral and post-doctoral students (who completed their PhD no earlier than 2000), from all academic disciplines in the natural, social and human sciences. Application forms can be downloaded from the website of the Summer School, where further information is provided: www.summerschool-ittingen.ch. Applications have to reach the organizers by May 10, 2005. Applicants will be notified in the beginning of June. If you have additional questions, please write to: application@summerschool-ittingen.ch, or contact Daniel Strassberg, Lion Foundation, Weinbergstr.145, 8006 Zürich, Switzerland. Phone +411-364 51 30; Fax +411-361 19 05.

The European Summer School on Industrial Dynamics (ESSID) will be held in Cargèse (Corsica), 10-17 September 2005. (See <http://www.uni-bocconi.it/essid2005>.) Lectures by leading scholars provide update overviews on research at the frontier of industrial dynamics, economics of innovations, economics of science and the geography of innovation. Students present their PhD drafts and papers at small-

group students' workshops, where they get comments from both the faculty and fellow students. Workshops on research tools provide highlight on data sources, methods of analysis, and simulation techniques.

A one-week intensive graduate school on 'Measuring Science' will be held at the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS), Leiden University, the Netherlands on 17-20 October 2005. The course, Measuring Science: Assessment of Research Performance and Discovery of Patterns of Scientific and Technological Development, addresses a quantitative methodology to discover the structure of the scientific ‘landscape’ in order to gain concrete and detailed insight into the development of fields of science, the transfer of knowledge between research fields, the interaction between science and technology. This methodology is appropriate to visualize the position of research activities in the international ‘landscape’ in relation to interdisciplinary developments, and particularly in relation to socio-economic problems. The course director is Professor Anthony van Raan. Registration/information: Christine Ibler-Alkemade (secr. Prof. Van Raan), tel. +31 71 5273909, fax +31 71 527391, CWTS, Wassenaarseweg 52, P.O. Box 9555, 2300 RB Leiden, the Netherlands, e-mail: alkemade@cwts.leidenuniv.nl.

"Explanations of Consumption and Consumer Culture," the course/workshop, will be held in Turku, Finland, and the organizing university is Turku School of Economics and Business Administration. We would like to present you a compact 4-day workshop on various aspects of consumption research. The course will be held in May-June 2005, and the coursework will consist of lectures (8 in total), student presentations and discussions. There will be two international (Alan Warde, UK and Tally Katz-Gerro, Israel) plus two Finnish lecturers (Terhi-Anna Wilska and Juha Panula). The lectures will also serve as discussants in the student workshops side to side with local faculty members from economic sociology. For more information on the course: www.tukkk.fi/excococu.

News about education

Details of a new MA in Science Communication at the University of Leeds in 2005-6 are now available at:

<http://www.hps.leeds.ac.uk/PostgraduateInfo/sciencecommunication.htm>. The programme has recently been accredited by the Association of British Science Writers for its Student Journalism bursaries (deadline 28th Feb)- see

<http://www.absw.org.uk/bursaries.htm>. For information about admissions and also bursaries supplied by the School of Philosophy and University of Leeds please visit http://www.hps.leeds.ac.uk/PostgraduateInfo/pg_admission.htm. For information about the programme itself please contact the Director of the MA in Science Communication: Dr. Jon Topham, Lecturer in History of Science email j.r.topham@leeds.ac.uk.

New Medical Technologies and Society is a new postgraduate course at the Science and Technology Studies Unit (SATSU) in the Department of Sociology, University of York, UK, whose members undertake international research in this growing field of sociological enquiry. It will provide a rigorous foundation in social science research exploring social, cultural and organizational implications of new developments in medical and health technologies. This MSc is designed for students with an interest in the sociology of innovation in medicine and healthcare. Medical technologies are increasingly at the centre of new changes in both the social and physical body. The course covers a wide range of sociological and anthropological literature on medical innovation with a special focus on the body, reproduction, health, aging and dying. Crucially, it explores the implications of social science research for healthcare organisation, policy and regulation. The course will appeal to sociology graduates wishing to specialise in an expanding field of enquiry, and also healthcare practitioners interested in the social science of medicine. Its primary aims are to explore key social and cultural dimensions of medical technology informed by perspectives in the Sociology of Health and Illness, Anthropology, the History of Medicine, and Science and Technology Studies and to provide a rigorous foundation in social

science research drawing on a range of approaches which are broadly transferable. For more information contact the departmental office, Mrs Lynn Kilgallon (lk6@york.ac.uk) +44(0)1904 433044. The course coordinator is Dr Nik Brown (ngfb1@york.ac.uk) +44(0)1904 434741. See http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/soci/c_mam.html.

The University of Durham's Department of Philosophy, Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease (CHMD), and School for Health are pleased to announce their new Taught Masters Programme (MA) in the History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine (HPSM) teach an M.A. in the history and philosophy of science and medicine. This one-year (two years part-time) programme will provide students with a deeper understanding of historical, cultural and philosophical issues in science and medicine from Antiquity up to the present day. Using socio-cultural models to analytical approaches its primary aim is to show how the intellectual vibrancy of the humanities is relevant to a deeper understanding of past and present medical and scientific issues. The wide spectrum of academic staff from the Department of Philosophy and the School for Health allows students to focus their papers on a wide variety of topics, some of which include bioethics and the history and medicine, the history and philosophy of science, and environmental philosophy. Upon completion, the HPSM MA will give students the skills necessary for inter- and trans-disciplinary work that can be applied to future doctoral studies as well as to a broad range of other applications within the media, the public sector, NGOs, etc. The Wellcome Trust, London has been recognised this programme for its masters awards funding scheme. Graduate students from various backgrounds including arts and humanities subjects, science, and medicine with a high mark on their first degree (or equivalent) are encouraged to apply for the HPSM Programme. For the University's application procedure visit the University web page at: <http://www.dur.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply/>. Space is limited. Course Directors: Dr Matthew D Eddy, Department of Philosophy, m.d.eddy@durham.ac.uk; Dr Lutz D H Sauerteig, School for Health, CHMD, l.d.sauerteig@durham.ac.uk.

News from the field

Groups of scientists from Bulgaria and Germany and political figures with the mayor of the city of Vidin, Dr. Ivan Tsenov, have been discussing the possibility to establish the Vidin School as a main body of a future Vidin at Danube University. Initially the School will begin with one Faculty of Social Science with one Department of Social Studies. We plan the Vidin University to offer a unique university education that is dedicated to: Liberal arts and sciences and their ability to provide students with skills and knowledge relevant to contemporary issues and concerns; A problem-centered, interdisciplinary approach to teaching and research; A multitude of programs that combine the liberal arts with applied professional and occupational programs that further the vocations of our students; and a community of students, faculty and staff that promotes energy and enthusiasm and positive relations with local community that supports us. The international cooperation should be one of the most important features of the Vidin University. Our effort is to create a multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary research and teaching environment that would attract a number of visiting scholars and lecturers as well as students from many parts of Europe. Specific research areas: i) Small town development; rural gender issues; agricultural reconstruction; heritage and tourism; youth and ageing in rural areas; rural economic restructuring; rural households in transition; health and poverty with nursing and social cares; rural labor market participation. ii) The impact of the great river to its surroundings: environmental and social problems. iii) Cultural studies and semiotics; folk studies in their historical and social aspects; ethnic minorities aspects; iv) History and philosophy of science and education: studies on the history of science and education in the Danube region, in the Balkans and especially of the Third Bulgarian Kingdom (1878-1946); cultural and educational relationships between Bulgaria and Germany and Austro-Hungarian empire; public understanding of science and what is the public attitude towards scientific activity, scientists and technology; what is pseudo-science - its role in the modern society. These research topics do not seem to be strongly elaborated in the present Bulgarian research and educational areas. Both the scientific results expected and the University will be of

importance in recovering the human capability of the whole region of Vidin and its vicinity. We would like to hear from people interested in contributing in the following ways: i) as staff members; ii) as participants in joint research/teaching; iii) as sponsors. Any opinions and ideas are welcome. Contact Professor B.V. Toshev, Head of the Department of Physical Chemistry, Head of the Department of Chemistry Education, University of Sofia, 1 James Bourchier Blvd., 1164 Sofia, Bulgaria, <http://khimiya.org>, Tel.: +359 2 8629049, Fax: +359 2 9625438.

The Social Science Research Center Berlin (Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung, WZB) has set up a "Project Group Science Policy Studies". The project group deals with the relation between science and politics from an interdisciplinary perspective integrating approaches from sociology, political science and history. Of particular interest are current changes in the production and application of scientific knowledge, new governance regimes in science policy, new forms of evaluation and quality assurance in science and recent shifts in the promotion of junior scholars. The project group follows up discussions held at an international conference on the "Shifting Boundaries between Science and Politics" at the WZB in June 2004. It also offers a discursive and organisational framework for research projects at the WZB dealing with issues of science policy studies and science studies. Examples include the study on "Spin-Offs as Border Crossing and New Mode of Knowledge Production?", funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) as part of the program "Science Policy Studies", or the project on "Organisation and Gender – A Reconstruction and Reinterpretation of Empirical Findings in the Case of Knowledge-based Fields of Activity", funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). The project group intends to organise conferences and establish collaborations with international guest scientists and with academic networks in Europe and abroad in order to develop further the international perspectives in science policy studies. See <http://www.wz-berlin.de/ag/wp/>.

There is a new Chief Editor of *Science Studies*, the international, peer-reviewed journal for science and technology studies. *Science Studies* is designed as an open forum for all perspectives on the study of science and technology, whether philosophical, historical, sociological, psychological, cognitive, educational, or politico-economic. Recent issues of the journal have included work on topics such as technology assessment in Europe, the politics of sociobiology, innovation trajectories and networks, interdisciplinary collaboration and university-government relations. *Science Studies* is available in full text through EBSCO in over 700 institutions in 30 countries around the world. The journal is abstracted and indexed by the following services: CSA World Wide Political

Science Abstracts (Cambridge Scientific Abstracts), Social Services Abstracts, Sociological Abstracts, Entrepreneurship Research Engine (Kauffman Foundation) and Russian Academy of Sciences Bibliographies. *Science Studies* is published by the Finnish Society for Science and Technology Studies. Aaro Tupasela <aaro.tupasela@HELSINKI.FI> invites you, your colleagues and students to join me in making *Science Studies* one of the most exciting journals in the field. You can participate both as reader and writer. Our website contains information about subscription and submission procedures: <http://pro.tsv.fi/stts/mag/>

Net news

The Museum of the History of Science, Oxford, has launched an on-line version of its exhibition: 'Drug Trade: therapy, pharmacy and commerce in early-modern Europe' <http://www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/drugtrade/index.htm>. It is built around the Museum's collection of pharmacy jars and printed herbals.

Wikimania 2005 - The First International Wikimedia Conference will be held in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, from 4 August 2005 to 8 August 2005. Wikimedia is the non-profit organization operating Wikipedia, Wiktionary, Wikisource, Wikibooks, Wikinews, Wikiquote, Wikispecies, and the Wikimedia Commons. We are now accepting papers and other submissions (from everyone within and outside the Wikimedia communities) for presentations, workshops, and discussion groups. We are also accepting nominations for speaker panels and keynote speakers, and suggestions for other activities. Mail all submissions to cfp@wikimedia.org. For more conference information, see http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimania:Main_Page (work in progress).

Professor Guo, Chinese historian of mathematics, has recently published (with Karine Chemla) a fully commented French translation of the

Jiuzhang suanshu, the most ancient Chinese work on mathematics handed down through scribal transmission (*Les neuf chapitres*, Dunod, Paris 2004). In its present form the Jiuzhang suanshu is thought by some to date from the beginning of the common era. The Suan shu shu is a manuscript discovered in a tomb of the second century BC, and may therefore antedate the Jiuzhang suanshu by at least two centuries. Its discovery is a major event in the history of world mathematics, and its connection with later works is a matter of lively discussion. Further details of the Suan shu shu, including a freely downloadable translation and commentary are at <http://www.nri.org.uk/suanshushu.html>.

The SciPer Project of the Universities of Leeds and Sheffield is delighted to announce the publication of the first instalment of *Science in the Nineteenth-Century Periodical: An Electronic Index*, which is issued by hriOnline and is freely available at <http://www.sciper.org>. The SciPer Index provides a scholarly synopsis of the material relating to science, technology, and medicine appearing in eight (soon to be increased to sixteen) general periodicals published in Britain between 1800 and 1900. With entries describing around 7,500 articles (doubling to more than 15,000 when complete), and with references to over 5,500 individuals, 2,000 publications, and 1,000 institutions, it provides an invaluable research tool for scholars interested

in the representation of science and in the interpenetration of science and literature in nineteenth-century Britain, as well as for all students of the period. The second instalment will be published in May. The journals indexed in the first instalment include selected years from the Academy, the Boy's Own Paper, the Comic Annual, the Cornhill Magazine, the Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine, Harper's New Monthly Magazine, Punch, and the Review of Reviews. The electronic index complements the three books recently published by the SciPer team: *Science in the Nineteenth-Century Periodical: Reading the Magazine of Nature*, by Geoffrey Cantor, Gowan Dawson, Graeme Gooday, Richard Noakes, Sally Shuttleworth, and Jonathan R. Topham (Cambridge University Press, 2004); *Culture and Science in the Nineteenth-Century Media*, ed. by Louise Henson et al (Ashgate, 2004); and *Science*

Serialized: Representations of the Sciences in Nineteenth-Century Periodicals, ed. by Geoffrey Cantor and Sally Shuttleworth (MIT Press, 2004). For further details of the SciPer Project, see the project website at <http://www.sciper.leeds.ac.uk>.

Surveillance & Society, the international journal of surveillance studies, is at <http://www.surveillance-and-society.org>

Risk & Regulation, the magazine put out by the Centre for Analysis of Risk and Regulation at the London School of Economics, is online at <http://www.lse.ac.uk/resources/riskAndRegulationMagazine>.

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