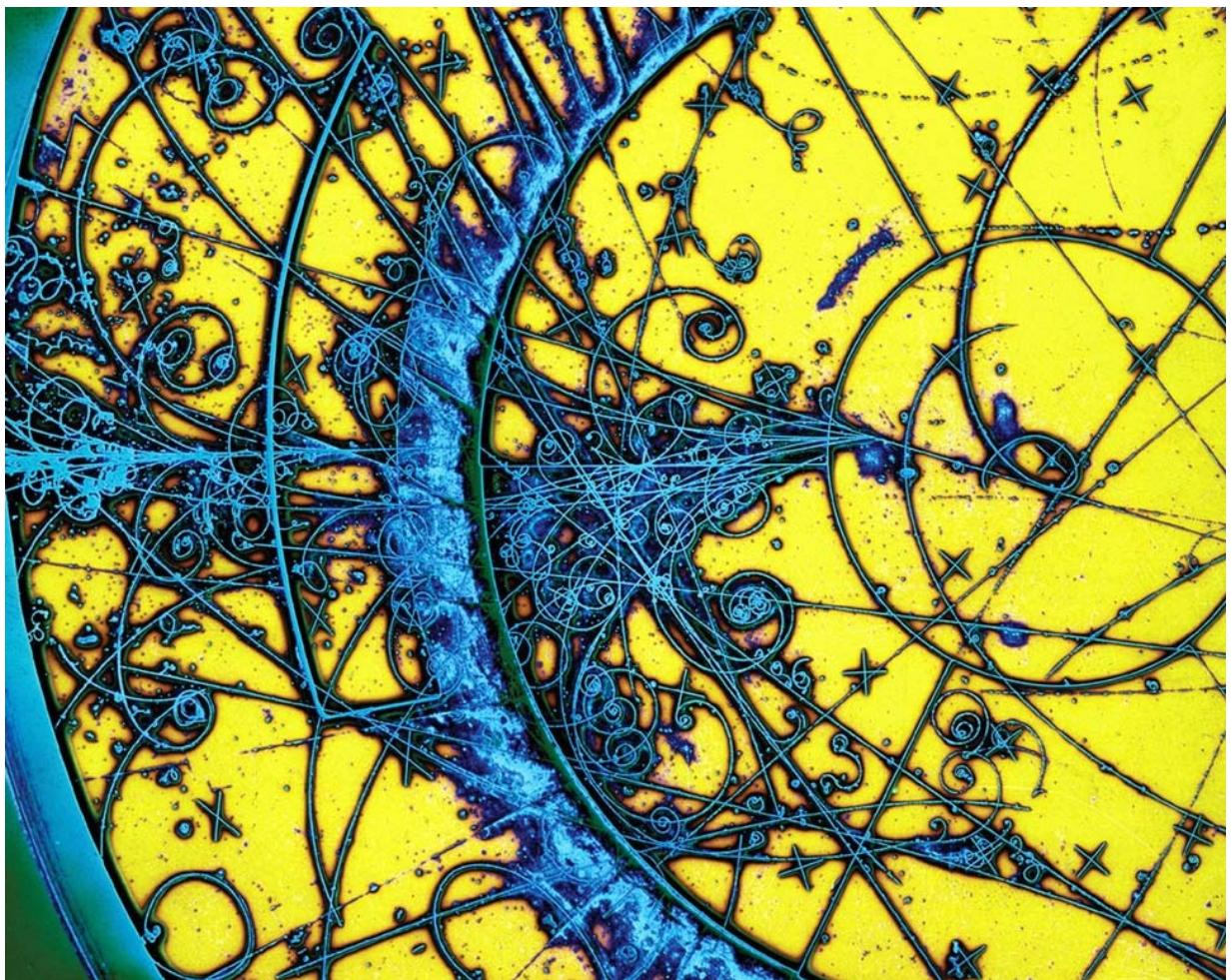


EASST

Review

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“Tellekanter”

Editorial

by Ann R. Sætnan

While performing his military service, my son must have learned to fold and store his clean laundry with precise edges, *tellekanter* (counting edges) stacked in perfect alignment on designated shelves so any inspecting officer could simply run a finger down the edges to check that the requisite number of clean shirts, underpants, socks, towels, etc. were present and accounted for. Immediately on demission he forgot this skill. In civilian discourse, the term *tellekanter* is associated with pedantry bordering on insanity, with a compulsion for order so strong as to be a compulsive disorder. Thus it must be in self-ironic jest that the Norwegian Research Council (NFR) has given the title “Tellekanter” to one page of the forms we with NFR grants must submit for our annual reports. There we are to report the number (and only the number; not the titles, authors, content, length, journal, publisher etc.) of our project’s publications in various categories in the past year – articles in refereed journals, articles in other journals, chapters in anthologies, books, textbooks, invited lectures, conference papers, ... and so on down the shelves.

NFR can allow itself this self-irony. The counting of publications is a well-known ritual in academe, and in this particular context the ritual is without formal consequences. In other contexts, however, there are serious formalized consequences. Our departmental budgets are now comprised of three elements, all of them consisting of *tellekanter* – the number of courses of varying intensity levels (i.e. formats requiring different teacher:student ratios) in our instructional programs, the number of passing-grade credits we produce, and the number of publications we produce in various status categories (articles in refereed journals, articles in other journals, chapters in anthologies, books, textbooks, ... and so on

down the shelves). Logically, our departments must therefore hire those who draw students, pass students, and publish. Of these, our ability to publish is apparently deemed easiest to predict by counting. Thus when we apply for positions, tenure, promotions, and raises, we are instructed to structure our CVs according to the same shelving system, and evaluating committees are instructed first and foremost to run their fingers down the shelves counting publications on each and calculating the rate of publications per year.

Furthermore, once hired, we are encouraged to act strategically. After all, departmental budgets affect even those of us on tenure. If budgets are tight, we have less money to hire research and teaching assistants, to buy books, to replace our aging computers, to travel to conferences, etc. So even those of us with tenure, though no longer perishable must continue to publish. And we must not only publish, but must publish in the right places. The shelf-counts carry different values in the budget system. In Norway, the top shelf (the foremost 20% of refereed journals in a given field) counts two points, other refereed journals one point, and other publications fractions of a point. That “top 20%” is also identified by counting on shelves. Roughly speaking, a national committee starts with the most-cited ISI-abstracted journals in the field and works their way down the ISI shelf until they reach a cumulative total of 20% of published articles in that field’s journals. Since our budgets are competitive within a zero-sum “game” (i.e. we compete with all other departments for a proportion of the university funds on the national budget, as opposed to gaining some fixed sum per publication), a recent departmental memo instructed us to act strategically by publishing not only in our own field’s top journals, but also in other fields’

journals. A publication in another field's journal effectively counts double – two points to us, and two points “stolen” from them.

Of course, all of this also leads to less explicit, often unintended consequences. It probably changes how and where we publish. Since journals have different preferences, that also affects what we write. It may change how editors choose among well-reviewed manuscripts (Is our primary goal to provide reading for our field, or to provide publication points?). It certainly changes the dynamics of the journal market, probably also other qualities of our discourses. In other words, it changes us as scientists and as a community of scientists. For us in science studies, it even changes the dynamics of our object of study. Like Schroedinger checking on the cat, we affect the publication data we observe by the very act of observing them ... and that effect is magnified because powerful others are observing our observations. Furthermore, we ourselves are the cat. If our discourse decays, we die.

As editor of *EASST Review*, where am I going with this theme? I'm trying to come to grips with the implications of this for our thoughts regarding taking the Review on-line and opening up for peer-reviewed articles. What might the consequences of that move be for discourse within the field? Is a fractional-point journal nevertheless in some way

invaluable, and would that value be lost if we move up a shelf? Might we elevate another journal to the top shelf by filling in from below? Would there nevertheless be manuscripts left for us worth our reviewers' and readers' time? Might we get more manuscripts than now? (As of now, filling in issue can be a struggle!) Might our readers pay us more attention? (As of now, we get very little response!) Can we provide a level of service that might contribute to maintaining a constructive discourse within the field, or would we be adding to writers' frustrations and tensions? Would we add to the field's pool of reviewers, or merely add to the workload on those reviewers the field has?

Four other items in this issue focus on this theme: One is a commentary by Aksel Tjora, ignited by what he experienced as an unacceptably slow and disrespectful review process. In her response, Ulrike Felt, editor of *Science, Technology & Human Values*, describes how pressure to publish has created an unsustainable situation for editors and reviewers. The third is a report on member responses to our recent on-line survey about the future of the Review. In addition, note that the use of quantitative indicators was among the aspects of health research management studied by Inge van der Weijden in a recent dissertation presented in this issue. We invite you to read and comment on all of these texts.

What kind of editorial practices can we live with?

by Aksel Tjora

*Norwegian University of Science and Technology, and
LaTrobe University, Melbourne Australia*

Within the social science departments in Norwegian universities there is now a move towards article-based PhD dissertations instead of the monographic thesis. At present, relatively early in their research project PhD students have to choose between writing either a monograph or a selection of articles (four to six articles and an overview chapter). In addition they need to reflect on which language they will use: Norwegian or English. Some supervisors, myself included, have in recent years advised PhD students to go for the article-based dissertation, because we believe there are some advantages.

First, the PhD students receive external (and anonymous) advice from experts in the field on the various parts (article manuscripts) of the research. Journal referees may provide really helpful advice and corrections, in an early enough stage of the dissertation work so that students can improve their manuscripts and be better prepared for the dissertation defence. For us as supervisors, referees' and editors' suggestions provide helpful second (and third, and so on) opinions. Second, supervisors and other members of the research group, or other colleagues, may contribute as co-authors to one or more of the papers to strengthen the manuscripts. In this sense, there is a major potential for stronger collaboration between researchers (it is nevertheless expected that the PhD students are main contributors and first authors of their articles). Third, if PhD students succeed in publishing articles, it is not only of great value for themselves, making their work visible, but also promotes their research group and/or university department. They will actually also contribute to the university funding, since publication points are part of the budget basis from the Norwegian Ministry of Education.

Fourth, PhD students may write some articles in English and some in Norwegian, thereby getting training in both international publishing and contributing to the development and maintenance of a Norwegian academic language.

But, and there is a major 'but': My own recent experiences have led me in the direction of a more sceptical reflection, although I have been one of those in my department who has been most sympathetic to the article version of the PhD. My scepticism is related to the editorial processes in those journals in which we would like to publish our work. Let me very briefly outline a very recent experience with one of the major journals for EASST members, *Science, Technology & Human Values* (hereafter ST&HV).

In December 2003, I submitted a paper to ST&HV. It went into the reviewing process and I received a revise/resubmit response August 24th 2004, nine months later. During this period (in June 2004) I had e-mailed an inquiry about the review process and got a response from ST&HV that it was in for editorial decision; fair enough, although it had already been quite a long time. I submitted a revised version of the paper December 10th 2004, and received a response (accepted with major changes) December 4th 2005, one year after the re-submission! After a fair bit of changes on the paper, I submitted a second revised manuscript to ST&HV the 16th of March 2006. And I waited. I emailed an inquiry about the paper in August: No response. And waited (well, of course I was doing a "few" other things). And sent another request for status of the paper in September: No response. I sent a fax: No response. And I waited, but more or less trying to forget about the whole thing. In the beginning of February

2007 I sent another e-mail: No response. After a few unsuccessful phone calls, I managed to get the editor on the line the 16th of March 2007, exactly one year (!) after the submission of the second revised version of the paper. The editor then told me that she had rejected the paper.

I was really angry. But I wasn't angry because of the rejection itself. I was angry because of the process. I have had articles rejected from various academic journals before, without my getting nasty on the phone or writing letters of frustration. I have learnt that academic publishing is a cut-throat business (although it would be less painful with quicker cutting). Being in a tenured position, a rejection does not exactly put me out of work. I am happy (well, not exactly 'happy', but can readily accept and move on) to find other outlets for my research. My anger was (and still is) related to ST&HV's editorial process, which took over three years with this paper. Of course I was also re-writing the paper in this period, but ST&HV was actually "sitting on" the paper for 32 months altogether.

And what am I supposed to tell my PhD students, who may consider submitting a

paper to ST&HV and cannot wait this long for a decision? Well, you might guess.

This leads me back to my starting point: Do I still consider the article-based PhD a good idea? Yes, actually, I do. But only if we as supervisors have fairly good knowledge about the relevant journals' editorial processes. And this, it seems, we have to learn the hard way. In my department I am now establishing a sort of a 'blacklist' of journals that people in the department have found too slow in the review process, or that do not respond to inquiries. This way we can learn from each others' (hard-learned) experiences of publishing, and become better supervisors for PhD-students who write articles.

On the constructive side of this, and related to the discussion about turning the EASST Review into a peer reviewed journal: Yes, it might be a good idea, but only if one is able to develop editorial processes where *respect* for authors and *responsiveness* to their inquiries are maintained. There is a fair chance that these qualities might be more important than the impact factor for many of us, when we decide where to submit our next papers.

What kind of publishing system do we live in? A comment to Aksel Tjora

by Ulrike Felt

Editor of Science, Technology & Human Values

As editor of *Science, Technology, and Human Values* for nearly five years, I got an e-mail from EASST review asking me to respond to an upcoming piece by Aksel Tjora "What kind of editorial practices can we live with?" In particular I was asked to give some account of the way publishing functions from my experiences as editor. Before doing so two short comments:

1. While much could be said about the concrete case at hand, I will not discuss

editorial decisions here. His paper was indeed one of the few taking much too long and I did apologise to him for this.

2. The relation between running academic peer-reviewed journals, publishing papers and academic accountability is pushing the existing systems to their limits, particularly in a growing, multidisciplinary and institutionally not too well established field like STS. This has so far not been discussed in a systematic and sustained

way, but comes up mainly when somebody feels “mistreated”. Last year we had a debate about editorial policies in SSS, this time it is the handling of papers in ST&HV.

ST&HV has been the journal of the *Society for Social Studies of Science* for about 20 years. Editors are appointed by the society for a five year period, getting some very limited financial support for doing the work (financing editorial help from a PhD student). When I took over the journal in July 2002, it was for many reasons in a rather difficult situation. In order to keep quality high and to assure a balanced judgement it was decided to have three review reports as a decision basis. We put in place a database of papers, built a reviewer pool, participated in several sessions at 4S and EASST organised by PhD students in order to discuss publication procedures and constructed a web-based submission system to increase transparency and visibility. We set up a group of contributing editors in order to help with difficult cases. However many of the initial idea(s) were quickly confronted with the reality of publishing.

Firstly, finding reviewers proved increasingly difficult. Figures for 2005: 649 reviewers were approached, of whom only 352 wrote a review – 200 did not even respond. In short, reviewing seems to be a not very attractive activity and this is a primary cause of time delays. The review system also reveals other structural problems: reviewers get the same (or only marginally changed) paper from various journals, “self-plagiarism” (parts of papers already published in non STS-journals), sloppy manuscripts etc. To be concrete: while some papers quite quickly get the reviews necessary (often with a unanimous verdict) others need up to 14 (!) review requests to get the minimum 3 reviews. In domains marginal to STS, these problems get accentuated.

Secondly, the number of submitted papers has risen steeply. Starting with 59 papers in 2002 and reaching a peak in 2005 with 108, we are “back” to 90 papers for 2006. This has put the whole reviewing system under pressure. Tensions appear at three levels: For the authors it has meant waiting longer to get

their response. For the editor it has - between teaching obligations and research – meant nearly doubling the expected workload. For the journal the back-log increased substantially. Two years of negotiations with SAGE lead in 2006 to an increase in page numbers and an expansion from four to six issues per year. And yet, this is not a solution as the number of papers remains high. Our acceptance rate, which was about 25% of submissions until 2004, has decreased to 20% in 2006.

Thirdly, decisions on papers are mainly based on the verdicts of reviewers, ranging from acceptance, minor/major revisions, to revise and resubmit (which opens a whole new review process) and reject. Things become difficult when reviewers do not agree at all and frequently advice is asked from editorial board members. Acceptance pending revisions is always conditional upon the quality of the revisions made, and if reviewers plead for rejection after revisions were made, I tend to follow their advice. This seems fair in the light that we now have to reject papers much earlier in the process, a fact I feel somehow ambivalent about. In the past sometimes good papers emerged after a quite lengthy and multistage process of revisions - under given pressures this seems hardly possible.

Fourthly, time has become a crucial factor. A quickly reviewed paper with clear recommendations takes around 3-4 months turn over. When time delays occur in ST&HV they are mainly due to three factors and sometimes their coincidence: Different sorts of problems in the reviewing process, coincidence of many papers and decisions to take on the editors desk in particular while the semester starts or ends, problems with e-mail communication (both technical and sheer overload problems). If paper numbers remain high editorial teams might be a solution.

Finally, the submissions of PhD students whose theses will be a collection of articles is a central point in the argument of Aksel Tjora. While it is true that submitting for publication is an important part of the academic learning process, there are times when authors seem to assume that reviewers

and editors will do what they and their supervisors should have done: put a paper in good shape before submitting it. Along with very good student papers, we also get regular complaints from reviewers who do not see their task as taking part in a new form of “distributed PhD supervision”.

Being an editor is a challenging job. Given current changes in academia, the pressure on authors and editors will rise. The majority of authors whom you have contact

with will end with not having their paper published – a piece to which they are attached and which they want or need to have published. Thus a reflection on the changes in the publication system is more than timely and EASST is in a very good situation to be the platform of such a debate. It will be essential to move away from a very personal approach to a much more structural debate over what publication system a field like STS needs.

Readers' Responses

Editor's report

by Ann R. Sætnan

In the previous Review issue, we invited readers to respond to two items. One was the cover puzzle, a bit of STS infotainment. I have received a number of requests for the answer to the puzzle, but no guesses or flexible interpretations. Oh well. Maybe the puzzle idea will catch on eventually. Meanwhile ... the answer to the cover puzzle in the previous issue is: a “crash box” after a crash simulation test, i.e. a vehicle safety device after having absorbed energy from a simulated vehicle collision. You might have found that answer by “googling” the photographer’s name, but I don’t think that will work this time. This issue’s picture is not from an open web site. Of course, it should have been possible to come up with alternative suggestions that were at least as much fun as the true answer: An aluminium cake decoration rose? A trap for garden snails? A standardized scent detector? A model of L’Engle’s tesseract? Well ... you get the idea. So go ahead now and have fun with this issue’s cover puzzle.

We got a far better response rate to our survey regarding the future of the Review. A total of 147 members (121 “old” members and 26 new members, in all about 18% of the

membership) responded to the on-line survey. Obviously we must bear in mind that this is only a minority of the membership, and possibly a minority more favourable to on-line communications than most. However, we should also bear in mind that it is ten times the number of members as those who attend the general meeting at our biennial conferences. With this dual caution, I will proceed to take the responses seriously, yet not interpret them as a solid mandate for specific actions.

The overall response to taking EASST Review on-line as a refereed journal was positive (see table below). Still, given that only about 18% of the membership responded, the council has decided to move forward in this direction with caution, especially since this is a new trend since we last asked the membership for input on a similar question. Our members seem to be moving in the direction of accepting, or even preferring on-line journals, but we still have a substantial number of members who prefer the feel and functionality of paper. It may well be that fewer of those who prefer paper responded to an on-line survey.

On the whole, what is your opinion on the idea of turning EASST Review into a fully refereed on-line journal?

	“Old” members	New members	Total
Very supportive	58 47.9%	15 57.7%	73 49.7%
Somewhat supportive	30 24.8%	5 19.2%	35 23.8%
Neutral	15 12.4%	2 7.7%	17 11.6%
Somewhat opposed	12 9.9%	3 11.5%	15 10.2%
Very opposed	6 4.9%	1 3.9%	7 4.8%
SUM	121	26	147

In our cautious move forward, we will pay particular attention to the many “other” responses we received, giving reasons for supporting and/or opposing taking the Review into this new territory. For instance, we need to carefully think through our relationship to other journals in the field. We also need to maintain, perhaps even enhance, some of the qualities the Review has now as a site for less formal discussions. As one member put it: *“It would be just another journal, of which there are plenty. The mixed and more entertaining character of the Review, which includes articles of scholarly interest but more freely written, would be lost.”* There were also other responses in a similar vein.

After discussing the survey results with the council, the decision is to take things one

step at a time. Our first step, as you may already have noticed, is to adjust the size of the Review to British postal rates, thus saving some money by reducing only margin space. Come summer, the next step will be to experiment with some free, open source software for creating discussion forums. Once we get a site set up in a way we think will work, we can do a trial run where readers can click directly from articles in the on-line version of the Review to a discussion of the articles -- and vice versa, from the discussion to the full texts. In the discussion section (“EASST Review Forum”?) the first entry for each article-based thread would be the abstract or first paragraph of the article. We could also have an open forum section for reader-initiated threads. Then we’ll see how well that works for a while before making any further move.

One idea down the line might be to include peer-reviewed articles as a section in the Review, adding open reviews along with any further debates to the discussion forum (“EASST Open Review”?). Perhaps EASST Open Review could serve as a “nursery” for pre-publication of manuscripts along with solicited and unsolicited reviews. Once an article was revised and accepted in another journal, it could be replaced in the Review archives by a reference and/or link to the final version ...? But before taking that big a step, let’s see first whether we can get EASST Review Forum up and running, and then let’s see how well it works as a meeting place for our members.

Recent Dissertations

Inge van der Weijden

In search of performance: Research management within the Dutch public medical and health sector Ph D in Social Sciences, January 2007, The department of public administration and organization science, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, The Netherlands Dissertation Series Faculty of Social Sciences, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, 2007, ISBN 978-90-9021269-2

In this dissertation, I studied how Dutch medical and health research groups are affected by both internally and externally organized evaluations. In addition, I investigated whether research evaluations and other managerial control elements influence research group performance. Both qualitative and quantitative techniques were used.

The first part of this dissertation sheds light on evaluation practices in Dutch medical and health research. It is shown that research groups have to deal with evaluation practices organized by various intermediary organizations as well as university bodies in all phases of the research process. There is a traditional evaluation of scientific quality based on peer review. Peers are asked in ex-ante, ex-post and incidental evaluations to give comments and recommendations to improve research. Additionally, the question of societal impact and relevance is becoming increasingly important. Methodologies and indicators to measure societal aspects of medical and health research are now being developed in the Netherlands. Most of these experimental methodologies are quantitative tools that can be used in qualitative peer review practices. This is not solely a Dutch concern; it is also being addressed in other countries. Because research activities are not only geared towards scientific colleagues, but also to other stakeholders, traditional peer review processes can be extended by including stakeholders, other than scientists, in the evaluation process of science. In this way, the consultation of patient organisations, health-care institutions,

policy-makers and research clients may be improved.

This dissertation reveals that some of the external research evaluation practices organized by intermediaries are copied and used in internal research evaluations by entities acting on the performance level. The organizing bodies operating in the Dutch medical and health systems are subject to various changes in the way they interact, which in turn constantly influences the way evaluations are made.

The second part of the book focuses on the impact of managerial control on the performance of medical and health research groups. Research leaders are challenged to create the conditions conducive to meeting the corporate goals of performance as well as the scientists' need for satisfaction and motivation. The issue of research management is still highly debated, also in the Dutch public media. Although most Dutch professors are generally satisfied with their jobs, they complain about low salaries, and too much time spent on managerial tasks and unbearable bureaucracy. This thesis research shows that group performance indicators such as productivity, recruiting ability and rating by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research are influenced by managerial control. Management activities which have a positive relationship with these performance indicators are regarded to be:

- internal orientation on research: e.g. time allocated to research; attention to and appraisal of staff members; organization of research evaluations.
- external orientation on research; e.g. time allocated to participation in audit committees, editorial board of journals and organization of conferences.

I also studied the impact of the disciplinary setting in order to assess whether such effects on performance are uniformly distributed. I found that the disciplinary

setting, the classification into clinical and pre-clinical research, has impact on the relationships between managerial control and performance of groups. In clinical groups the organization of research output evaluations, policy meetings and research meetings are important in predicting research performance. In pre-clinical groups the organization of various internal research management activities shows relationships with particular research performance measures. No homogeneity was found among research management tools. In conclusion, managerial choices of leaders result in differences between performance measures. I recommend research leaders to compose their management team of staff members who have different tasks and also use different management styles in order to achieve a good overall group performance.

In conclusion, this research shows that both internal and external managerial control have a positive impact on performance. Managing a research group actively makes a difference. However, an excellent researcher does not make an excellent group manager. I recommend leaders to ask for support by an enthusiastic research manager. Together they then could better manage a research group. This research manager should not only accomplish administrative tasks but should also coordinate research. He or she should be valued as an equal interlocutor and sparring partner for the research leader. By using their particular skills, research leaders and research managers could define their own designated tasks and responsibilities. Generally, research leaders should then focus on brainstorming and the elaboration of innovative research ideas, research communication, supervision and training of researchers. Research managers, on the other hand, should have knowledge about and seek for opportunities concerning research funding, collaboration, training (including research schools) and research exchange. They also support the organisation of research evaluations and the implementation of evaluation outcomes and recommendations. Finally, they organise and coordinate internal research activities such as seminars and lectures. Research managers work at

institutional level in a research institute or in an academic medical centre. Depending on the group size, research managers can support and coordinate a number of groups.

The outcomes of this dissertation may be of interest to both research leaders and policymakers. An understanding of the determinants of medical and health research performance is a prerequisite for designing effective micro as well as macro research policy. It may provide health research leaders and administrators with tools to better attract motivated individuals as well as to achieve organizational and project goals. Furthermore health research leaders and administrators may be stimulated to improve and control research group performance.

This dissertation provides the first in-depth study of research management and academic group performance. Although a number of scholars have studied the externally organized evaluation processes in the Netherlands, the internal implications of these evaluations are hardly ever studied. In addition to external evaluations, information about internally organized research evaluations and their implications is therefore also reported in this thesis. In addition, empirical studies describing the relationship between managerial control and research performance omitted research evaluations from the scope of research. In this thesis research management, contingency items, and research performance were studied together in an integrative approach. Moreover, while empirical studies which examined research performance concentrated on only one or a few research management activities, managerial views, contingencies or personal characteristics of the scientist, in this thesis the relevance of the various factors known to influence research performance has been assessed.

All in all, the approach followed in this thesis is designed to help better understand the intriguing relations between research performance and research management.

Keywords: research management, research performance, research evaluation, evaluation implications, medical and health area, research groups. For copies of this thesis, please contact the author: i.vanderweijden@rathenau.nl

Conferences and Calls for Papers

Weather, Local Knowledge and Everyday Life is the title of the conference to be held at *Museu de Astronomia e Ciencias Afins (MAST)*, **Rio de Janeiro**, 26-30 May 2008. International Commission for the History of Meteorology (ICHM) invites scholars across the social sciences to a meeting devoted to understanding the place of weather and climate in everyday life. We would like to explore the ways in which various disciplines - from history to historical geography, anthropology to sociology - conceptualize the evolution of climatological citizenship as it manifests itself in daily routines, rituals, perceptions, reactions to and uses of the weather. We want to bring to light the fact that people worldwide engage with the weather not only as individuals, but also as members of a family, extended community, city, region, or nation and as bearers of religious, ethnic, professional and otherwise 'tribal' identities. To what extent does the weather really matter in what individuals and societies do on a routine basis? What are the ways in which the public 'takes the weather in their hands' and what is the perceived role of expert knowledge in providing the information and warnings about the day-to-day and extreme atmospheric events? The conference will take place at the Museu de Astronomia e Ciencias Afins, Rio de Janeiro. The organizers are Vladimir Jankovic (University of Manchester), Cornelia Ludecke (University of Hamburg), James R. Fleming (Colby College) and Samuel Randalls (University of Oxford). Please submit your 300 words **abstracts by December 1, 2007** to vladimir.jankovic@manchester.ac.uk. See also <http://www.weatherlife.org>.

Millennialism is the title of the event at the *Liverpool Hope University*, **Liverpool**, 12-14 July 2007. To mark the establishment of the Centre for Millennialism Studies, Dr John Walliss and Revd Professor Kenneth Newport are organising an international conference on the general theme of millennialism. The

conference will be held at Liverpool Hope University, 12-14th July 2007. Confirmed plenary speakers are Jean-François Mayer (University of Fribourg) and Douglas Cowan (University of Waterloo). The organisers would welcome papers on any aspect of millennialism, past or present. Suggested topics include: Apocalyptic Texts; The influence of apocalyptic ideas in culture; 'Rapture' Books and Movies; Historical and contemporary case studies; The millennial dimension to 'the war on terror'; and Millennialism and violence. The cost for the conference will be £185. This includes accommodation, all meals and the conference fee. A limited number of bursaries for postgraduate students are also available. If you are interested in participating, please send a 200-word **abstract** to John Walliss (wallisj@hope.ac.uk) in an email with the title 'Millennial conference' **by 30 April 2007**.

Science and Religion: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives is the name of the international and interdisciplinary conference is being held on 23-26 July 2007 at the *University of Lancaster, UK*, to mark the retirement of Professor John Hedley Brooke. It will bring together leading historians, philosophers, scientists, and theologians to debate the latest research into science-religion relationships. Brooke's 1991 book, *Science and Religion: Some Historical Perspectives*, and his Gifford Lectures with Geoffrey Cantor, published in 1998 as *Reconstructing Nature: The Engagement of Science and Religion*, have overturned simplistic narratives of conflict or harmony and set new standards for sophisticated historical studies of science and religion. These works have been widely appreciated not only by historians but also by many participants in debates about science and religion who had not previously taken an interest in the history of the subject. Taking stock of the state of the field of 'Science and Religion', with particular reference both to the

impact of Brooke's historical studies on the field and also to new directions that are now being taken, speakers at this conference will offer original perspectives on continually relevant questions, such as: Must modern science and religious belief always come into conflict with each other? What do academic historians, philosophers, and theologians have to contribute, if anything, to an understanding of politically charged debates about Darwinism in the United States and elsewhere today? What roles have religious beliefs and institutions played in the development of modern science? What is the relationship between early modern discussions of purpose and design in nature and contemporary phenomena such as the 'Intelligent Design' movement? What creative ways are there to understand the meaning of biological evolution in theological terms? What is the overall significance of the 'complexity thesis', endorsed by many historians, for Science and Religion as an academic field? Can philosophical analyses of concepts of natural law, miracle, chance, probability, and explanation help to improve the quality of public debates about Science and Religion? Can the historical study of Science and Religion help us understand better the difficulties faced by traditional faiths and cultures in engaging modernity? How have major faith traditions, especially Judaism, Christianity, and Islam differed in their attitudes to science? See also the website at www.lancs.ac.uk/depts/history/news/.

"Insecurity and Otherness" is the title of the conference to be held at the *University of Rouen, France*, 17 and 18 May 2007. It is an international conference that will focus on the hegemony of insecurity in the multicultural society. Although most official institutional discourses will strongly reject any allegation linking insecurity to otherness, contemporary dangerisation culture persistently refers to the negative influence and potential of several religious and cultural minorities. Fear of crime and fear of unemployment lead a set of less conspicuous but often stronger concerns, such as the fear of specific minorities "swamping"

schools and neighbourhoods or the dystopia of outright demographic, religious and cultural ascendancy over national societies. Academics have been studying for several decades now the persistence and effects of dangerising otherness (cultural, ethnic, racial, religious or otherwise). Nonetheless, the social dynamics underlying that persistence remains little discussed. This can only be explained via a strong postindustrial taboo, that of the innocent public. Public discourses combating dangerising tendencies conveniently circumvent majorities and concentrate on "extremists". Social majorities are never portrayed as racist or discriminatory. They are allowed the neutral position of a comfortably seated spectator in the discursive theatre of democratic egalitarianism. A postulate that this conference is designed to explore is that allowing for this passive role of national publics depoliticises the relationship with otherness; since it becomes impossible to explicitly address that relationship in political terms, insecurity provides the platform for addressing it in supposedly egalitarian, social terms. As a result, otherness is transposed into fear of crime; just like wealth distribution is transposed into fear of globalisation, geopolitical interests into the fear of tearing down "civilisation", and so forth. The keynote lecture is to be delivered by Robert Castel, a significant attempt to address the link between daily insecurity and the tensions that amount to constructing Others. In terms of thematic organisation, the overarching approach of the conference puts forward a strong combination of general theoretical and focused empirical research in the entire spectrum of the social sciences and the most controversial social division today, that of cultural minorities with specific emphasis on Islamic minorities in Europe. The objective of the conference is to address the link between insecurity and otherness within the broadest interdisciplinary exchange possible. This will be done via perspectives in political science, sociology, law, policy analysis and anthropology. In particular, we would be interested in seeing links being made to the following problématiques:

I. The Social Bond in the Multicultural

Society: The Insecurity of Belonging.
II. Egalitarianism as Discrimination.
III. Dangerous Others and the Hegemony of Threat. IV. Otherness as Empowerment.
V. Personal Adequacy and Social Uncertainty.
Contact Michalis Lianos, Professor, University of Rouen, Innovation and Society Research Centre Department of Sociology, Rue Lavoisier, 76821 Mont Saint-Aignan cedex, France, tel +33 6 988 00 125.

The next *Swiss STS Meeting* which will take place in **Zurich** on February 6-9, 2008. You are welcome to submit proposals for pre-organized sessions and individual papers by 15 July 2007. Please turn to http://www.zgw.ethz.ch/STS/cfp_sts08.pdf for the detailed call for papers. The joint event of the Centre for the History of Knowledge (ETH Zurich and University of Zurich) and The Swiss Association for the Studies of Science, Technology and Society (STS-CH) is the fourth of its kind, tailored to the interests of junior scholars, in particular Ph.D. students in science and technology studies. The topic ScienceFutures aims at the role of science and technology in the social shaping of utopias, visions and temporal expectations. While in early modern thought utopia was the site of happiness removed in space, it increasingly became a good place in the future in the modern belief in technical and scientific progress. However, in the aftermath of the traumatic outgrowths of totalitarianism, the utility of prospective thinking remained fundamentally questionable. Where do we stand today? In how far are 'a flattening of the world' and a 'democratization of science' creating unprecedented possibilities and problems? Thinking the unfamiliar, not to mention to communicate and realize the unknown, is laden with difficulties. The necessity of translation is associated with questions regarding the formal and representational. How do the scientists and engineers, the science fiction writers, and cultural theorists deal with these problems? How do they convey the strange, the other, and still make sense? What kinds of aesthetics and which rationalities are at work in these

epistemologies of the future? The meeting encourages scholars to engage with science futures, including social, cultural, political, and economic implications in a cross-disciplinary as well as syn- and diachronic fashion. We invite submissions for organized sessions or individual papers that approach the topic of ScienceFutures. It will be possible to submit session and individual abstracts electronically on the conference website at <http://www.zgw.ethz.ch/sts.html>. Sessions will be 105 minutes and should not exceed three presentations of maximum twenty minutes each. If five or six speakers address similar topics, two sessions may be submitted. The **deadline for submissions is July 15, 2007**, and abstracts should not exceed 500 words. Closer to the event, the website will also offer the possibility to post ideas for sessions as well as important information on the program development, travel possibilities, and locality. Enquiries may be addressed to sts08@wiss.gess.ethz.ch.

The Promises and Challenges of the Life Sciences Industry in Central and Eastern Europe, the two-day workshop organised by INNOGEN and OSI in conjunction with PASOS, will be held in **Prague**, on 18-19 October 2007. It is aimed primarily at industry representatives, academics and policymakers and addresses the promises of the life sciences industry and its possible implications for economies, regulatory and legal frameworks, health care, ethics and human rights in Central and Eastern Europe. It examines the comparative advantages and disadvantages of these investments in the region, concluding with a discussion of futures and practical lessons. The workshop will include sessions covering five main thematic areas: Industry and Innovation, Regulation and Legal Framework, Ethics and Human Rights, Genomic Futures and Lessons for Policymakers and Industry. Further details can be sent on request. You are invited to submit an abstract of between 150 and 200 words for a full paper or shorter discussion paper. Abstracts should be posted or emailed to the workshop administrator Farah Huzair:

f.huzair@open.ac.uk , Innogen, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA, United Kingdom. The **deadline for submission is no later than the 20th April**. Abstracts will be anonymously peer reviewed and if successful, speakers will be nominated and informed by 30th April. Submission of full papers for prior circulation is expected in July 2007. Abstract and paper submissions must be in English. For further information contact Farah Huzair f.huzair@open.ac.uk or the workshop organisers Peter Robbins, Innogen, the Open University (p.t.robbins@open.ac.uk) and Adrian Ionescu, OSI, Hungary (aionescu@osi.hu).

Registration is now open, and a provisional programme has been announced, for the **British Society for the History of Science's Annual Conference 2007**, to be held in **Manchester** from 28 June - 1 July. Visit www.bsos.org.uk/bsos2007. The deadline for registration is 18 May 2007. The Society was founded in 1947, so at this year's meeting we will celebrate our sixtieth anniversary. In association with the University of Manchester's Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine (CHSTM), the Society has arranged a wide variety of events and displays.

Södertörn University College, with the generous support of The Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies and The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning, has announced the conference, **Regulating Chemical Risks: Science, Politics and the Media**, to be held on 15-17 August 2007 in **Stockholm**, Sweden. The conference addresses regulation of chemicals and particularly the risks associated with them. The growing number and global diffusion of both chemicals themselves and regulation of chemicals imply a tremendous challenge for both research and policy. In Europe the most recent development of this is the emergence of the REACH programme of the European

Union. Global developments are also of considerable interest however, and regulation on the national level is still very diverse. The multidisciplinary nature of understanding and meeting this challenge is reflected in the conference, which welcomes contributions from both natural and social science. The conference is open for both academics and practitioners, including people representing the media, industry, government and NGOs. Although the geographical focus is on the development in Europe, observations from other parts of the world that are useful for comparative analysis are greatly appreciated. Visit <http://www.sh.se/chemicalrisks07>.

The **3rd International Conference on e-Social Science** will be held on 7-9 October 2007 in **Ann Arbor**, Michigan, USA. The call for Submissions is open. The **submission deadlines are: paper abstracts - May 15th, 2007; workshop, tutorial, and panel outlines - May 31st, 2007; and poster abstracts - June 30th, 2007**. For full details on the conference and for further submission details, see <http://ess.si.umich.edu>.

The Legacy of the Chicago School will be held at the **University of Manchester**, UK, 13-14 September 2007. The 'Chicago School' of sociology is famous. So famous it has become a generic term for a range of perspectives, approaches and methods that are rarely cited. Who now cites Robert Ezra Park, Albion Small, Walter C. Reckless, Ruth Shonle Cavan, Edward Franklin Frazier, Everett Hughes, Roderick D. McKenzie, Frederick M. Thrasher, Ernest Burgess, Homer Hoyt or Louis Wirth? One occasionally sees W.I. Thomas and Florian Znaniecki cited (but not Dorothy Swain). George Herbert Mead is still a major source of theory and concepts. But what of the detailed empirical work of Harvey Warren Zorbaugh, Charles Edward Merriam, Samuel C Kincheloe, Harold Foote Gosnell and Nels Anderson? The methods of ethnographic fieldwork, participant observation, life histories, personal documents (letters, diaries), population statistics, maps,

real estate pricing, and interviewing were all developed and widely used. The list of topics they investigated and established is long and includes urban sociology, community studies, immigration, racism, inequality, identity and adaptation, political participation, leisure and commercialized entertainment, African American politics, exclusion, community radicalism, religion, white peoples' perceptions of black communities, social problems, traditions, sub-cultures, urban planning, institutionalization, social reform, social mobility. The conference organizers are Dr Pete Martin, Department of Sociology, University of Manchester (peter.martin@manchester.ac.uk); Dr Dave Francis Manchester Metropolitan University (d.franis@mmu.ac.uk); and Dr Chris Hart (c.hart@chester.ac.uk). We invite proposals between 200-250 words for a 40 minute paper that examines the legacy of the Chicago School **Deadline is 17th May 2007**. We aim to publish a selection of papers in the Journal of Classic Sociology. Other papers are to be published in a book.

The *British Sociological Association's Medical Sociology Group Annual Conference 2007* has been announced. It will take place on 6-8 September at the Britannia Adelphi Hotel, **Liverpool**, UK. Making connections between organisation studies and medical sociology to study the management of change in health care systems is convened by Professor Graeme Currie, Dr Rachael Finn, and Dr Justin Waring, University of Nottingham, and Thinking through science, technology and medicine: What medical sociology and science and technology studies (STS) can learn from each other is convened by Dr Richard Tutton, University of Nottingham. Other papers, posters and other forms of presentation in the following streams: 1. Cancer, 2. Complementary and Alternative Medicine, 3. Ethics, 4. Ethnicity, 5. Experiences of Health and Illness, 6. Gender, 7. Genetics, 8. Health service delivery and organization, 9. Health policy, 10. Health technologies, 11. Inequalities, 12. Lay/professional interface, 13. Lifecourse, 14.

Mental Health, 15. Methods, 16. Primary care, 17. Risk, 18. Reproductive and Sexual Health, 19. Teaching health professionals, 20. Theory, 21. Open stream, and 22. International. Further details and abstract submission form available: www.britsoc.co.uk/msconf and bsamedsoc@britsoc.org.uk. **The abstract submission deadline is April 28th 2007**. Abstracts received after this date will not be considered.

The *British Society for the History of Science's* conference, **Darwinism after Darwin: New historical perspectives**, is to be held at Devonshire Hall, **University of Leeds**, 3-5 September 2007. Before celebrations get underway for the 2009 Darwin sesquicentenary and bicentenary, this conference will provide an opportunity to think about what happened with Darwinism 'after Darwin', providing new historical perspectives on evolutionary theories and ideas, experiments and practices, books and images, bodies and displays, from the late nineteenth to the early twenty-first centuries. This wide-ranging conference will include plenary lectures from eminent scholars in the field alongside panel seminars, author-meets-critics sessions, hosted roundtable discussions, outreach activities, and social receptions. There will also be an opportunity to participate in an outing to nearby Ilkley Moor. The conference will be located in the pleasant surroundings of Devonshire Hall, a short walk from Headingley and the University and ten minutes by bus from the city centre. See <http://www.darwinismafterdarwin.com>.

The Call for Papers for the 2007 AAA meeting's panel sponsored by the Interest Group for the Anthropology of Public Policy has been issued, under the title, **When Your Informants are the Experts: Access, Expertise, and Obligation in (Powerful) Institutions**. The conference will be held on 28 November – 2 December 2007 in **Washington, DC**. See <http://www.aaanet.org/>. In the past 20 years, anthropologists have grown increasingly sensitive to the fluidity of categories that have historically oriented the

field work experience, such as rapport and the singular terrestrial or institutional fieldsite. The protean and wide-ranging effects of the contemporary phenomena we study as anthropologists means that we, too, must be mobile and flexible in our research designs and relationships. This panel considers the complexity of anthropologists field research relationships with institutional actors at the local, regional, national, and international levels. We consider institutional actors to include petty bureaucrats, local politicians and officials, local intellectuals and/or academics, representatives of international financial institutions, and corporate officials. While certain anthropological projects are centered on these actors, nearly all contemporary research projects require anthropologists to interact with institutional actors in some fashion. These relationships offer a unique opportunity to reflect on the changing nature of field research and the epistemology of anthropological knowledge for two reasons. First, whereas anthropologists have generally studied individuals who are structurally marginal, in these relationships our interlocutors frequently occupy positions of greater institutional power. Second, these institutional actors are often experts in their own right, designated as such by official credentials (such as academic degrees, etc.) or personal accomplishments (success in business), or through their familiarity with and curiosity about the very same processes the anthropologist is investigating. These unique features of the structural relationship between anthropologists and institutional actors fundamentally influence the methodological and ethical obligations inherent to ethnography. This panel aims to systematically address the range of challenges that these relationships, in their diverse forms, raise. We are interested in papers that draw on actual field work experience in government organizations, non-governmental organizations, international institutions (such as the World Bank), and/or corporate contexts with a view to the following questions: What are the various forms of relationships that anthropologists have with institutional actors? How do we sustain these relationships, and it

what contexts? What types of ethnographic information emerge through these relationships? What obligations do these relationships generate and to whom? Most broadly, how do we identify the loci of these relationships are they resident in knowledge produced through collaborations, performed in negotiations of expertise, or rendered visible as policies become strictures for social action? If you are interested, please send an abstract to: Michael Powell (mgpowell2000@gmail.com), Tara Schwegler (taschweg@uchicago.edu), and Brian Schwegler baschweg@uchicago.edu.

From 17 - 22 October 2007, the *Society for the History of Technology (SHOT)* will meet in **Washington, DC**, and celebrate its fiftieth anniversary. As part of that celebration, the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum will host a one-day symposium on the history of communication technologies on 17 October. The event's organizers are the Mercurians, a Special Interest Group of SHOT, and the National Postal Museum. The symposium will be open to the public. Proposals for papers and panels on any topic related to the history of communication technologies are welcome. The term "communication technologies" is construed in the broadest sense to include all traditional electrical and electronic forms of communication, such as telegraphy, telephony, radio, and television, as well as postal systems, semaphores, print media, and telematics, which combines computer and communication technologies. Proposals from those new to SHOT and the Mercurians-as well as those who are not yet members of either-are welcome, regardless of discipline or academic status (graduate student, independent scholar, or professor). The symposium will take place at the National Postal Museum, 2 Massachusetts Ave, NE, which is next to Union Station, a terminus for rail (Amtrak and Marc) and Metro lines, making it convenient for those attending the SHOT meeting and those coming from out of town. The submission of proposal guidelines will follow SHOT guidelines, which are posted at: <http://www.historyoftechnology.org/annualmtg>

/2007SHOT_cfp.pdf. In general, paper proposals should be no more than one page long and be accompanied by a one page c.v. Panel proposals must include a description of the session that explains how the individual papers contribute to an overarching theme, a list of the presenters' names and paper titles, and a c.v. for the chair, session organizer, and commentator (if applicable), in addition to a one-page abstract and one-page c.v. for each presenter. In any case, please make known your need for audiovisual equipment (slide projector, PowerPoint, etc.). Please email complete proposals to Allison Marsh marsha@si.edu and Andrew Butrica Mercurians@earthlink.net. Notification of accepted papers will be made in August 2007. Symposium papers will be posted on the National Postal Museum's website and will be considered for possible publication.

The European consortium CIPAST (*Citizen Participation in Science and Technology*) organises a training workshop on '**How to design and organise public deliberation**' in **Napoli**, from June 17th to June 21th 2007. See <http://www.cipast.org>.

The *SSTNet* has issued a call for its 8th ESA Conference on '**Contentious "progress" in science and technology**' to be held in **Glasgow**, 3- 6 September 2007. Fuelled by public and private investments in research and development, the speed of innovation has accelerated and also the pressure has increased to market innovations as early as possible. The ambivalent implications of this kind of "progress" have become a public issue. Risks inherent in scientific and technological innovations but also the vulnerability of modern society through potential misuse of high-tech achievements in areas such as ICT,

biotechnology, nanotechnology, or energy machinery are on the agenda. Many risks have a global dimension. They affect also those who do not participate in the high-tech innovation journey. This is why assessing science and technology is no longer or can no longer be a technocratic exercise of circles of experts. Questions of governance of modern science and technology but also moral and ethical issues related to innovation and "progress" have moved to the center of public debate. This debate is driven mainly by civil society organizations which, however, often have to struggle gaining public attention. More about SSTNET on the network's website at <http://sstnet.iscte.pt/SST-Site.htm>.

The **EPIP (*European Policy for Intellectual Property*) Association** will hold its **2nd Annual Conference** on September 20th and 21st 2007 at **Lund University**, Sweden, hosted by CIRCLE, Centre for Innovation, Research and Competence in the Learning Economy. Scholars and practitioners interested in the field of intellectual property are encouraged to attend the conference with or without paper presentation. For paper-presentations participants shall submit extended abstracts for the conference presentations on the following indicative topics: National and European Legal Regimes' Evolution; Litigation and Enforcement; The Quality and Value of Patents; University Patents in Europe; Software, Biotech Patents in Europe; Industrial Dynamics, Clusters and IPR; The governance of the Patent System in Europe; Competition and Patents; Patents, Diffusion and R&D; and Trademarks, and Databases. See <http://www.epip.eu/conferences/epip02>.

Summer Schools, Academies and Workshops

The Summer Institute at the International School for Humanities and Social Sciences of

the University of Amsterdam, offers a variety of intensive summer courses and tailor made

programmes (in cooperation with host universities abroad) in the fields of social policy, migration, sexuality and culture, addiction studies and European politics. All of our programmes are taught in English. With over 10 years experience in programme development, the Summer Institute is capable of offering high quality short-term study abroad programmes at a reasonable cost. With insiders' knowledge of the city of Amsterdam and an impressive list of guest speakers and faculty, we have developed programmes that offer a truly authentic Amsterdam experience. From June 17-22, 2007 the Genomics & Society Summer Institute is an intensive one-week programme. (See www.ishss.uva.nl/ELSA.) From July 1 - 26, 2007 the Summer Institute on Sexuality, Culture and Society has an intensive four-week programme. (See www.ishss.uva.nl/SummerInstitute.) From July 8 - 20, 2007, the Summer Institute on Alcohol, Drugs and Addiction has its intensive two-week programme. (See <http://www.ishss.uva.nl/Addiction>.) If you are interested in exploring the possibility of developing a short-term study abroad programme in Amsterdam for your students, please feel free to contact us at the International School for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Prins Hendrikkade 189-B, 1011 TD Amsterdam, The Netherlands, tel: +31 20 525.3776, fax: +31 20 525.3778, E-mail: summerinstitute-ishss@uva.nl, <http://www.ishss.uva.nl/summer.html>.

The 7th International Summer Academy on Technology Studies, entitled, "**Transforming the Energy System: The Role of Institutions, Interests & Ideas**," will be held in **Deutschlandsberg**, Austria, 27-31 August 2007. *The Inter-University Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture (IFZ)* in Graz, Austria, is organising the summer academy to explore strategies and limitations of an actively shaped transformation process in the energy system, in particular against the background of social and environmental sustainability goals. It will provide an

opportunity for bringing together theoretical analysis from the perspective of social studies of technology with a discussion of practical policy implications. In addition to that it will also raise some critical questions concerning the role of research in the context of normatively shaped transition processes. Participants are encouraged to present a paper related to (1) Institutions - the Challenges of Meso- and Macro-Level Transition. Overcoming system inertia and lock-in; institutional arrangements of governance, policy making and regulation; the role of regional institutions in multi-level governance. (2) Interests - the Negotiation of Goals and the Alignment of Actors. The role of interests and values in the transformation of the energy system; the positioning of sustainability goals; democratisation and empowerment; processes of coalition formation. (3) Ideas - the Social Dynamics of Visions & Expectations. The role of visions and expectations in governance; dynamics of hype and disappointment; the potential impact of foresight and scenario-development. Please submit an abstract of 300 to 500 words and a maximum of one page on your work and research background. The **deadline for submission is 11 May 2007**. You will be notified of acceptance by the end of May. For further information and registration please visit www.ifz.tugraz.at/sumacad/, or contact Anna Schreuer, IFZ - Inter-University Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture, Schloegelgasse 2, A-8010 Graz, Austria, tel: +43/316/813909-16, fax: +43/316/810274, schreuer@ifz.tugraz.at.

The Entanglement of East and West in Technology and Natural Sciences in the 20th Century, the Interdisciplinary Workshop, will be held in **Passau**, Germany 18-20 July 2007. Increasingly intensified scientific research in Modern Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries became a global key phenomenon of conceptions of modern life. Old Empires, new nation states as well as the Soviet Union developed strategies and institutions in competition with one another for the advancement of science and its cultural, economic and political exploitation. Scientific

logic has always contradicted political borders and demands transnational co-operation. In various disciplines, international research standards and competition have remained the leveller. Important scientific developments evolved over the 20th century as well, across the state borders and ideological camps of a divided Europe. International conferences, journals, associations, awards (Nobel Prize etc.) or competitions (International Mathematical Olympiad etc.) created cultural practices of scientific co-operation and constituted sometimes durable social relationships and networks. Yet although in some fields, the friendly exchange of letters, the exchange of know-how, the transfer of technologies or shared projects emerged, in other areas ideological prescriptions narrowed the scientist's room for manoeuvre. If it was a case of direct co-operation or implicit plagiarism, new concepts and projects, scientists and the states sponsoring them were always competing with each other. In the competition between states and empires in times of peace, during the Second World War or during the 'Cold War' between 'East' and 'West', (natural) scientific and technical research and projects played a key role. Successes furthered the prestige of states and societal systems. In particular cases, they gave scientists international fame, domestic

importance and veneration and, thus, options for political action. Scientific research was pivotal as well for 'Western' as well as for socialist societal conceptions of Modernity, Progress and the Future. Successes not only in space exploration, but in mathematics, too, contradicted western stereotypes of Eastern European backwardness. Rationalism or scientific faith has often been held or perceived in competition with traditional religion. The aesthetics and cult of technology were mediated in Eastern as well as in Western Europe in many ways and achieved far-reaching importance in the various dimensions of modern everyday life. The workshop aims to bring together specialists from the different fields of disciplinary history (mathematics, physics, astronomy, astro/cosmo-nautics, chemistry, biology, statistics, mechanical engineering, electrotechnics, IT and so on). Of central interest are contributions on issues concerning both 'East' and 'West', or contextualising Soviet or socialist sciences in an international framework. Especially PhD students and post-docs are invited to propose a paper (in English or German). The **deadline for submitting a proposal of max. 1 page is June 10, 2007**. A publication of the proceedings is planned.

Contact: Stefan.Rohdewald@uni-passau.de.

Opportunities Available

A full-time **PhD** position is available. The Department of Culture, Organization and Management (COM) of the *Faculty of Social Sciences at the Free University, Amsterdam*, will conduct a project on **The Europeanization of gambling organizations and the regulation of gambling in the European Union (2007-2010)**. This project is funded by the Dutch Research Council NWO. Since the 1990s gambling markets, including slot machines, lotteries and casinos, in many countries have been liberalised and expanded significantly. This expansion wave is a virtually global phenomenon. There are clear cultural, economic and technological (cf. the

Internet) pressures on national governments to treat gambling as a free market in the entertainment economy. These pressures, however, are in sharp contrast with and contradict traditional gambling policies. Direct market competition was discouraged because of the moral controversies over gambling and the association of gambling with risks concerning addiction and crime. This also means that national gambling organisations were, and in most cases still are, protected from competition from abroad and are usually not allowed to expand their activities beyond national borders. Consequently, across the EU there exist huge differences in gambling

cultures, organisations and policies. Starting in September 2007, you will be appointed as a fully funded PhD researcher to undertake this project on the Europeanisation of gambling organisations. The research will be guided by the following encompassing research question: 'How do developments within the complex organisational and regulatory gambling arrangements within member states of the EU relate to the European level?' In answering this question you will have to analyse the differences in gambling organisations (including operators, regulators and beneficiaries) across the EU in a number of contrasting case studies. Your focus will be on the organisational actors who bring about changes in the field of gambling. You will also strongly focus on the interaction between the national levels and the European level of regulation. Suitable candidates have a master's degree (or the equivalent) in one of the social sciences, preferably in relation to organisational science and/or political science. Especially students with a strong background in anthropology, sociology or political science are invited to apply; familiarity with (organisational) cultural analysis; excellent command of English; knowledge of Eastern and/or Southern European countries will serve as recommendation; and knowledge about the organisation and regulation of gambling is not mandatory but will also serve as recommendation. The initial appointment will be full time and for a period of 12 months. After satisfactory evaluation of the initial appointment it will be extended for a total duration of 4 years. You can find information about our excellent fringe benefits of employment - including holiday allowances of 8 % per year - at www.vu.nl/vacatures. Part-time appointment (0,8 fte) is possible: total duration of the appointment will then be 5 years. Gross monthly salaries range from eur 1.933,- in the first year to eur 2.472,- in the last year of the appointment. Further information with respect to the research project can be obtained from Dr. S.F. Kingma, (project leader); tel. 31 20 59 86740 (secr.), and direct by e-mail: SF.Kingma@fsw.vu.nl, or Prof.Dr. H.W. Overbeek, (supervisor); tel. 31 20 59 86852 (secr.), and e-mail:

HW.Overbeek@fsw.vu.nl. Please send cover letter, cv, list of publications and contact details of three referees **before April 15th 2007** by e-mail to: vacature@fsw.vu.nl, or by post to the Vrije Universiteit, Faculty of Social Sciences, attn. drs. L.M. Bremer, Managing Director, De Boelelaan 1081, 1081 HV Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The vacancy number to reference is 1.2007.00038.

The Faculty of Social Sciences explicitly hopes to increase diversity among its employees.

The *Delft University of Technology* has **two job openings as part of the research project Moral responsibility in R&D networks**. The **Postdoc** position (vacancy number: 07.011) concerns **Conceptual and moral analysis of responsibility**. Central to the Post-doc project is the conceptual and moral analysis of the responsibility concept, with an eye to developing a notion of responsibility which is morally justifiable and which leads to a complete distribution of responsibility in technical research networks. Applicants must have graduated in philosophy. They must have a demonstrable interest in applied ethics and technology. It is also recommended that candidates have had experience in carrying out research in philosophy of technology, applied ethics or philosophy of mind. It must be obvious from earlier publications that candidates possess good analytical and philosophical skills. Finally we are seeking a Post-doc who would like to work in a team. The extent of this position is a maximum of 32 hours per week (0.8 FTE). The position has a temporary employment basis of three years. The estimated starting salary is based on scale 10, with a maximum of \approx 3,554 per month gross (based on a full-time appointment and depending on experience). The **Phd Student position** (vacancy number: 07.012) concerns **Responsibility distributions in actual R&D networks**. The doctoral project focuses primarily on empirical research into the distribution of responsibility in R&D networks. The candidate must have graduated in philosophy, technology or a relevant socio-scientific discipline. He or she will have

demonstrable interest in applied ethics and in technology. It is recommended that the candidate has had experience in carrying out empirical research. The extent of this position is a maximum of 38 hours per week (1 FTE). The position has a temporary employment basis of four years. In the first year the salary will be \approx 1,933 gross per month, rising to \approx 2,472 gross per month in the fourth year. For further information about these position please contact Ibo van de Poel, tel. +31 15-27 84716, or by email at i.r.vandepoel@tudelft.nl. You may submit your letter of application with a CV until **April 10, 2007** at the latest, to the TPM Faculty, HR office, attn. Mirjam Koning, PO Box 5015, 2600 GA Delft, the Netherlands; or apply online: m.e.koning@tudelft.nl. When applying for one of these job always mention the vacancy number. Research will be accommodated within the 3TU Centre for Ethics and Technology, one of six Centres of Excellence of the three universities of technology in the Netherlands (Delft, Eindhoven and Twente). The Centre's mission is to carry out high-quality research into ethics and technology. A complete description of the project can be requested, or www.ethicsandtechnology.eu.

The *Department of Science and Technology Studies, University College London*, offers **up to two scholarships for the MSc programmes** taught by the London Centre for the History of Science, Medicine and Technology: MSc in History of Science, Medicine and Technology, and an MSc in Science, Technology, Medicine and Society. These studentships will cover tuition fees at Home/EU rates. They do not include a stipend or support for accommodation. There is a preference to award one scholarship for each MSc programme. However, the Department may elect instead to support truly exceptional candidates regardless of their degree choice. Eligibility: All Home/EU applicants accepted for entry onto these courses will be considered for these awards. They will be judged on the basis of their MSc application, plus any

supporting material (such as impressions drawn from interviews). Those wishing to provide additional material in support of their case may submit a 750 word statement describing their particular interest in the degree. For more information about the degrees, visit the London Centre web site www.londoncentre-hstn.ac.uk.

DISCCRS (www.discdrs.org), the **Interdisciplinary Climate Change Symposium**, will be held in **Hawaii** on 10-17 September 2007. **April 30th is the deadline for applications** to DISCCRS III for new Ph.D. graduates. Airfare, room & board are fully paid for 36 accepted candidates. Social scientists are especially encouraged to apply. DISCCRS (pronounced "discourse") is an interdisciplinary initiative for recent Ph.D. graduates conducting research related to climate change and its impacts. The goal is to broaden research interests and establish a collegial peer network extending across the spectrum of natural and social sciences, humanities, mathematics, engineering and other disciplines related to climate change and its impacts. The initiative includes a public webpage, electronic newsletter, and annual symposia funded through 2008. By the 30 April 2007 deadline individuals completing Ph.D. requirements between April 1, 2004 - March 31, 2007 in any discipline related to climate change and impacts are invited to join the DISCCRS network and apply to be a DISCCRS symposium scholar. Thirty-six applicants will be selected by an interdisciplinary committee of research scientists. During the week participants will provide oral and poster presentations in plenary format, hone interdisciplinary communication and team skills, and discuss emerging research, societal and professional issues with each other and with established researchers invited to serve as mentors. Contact: discdrs@whitman.edu.

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