

EASST *Review*

Volume 28 (3) *European Association for the Study of Science and Technology* October 2009



Editor: Ann Rudinow Saetnan (NTNU)

Deputy Editor: Richard Rogers

Tel: (+47) 73 59 17 86 (Saetnan)

(+31) 20 525 3352 (Rogers)

email: annrs@svt.ntnu.no

rogers@easst.net

Membership queries:

admin@easst.net

EASST Review on the Web:

http://www.easst.net

Contributing Editors:

Andrew Jamison (University of Aalborg)

Harald Rohrer (Graz)

Paul Wouters (Virtual Knowledge Studio, Royal Academy of Sciences, Netherlands)

Council of the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology:

Marc Audetat (University of Lausanne)

Thomas Sanchez Criado (student representative)

Pierre-Benoit Joly (National Institute of Agronomic Research, Paris)

Erika Mansnerus (London School of Economics and Political Science)

Tiago Moreira (Durham University)

Fred Steward, President (Policy Studies Institute, London 3)

Estrid Sørensen (Humboldt University, Berlin)

Harro van Lente (University of Utrecht)

Claire Waterton (Lancaster University)

Michael Lynch (President of the Society for Social Studies of Science, ex-officio)

EASST's Institutional Members:

Interuniversity Research Center (IFZ), Graz

Science Museum Library, London

Section for Science & Technology Studies,

University of Göteborg

RCSS, University of Edinburgh

Faculteit der Cultuurwetenschappen, University of Maastricht

Department of Sociology, University of Surrey

Institute for Science, Innovation and Society, Saïd

*Business School, University of Oxford
Dept. Of Technology and Social Change,
Linköping University*

*Europäische Akademie zur Erforschung von
Folgen wissenschaftlich-technischer
Entwicklungen*

*Department of Sociology/SATSU, University of
York*

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

*Subscription: Individual membership fee: EUR 35
annual. Reduced two- and three-year membership
available. Students and citizens of East European
countries pay reduced rates on application EUR
25/20. Library rate is EUR 40.*

*Please note that subscriptions can also be made
through the EASST website.*

*Member benefits: Travel stipends for Ph.D.
students, young scholars and researchers from
developing countries are available.
Reduced registration rates for EASST events
apply.*

EASST's Past Presidents:

*Christine Hine, 2005-2008; Sally Wyatt, 2000-
2004; Rob Hagendijk, 1997-2000; Aant Elzinga,
1991-1997; Stuart Blume, 1987-1991; John
Ziman, 1983-1986; Peter Weingart, 1982.*

EASST Review's Past Editors:

*Chunglin Kwa, 1991 – 2006; Arie Rip, 1982-
1991; Georg Kamphausen, 1982.*

*cover illustration: "Landscape with windmills"
Ann Rudinow Saetnan, June 2009*

In memorium

Olga Amsterdamska 1953-2009

by: Ann R. Sætnan

I was saddened to hear the news recently that Olga Amsterdamska had died after a long illness – saddened that we will never meet again at 4S and EASST conferences, and that she had suffered from a long illness.

I can't claim to have known Olga well, but I did value her acquaintance. I met her at my first 4S conference, in 1987. As I embarked on a late-career doctorate, my supervisor sent me to the conference for an overview over the STS field, into which I was entering. He did not attend that year, so I was on my own. I had no paper as an "introduction" to the community, nor was there a mentoring program at that time. Come banquet night, I wandered in not knowing a soul. Olga must have seen that I looked lost and, generous person that she was, invited me to join her and others at a table. They were good company around that table! Several, including Olga, even greeted me the next year when we met again at the joint 4S/EASST conference. What I took from that first conference experience, not least thanks to Olga, was not only an overview over the field but a sense of the spirit of STS as a community. What struck me about it was its openness – to new members, to multiple disciplines, to new ideas and approaches – the liveliness and at the same time friendliness of its debates. Olga embodied that spirit.

Therefore, I was lucky to have Olga as a member of my dissertation committee. My department knew nothing of the STS field, but they did know of, or somehow tracked their way to Olga when the time came that I needed two outside opponents against whom to defend my thesis. What I knew, that my department perhaps didn't know, was that Olga had published a thorough and highly critical review of Latour's *Science in Action* (Amsterdamska 1980), a work on which my thesis leant heavily and probably somewhat clumsily. So the department's choice of main opponent made me nervous. Luckily for me, Olga proved once again to embody that spirit of openness that I

had sensed on our first acquaintance. I am convinced it was Olga, as the one member of my committee who knew Actor-Network Theory and its position within STS, who rescued me from the brink of failure where my other two opponents had me teetering. Olga was still highly critical of the theory and also a skilled debater, as the defense event itself would show, but her knowledge and spirit of openness were my redemption.

It continued to be a pleasure to meet Olga at 4S and EASST meetings and to hear her papers, always exciting and insightful. I will miss her company and her academic contributions. Olga contributed to the STS community in many ways. She served on the EASST council, as the editor of *Science, Technology & Human Values*, and as a co-editor of the *Handbook of Science and Technology Studies*. Her own work bridged disciplinary gaps amongst us, bringing together Sociology and History, citation studies and ethnographic approaches.

Obviously, there are many who will miss Olga far more than I – her family, and colleagues she met and worked with on a daily basis. My heartfelt condolences go out to them. I trust they are doing their best to support and console one another. For those of us who knew Olga only as a generous and cheerfully critical voice within the STS community, perhaps the best memorial we can offer is to continue to build the community in that same spirit.

Amsterdamska, Olga (1980) "Surely You Are Joking, Monsieur Latour!" *Science, Technology & Human Values* 15 (4): 495-504.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/689826?seq=1>

For other remembrances of Olga, see <http://mitpress.typepad.com/mitpresslog/2009/09/olga-amsterdamska-19532009.html>, http://www.fmg.uva.nl/sociologie_en_antropologie/actueel.cfm/70D1AC16-1321-B0BE-68994F27D5B55609, and <http://hnn.us/roundup/comments/116557.html>

When Species Meet

by: Peta S. Cook

Book review - *When Species Meet*, Donna Haraway, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis and London, 2008, pp.423, ISBN: 978-0-8166-5046-0.

Like many sociologists, my first introduction to the work of Donna Haraway was through her famous paper *A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century* (1991, originally published in 1985). At the time, I was struck and inspired by her novel take on human-technological relations in the late-twentieth century. It challenged and altered my sociological perspective. From that point, I have keenly read many of Haraway's works, being intrigued by her examinations on the interface of and interactions between humans and nonhumans. In many of her examinations, Haraway has focused on how humans have become cyborgs – cybernetic organisms. However, in *When Species Meet* (2008) and her previous work *The Companion Species Manifesto* (2003), Haraway has turned her attention to human-animal (and animal-human) relations, though the relevance and importance of technology remains.

When Species Meet (2008) is the third volume in the Posthumanities series, edited by Cary Wolfe. Clearly, the work of Haraway has been important to posthumanism, but she declares not to be a posthumanist (Haraway 2008: 19). The reason is that she is not simply questioning humans; rather, all species are under question. Thus, the book addresses an abundance of animals – nonhuman primates, wolves, cats, donkeys, tigers, whales, wombats, guinea pigs, tsetse flies, and animals created by science and largely for science through genetic engineering and cloning – but primarily focuses on domestic animals and Haraway's personal relationships to her dogs, particularly with the Australian Shepherd, Ms Cayenne Pepper.

Throughout the book, Haraway repeatedly emphasises that human-animal relations are not simply about humans. For her, humans and animals are co-constituted, creating each other through an interdependent relationship. Essentially, animals and humans are companion species. This differs from animals being companions, where animals are defined solely by their relation to humans. Companion species is a way of examining

interspecies relationships by rethinking the human and animal species; questioning them and their construction. This involves being curious about the experience of the other, which highlights how humans and animals are interlinked, co-shaping each other and co-inhabiting space. In the words of Haraway (2003: 54), "If I have a dog, my dog has a human; what that means concretely is at stake". Haraway (2008: 49-64) further highlights that it is difficult to categorise human-dog/dog-human relations as we share many things; we share histories and diseases, and we are co-present as co-workers, consumers, and companions. This relationship, however, is rarely symmetrical, and despite all we share, otherness remains. For example, the relationship between humans and animals that co-inhabit space cannot be reduced to "parent-child, guardian-ward, and owner-property" (Haraway 2008: 51-2; original emphasis) meaning, for example, pets cannot be reduced to being furry children or substitutes for human children (Haraway 2003: 37, 95-6).

Divided into three parts – Part I: 'We Have Never Been Human', Part II: 'Notes of a Sportswriter's Daughter', and Part III: 'Tangled Species' – *When Species Meet* focuses on how interspecies relationships matter socially, politically, economically and technologically, and what is at stake when examining and taking these relations seriously. However, the book does not always come together. It is far ranging and covers multiple topics, some in too much depth and others not enough. It is also eclectic by interweaving a variety of genres, and the prose is philosophical, personal, autobiographical, descriptive, analytical, empirical, and historical.

Due to the autobiographical elements, I found the book to be occasionally self-indulgent. For example, chapter six ('Able Bodies and Companion Species') is largely a tribute to her father, and much of the book focuses on Haraway's relationship with her dogs – Roland and, primarily, Cayenne Pepper – and how she believes they experience their relationship with her. Furthermore, despite the focus on companion species, animals are not always active in Haraway's explorations. An exception to this is in her engagement with and examination of agility trials, and how these have the potential to form interspecies relations and understandings. At

the same time, I am yet to be convincingly persuaded that agility trials are positively experienced by humans and dogs alike.

One thing I struggled with in this book was the following question: when is dogginess (or whatever animal species is under question) compromised by their asymmetrical relationship to humans? I wonder, despite interspecies co-presence, if humans can identify *animal* emotions and desires, something which I found Haraway (2008: 220) to be occasionally guilty of: "her [Cayenne Pepper's] whole mind-body changes when she gains access to her scene of work". However, Haraway (2008: 220-1) continues, and admits that "I would be a liar to claim that agility is a utopia of equality and spontaneous. [...] The courses are designed by human beings; people fill out the entry forms and enter classes. The human decides for the dog what the acceptable criteria of performance will be". I also found much satisfaction in Haraway offering her own informed position on various animal uses, something that was lacking or ambiguous in much of her previous work.

For those who have followed Haraway's publications, expect significant repetition and many connections to her previous work on companion species, techno-human-animal intermingling, and on being a 'sportswriter's daughter'. At the same time, the book does provide some interesting insights into interspecies relations, and is a good introduction for

the uninitiated to Haraway's recent theorising. For STS scholars, chapters three ('Sharing Suffering: Instrumental Relations between Laboratory Animals and Their People') and four ('Examined Lives'), and Part III: 'Tangled Species', are very informative and particularly interesting.

References

Haraway, D.J. 2003. *The companion species manifesto: Dogs, people, and significant otherness*. Chicago: Prickly Paradigm Press.

Haraway, D.J. 1991. 'A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century' in *Simians, Cyborgs and Women: The Reinvention of Nature*, London: Free Association Books.

Peta S. Cook
Lecturer in Sociology
University of Tasmania
Faculty of Arts
School of Sociology and Social Work
Locked Bag 1340
Launceston TAS 7250
Ph: +61-3-6324 3545
Fax: +61-3-6324 3970
Email: Peta.Cook@utas.edu.au

Marie Curie research network BioStep on bio-objects and bio-objectification

by: Ragna Zeiss and Niki Vermeulen

"Bio-objects' are (new) spatio-temporal configurations to which 'life' is attributed". The concept of 'bio-object' was the subject of the research seminar *New Biosciences/New Society?: Developing the concept of 'bio-objects'* which was organized by a network of Marie Curie fellows, and in particular by Tora Holmberg (Uppsala University), Niki Vermeulen (Maastricht University), and Sakari Tamminen (University of Helsinki). The seminar took place at the Centre for Gender research at Uppsala University in Sweden from 4-6 June 2009 and was made possible through contributions from EASST, the Swedish Research Council, and the Centre for Gender

research.¹ It is part of a series of annual meetings of the Marie Curie Research Network **BioStep**, which emerged from the *New Genetics /New Society? Integrating Science, Society and Policy* Marie Curie Fellowship programme at the Science and Technology Studies Unit (SATSU) of the University of York, UK. BioStep stands for 'Bio (social) science, technology,

1) This centre focuses specifically on the area of gender and science through the research programme GenNa: Nature/Culture and Transgressive Encounters which was rewarded with a centre of excellence status from the Swedish Research Council 2007-2011.

and policy'. At the same time, BioStep is a stepping stone towards new insights. The Marie-Curie Fellows are all early career researchers - some are currently finishing their PhDs, others successfully defended their PhDs within the past few years. The members of the network come from various countries including Finland, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Hungary, Estonia, Austria, Germany, the UK and Canada.

Between 2002 and 2005 fifteen young scholars from various countries and disciplines –all involved in STS research- participated in the Marie Curie programme at SATSU. On the basis of their common interest and shared experiences in York, the Marie Curie fellows, together with SATSU staff and director Andrew Webster and some additional scholars with expertise/interest in this field of study, decided to establish a network to explore common research (interests) and prepare publications. The network was established at a first meeting in York in April 2007. The second meeting, funded by the Brocher Foundation, took place in Geneva, Switzerland, in April 2008. This meeting was clustered around three themes: the changing boundaries of human, animal and society; the new forms of governance engaged in the social regulation of these boundary shifts; and the new social and cultural relations that are made possible by these changes. In trying to find common ground between the various specific areas of research, the idea of bio-objects emerged as a theme the network wanted to explore further. Therefore, the third meeting at the Centre for Gender research at Uppsala University centred around bio-objects.

'Bio-objects' can be defined as (new) spatio-temporal configurations to which 'life' is attributed. The concept covers materialities and processes that are related to 'life' and it offers a new approach to study how the increasing knowledge of life and its components are fundamentally transforming what life means and where its boundaries lie. During the meeting we discussed the outline of an edited-volume on the subject, as well as future research proposals. The book will use the concept of bio-object as a heuristic device to point out and start tracing the new relations that make speaking about life and living as objects possible. However, life shall not be reduced to a thing or an entity - a mute object without agency. Rather, by questioning its status as an 'object' of current technological innovations, we point out how life is in constant interplay with novel techniques aiming at re-routing, diversifying, collecting and commodifying the vital processes that 'life' consists of. Bio-objects cannot be reduced to any pure form preceding them - rather, their basis of existence is something that could be seen as a network of unstable ontologies, an ongoing process rather than a stable form of being. As such, bio-objects contest the boundary lines between entities we have accustomed

to take for granted, as existing by themselves and for themselves. Thus, through the concept of bio-objects, boundaries between human and animal, organic and nonorganic, living and suspension of living, time and space, subject and object, agency and effect are questioned, destabilised and in some cases re-established. In the book a collection of empirical studies traces a variety of contemporary bio-objects in their emergence, stabilisation and circulation through a number of (European) societies, thereby showing various processes of bio-objectification. The bio-objects range from traditional to advanced configurations of life and living such as cloned animals, embryos, cybrids, genetic resources, models of life and biobanks.

In addition to our discussions, guest speakers from both Uppsala University (Dr. Isabelle Dussauge) and the University of Copenhagen (Prof. Lene Koch) presented their work. Lene gave a paper on 'Modelling pigs and humans. Understanding human/animal connections in translational research' and Isabelle talked about 'Neuroimaging of human sexuality: a case in the techno-cultural framing of bio-objects'.

We would like to thank EASST, the Swedish Research Council and the Centre for Gender research for the opportunity to organise our 2009 meeting. This meeting has been important for maintaining and further establishing our network of young STS scholars: BioStep has been brought a step further. For young scholars and networks it is often difficult to get funding, even if they come out of a previously funded scheme such as the Marie Curie Fellowship Scheme funded by the European Commission. However, meetings such as the above where proposals for research and publications can be discussed are crucial for maintaining the network and fostering new ideas and in this case critical studies of the biosciences. Niki Vermeulen, one of the core members of the network, states in her recently published PhD thesis 'Supersizing Science - On building large-scale research projects in Biology' (2009: 208): 'I observe that the young networks are an addition to traditional forms of education and support the ability of young scientists to interact and cross borders - skills that are becoming increasingly important in the present life sciences'. The network of Marie Curie fellows illustrates that also social scientists cross national borders as well as borders between diverse scientific and societal domains. This network is therefore an important space where new ideas and concepts, such as that of bio-object and bio-objectification, are stimulated, circulated, and 'brought to life'.

References: Vermeulen, N. (2009). *Supersizing Science - On building large-scale research projects in Biology*. Maastricht: Universitaire Pers Maastricht.

EASST Conference, 2-4 September 2010
University of Trento, Italy
Call for convenors and thematic tracks
**PRACTISING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
PERFORMING THE SOCIAL**

The 2010 EASST conference, to be held in Trento (Italy), from the 2-4 September is the biennial forum of the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST) for contributions on topics from the range of disciplines found within science, technology and innovation studies.

As in previous years the conference provides a broad platform for presentations based on contemporary research on the wide variety of topics in which STS and innovation scholars are active. These include risk and regulation, environmental sustainability, systems of innovation, sociology of expectations, sociotechnical transitions, science and technology policy, ethics of health & medicine, governance of emerging technologies, gender and science.

The particular focus for the 2010 conference is that of practice and performance. It turns its attention to science and technology as situated practices rooted and grown in a sociomaterial context, exploring the performativity of technoscientific practices.

The notions of “social construction” and “social shaping” of science and technology have been crucial for the development (and success) of science & technology studies. Increasingly, however, the “social” is seen as a question rather than as a distinctive explanatory category. The “social” begins to be viewed as the result of the connections that take place in an ecology of elements and heterogeneous relations, as well as of the scenarios these connections depict.

Terms such as “construction” and “shaping” are frequently replaced by concepts, verbs and metaphors drawn from the cultures of performance. Science and technology, are seen as performative domains of the “social”; choreographies of sociomaterial relations where realities and representations are enacted simultaneously.

One approach recognizes the performative character of science and technology, understanding when, where and how a “thing” arises, and explores the ways in which science and technology “do things”. Another approach addresses the “doing” of things: namely, that the performances and the

performativity of scientific and technological practices are embedded and embodied in material, symbolic and textual artefacts.

Practice, is probably one of the most useful concepts to capture this ambivalence. It allows us to look at science and technology as an ecology of heterogeneous elements and interactions, embodying and enacting situated processes of change and repetition of different sociomaterial worlds. Through practising science and technology, and in scientific and technological practices, so, “doing things” and the “doing of things” find a common ground of expression.

A key characteristic of the contemporary world is the role played by knowledge practices in the production and reproduction of the sociomaterial configuration which is often called “society”. STS and the concepts of practice and performance enable a unique perspective for studying and observing scientific and technological innovations, as well as the articulation of different forms of sociality and ideas of the social. This is the challenge addressed in key areas such as medicine and genomics, body and gender, work and organizations, communication & technology, consumption & markets, geographies and space.

New procedure for submission of sessions and papers

In contrast to previous EASST conferences, the 2010 conference involves a first stage call for track convenors, with a subsequent call for papers. The conference will be organized in approximately 20-30 parallel thematic tracks (each collecting approximately 20-30 participants) that run through the whole conference (3 days, 7 sessions).

This initial call is for thematic tracks by convenors who will be responsible for organizing them. Convenors of track proposals accepted by the Programme Committee of the conference will manage their theme within the call for abstracts, and will be responsible for reviewing, accepting/rejecting and organising submissions into their track. Teams of convenors (up to a maximum of four people) are welcomed, particularly if they are international in composition.

Track proposals are invited for EASST 2010 which address any theme within the field of science, technology and innovation studies. Track proposals may address (but are not limited to) the particular focus on practice & performance. These **could** include the following themes:

- Technoscientific networks, uncertainty and governance;
- Medicine and healthcare as technoscientific practices;
- Dispersed practices, mobile technologies and information infrastructures in networks of innovation and financial markets;
- The 'doing' of bodies and gender in science and technology;
- Methodological approaches for investigating scientific and technological practices.
- The performativity of technical objects and design;
- Working and organizing in technologically dense practices;
- Juxtapositions in science and technology communicating practices.

Tracks should address broad issues and themes within the field of science, technology and innovation studies, in order to attract a large number of scholars and last for the entire duration of the conference. Submissions for thematic tracks are expected to include an outline of the proposed theme and the area of interest (maximum of 500 words), as well as a short description of the convenors.

There will also be an open stream, whose convenors will be indicated ex-post by the Programme Committee of the conference. As for the others, this track will include between 20-30 participants, selected by the Programme Committee on the basis of the abstracts received and not addressed to any particular track.

Convenors will independently set the session topics and overall organization of the track. If a

track collects less than 10 abstracts, there will be a discussion with the Programme Committee to decide whether to run the track anyway or join another track. In case a track collects more than 40 abstracts, there will be a discussion with the Programme Committee to decide whether to split the track in two or not. In case the convenors consider an abstract interesting, but not fitting with the thematic track, they will be free to re-address the abstract to the convenors of the track they think it fits better or to the convenors of the open track.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES:

- **October 12 (2009):** Proposal for convenors and thematic tracks deadline;
Please email proposals, following the guidelines, as a Word document, to conference@easst.net
- **November 2 (2009):** Communication to the convenors of the tracks accepted/rejected (or to be reviewed);
- **November 23 (2009):** Official announcement of the Conference, with the final track list included and the call for submission of abstracts of papers;
- **March 15 (2010):** deadline for abstracts submission;
- **May 15 (2010):** Communication of acceptance/rejection of abstracts to authors and opening of online registrations;
- **June 15 (2010):** early registrations deadline (required for all presenters);
- **June 20 (2010):** Final draft of the organization of each thematic session (to be sent by the convenors to the Scientific and Local Committee);
- **July 5 (2010):** Publication on the website of the final Conference program.

Conferences and Calls for Papers

The **Society for the Social History of Medicine** invites submissions for its 2010 Conference 'Knowledge, Ethics and Representations of Medicine and Health: Historical Perspectives', to be held at **Durham and Newcastle (UK), 8-11 July 2010**, organised by the Northern Centre for the History of Medicine (NCHM). The **deadline for**

proposals: 1 November 2009. The organisers welcome proposals for 20-minute papers under the theme 'Knowledge, Ethics and Representations of Medicine and Health: Historical Perspectives'. We particularly encourage papers addressing questions such as: What processes have generated knowledge about the body, illness and health that has become

authoritative in different societies? How have claims of medical expertise been justified vis à vis claims from other domains of social and cultural authority such as religion and law? What did it mean for medical practitioners in different cultural and social contexts to claim to be ethical as well as knowledgeable? How did they present themselves to the public? What kind of material, visual and textual representations of body, mind, health and disease have gained 'defining power' exerting influence on medical practice and research until today? Submissions covering all periods (from Antiquity to the 21st Century) and all regions of the world are welcome. In addition to individual papers, we seek proposals for panel sessions (with 3 papers), as well as suggestions for suitable chairpersons. Abstracts of up to 250 words should include the title of the paper, information concerning the research question examined, the sources used and preliminary results. Please also include on the abstract your contact details (name, affiliation, e-mail-address). All papers are to represent original work not already published. Please send your proposal by 1 November 2009 to the NCHM (Email: conference@nchm.ac.uk). Decisions on papers will be made by January 2010. Key-note speakers will include: Professor Heinrich von Staden (Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton, USA), Dr Tim Boon (Science Museum, London, UK), and Professor Martha Few (University of Arizona, USA). Organising Committee: Philip van der Eijk (Newcastle University), Holger Maehle (Durham University), Cathy McClive (Durham University), Diana Paton (Newcastle University), Thomas Rütten (Newcastle University), and Lutz Sauerteig (Durham University). For more information on the SSHM please see www.sshm.org. For more information on the NCHM, a collaboration of historians of medicine from Durham and Newcastle universities, please see www.nchm.ac.uk.

The **4th Tensions of Europe Plenary Conference & Closing ESF Inventing Europe Conference**, to be held on **June 17-20, 2010, in Sofia, Bulgaria**, has issued a call for papers, with the **deadline for abstracts being December 18, 2009**. The conference is entitled, Technology & East-West relations: Transfers, parallel histories, and the European laboratory. The European Science Foundation (ESF) and the Foundation for the History of Technology in the Netherlands are jointly organizing the final and closing conference of the ESF EUROCORES program Inventing Europe and the bi-annual conference of the Tensions of Europe network (ToE). Inventing Europe and ToE strive,

through collaborative research and coordinating efforts, to promote studies of the interplay between technical change and European history. Instead of focusing on national histories, the emphasis of both initiatives is on transnational technological developments that have shaped and are shaping Europe. We encourage scholars from all disciplines who study subjects related to the overall conference theme or the Inventing Europe/Tensions of Europe intellectual agenda to submit abstracts for the research sessions, roundtables and research collaboration sessions. The main theme of the conference applies to papers, which treat processes of circulation and appropriation of technologies between Eastern and Western Europe as an entry point into the contested practice of Europeanization. During the Cold War, for instance, Europe has been one of the central laboratories for the experimentation with ideological and political regimes, which deeply infected traditional paths of knowledge and technology transfer in Europe. While the history of the Cold War has mainly been told as a history of discontinuity and fragmentation, we would especially welcome papers and sections dealing with examples of successful co-operation or "hidden continuities" in inter-European technology transfer during the 20th century. Despite the fact that focus of the conference will be on the post-WW II period, we will welcome session proposals and individual papers referring to the practices of appropriation and circulation of ideas, skills and people in Europe from the mid-19th century onwards – thus from the period before the notions of Eastern and Western Europe were coined. This results from our conviction that one should look for the roots of the European integration and fragmentation in a "longue duree" perspective. General areas to be explored are: Changing times: Continuities and discontinuities in the transfers of knowledge and technology between Eastern and Western Europe from the mid-19th century to the present; Negotiating identities: spaces and places of co-operation or confrontation before, during, and after the Cold War; Parallel histories: alternative processes of European integration and fragmentation in Eastern and Western Europe; Blurred boundaries: spill-over effects and holes in the Iron Curtain; Trading zone: Europe as symbolic battlefield and diplomatic playground for world hegemony; Chilling effects: Technologies at war & wartime technology; and Contested approaches: the merits and pitfalls of concepts like Americanization, Sovietisation, Westernization for European historiography. In addition, the program committee welcomes papers that want to contribute to the

general Inventing Europe/Tensions of Europe intellectual agenda. This agenda treats technological change as an entry point into the contested practice of Europeanization. Five general areas to be explored are: Building Europe through Infrastructures, or, how Europe has been shaped by the material links of transnational infrastructure; Constructing European Ways of Knowing, or, how Europe became articulated through efforts to unite knowledge and practices on a European scale; Consuming Europe, or, how actors reworked consumer goods and artefacts for local, regional, national, European, and global use; Europe in the Global World, or, how Europe has been created through colonial, ex-colonial, trans-Atlantic, and other global exchanges; and Synthetic methodological or historiographical explorations of the role of technology in transnational European history. The deadline for proposals is December 18, 2009. The research session abstracts (maximum 600 words) should be submitted by the organizers together with the abstracts for the individual presentations (maximum 500 words each). To propose a roundtable, please submit a list of invited participants and an abstract (maximum 600 words). Note: When giving the proposal a digital file name, please include the organizer's last name, and either RS for research session, RT for round table or RCS for Research Collaboration Session. The abstracts should be sent to the Program Committee by email to TOE@tue.nl. Please direct queries to the Program Committee Chair, Andreas Fickers (A.Fickers@maastrichtuniversity.nl). The Program Committee will inform the session organizers about its decisions no later than February 15, 2010. Inventing Europe & Tensions of Europe programs are seeking to provide a contribution towards travel and/or accommodation costs for those who have no opportunity to participate otherwise. Papers and roundtable discussion texts must be submitted to the Program Committee by May 1, 2010 because they will be distributed to all conference participants before the conference on a CD and made available on the website. For the Program Committee for the Fourth Plenary Conference of Tensions of Europe: Andreas Fickers, Chair, Maastricht University, The Netherlands; Helena Durnova, Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic; Valentina Fava, Collegium for Advanced Studies, University of Helsinki, Finland; Ivan Tchalakov, Plovdiv University & Institute of Sociology, BAS, Bulgaria. Sponsors: European Science Foundation, Foundation for the History of Technology, Technical University Eindhoven, University of Sofia, Bulgarian Academy of Science.

Managing Knowledge in the Techno-sciences, 1850-2000 is the title of the international conference by the collaborative research project 'Owning and disowning invention: intellectual property, authority, and identity in British science and technology, 1880-1920' (University of Leeds & University of Bristol) supported by the Arts & Humanities Research Council and the White Rose IPBio Project (Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York). It is to be held at the **University of Leeds, 5-8 July 2010**. The keynote speaker is Prof. Mario Biagioli, Harvard University, with a talk entitled, 'What has Happened to 'Discovery' and 'Invention'?': Intersecting the discourse of patent law and science studies.' The conference brings together researchers investigating the history of knowledge management since the mid-19th century – a period that saw the rise of the techno-sciences, trans-European controversies over the legitimacy of patenting, and the coining of the term 'intellectual property'. Contributions are welcome from a variety of perspectives concerning 'intellectual property' and the 'intellectual commons' in the techno-sciences e.g. the cultures of monopoly, shared 'open' knowledge and of sponsored invention. Participants are encouraged to examine critically the foundations and methodology of historical research on the techno-sciences, including biomedical and agricultural forms. Papers are invited on the following themes: patent management and inventing cultures; openness vs secrecy; authority and the construction of inventorship; discourses of 'pure' vs 'applied' science and 'discovery' vs 'invention'; IP laws, and techno-scientific transformations; legal cultures and techno-scientific expertise; academic entrepreneurship and state funding; gender and inventor identity; industrial research and techno-scientific identities; and techno-sciences and IP in Asian, Latin American and African cultures. **Abstracts for individual papers or panel sessions should be submitted by 30 November 2009.** Abstracts for individual papers should not exceed 200 words and should be accompanied by the author's short curriculum vitae (1 page). Proposals for panel sessions should comprise: an outline of the session (200 words), abstracts for the three individual papers (200 words) and CVs (1 page) for each of the contributors. All submissions should be emailed as an MS Word file attachment to: owninganddisowning@hotmail.co.uk by 30 November 2009. A registration fee may be charged for presenters at this conference. Please indicate in your email if you would like to be considered for assistance in this regard. For enquiries about the academic content of the conference please contact:

Prof. Graeme Gooday, g.j.n.gooday@leeds.ac.uk tel. 44 113 343 3274, Centre for History & Philosophy of Science, Department of Philosophy, University of Leeds, UK. For administrative enquiries please contact Dr Stathis Arapostathis, owninganddisowning@hotmail.co.uk, tel. 44 113 343 8027, Centre for History & Philosophy of Science, Department of Philosophy, University of Leeds. For information on the 'Owning and Disowning Invention' project, please see <http://www.philosophy.leeds.ac.uk/Invention/invention.htm>. The organizing team for this conference is: Graham Duffield, Graeme Gooday, Greg Radick, Stathis Arapostathis and Berris Charnley (University of Leeds), and Christine MacLeod and Jon Hopwood-Lewis (University of Bristol).

The Identity in the Information Society Workshop (IDIS10) will be held on **May 26-28, 2010 in Rome, Italy**. The third IDIS annual workshop provides an opportunity to present leading edge research, exchange ideas, encourage collaboration, and build communities across the various research groups working on contemporary identity topics and in the related fields of privacy and security. Check previous workshops at <http://is2.lse.ac.uk/idis/2009/>. IDIS10 explores the relationship between "Identity and Organizations", whether public or private sector, local or global, formal or informal, for-profit or not. We welcome contributions ranging across different disciplinary areas, reflecting the broad nature of the study area with its interwoven concerns of law, technology, and information systems alongside other social, political and management issues. Topics might include, but are not limited to, the following: new identity technologies; emerging practices and behaviours enabled with identification processes; changing notions of identity: customers, citizens, and audiences; information and identity risks and how they are managed; surveillance and privacy issues; and regulatory and legal issues. Important dates include the **submission of papers to Workshop (4-6000 words): 10 December 2009**. The decision and screening feedback to authors: 19 February 2010. Submit papers to IDIS Journal: <http://www.editorialmanager.com/idis/> selecting "IDIS10 Workshop" article type.

The International Society for Ecological Economics is holding its **11th Biennial Conference**. ISEE 2010: Advancing Sustainability in a Time of Crisis, to be held **22 - 25 August 2010 in Oldenburg and Bremen, Germany**, has issued its second call for papers. Ecological systems and

their services to humans have been exposed to stress, exploitation and destruction for decades. Biodiversity is being lost at an almost unprecedented pace. Climate change will bring about rapid and unpredictable changes in the earth's entire biophysical system. There are thus massive indications of a crisis of ecosystems caused by human activity. In 2008 the global financial system collapsed and pushed many economies towards crisis. A deregulated banking sector acted outside the boundaries of safe and trustworthy operations resulting in a collapse of confidence in economic institutions not seen since the 1930s. Economic breakdowns in many countries have already generated dramatic social problems adding to existing poverty, hunger and inequality. But times of crisis are also times of opportunity. The financial meltdown has led to a renaissance in public responsibility and an avalanche of stimulus packages that stand against the neo-liberal creed of minimal government. While many of these measures follow conventional lines of unsustainable economic practices, there is a growing awareness for the need for active public policies to create more sustainable economic structures and processes to combat both economic and ecological crises. Green recovery, a global Green New Deal, and a green energy revolution are catch phrases that now find their way into governance and policy making processes. In 2010 the United Nation's Millennium Development goals will be a decade old and there will only be five years left to achieve them. Meeting their challenge requires bold and concerted action on global, national and local levels and across societal groups and organisations in the global North and the South. With the entirety of closely connected social, health, economic and ecological goals the Millennium Development Goals guide an integrated approach to development and human well-being that goes beyond the usual polarisation between development and environmental goals. In this situation, ecological economics is poised to play a leading role in addressing these global challenges. The rapidly changing patterns of economic, political, and economic systems necessitate integrated and innovative analyses, ideas, concepts and solutions. Ecological economics seems well prepared for this call as a field that has pioneered in integrating ecological and social concerns into economic analyses and practical solutions. It has united scientists, practitioners and decision makers from various disciplinary backgrounds in innovative and participatory research and decision-making processes. In particular, ecological economists have argued strongly against concepts of neo-liberalism

and unregulated financial systems. They developed novel approaches to understand economic processes as inextricably linked and dependent on ecological support systems as well as the social institutions in which they are embedded. The field has a long tradition in finding solutions to practical as well as conceptual problems of social well-being, economic development and ecological sustainability. Since the last ISEE conference held in Europe in 1994, the community has come a long way and evolved tremendously. From the early dichotomy between environmental economics and ecological economics, more dialogue and collaboration between the fields has emerged to address problems of sustainability. Overlapping research interests now common to both ecological and environmental economics include integrated modelling, agent-based modelling, valuation of ecosystem services, market based policy instruments, multi-criteria evaluation, and the economics of adapting to environmental change. The size of the climate change challenge and dire state of the earth's ecosystems necessitate further exchange and cooperation to gain a unified voice in the political domain. The 2010 ISEE conference will emphasize this exchange and debate. Since the early days, ecological economics has always been a field of methodological diversity, transdisciplinary work, and it has now significantly developed its standards for scientific rigour as well as its social and policy relevance. It has been driven by ideas of fairness and justice among humans and between humans and the natural world. This thematic scope reaches out to a great variety of related disciplines such as conventional economics and ecology, political science, sociology, management, biology, physics and engineering. The necessary cross-disciplinary collaboration requires bridging concepts between research and society in a solutions-oriented manner. While, on the one hand, the field has grown stronger in its analytical understanding of the interactions between humans and the ecosystems in which they live, the link to governance questions and practical application has become ever more challenging and urgent. This point of interconnections between the various disciplines of ecological economics and the systems of environmental governance and practice will therefore form one central focus of the 2010 conference. We particularly invite contributions to the conference that address the following main themes: Climate Change – causes, impacts, mitigation, adaptation, and policy options; Energy – renewable energy, energy flows, peak oil, green stimulus policies, energy and entropy, alternative energy and energy distribution technology;

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services – valuation issues and policy integration; Land Use – including coastal zone management, water issues, ecosystem restoration bioregionalism; Ecology – complex systems, economy-ecology modelling, theoretical ecology; Dematerialization and De-Growth – industrial ecology, eco-efficiency, sustainable consumption and production; Sustainable Development - environment and industrial development, inequalities between rich and poor, indigenous rights and wisdoms, environmental colonialism and debt, environmental GDP of the poor, sustainability and self-actualization; Environmental Ethics and Values – norms, ethical concepts, environmental values and decision-making; Governance and Public Policy – green macroeconomics, recapturing the public space in an age of neo-liberalism, Green New Deal, green recovery, politics and public participation in decision making; Knowledge and Social Learning – knowledge systems, dynamics and mechanisms of social learning and change in economic and policy processes; Green Business – corporate social responsibility, ecological economics of the firm, industrial ecology, trade and taxation, incentives and entrepreneurship; Heterodox Economics – opportunities after the crisis for institutional, evolutionary, post-keynesian, post-autistic economics, synergies with ecological economics; Transdisciplinarity – post normal science, sustainability science, transdisciplinary research designs, participatory methods, methodological and theoretical challenges; and Teaching Ecological Economics – curriculum development, practical experiences, learning as sustainability. There will be five tracks for abstract submissions: long presentation (approx. 15 min. presentation on the basis of a full paper); short presentation (approx. 5 min. presentation within a discussion session); poster presentation; special sessions (on the basis of full papers with up to four 15 min. presentations organised by a session chair); and discussion sessions (thematically focused session with about four short presentations organised by a session chair). All of them require an online abstract submission of max. 400 words via the conference website at: www.isee2010.org. **The deadline for online submission is 31 October 2009.** See www.isee2010.org.

Opportunities available

The **Aston Business School at Aston University** invites applications for a **Research Fellow** (Salary GBP 29,704 - 35,469 per annum, 2 years fixed term) to work in the Research Centre ACCIS: 'Aston Centre for Critical Infrastructure & Services' on topics relating to sustainability in infrastructure industries. You will be responsible for conducting literature reviews, networking, interpreting data and preparing research grant applications. You will ideally have a PhD or be close to submitting a PhD thesis in a relevant discipline and have demonstrable experience in the field of sustainability issues, theoretically and empirically. You should be familiar with approaches such as Actor Network Theory, Large Technical Systems, or Socio-Technical Systems. Good presentation and report writing skills are essential along with enthusiasm for the subject. You will have the potential to take the initiative and drive the research agenda for this key ACCIS theme. Ideally you will be familiar with the funding landscape in the UK and the EU and with similar research activities elsewhere. For an informal discussion about this post, please contact Dr Reiner Grundmann (0121 204 3116, r.grundmann@aston.ac.uk) or Dr Louise Knight (0121 204 3605, l.knight2@aston.ac.uk). **Application deadline: 30 October 2009;** Interviews: w/c 23 November 2009. See <http://www1.aston.ac.uk/staff/hr/job-vacancies/current-vacancies/academicresearch/r090278-research-fellow/>.

The British Society for the History of Science invites entries for the **2009 BSHS Slade Prize**. The BSHS Slade Prize of GBP 300 will be awarded to the writer of an essay (published or unpublished) that makes the best critical contribution to the

history or historiography of science/technology/medicine. Entries might, for example, critically engage a prevalent interpretation of a particular historical episode (e.g. a scientific innovation, a scientific controversy or a scientific instrument or technology), or a broader period or theme, and offer a new construal, or adopt a new historiographical or methodological approach. The Prize may be awarded to the writer of one outstanding essay, or may be divided between two or more entrants. Any winning essay(s) not yet placed with a publisher will be considered for publication in the *British Journal for the History of Science* at the discretion of the Editor. Previous winners include: 2005: Hasok Chang, "Adventures of a Scientific Potter: The Rise and Fall of the Wedgwood Pyrometer." 2003: Sandro Caparrini, "Early Theories of Vectors." 2001: Yves Gingras, "The Social and Epistemological Consequences of the Mathematization of Physics." Entry is open to people of any age and nationality, and is not limited to BSHS members. Entries should be in English, and should have been published or written in the two years prior to 15 December 2009. Essays should not exceed 10,000 words in length (excluding footnotes) and must be accompanied by an abstract of 300 words. Entries without an abstract will not be considered. **Three paper copies of the essay and abstract must arrive by 15 December 2009.** Submissions by email will not be accepted. Entries should be sent to the BSHS Secretary, Dr Viviane Quirke, School of Arts and Humanities, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford OX3 0BP. Enquiries by email (vquirke@brookes.ac.uk) are welcome. See also <http://www.bsbs.org.uk/>.

News from the field

There will be a **special issue of the journal, Theory, Culture and Society: 'Beyond societies of risk and control? Codes and codings in crisis,'** edited by Adrian Mackenzie (a.mackenzie@lancaster.ac.uk, Cesagen, IAS, Lancaster University) and Theo Vurdubakis (t.vurdubakis@lancaster.ac.uk, Department of Organisation, Work and Technology, Lancaster University). Financial, ecological and security crises currently grip the

contemporary world. Crises are moments when 'modern' expectations of security and control are disappointed. However, demands for safety and security routinely spill over into anxieties concerning the proliferating mechanisms and apparatuses of control that 'protect' us and at the same time put us 'at risk.' Security and control name both lack and excess. Beck's 'risk society' and Deleuze's 'societies of control' whilst very different,

share a concern with what we might call the /codings/ to which the natural and social worlds are made subject, and with the consequences which follow from those codings. Code offers a crucial starting point for any critical exploration of crises and conduct in crisis in their mutual complementarity and interference. We ask that papers attend to slippages that occur when codes and codings respond to demands that the world be controlled or made safe. We are particularly interested in approaches that combine awareness of broader cultural and political economies of design, science, media, commodification, and subjectification with close attention to concrete material-technical situations (in media, in science, in popular culture, in the military, etc). Topics of interest would include, but are not limited to: What are the genealogies of the forms of code and coding that currently organize our world? At what points do understandings of risk societies and societies of control converge or diverge in their treatment of code and codings? How do codes capture, entrain and exclude knowledges and forms; how do different orders of being are handled and rendered (in)compatible in coding? The full **call for papers can be found at:**

http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/centres/css/download/s/cfp_tcs_risk_control_code_crisis-sept09.pdf

The editor-in-chief of the **International Journal of Technoethics (IJT)** would like to invite you to consider submitting a manuscript for inclusion in this scholarly journal. The mission of the International Journal of Technoethics (IJT) is to evolve technological relationships of humans with a focus on ethical implications for human life, social norms and values, education, work, politics, law, and ecological impact. This journal provides cutting-edge analysis of technological innovations, research, developments policies, theories, and methodologies related to ethical aspects of technology in society. IJT publishes empirical research, theoretical studies, innovative methodologies, practical applications, case studies, and book reviews. IJT encourages submissions from philosophers, researchers, social theorists, ethicists, historians, practitioners, and technologists from all areas of human activity affected by advancing technology. **For journal topics, coverage and other relation information, see <http://www.igi-global.com/journals/IJTbrochure.pdf>.**

The RCCS Annual Review is an annual online publication in English that includes a selection of texts published in Portuguese in the journal *Revista*

Crítica de Ciências Sociais in the previous year. In 2009, the year of its launching, the Annual Review will exceptionally publish two issues: no. 0, with a selection of texts from 2005 and 2006, and no. 1, with texts from 2007 and 2008. The *Revista Crítica de Ciências Sociais*, with four issues each year, publishes texts in all areas of the social sciences and the humanities. It gives particular attention to critical, comparative and transdisciplinary approaches to the production of knowledge in Portuguese-speaking contexts, thus seeking to contribute to theoretical debate and epistemological thinking in global contexts. Boaventura de Sousa Santos (1978-2004) and António de Sousa Ribeiro (2004-2009) were the former editors of RCCS. The journal is now run by Claudino Ferreira. Link: **<http://www.ces.uc.pt/publicacoes/annualreview/>**.

The **Graduate Journal of Social Science (GJSS) welcomes contributions for its June 2010 issue on interdisciplinarity.** The focus of this edition of the GJSS is on research papers that fall outside the scope of traditional subject divisions. The GJSS is especially concerned with bridging the transnational gap in both methodological theorizing and academic publishing, and therefore welcomes work from all geographic regions. The GJSS also encourages the submission of work by MSc/MA/MS, MPhil, PhD students and junior academics. **Submissions are welcomed from now until December 1, 2009.** Articles should be between 5000-7000 words in length (including footnotes). Short essays (2-3,000 words), conference feedback (1,000 words), and book reviews on the topic of interdisciplinarity are also welcome. The editors of GJSS also welcome proposals for guest-editing original "special editions" of the journal on a rolling basis. In 2009, special editions included: *Queer Methodologies*; *How well to 'facts' travel?*; and *Lost (and Found) in Translation*. More information can be found on the GJSS website: <http://gjss.org>.

A **call for chapter abstracts** has been issued for the book **"The Internet & Surveillance."** See .pdf version of Cfp: http://fuchs.uti.at/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/CfP_Internet_Surveillance.pdf. **Abstracts may be submitted by October 15, 2009** to christian.fuchs@sbg.ac.at. The overall aim of this collected volume is to bring together contributions that show how surveillance works on the Internet and which risks are connected to Internet surveillance in general and surveillance connected to "web 2.0" and "social software" in particular. The publication and publishing process is part of the COST Action "Living in Surveillance

Societies” (LiSS) that is funded by the European Science Foundation (2009-2012, see http://w3.cost.esf.org/index.php?id=233&action_number=IS0807 for further information and details) and is a project by the LiSS working group “Surveillance Technologies in Practice”. The editors are members of this working group. Routledge has expressed interest in publishing this volume. The collection of data for organizing bureaucratic and economic life is inherent in modern society. At the same time that privacy has been postulated as important value of modern society, privacy-threatening surveillance mechanisms have been structurally implemented and institutionalized in modern society. This collected volume explores perspectives on privacy, surveillance, and the privacy-surveillance-paradox in relation to the Internet. Many observers claim that the Internet has been transformed in the past years from a system that is primarily oriented on information provision into a system that is more oriented on communication and community building. The notions of “web 2.0”, “social Software”, and “social network(ing) sites” have emerged in this context. Web platforms such as Wikipedia, MySpace, Facebook, YouTube, Google, Blogger, Rapidshare, Wordpress, Hi5, Flickr, Photobucket, Orkut, Skyrock, Twitter, YouPorn, PornHub, Youku, Orkut, Redtube, Friendster, Adultfriendfinder, Megavideo, Tagged, Tube8, Mediafire, Megaupload, Mixi, Livejournal, LinkedIn, Netlog, ThePirateBay, Orkut, XVideos, Metacafe, Digg, StudiVZ, etc are said to be typical for this transformation of the Internet. No matter if we agree that important transformations of the Internet have taken place or not, it is clear that a principle that underlies such platforms is the massive provision and storage of personal data that are systematically evaluated, marketed, and used for targeting users with advertising. In a world of global economic competition, economic crisis, and fear of terrorism after 9/11, especially two kinds of actors are interested in accessing such personal data: corporations on the one hand and state institutions on the other hand. Will the Internet under the current societal conditions advance the intensification and extension of surveillance so that a coercive and totalitarian surveillance society that George Orwell would have only thought about in his worst dreams will emerge or not? Are there counter-tendencies? The contributions in this book deal with these topics by elaborating theoretical concepts and presenting the results of empirical case studies. We are especially interested in papers that do not primarily discuss single examples, but

attempt to discuss Internet surveillance from a broad perspective that takes into account societal contexts or that embed examples or case studies into the discussion of societal contexts.

Split + Splice, Del + Hel, is an **exhibition at Medical Museion, University of Copenhagen**. It is about the inter-relations between the culture of biomedicine and the enormous complexities of 21st century living. The exhibition explores these complexities through the material culture, objects and instruments used by biomedical practitioners in research and in clinical activities. Much as biomedicine itself, Split + Splice is an innovative hybridisation of complex practices. It is not exactly science communication; it will not teach you comprehensively about the field of biomedicine. It is not exactly old-fashioned history of science; it will not show you a triumphalist progression of miraculous discovery. It is not exactly an art exhibition; it will not leave you with a sense that you have seen inside a solo mind. Investigation, intervention, inquiry, analysis, critique, visualisation, modeling. All these processes are present in scientific methodology, in the disciplines of art, design and aesthetics, and in the methods of the history and philosophy of science and medicine.

If the sheer knife of a microtome can give us the startling and strange histological slice of tissue that revealed the neuron to Ramon y Cajal for the first time, then we must also be able to wield with equal precision what we know about aesthetics to reveal vital information about the cultures that made the objects under scrutiny; here we have investigated the prosaic but fundamental way that both plastics and computing have revolutionised medicine. Under a humanities microscope, epistemological investigations of the ritual and often hypnotically repetitive practices of biomedicine can reveal, among other things, the social assumptions that often underpin disease prediction. In Split + Splice we have used different techniques from the arts, the sciences and the humanities as prisms to analyse the same material in several ways. The exhibition’s ‘catalogue’ User Manual is also the object index for the entire show: a gift to the visitor to take away and keep, but also something that sets the objects free from text, allows them to be discovered in their form and materiality by the visitor. Split + Splice is not about the ‘user end’ or the magic bullet, but rather the minutiae of biomedicine’s daily practice. We take the visitor into the engine room of biomedicine, into its Cold Room, its Wet Lab, its number crunching, its visualisation practices. Its incubators and ion exchange columns. Its legal

frameworks and its media leaks. We will take you into some of the historical origins of biomedicine's process of fragmenting the body into smaller and smaller pieces. We came to the conclusion that all of biomedical practice is a never-ending attempt to contain the torrent of life and manage the flows of this cascade of complexity from biosample to dataset, from clinic to lab, from individual to populace. These practices of containment and flow tell us much about the cultures of biomedicine and

the kinds of societies that its practices produce. Split + Splice is an experience, not an explanation. We want people to leave the exhibition with a sense of how to ask pertinent questions about biomedicine and the ways in which it affects their own individual and social/collective lives. Switch on, measure up, and to go with the flow, into the show. See

<http://www.corporeality.net/museion/2009/07/01/split-splice/>

Contents of this issue

- 3 In Memorium. Olga Amsterdamska 1953-2009. By Ann R. Sætnan
- 4 When Species Meet. Book review by Peta S. Cook
- 5 Marie Curie research network BioStep on bio-objects and bio-objectification. Seminar review by Ragna Zeiss and Niki Vermeulen
- 7 EASST 2010 Conference Announcement
- 8 Conferences and Calls for Papers
- 13 Opportunities Available
- 13 News from the Field