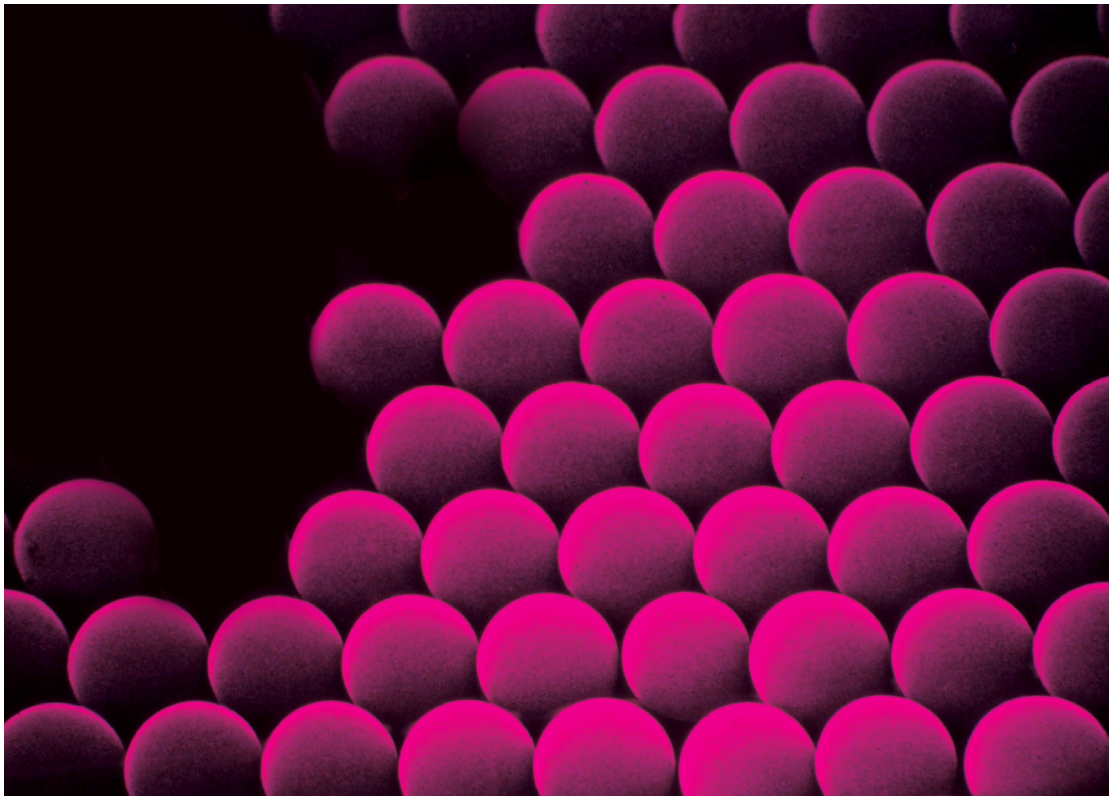


EASST

Review

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cover illustration: "Monodisperse particles"
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Maintaining Scientific Communities

Editorial

by Ann R. Sætnan

EASST maintains the Review as a means of maintaining EASST as an academic community between conferences. But there are limits to how well a modest journal can do that job. I can't complain that the journal is hampered in this by a non-responsive readership. We get just enough contributions to fill the issues we're scheduled to produce. And just the types of contributions we're intended to accommodate – book reviews, academic event reviews, commentary about trends in the field, presentations of recent dissertations, and occasionally a research article. So far, I have hardly had to make any efforts to recruit these pieces. No, we don't get many responses directed back through the Review. After all, with three or four issues a year, this is hardly the kind of fast-paced communications medium that can maintain a tennis match-paced discussion. But I don't doubt that the Review gets read, and hopefully authors who are looking for responses from the readers hear back from them directly. In other words, the Review is probably doing its job as well as a quarterly journal can be expected to do. The question then is, "Do we have to remain merely a quarterly journal?"

I'd like to maintain the Review as a quarterly journal. For now, I'd also like it to remain a journal comprised of types of communications less likely to find a welcome home in journals focused on research articles. But why not, at the same time, add faster-paced discussions by adding some Internet functionality?

After months of thought, preparation, and debugging – yet still begging your patience with any bugs yet to be discovered – I am pleased to announce the official opening of EASST Review Forums. Paid up EASST members are welcome to sign on and join in at:

<http://www1.svt.ntnu.no/forum/easst/>

Many of you will be familiar with discussion forums on other topics, but this one will have a few atypical characteristics. Others may not have participated in on-line forums before. So allow me to point out some of our new forums' features:

EASST Review Forums will be limited to EASST members, at least for now. Others may read, but only EASST members may post. Consider active forum access a privilege of membership. With more than 600 members, we should nevertheless be able to achieve a lively level of discussions, at least as lively as I will be able to

keep up with as (so far) sole moderator. One consequence of this decision is that there will be some time lag between signing up for forum membership and being confirmed as a member and allowed to post on the forum. When you sign up, and email is automatically sent to me. I check the membership list and then confirm your forum membership. Until I have clicked the confirm button, you will be able to read the forum but not post there.

As moderator, it will also be my duty to keep the forums on topic, tidily searchable, and civil. I request that, unlike most forums where members protect their anonymity behind an alias, members appear here as they do at annual meetings, wearing their full name on their tag. You may, however, keep your email address hidden. This helps protect against spreading your address to spammers, while forum members can still send you personal messages via the forum web site without using your email address. I also request that you maintain a civil tone. The friendliness of EASST conferences is one of our most appealing features as a community. Sure, we study fascinating topics. But new members stay with us in preference to other equally fascinating conferences because we are so welcoming and have such constructive discussions, lively and critical but not offensive or mean-minded. So let's keep it that way.

Eventually, spammers and hecklers will probably find their way onto the forum. It is my job as moderator to delete such posts. Other on-line forums I know have an "alert button" on every post. If you find a post offensive ("spam" or "flaming" or otherwise inappropriate), you click on the button and a message is sent to the moderators. Unfortunately, the software we're using as of now (free and open source software, by the way) does not have an alarm button feature. Instead, you will have to email me. Let's hope that is not often necessary. I will also try to check the forums daily, skimming through new posts as part of that visit.

EASST Review Forums will consist of two main sections. The first section will have threads corresponding to the substantive pieces in EASST Review, issue by issue and article by article. Each such thread will have a "taster" paragraph from the published item and a URL link to the full text on the EASST web site. Similarly, readers of EASST Review on line on the EASST web site will be able

to click their way to the corresponding discussion area at the forums. Come on over, explore, and add some comments.

The second section is open for members to start whatever threads they wish. Want to recruit reviewers for your latest book? Or want to announce yourself as a willing book reviewer? I've started a thread for book and reviewer "match-making". Want to develop a session topic for an upcoming meeting? You can send out a mass-emailed call for papers; you can contact colleagues you already know; and/or, you can start a thread on EASST Review Forums. Or how about a student section where members can raise issues about students' working conditions and form cross-national student alliances? Maybe we could start a Game Room thread and put the cover illustration guessing game in there (This issue I've revealed the name of the object on last issue's cover, but a challenge remains: What can "monodisperse particles" be used for?). "Thread drifts" that wander off topic and become simply sociable? They're welcome too. Why not

open up EASST Virtual Café as a place for just such communications? As long as posts stay civil, your friendly moderator will leave them undisturbed ... and maybe join in.

In time, perhaps EASST Review Forums may develop into an on-line, open review journal. But let's just take it one step at a time. Going fully reviewed would take a lot more planning and organizing, including negotiations with the fields' existing journals to find ways of co-existing or even collaborating. And it would take more than one unpaid, overworked, volunteer moderator. So for now, let's just see if EASST Review Forums can successfully supplement the existing Review format as our virtual meeting between meetings.

Want to discuss the forum plans? Go to: <http://www1.svt.ntnu.no/forum/easst/viewtopic.php?t=34>

Meanwhile ... expect another issue of EASST Review before Summer. We should be able to include glimpses of the August meeting program, hopefully in good time to remind you all to register.

Fashion report from 4S Annual meeting in Montreal: The transgressing use of transparency.

By Jon Hovland

In the future, every word will have its 15 months of fame. This year I suspected that famous word would have something to do with the prefix *trans-*. A quick search through the abstracts from the 4S annual meeting in Montreal revealed 497 instances of *trans**. Transfer, transnational, transform, translate, transdisciplinary, transgression, transmission, transition and last but not least: Transparency.

Especially this latter caught my attention. Though not the most frequent in the abstracts (24 instances in 15 abstracts), definitely one of wide usage and rather beautiful effect: Transparency is good. Transparency is democratic. But nobody really says what it is; it is taken for granted. Big mistake. Transparency is something entirely different from visibility, and I will argue that the concept of transparency, its etymological meanings, its epistemic meanings and its practice in itself may be a useful analysis of governmentality. This is in other words not a science article, it is merely a sound suggestion, playing with words, something I think might work. I think 'transparency' is a word that carries in it many of the anomalies, disturbances and misleadings of neoliberal arts of governing, and

in the following I will try to share this idea.

My initial thought, after realizing there was something suspect about the legitimizing effect of this notion of transparency, is that transparency should be thought of as a peep hole. Through the peep hole in your entrance door, you seem to see the hall outside. As we all know, that is not entirely true, we see a severely deformed, circular vision of the hallway. What we actually see, is the optic in the peep hole. That vision, the peep hole, is dependant on and transformed by the hall outside, just as the peep hole is transformed and depending on the hallway in a mechanical way. The hall is what makes it a peep hole, and it's only the peep hole we see.

The second thought was that if we do not know the other side of the door, the vision in the peep hole is all we know, which means that it becomes invisible. This is how H.G. Well's invisible man did his trick:

"You make the glass invisible by putting it into a liquid of nearly the same refractive index; a transparent thing becomes invisible if it is put in any medium of almost the same refractive index. And if

you will consider only a second, you will see also that the powder of glass might be made vanish in air, if its refractive index could be made the same as that of air, for then there would be no refraction or reflection as the light passed from glass to air."

"Yes, yes," said Kemp. "But a man's not powdered glass!"

The invisible man, p. 65. H G Wells

From these two ways of visualising transparency, we get a glimpse of why this thing works out so brilliantly in rhetoric. A mechanism possibly hiding in clear view, and the more it is observed as the same as its object, the more it becomes invisible. Hopefully, some ideas start popping up now, but the more we dig into this word in itself, the more we find. So allow me to do a tour of etymology first.

Trans-, as a general prefix is loaded with vagueness and contradiction, which follows from its etymology: The Latin origin is translated as either "across", "beyond" or "on the opposite side [of]". It is probably more accurate to define the prefix as the opposite of *cis*, meaning "on the same side [of]".

Webster's Comprehensive Dictionary provides the following four meanings in contemporary use:

1. Across, beyond, through, on the other side of.
2. Through and through, completely changing.
3. Surpassing, transcending, beyond
4. Transversely, being across

Meanings and things are lost and paraphrased in trans-lation, but in this case the ambiguity was there from before: The word does not have a direction, it is referring to the other side, but does not tell us whether it is about something on the other side (*trans mare esse*) or something lying on the boundary to the other side or something moving across to the other side (*trans mare asportare*).

-parency is probably even more fun. This is derived from the present participle of *pareo* which literally means displaying (for the eye). But this is loaded with double meanings: It means (a) serving, following (b) obeying (c) being subject to (d) taking into account, being guided by (e) being clear, impersonal, proved. Of course, this is the same word from which we trace parenting. As we see, there is a little insight in the multiple meanings: Making oneself visible, is to make oneself subject to and take into account, sometimes it is even to obey.

Now, if we turn to the word transparency in itself, things are somewhat simplified. If we look at Webster's definition of transparency, it is simply the

passing of light with clear view of objects beyond. It reflects simplicity, clearness. Figuratively: easy to understand, hence without guile. Frank. As opposed to something translucent, that allows the passage of light, but without clear view of shape and colour.

All of this brings back the thought of the peep hole. It gives a clear view of shape and colour, but it's a matter of interpretation if what we find ourselves regarding is across, is beyond, is transverse, or is on the other side. In any case, it is reflective of something on the other side, and it is not misleading, in that the reflection is automatic, optical or mechanical. Still, we do not see the hallway. It is still on the other side.

Still I'm of course only playing with words. I promised to look at the social meanings of this word, and I'll do it the real easy way: For once I'll look to Wikipedia for an overview of practical usages of this concept.

First, from philosophy: Transparency is a property of epistemic states defined as follows: An epistemic state E is *weakly transparent* to a subject S if and only if when S is in state E, S can know that S is in state E; An epistemic state E is *strongly transparent* to a subject S if and only if when S is in state E, S can know that S is in state E, AND when S is not in state E, S can know S is not in state E. Pain is usually considered to be strongly transparent: when someone is in pain, he knows immediately that he is in pain, and if he is not in pain, he will know he is not.

In economy: A market is transparent if much is known about (a) what products, services or capital assets are available, (b) what price and (c) where. This is regarded as important, as it is one of the theoretical conditions required for a free market to be efficient. This can also result in the removal of service chains and middlemen.

This is seen as a branch of the usage in humanities: The implication of openness, communication and accountability. It is described as a metaphorical extension of the meaning used in the physical sciences: a "transparent" object is one that can be seen through. Transparency is introduced as a means of holding public officials accountable and fighting corruption.

The succession of these descriptions and usages is not coincidental, because there is a flow of meaning here. Moving from its etymology of uncertain direction and status, it turns in philosophy into an epistemic state in which you know or know not (however, you do not necessarily know whether the dichotomy is the proper one). In economy it is not only an epistemic state, it is a state with a value, it is a precondition for a free market. In what is

broadly labelled humanities, it is described even as a normative feature. This is probably also the kind of use we often find again in STS abstracts. One small step for writers, a giant leap for a word.

So isn't it okay to define it the way we want to? No, not if we trace our way back. A normative feature has been added to something that is merely a state. This state is defined through the ambiguous description of something on the other side or across making (itself) visible. Who makes visible? Who takes into account? Who is made subject, what makes subjects subject? We do not know.

Where I'm heading is that whenever there is a rhetoric of transparency, there might be sound reasons to look for governmentality. Usually, it seems to reflect processes of auditing, accounting and testing that provides clear and indubitable results for all to see. However, as with the peep hole, we can argue that it is only the accounting we see. We do not see the organization or phenomenon or whatever it is we wish to reveal. Hopefully, what is seen in the accounting is dependant on the reality of the organization in a more or less mechanical way, but is still on the other side. We see only the peep hole.

Turning this around, many organizations will have a need for objective information about their own enterprise, searching out waste and corruption. This is very much comparable to walking around the inside door and having a look in the peep hole to see what is there. It can be quite useful. And then, to take the picture even further, the really cautious person wouldn't be happy only knowing what is to be seen, but to find what is not seen: Are there any corners where bogeymen could hide from my peep hole?

I'll draw a conclusion before this imagi(n)ing gets ut of hand. Transparency means more than fighting corruption. It also means making someone subject. Furthermore, the notion in itself is without agency, and so it hides agency, leaving it for us to find. Finally, and conveniently, the etymology of the word serves as a wonderful source of imaging, illustration and fabulation.

To discuss this article, go to <http://www1.svt.ntnu.no/forum/easst/viewtopic.php?t=31>

Paths of Developing Complex Technologies: Insights from Different Industries.

by Knut Lange

September 17-18, 2007, Clubhaus of the
Freie Universität Berlin
14163 Berlin-Dahlem, Goethestr. 49

Sponsored by the Volkswagen Foundation

Report on the workshop at the Free University of Berlin, September 17-18, 2007.

The concept of path dependency and the associated notion of path creation are attracting more and more researchers across different fields of study. This is particularly true regarding the analysis of developing complex technologies. Against this background, Jörg Sydow (Free University of Berlin) and Arnold Windeler (Berlin University of Technology) invited researchers to a workshop to look for a comparison of concepts that help us to understand processes of developing complex technology and to compare empirical results on these very processes across different industries. This

workshop was planned together with Raghu Garud (Pennsylvania State University), Peter Karnoe (Copenhagen Business School) and Arie Rip (University of Twente), around the research project "Path Creating Networks: Innovating Next Generation Lithography in Germany and the U.S." that is sponsored by the Volkswagen Foundation. The workshop was divided into three sessions and concluded with a discussion reflecting on the central conceptual issues and empirical questions of the workshop.

Arnold Windeler made his introductory statements on concepts of paths, the theory of path dependence, and the understanding of path creation, and outlined some general questions research on paths is facing. In particular, he stressed the necessity for clarity on the concept of path used in path research and on the understanding of how paths are constituted in time-space. Jörg Sydow then took over and presented a list of ten industry properties to focus on, including, for instance, actor

constellations and value chains in the industry, the role of interorganizational networks as a form of innovation governance, emergent versus mature industries, the role of technological path dependencies, and emergent versus mindful path constitution.

The first session was chaired by Arie Rip and focused to a large extent on nanotechnology. All presenters stressed that nanotechnology is a domain that lacks coherence. Krsto Pandza (Leeds University) reported on an empirical study of three organizations in the context of nanotechnology and attempted to conceptualize the innovation dynamics in these firms through characteristic knowledge structures. After this, Arie Rip and Douglas Robinson (University of Twente) presented a paper about the multi-emergence and stabilisation of paths of nanotechnology in different industries/sectors. Conceptually, they conceived the emergence of paths as the outcomes of evolving socio-technical entanglements, which become aligned across levels. Furthermore, they stressed the need to enlarge the notion of industry structure and include different kinds of societal actors, since they play an important role in the shaping of paths. In addition, they specified several mechanisms of entanglement. In the discussion, the concept of entanglement caused some controversy regarding its usefulness and its relation to path creation. In the third presentation on nanotechnology, Tyler Wry (University of Alberta) examined the sources of intellectual property development in the carbon nanotube (CNT) field – one of the most developed areas of nanotechnology. He demonstrated that CNT patent creation is shaped importantly by patent categories and their position in the overall knowledge structure of the carbon nanotube field. However, the process by which patent categories are created and what they mean in consequence remained unclear and there were several suggestions to explore patent-related processes with qualitative research as well. Finally, Ulrich Dolata (University of Bremen) introduced an analytic framework for studying and explaining technology-driven sectoral change and applied this to the pharmaceutical and the automobile industry, among others. The concept was based on the two interrelated influencing factors of the transformative capacity of new technologies and their sectoral adaptability; their interplay leads to distinguishable modes of transformation. A low sectoral adaptability can lead to lock-ins and path dependence, as happened in the case of the German pharmaceutical industry, which refused to consider research in biotechnology for a long time. In the discussion, the concept of sectoral adaptability was

questioned as being too passive, ignoring the creativity of actors. In addition, the integration of power into the framework was suggested.

The second session was chaired by Knut Lange (Free University of Berlin) and included two presentations. Andrew Nelson (Stanford University) analyzed the diffusion of university- versus firm-origin innovations for biotechnology and digital-audio. He came to the conclusion that a technology's organizational origin alone offers little insight into institutionally-conditioned diffusion processes. He argued that interpersonal networks are the critical structures that enable the diffusion of knowledge and that personal connections shape how individual researchers in each organizational context respond to the competing demands of public science and private science. In the discussion, several participants, though acknowledging the decreasing importance of the distinction between public and private research, questioned the assumption that the organizational background does not matter per se, since the prestige of a university is most likely to influence the access to interpersonal networks, for example. Subsequently, Peter Karnoe demonstrated for wind energy and the Danish energy system how different types of non-coordinated action led to the unlocking of a locked-in techno-economic regime and its associated market architectures from a path creation perspective. A key issue in the discussion was which mechanisms connect initially non-coordinated actors. Furthermore, the point was raised that a combination of external and internal attacks on a locked-in techno-economic regime could have the best chances of success.

The third session was chaired by Guido Möllering (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne) and focused on the semiconductor industry. First, Dimitris Assimakopoulos (Grenoble Ecole de Management and LINC Lab) used social network analysis for the study of inter-personal networked innovation in new product development in a large multi-national semiconductor company. Workshop participants suggested complementing the data with qualitative interviews and a longitudinal analysis in order to explore path dependencies. Second, Cornelius Schubert (Berlin University of Technology), Arnold Windeler and Jörg Sydow analysed the product specifics and industry particularities in the field of semiconductor manufacturing technology, their effect on managing technological paths and how the management of this process in turn influences the development of the products and the industry. Key issues in the discussion were how to capture and measure momentum and irreversibility as well as

the difference between path constitution and institutionalisation. Finally, Markus Türtscher (University of St. Gallen) and Raghu Garud explored the processes associated with the emergence of an architecture for an extremely complex technological system and thereby focused on the early phase of design. They showed the emergence of technological and organizational paths as different groups and technologies involved in the process interacted with one another.

The workshop ended with a general discussion on technological innovation in different industries, with Raghu Garud as a discussant. He started the session with the following questions: What is a path? Is there any value in using the term path? What is the relationship between path dependence and path creation? What do we do with all these idiosyncratic cases? How should we generalize? Answers to the questions were that by contrast to the notion of network, for example, which is static, the notion of a path has the advantage that it has a temporal dimension and implications of agency. Since networks bring individuals and collectives together, which is almost always a precondition of any path creation, an integration of path and network was suggested. One proposed conception of a path was a specific kind of order producing processes. Furthermore, two concepts of paths were juxtaposed: a 'realistic' view and a social-constructionist view. A further

comment was that path creation is an oxymoron, because it generates contradiction: how can there be a path if it is being created? What is more, the question was raised whether path creation is only useful in hindsight, in real time, or if it is a concept for future projections and anticipative coordination. In addition, several concepts that are useful in relation to paths were debated, including time, entanglements and the process by which things become intertwined, reflexivity and mindfulness, anticipatory coordination, technological communities or structuration, as well as useful approaches such as narratives, social networks and actor-network theory, and structuration theory. Finally, workshop participants agreed on the necessity to highlight the ambivalence of technological paths, pointing to threats as well as opportunities, and raised further points for future research such as which different kinds of paths exist, what kinds of implications they have, and how to create "better" paths.

For more information on research on path dependency and path creation please visit www.pfadkolleg.de and www.network-research.net.

To discuss this article go to <http://www1.svt.ntnu.no/forum/easst/viewtopic.php?t=33>

Recent dissertation: The politics of innovation in public transport. Issues, settings and displacements

By Roel Nahuis

Roel Nahuis, dissertation, March 2007 at Utrecht University, Copernicus Institute for Sustainable Development and Innovation, ISBN: 978-90-6809-398-8.

The politics of innovation is one of displacements. Debates and decision-making about controversial aspects of new technology typically displace between different settings for decision-making, like design departments, negotiation structures, sites for demonstration of innovative technology, forums for debate, political institutions, protest actions, etc. Relatively small decisions only accumulate into mature plans and solid matter after a sequence of displacements.

'The politics of innovation in public

transport' investigates the conditions and consequences of this phenomenon in detail. The book builds on characterisations of technological innovation as a political process – the interactions, power distribution, negotiations, and contingencies at work in technological innovation processes – and delves into the normative consequences of this characterisation. It develops a conceptual framework centred on the notion of 'displacement' in order to gain understanding in both the dynamics of displacements and the way such displacements contribute to the democratic quality of the politics of innovation.

The book reviews relevant STS literature about technology, politics and democracy and invites the reader to take a performative perspective

on the politics of innovation. In accordance with translation theory it defines techno-political issues as the clash between action and antiprograms. From a performative perspective these issues do not appear as free-floating entities, but as situated and contextualised ones. The contexts of clashes are referred to as 'settings'. Because settings are conceived as inevitably biasing the politics of innovation, displacements are appreciated for their potential to overcome such biases. If settings bias the political performance, then such biases can only be neutralised by displacing issues to differently biased settings. Displacements thus potentially contribute to techno-political democracy and creativity. They, for example, allow for the invitation of other stakeholders, for new opportunities for action, for new perspectives, for new solutions, for the persuasion of a broader audience, etc. Displacements can, however, also contribute to power centralisation and perverse technological effects if certain voices are systematically excluded. Especially in the latter case is the question of democracy is very pressing.

The conceptual framework links the notions of issues, settings and displacements to each other and to a conception of democratic quality. The framework is applied in three case studies from the field of public transport in the Netherlands, because decision-making in such cases has begged for democratic legitimacy ever since national and regional governments got involved in issues like market regulation, (inter)regional coordination, infrastructural requirements, accessibility, and connectedness of regions, notwithstanding recent attempts to get rid of some of these putatively private or market responsibilities. Public transport is therefore an interesting empirical field to theorise the democratic implications of displacements.

In all cases the public interest is at stake, including ideas about what the 'public interest' actually entails. The first case study, about the introduction of self-service in the Amsterdam trams (1965-1973), analyses the substitution of a system in which conductors sold and inspected tickets with a system in which passengers ought to buy tickets from ticket vending machines and stamp them in stamping machines within the tram. This study focuses on the notion of 'issues'. The second case, the introduction of a flexible public transport system in and around Hoozeveer between 1999 and 2004, is characterized by the large variety of settings where decision-making took place. Therefore, this case is of particular interest for the exploration of the notion of 'settings' from a performative perspective. The third case is the introduction of

High-quality Public Transport (HOV) in Utrecht between 1990 and 1999, an innovation that has been debated during more than two decades. Because of recurring debates about the legitimacy of the decision-making process related to the putative exclusion of certain stakeholders, this case is of key interest for the study of the effects of displacements on democratic quality.

While the theoretical focus shifts from case study to case study the viability of the conceptual framework is gradually demonstrated. Yet, despite these different foci the question about the relation between displacements and democratic quality remains in the centre of analysis. Among other things, the studies show that governmental bodies play a pivotal part in each case, though hardly ever an uncontested one. Displacements appear to be orchestrated either to articulate or to silence such contestation.

The most important results are, however, on a theoretical level. The studies reveal a typology of displacements, which appears to cover all displacements observed in the case studies. This typology distinguishes between five types:

- Delegation – the realisation of an action program on the base of a broadly supported mandate.
- Articulation – the public demonstration against (part of) an action program.
- Politicisation – the discussion of controversial parts of an action program in its wider context.
- Authorisation – the solution for a conflict on the base of acknowledged authority.
- (Partial) depoliticisation – the bracketing and disappearance of antiprograms.

The studies show how these types of displacements are related and in what configuration they enhance or deteriorate democratic quality. Especially articulation and politicisation appear to assure a broad debate about controversial issues, while delegation is a necessary condition for decisions to take effect. When consensual decisions are not within reach, authorisation is yet another way of decision-making on the base of acknowledged claims and interests. Depoliticisation, finally, tends to be a continuous threat for democratic decision-making.

'The politics of innovation in public transport' addresses a subject of high societal relevance in a conceptually creative way. One of its main contributions to the literature is that it shows how democracy, especially in relation to innovation processes, is a distributed phenomenon that is not easily captured with concepts and theories from

classical political theory. But it also has a compelling normative appeal: if stakeholders are not able to negotiate more democratic procedures for decision-making about controversial issues, they can at least engage in their displacements.

To discuss this article go to <http://www1.svt.ntnu.no/forum/easst/viewtopic.php?t=34>

Spam Filters!!

by Christine Hine

Spam filters are doing a lot of unseen work on our behalf, weeding out those unwanted emails that offer to make us rich and desirable beyond our wildest dreams. Unfortunately they also filter out a lot of good stuff, because of something suspicious about the address it comes from or the content it contains. It may be that for some of you messages from EASST secretariat are being screened out without you ever knowing about them. If you haven't had emails from us recently, such as the call for papers for the Rotterdam conference, your spam filter may be screening us out on your behalf.

PLEASE take a few moments to instruct your spam filter that emails from admin@easst.net are to be

accepted. We really need this way of communicating with you.

There's a research project begging to be done on the contradictory perceptions we have of email as a fast, efficient, flaky, unreliable form of communication, not to mention the level of trust we're putting in the various technologies that mediate it for us. For the time being, we'd be grateful if you would suspend your trust in email for a moment and check that it is working for you.

Thank you

Christine

Conferences and Calls for Papers

STSItalia, the Italian Society of Science and Technology Studies, is holding its 2nd General Conference in **Genoa, Italy**, on **19-21 June 2008**. Entitled *Capturing Proteus: Technoscience and Knowledge Society in Europe*, the conference is named after Proteus, the Greek god able of a thousand metamorphoses, so to escape from those waiting for his prophecy. Technoscience in contemporary society is like Proteus: it saturates the whole social reality, being at the same time invisible, undistinguishable, impossible to capture. Technoscientific products are not confined to laboratories anymore, but they enter our bodies, workplaces, the way we communicate and we inhabit our spare time.

Science and technology have become a unique device, deeply integrated into the economic system of production, and all those elements – basic research, applied research, development, technological innovation – separately framed within a linear system of analysis, are now inextricably intertwined. The suggestion is to look at the so called ‘knowledge society’ focusing on its technoscientific processes and devices, from the viewpoint of different disciplinary perspectives and aspects of the phenomenon as a standpoint. Academics, researchers and practitioners interested in exploring links between technoscience and knowledge society are kindly invited to send abstracts of no more than 800 words to conveners of one of the thematic sessions **by 31st of March 2008**. For further information, please see www.stsitalia.org.

The Society for the Social History of Medicine has issued its final call for papers for its Annual Conference, **Glasgow, 3-5 September 2008**. The **deadline for abstracts is 31 March 2008**. The broad theme of the SSHM2008 event is the value of historical perspectives on issues relating to society, medicine, health and healthcare. As such we encourage papers from all periods and places to encourage a wide-ranging and inclusive meeting that reflects the diversity of the history of medicine subject area. We expect to host over 100 papers in over 3 days of associated events and hope you will join us in Scotland. The event will be jointly hosted by the Centre for the Social History of Health and Healthcare Glasgow and the Centre for the History of Medicine. The former is a research collaboration between the University of Strathclyde and Glasgow Caledonian University and the latter is a research

centre at Glasgow University. Send abstract to lmarshall@arts.gla.ac.uk. For more information, see www.sshm.org.

The Department of Science & Technology Studies, Cornell University is pleased to announce the international conference: *Places of Knowledge: Relocating Science, Technology and Medicine*, to take place at Cornell University, **Ithaca, New York, on October 3-5, 2008**. In recent years, a number of scholars working under the broad rubric of Science & Technology Studies have sought to move beyond the field's traditional focus on scientific practice carried out by credentialed experts in labs and clinics in the industrialized world. This conference invites papers including, but not limited to, the anthropology, history, and sociology of science, technology and/or medicine to consolidate and extend this work. We seek to put in dialogue analyses addressing technoscience in colonial and postcolonial contexts with work on artisanal knowledge, citizen science, and other forms of knowledge and sites of practice. We request papers that examine these places, the types of material and knowledge produced within them, and the sorts of communities and institutions that facilitate the means of knowledge production. Themes will include the nature of skills and practices in colonial and postcolonial contexts, methods of professionalization, and the production of traditional and modern places of knowledge as well as the discourse between them. We invite, in addition, papers concerned with questions of method: are there epistemological assumptions constitutive of the disciplines that have traditionally made up STS that have undermined (and/or continue to undermine) a project that aims to relocate the study of science, technology, and medicine? If you are interesting in taking part, please send your title and abstract to the Organizing Committee, Places of Knowledge, Dept S&TS, Rockefeller Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853 **by March 30, 2008**. We have limited funds for travel so please mention whether you will need travel support. If you need further information please feel free to contact Trevor Pinch (tjp2@cornell.edu) or Suman Seth (ss536@cornell.edu). This conference is one of a series being co-organized with H. Otto Sibum, Office for History of Science, Uppsala University, Sweden, (http://www.vethist.idehist.uu.se/English/index_eng.html) and Richard Rottenburg, Max Planck Institute

for Social Anthropology (MPISA), Halle, Germany
<http://www.eth.mpg.de/research/mpfg1/index.html>.

The **Oxford e-Research Conference 08**: This multi-disciplinary, international conference on e-Research will be held at the University of Oxford from **11-13 September 2008**. See <http://www.oii.ox.ac.uk/microsites/eresearch08/>. It is being organized by a consortium of research projects in association with the journal Information Communication and Society (iCS). The Oxford e-Research Conference 08 seeks to stimulate and inform multi-disciplinary research on the development, use and implications of information and communication technologies (ICTs), like the Internet, in shaping research across the disciplines. It will bring together research from key e-Research projects from around the world examining the role of the Internet, Web and the Grid in research. The conference seeks to facilitate scholarly communication and publication on this topic, and help foster a broader public understanding of the significance of this area to the sciences and humanities as well as to the public at large. Anyone with a serious interest in conducting research on the development or use of ICTs across the disciplines should attend, as well as those with questions about how new research tools might impact the range, significance and quality of research. The conference is intended to complement and extend the activities of key research projects and programmes in this area, representatives of which are among the organizing committee.

The **3rd Annual Postgraduate Bioethics Conference** will take place on **30 June to 1 July at the School of Law, University of Manchester**. The event provides a unique forum for inter-disciplinary discussion in the field of bioethics- a field that includes many disciplines, such as law, philosophy, sociology and anthropology. No other event in the UK gives postgraduate students the same broad opportunity to discuss current issues in bioethics by drawing upon their own research, and to have their papers responded to by an acknowledged expert in the field. The **deadline for abstract submission is April 12th**. For further details, see <http://www.law.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/news/events>, or email BioLawConf08@manchester.ac.uk.

The workshop on **Genetics, history and public understanding: Hope, trust and troubled dreams** will be held in **Barcelona on 30-31 May 2008**. Genetics increasingly dominates medical and public thought and practice. The transformation of genetic

medicine from a marginal field in the 1950's to a core activity of biomedicine is one of the most interesting developments in modern science. The rise of the new genetics with its promises and perils does affect the medical and public perception and communication around health and disease. The past decade we witness an increase and more intense focus on the genetic and biological basis for disease. How does this spill over to discussions in both medical and public spheres and what implications might be visible with regard to the expectations, trust and concerns regarding genetics and medicine? Accounting for genetic or hereditary factors in medicine is nothing new in itself. Since at least the eighteenth century scientists, doctors and patients have tried to establish links between heredity and disease. The meaning, visibility and legitimacy of these links have changed over time; from the brave new world of eugenics to medicine's 21st century holy grail. Moreover, the traffic in ideas and practices between science, medicine and the public sphere has never been one-way but always reciprocal. Most recently, doctoring healthy people on the basis of their genetic susceptibility has raised concerns of misuses of genetic information (e.a. stigmatization and discrimination) but has also created new expectations of its uses and prospective uses in medicine. This invites to questions how understandings of genetics as a technological and social project have changed over time? For information, see <http://www.eshg.org/eshg2008/index1.htm>.

The sixth joint meeting of the **British Society for the History of Science, the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, and the History of Science Society** will take place in **Oxford, UK, on 4-6 July 2008**. Previous successful meetings were in Halifax, Nova Scotia (2004), St Louis (2000), Edinburgh (1996), Toronto (1992), and Manchester (1988). The theme of the meeting will be **Connecting Disciplines**. The Programme Committee seeks papers or sessions that reflect this broad theme and encourages participants to respond to the diverse meanings it has for historians of science, technology and medicine and their colleagues in the wider scholarly community. See <http://www.bsos.org.uk>. Enquiries concerning this conference should be directed to 3socs2008@bsos.org.uk.

The conference, **Weather, Local Knowledge and Everyday Life**, will take place at the Museu de Astronomia e Ciências Afins (MAST) in **Rio de**

Janeiro, Brazil, on 26-30 May 2008. See www.weatherlife.org. The conference will explore how people engage, create sciences about, ascribe meanings to and base everyday actions upon the weather, in history and today. We'd like to look the ways in which weather really matters in different places at different times to different people and how various disciplines 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 as individuals only, but also as members of a family, extended community, city, region, or nation and as bearers of religious, ethnic, professional and otherwise 'tribal' identities. How have people conceived of, remembered about and acted in relation to the weather? 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? How do local and indigenous forms of weather knowledge interact with globalizing discourses and representations?

A call for papers has been issued for the workshop, **States of Exception, Surveillance and Population Management: The Case of Israel/Palestine**. The workshop is held under the auspices of the project, *The New Transparency: Surveillance and Social Sorting*, funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council through its Major Collaborative Research Initiative in Canada. Social science research and legal studies of surveillance in Western countries have been on the increase in the last couple of decades, in particular after the terrorist attacks of 9/11. There is, however, a dearth of comparative, empirical research that includes the Middle East. The purpose of this call for papers is to examine surveillance practices in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories as a conflict zone. The case study provides an appropriate venue for examining surveillance and its associated technologies at several levels: (1) social sorting of population through discursive practices involving people counting and census construction; (2) spatial control, urban warfare, and territorial sovereignty; (3) geographic mobility; (4) use of technology in its various forms to manage people and violence in conflict situations; (5) discourses of state securitization, biopolitics, and states of exception that are deployed as means of surveillance; (6) role of the military-industrial-surveillance complex in promoting surveillance; (7) extent to which existing

privacy and other related laws protect against intrusiveness by the state, private sector, and third-parties in the collection and dissemination of personal information; and (8) how the practice of social sorting in Israel/Palestine has influenced and in turn been influenced by global considerations related to the discourse on security and terrorism. The proposed workshop will have three main foci: one, to situate studies of surveillance and population management in the context of theorizing about security and states of exception; second, to analyze the assemblages of surveillance techniques ranging from traditional forms of face-to-face contact to the use of various types of technologies in the gathering of personal information; finally, through a political economy perspective, to analyze state securitisation and the relationship between the military-industrial complex and the production of surveillance technologies. For more information, visit <http://www.queensu.ca/sociology/Surveillance>. The workshop will be held **either at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario or somewhere in the Middle East**, depending on where the majority of participants are likely to come from. Cost is a consideration here. At this stage, the workshop is **scheduled to be held from 8-9 December 2008** at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Those who are interested in submitting a proposal to participate in the workshop, should send their enquiries and a 500-word abstract to Elia Zureik (zureike@queensu.ca), Yasmeen Abu-Laban (yasmeen.abu-laban@ualberta.ca), or David Lyon (lyond@queensu.ca) **by April 1, 2008**. Participants are encouraged to seek funding from their institutions. Some funds may be available for economy travel and local accommodation for those who indicate that their institutions or funding councils have turned down their request for funding.

The **Rokkan Centre, Unifob/ University of Bergen** has announced a PhD workshop on **"Disability, Illness, and Poverty: Identities on the margin and the effects of global forces (medicine, technology and culture)"**, to take place in **Bergen, Norway on 8-16 August 2008**. The course leaders are Jan- Kåre Breivik and Stuart Blume. One of the aims of this workshop is to bring disability studies into the centre stage of social science developments. In order to do this we will draw upon fresh research and literature in the fields of medical anthropology/medical sociology and disability research. We will present new perspectives and new research in this field and invite interested recruits to join this PhD-workshop. By focusing on concepts such as "Globalization, Technologies, Disability,

Illness, Poverty, Bodies and Gender” we aim at providing a fresh and up-to-date outlook on key contemporary questions and challenges. From various theoretical perspectives (political science, social anthropology, and sociology), and through in-depth analysis of empirical cases, we shall explore common questions: What is the relation between multiple individual identities, cultural diversity and political recognition of group differences? How are differences and hierarchies within groups handled? How does this affect public policy and service provision for disabled people and people with chronic illnesses? How do the new technologies and services interfere with lived experiences and personal narratives? What is the relation between poverty and illness/disability, and access/usability of services/technology? How shall we approach the new reproductive technologies, diagnostics and bioethical challenges in relation to human diversity, human suffering and disability pride issues? What are the key bioethical questions and dilemmas in the field of disability, illness, and poverty? See http://www.gdc.uib.no/content/99_Documents/08_CourseDescr/BSRS_Disability_Illness_and_Poverty_141207.pdf. Travel support is exclusively reserved for students affiliated to academic institutions from the global south. Please provide the required information, including reasons for applying for travel support. Once admitted into one of the courses, we will ask you to send us your travel plan and budget. When students from the south apply for a place at our course, they will also be given information on how to apply for other kinds of funding, for instance through the Norwegian Embassies in their countries. The **deadline is 15th of April**.

The **History of Science Society** will hold its **2008 Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA** in the Omni William Penn hotel (site of the 1999 annual meeting), **6-9 November 2008**. See <http://www.hssonline.org/meeting/2008HSSCFPPitt.html>. Proposals for sessions, contributed papers, and, for the first time, posters, must be submitted by 1 April 2008 to the History of Science Society’s Executive Office. Papers that are part of a session are **due no later than 8 April 2008**. Poster proposals must describe the visual material that will make up the poster. The HSS is also exploring the possibility of pre-circulated papers. Please contact the program chairs to discuss this. Electronic submissions are strongly encouraged (forms at bottom of page). Submissions on all topics are requested. All proposals must be submitted on the HSS Web site (<http://www.hssonline.org>) or on the

annual meeting proposal forms that are available from the HSS Executive Office. HSS members are asked to circulate this announcement to non-HSS colleagues who may be interested in presenting a paper or poster at the Annual Meeting. You do not need to be a member to participate, but all participants must register for the meeting. Applicants are encouraged to propose sessions that include diverse participants: a mix of men and women and/or a balance of professional ranks (e.g., mixing senior scholars with junior scholars and graduate students). Strong preference will be given to panels whose presenters have different institutional affiliations. Only one proposal per person may be submitted. In order to ensure broad involvement, an individual may only appear once on the program (see the guidelines for exceptions). Prior participation at the 2006 or 2007 meetings will be taken into consideration. To submit a paper or a poster, visit <http://www.hssonline.org/meeting/program/lasso/submit/paperadd.lasso>. To submit a session, visit <http://www.hssonline.org/meeting/program/lasso/submit/sessionadd.lasso>.

The **Carlsberg Academy, Copenhagen**, has issued a call for papers for the conference, **Ways of knowing the field: International conference on the history of fieldwork, cartography and scientific exploration**, to take place in **Copenhagen, Denmark on 13-15 August 2008**. This conference aims to bring together leading historians from a number of disciplines to explore different ways of knowing the field as they are and have been conducted within a range of technological and scientific practices. Scholars wanting to present a 30-minute paper at this conference are invited to submit a 500-word proposal to the organizing committee **before 1 March 2008** at phis@ruc.dk. See <http://www.fieldstudies.dk/107581>. Since the 19th century, standards of credibility, objectivity and accountability have been defined according to ideals manifested in the carefully composed framework of the scientific laboratory. Fieldwork and cartography, on the other hand, are by definition conducted in intimate, unpredictable and unorganized interaction with particular places and with local actors that influence, shape and to some degree may even create end results. While this may have earned knowledge produced in the field a reputation for being further removed from the scientific ideal set up by the laboratory standards, fieldwork remains a crucial tool for making the world knowledgeable. Traditionally, fieldwork, field studies and field sciences have served as collective

designations for a host of heterogeneous of practices related to the collection and production of data, objects, maps and meaning. Measuring, counting, mapping, excavating, interviewing and experimenting – such activities have all been conducted ‘in the field’ in order to provide information and material thus transformed into objects for technological or scientific processing elsewhere. Historically, the botanical, zoological, geological, geographic and political sciences along with cartography were among the first areas of inquiry to go into the field in search of knowledge and discovery. A closer analysis of the cultural and historical variations of the roles of fieldwork in these as well as in other domains of knowledge will enhance our understanding of field practices, and their role in the production of meaning and knowledge about the world. The conference is organized by the Danish Network for the History and Sociology of Scientific Fieldwork and Expeditions, www.fieldstudies.dk, and The Danish Research School in Philosophy, History of Ideas and History of Science, www.phis.ruc.dk.

The conference, entitled *The politics of knowing: research, institutions and gender in the making*, has issued a call for papers. It is organized by the **KNOWING (Knowledge, Gender and Institutions: an East-West Comparative Study)** and will be held in **Prague, Czech Republic on 27 and 28 November 2008**. The **deadline for submission is 30 April 2008**. Science today, perhaps more than ever, is the site of multiple negotiations. Market values increasingly drive scientific research and higher education yet the traditional emphasis upon rational knowledge remains. The range of actors with a claim to ‘have a say’ in science has also grown to include a range of voices beyond academe, from industry and the public. These new actors may play different roles in different contexts and geopolitical spaces. All these processes also have a gender dimension – from recruitment and retention of students and employees, to work-life balance and the gendering of knowledge production processes and practices. The conference will showcase research on these issues from (social) science and technology studies, and feminist and post-colonial studies under the framework of the project *Knowledge, Institutions and Gender: an East-West Comparative Study* (KNOWING, Framework Programme 6, www.knowing.soc.cas.cz). The contact person is Marcela Linkova, marcela.linkova@soc.cas.cz.

The Society for the Social History of Medicine

will hold its **2008 Annual Conference on History and the Healthy Population in Glasgow on 3-5 September 2008**. It is jointly organised by the Centre for the Social History of Health and Healthcare Glasgow, a research collaboration between Glasgow Caledonian University and the University of Strathclyde (www.gcal.ac.uk/historyofhealth and the Centre for the History of Medicine at the University of Glasgow (www.arts.gla.ac.uk/History/Medicine/). The conference will embrace all historical perspectives on the broad issue of how health has been defined and by whom. It will also consider the reasons that the various agencies involved in healthcare, including patients and communities, have adopted their approaches and strategies. The event is framed by reference to the generation of historians influenced by the idea that issues of health and healthcare are entangled in the projects of government, and seeks to engage with and critique ‘governmentality’ as a tool of analysis in the history of medicine. The conference encourages papers from all periods and places in seeking a wide-ranging and inclusive set of discussions. **Deadline for abstracts: 31 March 2008**. To submit a title and abstract of no more than 300 words please contact Lydia Marshall, lmarshall@arts.gla.ac.uk. The Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSHM) has pioneered interdisciplinary approaches to the history of health, welfare, medical science and practice. Consequently, its membership consists of those interested in a variety of disciplines, including history, public health, demography, anthropology, sociology, social administration and health economics. See <http://www.sshm.org>.

The **RGS-IBG Annual International Conference (London, 27-29 August 2008)** has a theme on **Indigenous knowledges: Hidden histories of geographical field science and exploration**. ‘Indigenous’ or ‘non-western’ knowledges have been incorporated into the work of geographers for many years. It is well established that despite the myth of the heroic explorer acting independently of local knowledge and circumstances, information gathered from and by indigenous peoples shaped the travels of explorers in Africa and elsewhere, and continues to inform the work of geographers today. However, in contrast to historians of anthropology and of science, geographers have thus far paid surprisingly little attention to the role of indigenous peoples and indigenous knowledges in the history of the discipline (notable exceptions including Bravo, 1999, 2000). Whilst we have emphasised the role of

exploration within the history of geography in the above call, we would also be interested in hearing from researchers whose work could add to the discussion of these themes from other relevant perspectives. Methodological and theoretical agendas in relation to considerations of 'indigenous' or 'non-western' knowledge; Practices of collecting & constructing the 'non-western' or 'indigenous' knowledges; The marginalisation and erasure of 'indigenous' / 'non-western' presence and contribution in narratives of scientific exploration; The hidden or subaltern histories of exploration and its attendant geographical endeavours; Colonial and other sources (manuscripts, journals, maps, photographs, paintings and objects), as a means to investigate 'indigenous' / 'non-western' agency; 'Indigenous' / 'non-western' counter-narratives to narratives of colonial science; The ways in which forms of 'indigenous'/'non-western' knowledge have been viewed and used by explorers or other geographers; The role of 'non-western' or 'indigenous' guides, field assistants, porters, interpreters etc. and questions of testimony and trust; The mediation and reception of 'non-western' or 'indigenous' knowledges as part of the production of geographical science; Cross-cultural encounters, non-encounters and exchange and how they shaped exploration and its attendant geographical endeavours; Examples of 'indigenous'/'non-western' resistance and its effects on exploration and science in the field. For further details of the conference please see RGS-IBG website: www.rgs.org/AC2008.

The RGS-IBG Annual International Conference (London, 27-29 August 2008) has a theme on **(Re)Thinking Expertise: Spaces of Production, Performance and the Politics of Representation**. What does it mean to "be" an expert? Although social constructionism has identified similarities between science and other social practices, recently a controversial call for a "Third Wave" of science studies (Collins & Evans, 2002) has drawn attention to the problem of Extension – the infinite regress encountered when looking for techno-scientific advice if we can no-longer tell the difference between expert and lay-knowledge. Expertise has previously been understood to be the unyielding pursuit of authoritative knowledge that is honed through practice and enforced by political and academic institutions. In this sense, the professional identities presented to the outside world are carefully crafted so as to conform and exhibit ideological norms not dissimilar to Merton's ideals. Such readings, however, arguably present an overly

romantic, simplistic, and homogenous rendering of experts and their expertise. What is needed is examination of how experts' identities are constructed (when and by whom), how they are negotiated between actors and institutions, the historical context in which they are played out, and ultimately how they function (or don't) instrumentally to serve or suppress certain realities. Expertise is arguably played out more visibly today than ever before, particularly with reference to the environment. Floods, hurricanes, infectious animal diseases, and a myriad of other concerns are captured graphically and broadcasted nightly into homes across the world. Each event and the subsequent response depicts the experts involved as either heroes or villains of these dramatised pieces – in both cases thrust into the limelight as representatives of their respective fields. Geographers are uniquely positioned to comment on this. They can provide theoretical depth and empirical evidence to shed light on the way expert identities are shaped, the role they serve, the impact on the democratization of knowledge, and the barriers they present to tackling environmental problems. We therefore invite papers addressing (though not limited to) the following questions: Who constructs the image of environmental experts? How / where are these constructions enacted (i.e. technological, sociocultural, artefacts, etc.)? Can representations be negotiated? If so, what role have academics played in shaping past perceptions and might hope to play in the future? What agency do these representations have? What is the effect of these representations? Do they ever coincide or clash with the needs, understandings and views of actors (public, political, etc.)? Where are they successful and unsuccessful? Do the representations come to in turn alter the landscape and shape an environment which conforms to the possible misguided representation itself? Does this lead to a snowballing of representations and hence crisis where 'reality' breaks?

The Unit for Science, Technology and Innovation Studies (TaSTI), University of Tampere, Finland is organizing the **13th Nordic Workshop on Bibliometrics and Research Policy**, to take place in **Tampere on 11-12 September 2008**. A Call for

Presentations has been issued, with a deadline of the August 4th, 2008. The general idea of the workshop is to present recent bibliometric research in the Nordic countries and to create better linkages between bibliometric research groups and their PhD students. The workshop language is English and the workshop is open to participants from any nation. The workshop is also open to participants without a presentation. **Final date for registrations is August 11th, 2008.** There are no fees for participating in the workshop. Travel and accommodation have to be arranged and sponsored by the participants themselves. Further questions can be addressed to workshop coordinators: Hanna-Mari Pasanen (hanna-mari.pasanen@uta.fi) and Laura Vahtola (laura.vahtola@uta.fi). See also <http://www.uta.fi/conference/nwb2008/>.

The 9th EMBL/EMBO Science & Society conference on Systems and Synthetic Biology - Scientific and Social Implications will take place on **7-8 November 2008** at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in **Heidelberg, Germany**.

Systems and synthetic biology are emerging inter-related frontiers in early 21st century biology. While these new fields have generated much attention both within and outside the world of science, time now seems ripe for a concerted effort towards clarification of their scientific scope and relevance to society. This calls for an organized effort in collective thinking, among scientists and non-scientists alike, about the significance of work being done in systems/synthetic biology, the environment within which that work is being done, and the nature of any specific problem that may arise. It is our conviction that potential benefits, as well as societal, ethical and safety concerns, of systems/synthetic biology should be addressed from the start, so that these new fields of science can further develop in an environment of public trust. For more information about this conference, and a list of invited participants, please check: <http://www.embl.org/sciencesociety/conference2008>.

Opportunities Available

Invitations are invited for applications to the **first interdisciplinary 'NeuroSchool'** of the **European Neuroscience and Society Network**, a five-year programme involving leading neuroscientists and social scientists from eleven European countries in collaborative research and debate. The aim of the

school is to foster learning in an interdisciplinary symmetrical environment. It is intended for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows engaged in neuroscience research or in historical or social studies of neuroscience. The topic of this year's NeuroSchool is behavioural genetics. Together, we will critically assess the current methodologies of experimentation in this branch of research and will discuss its implications in the context of contemporary society. Lectures will cover the history of behavioural genetics, the latest scientific evidence in the field, as well as the history and sociology of psychotropic drugs. Tutors and lecturers include Cornelius Gross (EMBL), Klaus-Peter Lesch (University of Wuerzburg), Nikolas Rose (BIOS, London School of Economics) and Ilna Singh (BIOS, LSE). There will be ample opportunities for cross-exchange of data and insights and to think creatively about innovative avenues in the field and fruitful inter-disciplinary collaborations. The course will consist of a balanced mixture of theoretical and hands-on practical modules offered by a small core of senior experts and will be designed to ensure maximum dialogue across disciplines. This will be a rare opportunity to engage in detailed interdisciplinary dialogue and research over an extended period. Participants will also present their own research. We invite applications from highly motivated scholars in biology, neuroscience, sociology, anthropology, psychology and history/philosophy of science. Applicants will be selected on the basis of their merit, research interests and aspirations and will have all their travel and accommodation expenses covered. Please download and fill out the entry form on our website (below) and send it along with a cover letter, your CV and contact details of two referees (preferably including one research supervisor or mentor) to g.frazzetto@lse.ac.uk. Note: Some of the practical modules will involve the demonstration or handling of animals. Individuals who are in principle against the use of animal models in research are advised not to attend. **Deadline for submission of applications is May 15th, 2008.** Successful candidates will be

notified by July 15th at the latest. For more information, please see our website, www.neurosocieties.eu.

The Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, Independent Research Group I, announces a **postdoctoral fellowship** for up to two years, beginning 1 September 2008. Projects from the fields of Art, Architecture, Material Culture or Economics in Chinese history (10th to 18th Century) that involve the relationship between practical and theoretical knowledge are particularly welcome. Outstanding junior scholars (Ph.D. awarded no earlier than 2003) are invited to apply. Fellowships are endowed with a monthly stipend between 1.900 and 2300 € (fellows from abroad). The Max Planck Society is committed to promoting more handicapped individuals and especially encourages them to apply. Postdoctoral fellows are expected to participate in the research activities at the Institute. Candidates are requested to send a curriculum vitae, publication list, research prospectus (maximum 1000 words), a sample text, and two letters of recommendation **no later than 1 April, 2008** to: Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Administration, PD-NWG I, Boltzmannstraße 22, 14195 Berlin, Germany.

The Department of Philosophy at the University of Durham, UK, seeks an applicant for a bid to the Wellcome Trust for a **5-year Research Fellow post**. After five years, the expectation is that the post will continue as a Lectureship. Please note that an appointment to this role is dependent upon the success of the application to the Wellcome Trust, and would be tenable from 1 January 2009. After the five years, the expectation is that the post would be continued as a full, non-fixed term, university-funded lectureship in biomedical ethics. Please note that an appointment to this role is dependent upon the success of the application to the Wellcome Trust, and that the applicant selected to put forward the bid will develop, together with the department, an application to the Wellcome Trust for the **preliminary submission date of 1 June 2008**. The deadline for the full submission is 1 August, and a decision will be expected in November. Therefore, if successful the post will be tenable from 1 January 2009. The Department has a wide range of expertise in theoretical as well as applied ethics and in history and philosophy of medicine and science. It has established links to the joint Durham/Newcastle Northern Centre for the History of Medicine, to the

interdisciplinary Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease in Durham's Wolfson Research Institute, to the medical humanities group of Durham's School of Medicine and Health, and to the Newcastle-based Policy, Ethics and Life Sciences Research Institute. Applicants must have a track record of publications in biomedical ethics and hold a PhD or equivalent doctorate. For further information, contact Dr Matthew D Eddy, Department of Philosophy, Durham University, 50/51 Old Elvet, Durham, DH1 3HN, UK, <http://www.dur.ac.uk/m.d.eddy/>.

The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College London has announced the availability of **MA studentships in the History of Medicine**. The Centre is the world's largest research institute devoted to the study of the History of Medicine. It invites applications from prospective MA students with a good honours degree for one year commencing September 2008. The Centre anticipates being able to offer three studentships at approximately £19,500 plus the payment of home fees. Applications to study full or part time without a scholarship are also welcome. **The deadline for the application is 15 May 2008**. Interviews will be held in June. For further details, see <http://tinyurl.com/3axcnb>. For information and application forms, contact Adam Wilkinson (email: ucgaawi@ucl.ac.uk)

The Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease (CHMD) invites applications for a **one-year Masters studentship in the History of Medicine**. The closing date for applications is 31 March 2008. The studentship is part of the Taught Masters Programme in History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine (HPSM) of **Durham University's Department of Philosophy**, the CHMD, and the School of Medicine & Health.

It is placed within the framework of the Northern Centre for the History of Medicine, a partnership between the universities of Durham and Newcastle, and funded from a Wellcome Trust Strategic Award which had been awarded to the Northern Centre. It will be available as of October 2008. The Masters studentship cover fees at home/EU level plus c. £16,000 maintenance. The successful applicant will register for the HPSM programme offered by the Department of Philosophy and the School of Medicine & Health as of October 2008. 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>. **The closing date for applications is 31 March 2008**. For the online application for postgraduate studies at Durham please see the University website at <http://www.dur.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply/>.

The Division of Sociology at the new School of Humanities and Social Sciences, **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore**, is seeking qualified applicants for **a number of positions at the Professor, Associate Professor or Assistant Professor level**. Substantive fields of research are open, though we will be especially interested in candidates with research agendas directly relevant to East (including Southeast) Asia. We are currently seeking candidates in the fields of Urban Sociology, Sociology of Education, Deviance, Crime & Law, Sociology of Migration, Environmental Sociology and/or Sociology of Risk, Popular Culture and/or Media and Communication. Applicants should have a PhD in hand or be able to present evidence of completion in order to take up a full-time appointment in August 2008. Interested persons should send a cover letter, CV, writing samples, and three letters of reference ASAP to:

Lawrence Wong, PhD, Chair, School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore 639798. We welcome applicants to e-mail their materials (preferably in a single e-mail) to the following address: d-hss@ntu.edu.sg. An application form (in doc-format) and other relevant information can be accessed at <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/hr/AppInforms.htm>. For more details, please visit NTU's website, <http://www.ntu.edu.sg> and the School of Humanities & Social Sciences' webpage, <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/hss/>. Nanyang Technological University is one of Singapore's two comprehensive

universities. With an enrollment of over 25,000 students (at the undergraduate and graduate levels), NTU is expanding into new fields. The university was ranked among the top 50 universities in the world by the Times of London. Its School of Humanities and Social Sciences presently includes five divisions: Chinese (language, literature, and society), English (classical and contemporary literature, film, cultural studies), Economics, Psychology, and Sociology.

The STEPS Centre (Social, Technological and Environmental Pathways to Sustainability), funded by the ESRC, is an interdisciplinary, global research centre linking environmental sustainability and technology with poverty reduction and social justice. The Centre is a collaboration between the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) and SPRU Science and Technology Policy Research at **Sussex University**, with a network of partners in Asia, Africa and Latin America. **Four PhD studentships** linked to the Centre are available to start in October 2008, each covering three years of fees and subsistence costs together with funds for fieldwork. Applicants should be EU citizens resident in the UK for at least three years, with a Masters degree or

equivalent. We are looking for excellent, enthusiastic applicants who would like to develop their own research topic under STEPS auspices, with preference given to those that fit with or complement one of the STEPS project topics (epidemics, rethinking regulation, maize innovation, peri-urban dynamics) and locations, or more broadly, the Centre's work within the domains of food and agriculture, health and disease, or water and sanitation. For more details, see www.steps-centre.org. Those interested should submit a standard DPhil application to the University of Sussex admissions office including a 3-4 page research proposal. However, applicants should also indicate under 'other information-finance' that they are applying for an ESRC STEPS Centre Studentship. Please inform: Angela Dowman at IDS (a.dowman@ids.ac.uk) when you have sent your application. **Closing date: 18 April 2008**. To apply online or request a paper application: www.sussex.ac.uk/pgstudy/.

News from the Field

2009 is both the bicentennial of Charles Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of *The Origin of Species*. *Victorian Studies* will mark the occasion with a special issue on "Darwin and the Evolution of Victorian Studies." The study of Darwin and the relationship of his life and work to Victorian culture has become an industry. In the past twenty-five years alone we have witnessed the publication of the first fifteen volumes of the Darwin correspondence, Darwin's 1836-1844 notebooks, major Darwin biographies by Janet Browne and Adrian Desmond and James Moore, and important books by such scholars as Gillian Beer, Bert Bender, Peter Bowler, Sandra Herbert, George Levine, Ronald Numbers, Robert Richards, Rebecca Stott, and Robert Young. In recent years, the study of Darwin has begun to take new directions through examinations of Darwin's writings beyond the *Origin* and the *Journal of Researches*, investigations of Darwin's impact on previously overlooked areas (e.g., art and visual culture, psychology and the emotions), and new approaches to Darwinism's impact on Victorian attitudes to gender and courtship, race and empire, literature and publishing. The fact that Darwin's complete writings and 5,000 pieces of his correspondence have been made available in searchable online databases promises to open up Darwin scholarship even further. Where is the study of Darwin and Darwinism in Victorian culture heading? This special issue will attempt to showcase work that pursues these new approaches or offers even newer ones. I invite essays on all aspects of Darwin and Darwin studies in the Victorian period from scholars working in a range of areas, including history and history of science, literary and cultural criticism, art history, and history of the book. The deadline for submissions is July 15, 2008. Essays of not more than 8,000 words (including endnotes) should be prepared in MLA Style. Submissions and inquiries should be sent directly to the issue's guest editor: Jonathan Smith, Humanities Department, University of Michigan-Dearborn, 4901 Evergreen Road, Dearborn, MI 48128, USA, jonsmith@umich.edu.

A Special Issue of the *Journal of Information, Communication & Society* on Information and Communication Technologies and Sustainable Development has issued a call for papers. The deadline for submission: April 15, 2008, with the

tentative publication date slated for November, 2008. The objective of this special issue is to discuss current developments in the field of ICTs and Sustainable Development (SD) by providing a forum for both academic researchers and practitioners interested in broadening and deepening the understanding of the sustainability concept. In the discourse on sustainability there has been a shift from a focus on ecological issues towards the inclusion of broader societal issues. The so-called Agenda 21 (1992) in the Rio 'Earth Summit' stated four mutually independent dimensions of sustainability: ecological, economic, social, and cultural. Such a perspective becomes especially important if one wants to formulate indicators for sustainability. How did so far, can in principle, and could in future, a more comprehensive approach like this influence the understanding of how ICTs can help foster SD? Authors are invited to submit original, unpublished work, not under consideration for publication elsewhere, with a theory, research or practice focus on the relationship of ICTs and SD. Authors may submit articles up to 7,000 words in length by sending an electronic version preferably in Word to the following address: robert.bichler@sbg.ac.at.

Surveillance & Society, the journal (<http://www.surveillance-and-society.org>), has 2 extended calls for papers for issue 20 on Medical Surveillance and issue 21 on Gender, Sexuality and Surveillance. All submissions to: smithea@queensu.ca.

The journal, *East Asian Science, Technology and Society (EASTS)* is now available. East Asian Science, Technology and Society (EASTS) is an interdisciplinary, quarterly journal based in Taiwan and co-edited by editorial boards in Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, and the West. EASTS aims to promote both 'Science, Technology and Society studies' (STS) as well as 'Science and Technology studies' (S&TS) in the growing East Asia STS community. The journal contains research and commentary on how society and culture, and the dynamics of science, technology and medicine, are mutually shaped and co-produced. EASTS will offer fresh STS perspectives, not only because the East Asian STS community shares similar cultural and colonial history, similar geological and biological composition, but also because our similar

socioeconomic and political positions are in contrast to the West. EASTS wishes to promote STS studies not only in East Asia but also around the world. Although there are several well-established STS journals in the English-speaking world, most are published in North America and Europe and mainly aim at academic readers in western society. EASTS on the other hand, aspires to coordinate and facilitate networks form Northeast Asian STS communities, and to promote Southeast Asian STS and even expand Asian STS studies into an internationally open and inclusive STS community. For more information, see <http://sts.nthu.edu.tw/easts>.

The *Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy* is online at <http://www.mineralogy.be>. The purpose of the website is to unite information on objects related to the history of mineralogy and crystallography that are distributed among museums, institutes and collectors worldwide.

A new mailing list has been created for the *Built Environment and STS, BESTS*. There are three ways to subscribe to the BESTS mailing list: 1) With a few clicks at www.jiscmail.ac.uk/bests. 2) With an email to LISTSERV@jiscmail.ac.uk, containing nothing but the following command in the email body: SUBSCRIBE BESTS forename surname. 3) With an informal email to ralf.brand@manchester.ac.uk.

The *Science Studies Search Engine* is at <http://google.com/coop/cse?cx=006369935143364481409%3Ak8leffjphf8>. This custom search engine, built on Google Co-op (<http://google.com/coop/>), searches across sites supporting or relevant to the scholarly field of STS/Science Studies. Available for public use without registration, S3E can also be added as to your own web page, blog, or as a "gadget" to an individual's Google homepage (for those with a Google Account). Currently, the search spans: 1) the STS Wiki; 2) the 4S website; 3) all those sites listed under the Web Resources and Professional Associations sections of the 4S website (these are dynamically updated to include any sites added to/deleted from those pages). The easiest way

to suggest sites to be added to the search domain is to submit them to the 4S website editors for inclusion in their Web Resources or Professional Associations pages, submissions@4sonline.org.

Space & Culture, the journal, has issued a call for papers for its issue on Care and the Art of Dwelling: Bodies, Technologies and Home. Thinking about care practices entails a reflection concerning practices of space. Heidegger's notion of 'dwelling as caring' addresses this relationship. In this vein we are interested in rethinking the concepts and practices of care in contemporary societies. This special issue focuses on new forms of spatialization in and through which care is performed, questioned and altered. Emerging forms of spatialization, we suggest, visualize care as an art of dwelling that constantly relates humans and non-humans. Care as an art of dwelling, then, enacts being-at-home by re-assembling bodies, emotions, technologies and places in highly specific and complex ways. *Space and Culture* invites submissions of papers for a special issue devoted to an exploration of the above topic. Contributions drawing on all fields of the cultural and the social sciences, medical sociology, disability studies and STS are welcome focusing primarily (though not exclusively) on issues such as: Blurring of boundaries between home and institutional care (the institutionalization of the house and the domestication of the hospital); Dwelling with technology: Care technologies and their spatialities (telecare, telemedicine, constant care, etc); Care spaces and embodiment; Spaces of control/freedom and surveillance; Fixed and dynamic spaces of care: Mobility and immobility; Spaces of in/dependence, autonomy and vulnerability; Spaces of safety, security and risk; Emotional work and spaces of intimacy; and Feeling at home and the sense of place. Abstracts due: May 15, 2008. Manuscripts due: September 15, 2008. All information and communications concerning submissions should be addressed to: space@ntu.ac.uk Joost van Loon, Editor and Professor of Media Analysis, Institute for Cultural Analysis, Nottingham Trent University, Clifton Lane, Nottingham NG11 8NS United Kingdom

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