

EASST *Review*

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First they cut the humanities ...

Editorial: Ann R. Sætnan

The academic news picture these days is not bright. Tuition hikes, budget cuts, program closures, research funding reductions ... Perhaps I should find some other theme for this editorial. Perhaps you're all tired of this one from endless and helpless conversations at department lunches and coffee breaks – not to mention career conversations with and among the not-yet-tenured generation. What a worn and depressing theme to be tossing onto everyone's table in the holiday season. And yet, it is a theme that urgently needs discussing, and who more qualified than STSers to discuss it? We ought to be experts on just such a theme: the value of Science and Academe when confronting recession, and strategies for achieving recognition for that value, the role of Academe in democracy, and so on. So at the risk of spoiling the holiday mood, let's see if I can spark a discussion.

In preparing to write this editorial, I googled the key words “academic”, “budget”, and “cuts”. It is not a new theme. Even in recent decades we have been through wave after wave of such cuts. No shortage, then, of empirical grist for an STS mill to examine.

What I found concerning the current wave (though perhaps not new for this wave, only I didn't spend much time examining older materials) gave cause for concern for many reasons. First, it was almost exclusively articles from campus newspapers. Second, the cuts are targeting the rhetorically and economically weak. Third, research financing is being cut, even as part of tenured staff wages. And fourth, no one seems to be discussing the corruption connection. I could probably find further causes for concern, but let's stop with these four for now.

First: The mainstream press seems unconcerned about academic budget cuts. Admittedly, I have done only a quick search, but the scarcity of mainstream sources on the first few pages of google hits is striking. So here's one question for us science studies specialists: How do we build alliances with the public when starting from a base of media indifference?

Second: The cuts are targeting students, especially lower-to-middle income students. With tuition leaping upwards and campus jobs disappearing, only the wealthy and those so poor as to qualify for full financial aid. Another question for us science studies specialists: How might the role of

science in society be affected by changes in the class background of students?

The cuts are also targeting subject areas with low rhetorical power. Not surprising, of course. This is how discourses work. Topics are seen as frivolous will be the easiest to attack. According to CBS News (01/10/2010, <http://www.cbs6albany.com/articles/university-1278894-programs-suny.html>, accessed 21.12.2010.), cuts at SUNY include “eliminating existing programs, a decrease in scholarships, delays in snow removal and a reduction in university policing. Some of the programs to be cuts include French, Russian and Italian languages, theater, and classics.” This, and the famous text on intellectual nonchalance, attributed to Pastor [Martin Niemöller](#) (1892–1984), inspired my title. “First they cut the humanities ... but I didn't protest because I was in social sciences. They they raised tuitions and cut scholarships, but I didn't protest because fewer students meant more time for my research.” In other words, when will the cuts hit us, and will we have protested in time and effectively?

Of course (and no surprise to us STSers), the notion of “frivolous” is a highly political one. Thus, when Arizona has decided to cut all ethnic studies program funding from public schools, this is not simply a matter of saving money. In fact, these programs have been running at a profit. What the measure does achieve is a monopoly for neo-liberal individualist models of history and the silencing of post-colonialist, collectivist, and critical views. (For more on this see <http://www.truth-out.org/arizona-bans-ethnic-studies-and-along-with-it-reason-and-justice66340>, accessed 29.12.2010.)

Third: I haven't managed to confirm rumors of furloughs and wage cuts of 50-60% for tenured academics in teaching positions, essentially paying only for teaching time and moving control over research agendas to outside funding sources, although I do see documented reports of less drastic furlough and wage cut measures. Also, increasing use of teaching-only (often non-tenurable) positions would have similar effects, as would shifts in funding from basic to applied and non-earmarked to topic earmarked programs. So where is the locus of control over research agendas heading, and what agendas are being prioritized?

Fourth: The University of California, where I am

currently spending a sabbatical year, is formally owned by its regents – a board appointed by the governor. Intended as a structure to preserve Academic autonomy, it can also be used to serve other interests. This Fall it was revealed that at least three current and recent regents have managed to convince the board to move pension and investment funds into high-risk ventures that have profited these three at great cost to the university (see <http://www.dailycasserole.com/tag/richard-blum/>, accessed 21.12.2010). In other words, Academe is not a world apart, not exempt from the

larger trend of increasing concentration of wealth amongst a few and increasing impoverishment of the many. Questions for us as scholars of as well as in Academe might include: How does this feed into and how is it fed by deterioration of democracy? What are the consequences for knowledge production? And what can we as STSers do about it?

I wish you all the best for the New Year. The immediate future may look gloomy, but here's hoping we will survive, even flourish.

The Brain, the Person, and the Social. How Can STS Deal with Neuroscience Objects and Practices? Report on Track 19: STS Approaches to Neuroscience Objects and Practices. EASST 010, Trento, 1-4 September 2010

by: Johannes Bruder (eikones NCCR Iconic Criticism, University of Basel; Graduate School of Social Sciences, University of Lucerne)

Incorporating the general theme of the 2010 EASST Conference in Trento, the panel on STS Approaches to Neuroscience Objects and Practices was primarily concerned with the social dimensions of neuroscience. Focussing on the specific history and sociology of neurologic terms and concepts as well as the instantiations and practices that have given rise to and are enabled by these sociotechnical objects, the panel was designed to accommodate the entanglements of matter and meaning in the existence and constant evolving of the discipline and its increasing prominence in both science and society.

A central point both in presentations and general discussion was the mushrooming of neuroscientific approaches to sociality. Neuroeconomics, neuromarketing, neuropedagogy – many new disciplines are created through interdisciplinary research projects trying to open the ultimate black box by explaining human and/or social behaviour biologically. Regardless of whether the functioning of neuronal networks, neurochemicals or blood flows is used to define brain activity – biological substrates make psychic processes analyzable and visual. The emergence of new forms of knowledge does not, however, automatically privilege only the

neuroscientific side. Rather, the acquired knowledge is a challenge to all involved disciplines. The re-biologisation of the social world in “bioliberalism” is accompanied by a socialisation of neuroscience. While neuroscientists enter the realm of the social, computer scientists redefine brain activity by inscribing their engineering knowledge in technical devices used to research the brain. For STS scholars the question arises whether to criticize, co-operate or to collaborate?

Obviously, this question can only be answered studying individual constellations in which the boundaries among sociality and the natural or normal are blurred. When does matter matter?

One of those fields is “social neuroscience”, focussing on the explanatory power of neuronal processes in respect of social interaction. By asking what happens in people's brains in social situations social behaviour is naturalized and reduced to empathy. The description of humans as “homo empathicus” is based on evidence in evolutionary history: the size of the neocortex, apparently responsible for the internalisation and found only in mammals' brains, relates to the size of a social group. Sociality, therewith, is defined as normal state. Psychopathy as the lack of empathy is defined as the flipside of sociality accordingly. Comparably, many social manners

or disorders are defined in recourse to neural substrates or neurochemicals.

Another example is the “neuroeconomics of trust”, affirming that trust is a basic feature of sociality while assuming a biological basis that is to be localized at the molecular level. But, if trust is a normal state, how can one conceive that the neurotransmitter oxytocin causes a substantial increase in trust among humans? And what is the relation between orgasms, trust and maternal behaviour like if oxytocin is assigned to play a very important role in all of these bodily mechanisms?

What is at stake here is the definition of the social. Distinctions between emotionality, sociality and rationality are blurred biologically involving manifold technical devices and procedures. Especially in brain imaging, sociotechnical constellations are involved in the reconstitution of the subject as a cerebral subject. Or, even better, the “biotechnical cerebral subject”.

Considering the “biotechnical cerebral subject” it is obvious that not only the definition of sociality is at stake but also the definition of the brain and its functioning. Both definitions heavily rely on technical assistance, especially brain imaging devices.

(Functional) brain imaging and Brain Computer Interfaces (BCI) rely on the adjustment of imaging devices, software, researchers and subjects to produce “working images”. “Working images” are images without artefacts, easy to interpret and providing as much information as possible. The use of models is not restricted to software but present in any imaging situation: standardized brains can only be produced by standardizing procedures. The “biotechnical cerebral subject”, therefore, is not only a conceptual problem but a result of a relay of human and non-human agents following algorithmic procedures. The boundaries among subject and object, body and technology are blurred in the instance of producing images of the brain or using the “output” of the brain to move a cursor over a virtual keyboard. Nevertheless, neuroimaging is mostly not a means to deconstruct categories like gender but rather used to reaffirm these distinctions.

An even more advanced case of the sociotechnical redefinition of the subject is neurofeedback. Images of the brain produced with real-time fMRI are projected onto a display in front of the subject who can instantly watch

his brain working. Although these images are a result of a distinct constellation as described above, neurofeedback is considered to be a “closed loop” between brain and computer which can help the individual to influence the functioning of her brain on the basis of visualizations. The fact that these changes are not only changes in functionality but can result in structural changes (brain plasticity) further elaborates the notion of the biotechnical cerebral subject redefining and reconstituting the brain, itself, and the human in general.

Following key researchers like Norman Doidge, brain plasticity is “one of the most extraordinary discoveries of the twentieth century.” (Doidge 2007) Of course, this discovery has been quickly capitalised on in terms of the neurological self, keeping track of the development of her brain and investing in training it. After all, do all these findings and developments have real repercussions in society?

While the impact of reported findings in neuroscience seems to be huge, in everyday life it obviously does not play a major role for social relations or the self-management of individuals so far. Following a study of Martyn Pickersgill, Paul Martin and Sarah Cunningham-Burley (forthcoming) teachers for example have a lack of time for or interest in the research on brain plasticity; if they are aware of it, they rather ignore it since it contradicts some of their views. The neurobiological turn, therefore, does not seem to have arrived. Rather, the prominence of neuroscience in popular media seems to be resulting from a “vicious circle”: to attract funding, researchers tend to produce easily publishable results, including eye-catching visualizations and images. At the same time, these practices react upon the laboratory practices, encouraging research on not so neurologically relevant but popular issues.

The neurobiological turn is certainly not a complete turnaround, a revolution. Nevertheless, “neurobiologisation” and the creation of the “biotechnical cerebral subject” are part of a creeping evolution. The diagnostic equipment used in psychology still primarily consists of “old-fashioned” instruments (e.g. mood diaries) that use categorizations and statistical methods to standardize particular feelings, moods and behaviours into one universal diagnosis. Comparably, fMRI-based lie detection software is very rarely used in court. Nevertheless, problems

of neurobiological findings and their applications need to be tackled before they are fully established. Even the “old-fashioned” instruments change the subject by changing their conduct of living. Furthermore, the diagnostic equipment of psychology is also used as a basis for research on brain diseases. When subjects are to be selected for a brain imaging study on obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), the criterion is a diagnosis based on the most famous psychological test for OCD, the Y-BOCS. If a court considers using lie detection it has to question the notion that the truth is hidden unconsciously and bear the fact in mind that lie detection works best for confessions. Unfortunately, the role of models, methods, and technical devices is generally underestimated. Quite the contrary: in neuromarketing and neuroeconomics the assumption of being able to side-step humans’ messy subjectivity (Wells 2008) and letting brain waves speak directly outweighs the awareness of the constructedness of neuroscientific knowledge.

After all this, what should STS perspectives on Neuroscience be like - criticism, co-operation, or collaboration? Considering the discussion in the panel in Trento, I think STS perspectives should be very flexible and change their roles strategically. STS would then adapt to the functioning of its “object” which consists of networks within which the objects of neuroscience are mingling. The definition of the social cannot be left to neuroscience alone. It would likewise be negligent to claim sovereignty for social sciences in the realm of the social. Rather, STS should constantly watch and analyze the development and evolution of neuroscience objects and practices to be ready to intervene in

“neurobiologisation”. Whether to criticise, co-operate or collaborate has to be a situational decision. Stay tuned, STS!

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- Wells, Jennifer. 2008. *The Brain Guy wants to get inside your head: Are you paying attention? Are you engaged? Are you remembering what you see?*
<http://www.neurofocus.com/pdfs/TorontoGlobeBob.pdf>

Panel Organizers:

Andy Balmer (Sheffield)
Des Fitzgerald (London)
Martyn Pickersgill (Edinburgh)

Participants:

Johannes Bruder (Basel/Lucerne)
Choon Key Chekar (Cardiff)
Lotta Hautamäki (Helsinki)
Torsten Heinemann (Frankfurt)
Pim Klaasen (Amsterdam)
Paul Martin (Nottingham)
Svenja Matusall (Zürich)
Sigrid Schmitz (Vienna)
Tanja Schneider and Steve Woolgar (Oxford)

EASST Council Elections 2010

By: Sonia Liff

EASST is governed by an elected Council consisting of 8 members (including one position reserved for a student representative) and a separately elected President. The normal term of office is 4 years.

At the end of 2010 two members, Erika Mansnerus (London School of Economics, UK) and Tiago Moreira (Durham University, UK) completed their 4 year terms and Tomás Sánchez Criado

(Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain), who has been the student representative, stepped down after 2 years due to workload and moving to a post in Barcelona. EASST is very grateful for all their contributions. Erika has played an invaluable role as Treasurer for the last two years.

An election was held with 2 candidates for the student representative and 6 candidates for the other two positions. The election was held on line with

268 votes cast out of a potential electorate of 942 paid up members for 2010 (28% turnout).

Those with the most votes were elected and are: Ingmar Lippert (student representative), Attila Bruni and Laura Watts.

Ingmar Lippert has studied STS at Lancaster's IEPPP & Sociology departments. As an undergraduate he studied environmental management in Eastern Germany (Cottbus) and Istanbul. After working as a research fellow at IAS-STIS (Graz) he moved on to a PhD at Augsburg University. Ingmar wants to promote the active participation of students in EASST and encourage EASST to reflect on the disciplinary and organisational contexts of STS students. He intends to promote student interests and activities at the EASST / 4S 2012 Conference.

Attila Bruni lectures at the Department of Sociology and Social Research of the Faculty of Sociology of the Trento University (Italy) and was the principal local organiser for the EASST_010 Conference. He

is also president of the Italian Society on Science and Technology Studies. He would like to promote initiatives to support the development of EASST (and STS) in Mediterranean and East European countries, two geographical areas which are currently under-represented inside EASST but where there are more and more STS-oriented scholars, research and activities.

Laura Watts is based in Denmark at Technologies in Practice research group, IT University of Copenhagen, but spent seven years at Lancaster University. She wants to support the development of EASST's online activities by building on her experience of using current internet tools to bring diverse STS scholars together. This could include making appropriate use of online tools to support collaboration between scholars (e.g. newsfeeds, forums, videoconferences, downloadable keynote lectures).

Thanks to all who participated in the election, particularly those who were willing to be nominated.

New Website and Membership System

News from the Out-going EASST Council

For some time the EASST Council has been discussing the need for a new website and membership administration system and in recent months has been considering a number of tenders for this work. A decision was reached by the Council in December 2010 to move to a new provider of web services. It was intended to have an orderly transition to a new system in Spring 2011 and to communicate this in advance to members. However EASST's webmaster decided to release a partial account of the process and outcome on Eurograd as soon as the decision was made and to resign with effect from January 1st 2011 at 10 days notice. A number of misleading allegations have been circulated which are without any foundation.

In response the EASST Council issued the following statement:

Richard Rogers has played an invaluable role for many years in the development and success of EASST and his contribution is very much appreciated by the EASST Council.

In response to his resignation from the role of

webmaster, we would like to clarify matters.

Strong fluctuation in membership has over the past years been partly due to inefficient administrative tools such as a manually edited database. Furthermore, many requests have been made in recent years for the enhancement of our communication and networking functions on our website. A prerequisite for the development of EASST into a lively community is efficient membership administration and a well-organised website.

The EASST Council has over the past 18 months worked to find a solution that covers these needs. We invited proposals from a range of organisations (including the company that created the existing website). The process was reported to the EASST members meeting at the Trento conference in September 2010. Richard has been fully consulted and his criticisms of the options were circulated to Council members and taken into account.

We can reassure everyone that the Council

followed its democratic procedures properly and is prudent with EASST finances. The details of the proposal will be made available to EASST members in the next edition of the EASST Review.

EASST was to continue to pay Richard for his services over a longer handover period to be mutually agreed. Unfortunately he has decided to resign at very short notice. We understand his disappointment about a decision with which he disagrees but request his cooperation to ensure continuity in the availability of the EASST website and its links with the Eurograd list. (issued on Eurograd 22nd December 2010)

Subsequently NomadIT have agreed at very short notice, and over a holiday period, to take over management of the Eurograd list, provide an interim website and work with EASST Council over the development of a new site in the next few months.

More background to the decision to explore options for a new web site and administrative systems; the process and its outcomes is provided below.

In the last issue of EASST Review an analysis was presented (Steward & Piterou) showing that while numbers participating in EASST conferences has been growing over time there is a very high level of turnover of individual participants. In addition, while some conferences have widened participation geographically this has not been consolidated from one conference to the next. It was concluded that:

‘Such high turnover prevents the pursuit of a long term strategy of European diversification. It is also likely to result in weaker long term identification with EASST by any participant. To encourage a more durable organization EASST must move toward a robust annual membership system and offer a clearer range of services in addition to a biennial conference.’

These findings reinforced discussions in EASST Council and members’ meetings which had been underway for several years about the need for an enhanced and more interactive website. Administratively, there has also been concern about the time consuming nature of systems used to manage membership payments and details, and the difficulty in providing reports to Council on financial and membership issues.

The May 2009 Council meeting requested the EASST website designers to quote for a log in

system to the current site which would allow members to check and change their own details, and would provide a platform for member only content.

When Council met again in January 2010 they did not feel that the cost quoted for this had been justified in terms of the level of enhancement that would be achieved. It was decided instead to explore the option of a website redesign in addition to improving the admin systems, with a need for the two elements needed to work together.

A design brief was then developed which specified that the new site should have an individual log-in facility to give members the ability to update their profiles (extending from contact details to interests etc.) and the opportunity to search for others with similar interests or location (to facilitate working groups, for example). It also specified a more sophisticated interface for the on-line payment system with greater flexibility for personal membership and payment details and on-line payment options (e.g. continuing subscriptions). It suggested that some content should continue to be available on a public access basis and other content on a members’ only basis. Two new forms of likely additional content were specified: (i) a searchable database of EASST conference abstracts presented over 25 years and (ii) teaching materials such as course outlines, reading lists (identified as of interest through the meeting of EASST Council with national STS organizations). The brief also specified the need for a simple route for making updates arising from a variety of people.

A number of organisations were approached and those who expressed interest were sent the design brief. At the same time options for upgrading the administrative systems were considered and organisations which specialised in this area were approached.

We received quotes and information from 5 organisations some of which only dealt with the website element, some only with the admin systems, and one both. Since the systems needed to work together EASST’s administrator presented 6 options for combining the different providers to cover both aspects. These were then assessed in terms of the benefits they offered, the risks or constraints involved, the consequences for the workloads of Council members and paid support, and the set-up and on-going costs. These options and all the original tenders were circulated to all elected Council members and the two co-opted members with a recommendation from the President. This was the basis for the Council’s discussion and decision.

A tender for a newly designed, drupal-based,

website (from a different provider to that of EASST's existing website) and one from a mainstream provider of admin systems software to non-profit organisations both involved high set up costs. Options which involved them were not considered desirable for this reason. The other options differed in the extent to which they delivered what was sought, the associated risks – for example in terms of getting different systems to work together or of dependence on particular software or providers, and the levels of set-up, on-going costs, and continued dependence on unpaid work. The recommended option was a newly designed website integrated with a membership management system provided by NomadIT and administered by EASST. The EASST President summarised the positive features of this option to Council members as offering:

- An enthusiastic team with direct experience of running a similar European organisation;
- A new website integrated with an online membership system;
- The option of adding a proven conference management system;
- A reduction in the amount of unpaid EASST administrator time;

- Flexibility to contract out extra administrative support if needed;
- Affordability in relation to our resources and budget precedents;
- A virtual office able to support the EASST administration in any country;
- Availability to develop the new system for spring 2011

He concluded that 'none of the other options offer this combination. The company has a 10 year track record and very positive references. The option involves an ongoing administrative service by NomadIT and the potential risks of discontinuity appear fairly low and acceptable.'

EASST Council members discussed and then endorsed this recommendation.

As reported to the General Meeting in Trento over the last 2 years EASST allocated around 20% of its budget to web and admin related activities. EASST Council is meeting in a few weeks to finalise the next budget and it is expected that this proportion will remain broadly similar.

Chris Freeman (1921 -2010)

By Fred Steward

I attended the memorial for Chris Freeman at the University of Sussex on 30 November 2010. The tributes from a diversity of his friends and colleagues were testimony to his remarkable role as a founding figure in the interdisciplinary study of science, technology & innovation. As well as creating the internationally renowned research centre, SPRU, his own intellectual journey crossed many disciplinary boundaries and engaged vigorously with the policy world. He acknowledged a key intellectual debt to the marxist pioneer in the social analysis of science, JD Bernal. Although Chris Freeman is probably best known for his contributions to Schumpeterian analysis of long waves & innovation, and the national systems of innovation approach, his interests were much more diverse. He also published on science & society, R&D

management practices, innovation networks, and in recent years on the challenge of environmental sustainability. An internationalist in outlook he was a key promoter of PAREX, created 40 years ago as a European collaboration in the history and social studies of science. This was the direct forerunner of EASST. One common theme in the recollections was of Chris's warm enthusiasm and supportiveness for all who shared a genuine interest in science, technology and society, whatever their background. Another was his sustained commitment to social change for a more just and sustainable world. It was a timely reminder of the values and achievements of a unique figure in the origin of our field.

Conference Announcements and Calls for Papers

The conference **Rethinking Jacques Ellul and the Technological Society in the 21st Century** invites submissions of papers. The international conference will take place at the **University of Lisbon, Portugal, June 17-18, 2011**. The conference will mark the centenary of the birth of Jacques Ellul (1912-1994) and aims to serve as a forum for assessing the legacy of his contributions especially to the sociological understanding of technological society. Since the publication of *La Technique ou l'enjeu du siècle* (1954) the century has itself changed and various actors are placing bets on globalization, terrorism, capitalism, democracy, religion, and more. The working hypothesis of the conference is nevertheless that continuing benefit can be derived from Ellul's ideas and insights, in our search for a better understanding of the issues and dilemmas of the twenty-first century. As one result of the conference, we plan to prepare a special journal issue or book based on a selection of the papers presented at the conference. The conference will include invited keynote talks and contributed oral presentations. English is the official language of the conference. Paper presentations will be 25 minutes, plus discussion. No registration fee is charged. The conference welcomes presentations on all relevant areas to which Ellul's concepts and ideas are pertinent. The goal is to show new directions in research on Ellul and a valuable contribution to core issues of the twenty-first century. The list of topic areas outlined below is suggestive of the topics under consideration, but by no means restricted to them: Social theory and technology; Globalization; Legal institutions, politics and bureaucracy; Capitalism, economy and consumerism; Ecologism and regionalism; Religion; Mass media and propaganda; Violence and terrorism; and Urban studies. **Abstracts will be accepted online until 14 February 2011**. The abstracts must be up to 500 words in length (references excluded) and submitted via email to Helena Jerónimo: jeronimo@iseg.utl.pt. The abstracts should include the name(s) of author(s), affiliation(s), contact details and the paper title. Decisions on acceptance will be communicated to authors by 10 March 2011. On acceptance, we expect the full paper to be submitted no later than 31 May 2011. Selected papers will be published in a special issue or international book in 2012. The full paper must be up to 4,000 words in length (references excluded).

They will be peer reviewed and evaluated based on interest, originality and relevance to the book. Assessment and selection will be made by a Scientific Committee composed of Helena Jerónimo (School of Economics and Management, Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal), José Luís Garcia (Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon, Portugal), Carl Mitcham (Colorado School of Mines, USA), Daniel Cérézuelle (director of PADES, Programme Autoproduction et Développement Social, France) and Patrick Chastenet (UFR and Université Montesquieu Bordeaux IV, France). Full texts of papers must be submitted online by 31 May 2011.

Neuro-Reality Check: Scrutinizing the 'neuro-turn' in the humanities and natural sciences is the title of a workshop to take place at the **Max Planck Institute, Berlin, 1-3 December 2011**. Today, few developments in the world of science and technology would seem to draw comparable degrees of attention, commentary and sheer excitement than the neurosciences. Within and without academia it has become routine to celebrate or alternatively, to castigate, the purportedly palpable effects and consequences – social, political, cultural and intellectual - of the recent expansions of the neurosciences. Whether we witness art historians finding fault with neuro-enthusiastic colleagues, linguists warning of a 'new biologism', ethicists, science policy strategists and anthropologists pondering the future impacts of neuroscience, literary critics and artists dabbling in mirror-neurons, or media-savvy neuroscientists forming a new kind of public intellectual, the neurosciences have, without question, inspired a great deal of scholarly and not-so-scholarly action. Indeed, so familiar have these discourses become, so seemingly self-evident their significance, that the problematisations of the neurosciences rarely appear to move beyond elaborations of the already familiar or, at best, partisan polemics. More problematic, on closer inspection the majority of these diverse neuro-discourses would seem to operate on a very thin evidential basis. Claims being made about neuroscience's societal impacts more often than not possess the same kind of impressionistic qualities as the growing alarmism on the part of Geisteswissenschaftler lamenting the neuro-induced loss of cultural capital and contracting research

budgets. The conspicuous absence of a solid evidential basis in these matters is the working hypothesis of the planned workshop: Neuro-Reality Check. Our ambition is to take problematisations of the neurosciences to another level. While numerous new scholarly projects in the social sciences and humanities have recently emerged to analyze the growth of 'neuromania', our workshop aims to bring together scholars from a diversity of disciplinary backgrounds in order to step back a little, and to probe deeper into the alleged effects and actual causes of the ongoing neurohype. This will include exploring the extent to which discourses engendering neuroscience in fact do match neuroscience's real world (social) effects; but it will also include interrogating the anatomy of the neuro-discourses themselves, and to locate the immense attractions and functions of the 'neuro' in the broader scheme of - intellectual and political - things: the promise and attractions of 'interdisciplinarity' within contemporary humanities; the surge of underlabouring specialities such as neuroethics; or the rise and growing acceptance, within recent years, of a new (neuro) 'biologism' in a great many academic disciplines and popular culture at large, as well as the opposition this engenders. Our aim, in other words, is to encourage a more de-centred kind of analysis than the one typically pursued: Why, for instance, is it that art historians or political theorists choose to eschew 'theory' in favour of neuroscientific wisdom? Which ideological sea-changes reside behind the frequently proclaimed 'crisis' in the humanities, and how do they resonate with the turn to the 'neuro'? What are the interests and economic conditions driving the mushrooming of interdisciplinary neuro-X academic subfields in the contemporary academic landscape? Or again, is it really - empirically- the case that we are on the verge on of a 'neuro-revolution', our life-worlds, language and habits already being subtly transformed? The general aim of the workshop, then, is to gather together scholars working on, and thinking about the sprawling discourses surrounding the neurosciences today, to arrive at a clearer understanding of just why it is that within and beyond academia 'neuroscience' generates the excitement and fears that it unquestionably does. Through this workshop, we aim to improve on the latter as well as to invite scholars to reflect upon these - both embracing and hostile - responses. All submitted abstracts showing some relation to our main theme will be given careful consideration. In case of successful submission, we will be able to cover travel costs (economy class) and

accommodation in Berlin. Abstracts of up to 300 words should include your name, institutional affiliation, and email address. These should be submitted by email to Suparna Choudhury (schoudhury@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de) and Max Stadler (mstadler@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de). The **deadline for abstract submission is 15 February 2010**.

The **Israeli Society for History & Philosophy of Science** is pleased to announce its eleventh annual conference, which will be held on **March 6, 2011 at the Bloomfield Science Museum Jerusalem**. The conference constitutes a meeting site for scholars from different fields, such as history, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, political science, the natural and medical sciences, economics, and literature, who are all engaged in studying different aspects of the theoretical and applied sciences, medicine, and technology. We welcome proposals for 20 minute long lectures in Hebrew or English, or 90 minute long panels, which may include three to four presentations, on all aspects of science, medicine, and technology, both contemporary and historical, including different aspects of sciences, technology, and medicine in Israel. Priority will be given to panel proposals. Guidelines for submission: Please send 250 to 400 word long abstracts. Panel proposals should include a description of the panel, names and institutional affiliations of the panellists, their emails and telephone numbers, and a short abstract of each presentation. Please email the submissions in MS Word file format to isrhps@gmail.com. The **deadline for submission is January 1, 2011**. For additional information and advice on presentations and panels, please visit the society website at www.ishps.org or email us at isrhps@gmail.com. Conference organizing committee: Nadav Davidovitch, Oshrit Yikneh, Moshe Cohen, Ariel Zimmerman, and Yifat Rosenman.

Simulating Knowledge Dynamics in Innovation Networks, the 1st workshop of the SKIN community, will take place on **31 March to 1 April 2011 at the University of Koblenz-Landau, Koblenz, Germany**. This workshop provides a meeting place for the growing community of researchers using the SKIN model or wanting to learn more about it. SKIN is a multi-agent model of innovation networks in knowledge-intensive industries that is grounded in empirical research and theoretical frameworks from innovation economics and economic sociology. Using conceptual models based on empirical studies, SKIN is a platform for

learning about different processes for creating, transferring and distributing knowledge, collaborating for innovation, and the governance of these processes, collaborations and networks. The workshop programme is available online at <http://cress.soc.surrey.ac.uk/skin/events/19-skin-workshop-1>. The workshop will take place at the University of Koblenz-Landau. The university is located in the delightful city of Koblenz at the junction of the Rhine and Moselle rivers in the German wine making region of Rheinland-Pfalz. It can be reached easily from Frankfurt Airport, or from Cologne. A limited supply of very cheap accommodation (bed and breakfast: €21 per night) and more luxurious accommodation adjacent to the University (€58 per night) is available. A registration fee of €80 to cover both refreshments and a workshop dinner at a local castle will be charged. If you wish to attend the workshop, please register using the form at: <https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dGNDRUxsVzJ1dWJYOHIvdkIzSzZ5Z3c6MQ>. **Registrations will be accepted up to 5th March 2011, but early registration is advised** because places at the workshop are limited.

A workshop on "**Personal Identities after the Information Revolution**" is to take place at the **University of Hertfordshire, UK, 17 June 2011**, and the **deadline to respond to the call for papers is 15 March 2011**. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are building a new habitat (infosphere) in which we are spending an increasing amount of time. So, how individuals construct and maintain their personal identities online (PIOs) is a problem of growing and pressing importance. Today, PIOs can be created and developed, as an ongoing work-in-progress, to provide experiential enrichment, expand, improve or even help to repair relationships with others and with the world, or enable imaginative projections (the "being in someone else's shoes" experience), thus fostering tolerance. However, PIOs can also be mis-constructed, stolen, "abused", or lead to psychologically or morally unhealthy lives, causing a loss of engagement with the actual world and real people. The construction of PIOs affects how individuals understand themselves and the groups, societies and cultures to which they belong, both online and offline. PIOs increasingly contribute to individuals' self-esteem, influence their life-styles, and affect their values, moral behaviours and ethical expectations. It is a phenomenon with enormous practical implications, and yet, crucially, individuals as well as groups seem to lack a clear, conceptual

understanding of who they are in the infosphere and what it means to be an ethically responsible informational agent online. The workshop will address this gap in our philosophical understanding by addressing questions such as How does one go about constructing, developing and preserving a PIO? Who am I online? How do I, as well as other people, define and re-identify myself online? What is it like to be that particular me (instead of you, or another me with a different PIO), in a virtual environment? Should one care about what happens to one's own PIO and how one (with his/her PIO) is perceived to behave online? How do PIs online and offline feedback on each other? Do customisable, reproducible and disposable PIOs affect our understanding of our PI offline? How are we to interpret cases of multiple PIOs, or cases in which someone's PIO may become more important than, or even incompatible with, his or her PI offline? What is going to happen to our self-understanding when the online and offline realities become intertwined in an "onlife" continuum, and online and offline PIs have to be harmonised and negotiated? We welcome submissions addressing similar questions, or comparing and evaluating standard philosophical approaches to personal identity problems by analysing how far they may be extended to explain PIO, or seeking to complement the already available approaches. If in doubt, please feel free to contact Luciano Floridi (l.floridi@herts.ac.uk). Please submit extended abstracts (between 1000 and 1500 words all included, preferably in MS Word format) for papers suitable for 40-minute presentations to Luciano Floridi (l.floridi@herts.ac.uk) by 15 March 2011. A number of bursaries for graduate students presenting papers will be available, on a competitive basis, to contribute to travel and accommodation expenses. Please specify if you wish to apply for one. Successful submissions will be selected for two special issues, to be published one by Minds and Machines and the other by Ethics and Information Technology. The workshop is part of a series of meetings organized by the AHRC-funded project "The Construction of Personal Identities Online". More information about the project is available here.

A Ph.D. course in Sociotechnical Theory and Analytical Methods will be offered at the **Technical University of Denmark (DTU)**. The course is intended for students already familiar with Science and Technology Studies (STS), as well as those who may be relatively new to the field. Course supervision will emphasize the individual

participants' Ph.D. projects, in relation to the course's subject matter. 5 ECTS credits, offered in two parts: **Part 1 is June 7-9, 2011 (2.5 days) and Part 2 is August 22-23, 2011 (2 days)**. The location is the Technical University of Denmark (DTU Lyngby Campus, Denmark). The course addresses analytical challenges and methodological issues, focusing on Actor-Network Theory (ANT) and Social Construction of Technology (SCOT), while engaging also Domestication of Technology, 'Post-ANT' and the notion of Boundary Objects, in a more delimited capacity. Central to the course will be 1) working reflexively with how the empirical material plays a role in one's scoping and building of theory; and 2) conversely, how theoretical insights help in guiding analytical work based on one's empirical material. The course is open to both participants within, as well as outside of, the Doctoral Program in Design & Innovation. The maximum number of participants is 15. Participants are expected to prepare a brief project description (see further details below), in connection with the application procedure. In addition, once accepted, participants will be given a syllabus to read prior to the course, as well as a brief 15-minute presentation of their project to date, for when we meet for the first part of the course. During the interim between the June and August course dates, the participants are to develop a working draft (on the order of 10-15 pages), drawing upon relevant aspects of the course's subject matter. It may be a position paper with the aim to address the dissertation's theoretical scope and orientation, and/or work on the actual analytical treatment of some empirical material depending on how far into the dissertation work the participant is at that point in time. The draft is intended for the participant to produce and receive critique on writing that would be relevant for the dissertation work, and which may ultimately be incorporated into the dissertation later on. Application to the course may be made by e-mail to Yutaka Yoshinaka: yosh@man.dtu.dk and should contain the following: A brief document (2-3 pages), submitted in Word, comprising of a project description, including a delineation of some tentative research questions and indication of the empirical domain of inquiry for the project at hand. Your motivation for wishing to enrol in the Ph.D. course. You may relate the course's subject matter (STS) to any main theoretical and methodological challenges or concerns you may have at present, and are keen on addressing and working with during the course. **Deadline for applications is Friday, April 15th, 2011.** Applicants will receive notification by Friday, May 6th, at the latest. Participation in the

course is free of charge, while any expenses toward accommodation or transportation for participating in course, must be met by the participants themselves. Course instructors: Assoc. Prof. Yutaka Yoshinaka, Technical University of Denmark (DTU), email: yosh@man.dtu.dk and Post Doc. Søsler Brodersen, Technical University of Denmark (DTU), email: sbro@man.dtu.dk.

The **10th Conference of the European Sociological Association, Social Relations in Turbulent Times**, is to be held in **Geneva, 7-10 September 2011**. **Research Network 24, the Sociology of Science and Technology Network (SSTNET)** has issued a call for papers on Social Organization, Participation and Governance in Science and Technology. During the past few years the impact of the financial crisis has had significant consequences on the lives of people around the world. The instability and turbulence created by economic uncertainty has created a need to find ways in which to manage crisis situations and create stability in society. Science and technology have traditionally been perceived as tools through which various governments and institutions attempt to create stability in society. At the same time crises and turbulences, such as environmental problems and climate change, are created by the supposed stability and path-dependence of socio-technical systems. Many have argued that participatory governance strategies are needed to de-stabilise and overthrow unsustainable and obdurate socio-technical configurations. Within this context the ambivalent relation between science and society is central in that various forms of social organization of science, research output, public/citizen participation and engagement in decision making, public understanding of science, as well as people's perception and images of science and technology are particularly relevant in relation to new modes and models of governance in research and development. The models and modes of governance in turn are impacted and impact the ways in which social turbulence and instability can be mitigated and controlled, but also in the ways new forms of instability and turbulence are possibly created. The Sociology of Science and Technology Network (SSTNET) would like to invite papers to its sessions which touch upon the themes of social organization, productivity, governance, participation, perception and images of science and technology and its relation to social relations in turbulent times. This may also touch upon any of the following general themes: Governance of science and technology; Public understanding of science; Public engagement

in science and technology; Public perceptions of science and technology; Representations of science in mass media; User engagement in R&D; Science and society; Science and development policies; Science, climate change and energy policy; Changes of social organization of science; Economic crisis and resource allocation in S&T; S&T productivity; and Developing all human resources in S&T – the role of women and young researchers. Papers that address these and other topics from a sociological, epistemological/philosophical, anthropological, psychological, historical, economic, informational, bibliometric, scientometric, political and policy perspective are welcomed. We especially encourage submissions from PhD students and people approaching these issues from an interdisciplinary perspective. The **deadline for submitting an abstract is 22.2.2011**. Please visit the ESA conference website <http://www.esa10thconference.com/> where you can find more information on the conference, including further instructions on abstract submission. For further information please contact RN 24 Co-ordinators: Aaro Tupasela and Katarina Prpić. Email: aaro.tupasela@helsinki.fi and katarina@idi.hr.

Science and the Public Conference 2011, the 6th annual conference on "A Quarter Century of PUS: Retrospect and Prospect" has issued a call for papers. The 2011 Science and the Public Conference will be held at **Kingston University in South West London on 2-3 July**. 2010 marked the 25th anniversary of the publication of the Royal Society's report into the public understanding of science. The Bodmer Report was critical in stimulating the wave of interest in the public's relation to science that continues today in, amongst other things, the present conference, now in its sixth year. It famously presented a call for 'improvement' in the public understanding of science that birthed what we have come to know (if not always love!) as the 'deficit model'. However much this model has been questioned – and jettisoned – over the past quarter-century, it did at least define an agenda of concerns and a clear direction for further work. In Gregory and Miller's term, it set in train 'the public understanding of science movement', a movement that has since grown and spread in diverse and variegated ways, as well as stimulating a diversity of critical responses. So, we think now is an opportune time to take stock of where we have come from and where we are headed, to reappraise the Bodmer Report's historical and socio-cultural significance and to consider where we have got to

since and where we might be going over the next quarter-century. Is there still (or was there ever?) a 'public understanding of science movement' and if so where is it and what form does it take? Is it now defined by 'engagement', by 'dialogue' or by some other mode of public interface? Is the deficit model dead and if so has it been properly buried or does it still haunt our corridors? What else is there? What shape does the PUS field now have? Is there a comparable agenda of concerns to that defined by Bodmer and if so what is it? And in what direction(s) should work now be going? What about the critical responses? Where have they taken us and where might they be taking us in future? Is there a consensus or do we remain a field in conflict with entrenched opponents, if no longer actively at 'war', then hunkered down in separate bunkers refusing – or simply neglecting – to speak to each other? Is there, indeed, a language we share to communicate with each other, let alone the public? With all this in mind, we particularly invite papers and panels that address the following themes and issues, although we stress that we are open to additional suggestions and proposals: reflections on the Bodmer Report and its historical, sociological and/or cultural significance; the PUS movement and its off-spring; how engaged is 'engagement' and how dialogical is 'dialogue'?; the prospects and circumspects of 'citizen science'; the new science communication – education, entertainment ... or irritation?; new forms and modes of popularisation; technoscience and its consumption; science, art and culture – changes, developments, continuities; theorising PUS; methods of research – new developments, new thoughts, new proposals; and new agendas for the science/public relationship and its academic study. Please **email abstracts** of 250 words to Lallibone@kingston.ac.uk or s.locke@kingston.ac.uk by **28 February 2011**. Further details about the conference are available at <https://sites.google.com/site/scienceandthepublic2011/>.

The **10th Annual IAS-STS Conference, "Critical Issues in Science and Technology Studies,"** to take place on **May 2-3, 2011 in Graz, Austria**, has issued a call for papers. The IAS-STS is hosted by the IFZ - Interuniversity Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture (www.ifz.tugraz.at), which promotes the interdisciplinary investigation of the links and interactions between science, technology and society, technology assessment, as well as research on the development and implementation of socially and environmentally sound technologies. IAS-STS also hosts

international fellows and research associates through its fellowship programme. Special sessions include "Issues of Inclusion and Exclusion in Web 2.0." For this part of the conference, contributions on the topic "Issues of Inclusion and Exclusion in Web 2.0" are looked for. Web 2.0 is considered as user-centred and democratic: Everybody is said to be able to participate and it seems that nearly everybody does. However, this is not the case of course. The Internet with all its interactive applications is not as colourful as it could be, it does not represent the 'real' world and it is definitely not democratic per se. There also will be a workshop on "the Concept of 'Heteronormativity' and its Methodological Implications." Conference participants interested in joining this workshop please contact Birgit Hofstätter (hofstaetter@ifz.tugraz.at) by **March 31, 2011**. Another Special Session is dedicated to "Trans-disciplinarity in sustainability studies." We invite presentations dealing with concepts, models and experiences of trans-disciplinary research (TDR) in the context of ecological and social sustainability. We are interested in reflecting the possibilities and limits of this type of research. The trans-disciplinarity panel will be organized along specific sessions, and we are looking forward to experience based or conceptual papers with a focus on one of the following issues: 1. Integrated knowledge production: An important aspect of TDR refers to topics of the production of new and integrated knowledge. We shall discuss questions about the ways in which different kinds of knowledge - represented by the different actors participating - are both being treated and integrated in the research process. How do TDR actors work together to develop mutual learning, new understandings and to produce new and integrated knowledge? How does social learning relate to knowledge integration? 2. (policy) Intervention: Interventions resulting from trans-disciplinary research activities may prove the specific relevance of this specific type of research. We would like to reflect on the potential for interventions based on empirical papers, which describe interventions that have been taking place in the context of carrying out TDR, and under what circumstances that happened. Which kinds of interventions take place in TDR? How can TDR be designed in order to allow for interventions? 3. Societal relevance of trans-disciplinary research: TDR is considered being a useful tool for solving complex 'real world' problems. The added value of this mode of research is often ascribed to its societal relevance and a high potential for societal impact. In this session we want to discuss the societal

relevance on the basis of concrete cases. How do specific cases illuminate the societal relevance of TDR-activities? Which methodological tools can be applied to assess the societal relevance of TDR? The sessions will be affiliated to the final conference of the project "Sustainable behavior at work and in private life" organized in parallel to the IAS-STS conference. Information on further special sessions is available at http://www.ifz.tugraz.at/index_en.php/article/articleview/2070/1/74/. The 10th IAS-STS conference invites all current and former fellows of the Institute for Advanced Studies as well as other interested researchers in the area of science and technology studies. The conference provides a forum to discuss on a broad variety of topics in the STS field and especially papers are encouraged which include some aspects of the above mentioned conference themes. Abstracts should include no more than 250 words, comprising detailed contact information, affiliation and specification of the conference theme you are referring to. **Submission of abstracts** should please be send to Birgit Hofstätter (conference@ifz.tugraz.at) by **Monday, January 24, 2011**. We also appreciate proposals for poster presentations and specific sessions in the line with the conference themes. Proposals for sessions shall include a preliminary title of the session, names of possible speakers and a short outline on the issues to be discussed (max. 250 words) and should be send to the above mentioned email address by Monday, January 24, 2011. We also welcome participants attending the conference without presenting a paper themselves. Registration for the 10th IAS-STS conference on "Critical Issues in Science and Technology Studies" will be open until Monday, March 21, 2011. The online registration form will be accessible by the beginning of February 2011. IFZ- Inter-University, Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture, Schlögelgasse 2, 8010 Graz, Austria. For more information: www.sts.tugraz.at.

The Responsible Innovation Conference 2011, to take place in **The Hague, the Netherlands on 18-19 April 2011**, has **extended its call for abstracts to 17 January 2011**. We invite you to submit abstracts for the First Annual International Conference on Responsible Innovation organized by Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO). NWO has launched an interdisciplinary research program that brings together researchers from ethics, applied science and the social and behavior sciences in research projects that aim at designing solutions to urgent societal problems. We

encourage submissions from an interdisciplinary spectrum, including but not limited to philosophers, engineers, natural scientists, social scientists, and those involved in public or private policymaking. You can submit short abstracts for a paper or a poster session using the online submission form on the conference website, <http://www.responsible-innovation.nl>. Further information: info@responsible-innovation.nl. Each year, a selection of the best papers presented at the conference will be published in a new Springer series entitled "Responsible Innovation." Suitable topics include: Medical and biomedical research; Healthcare sector on the move / Trust and Electronic patient dossier / Telecare; Privacy and Virtual Reality; Surveillance society and privacy / Data mining and security; Neurotechnology / neuroimaging; Defence, security & military technology / Moral fitness of military personnel / Human enhancement and human dignity; Responsibility and sustainable food production; Biofuels / biodiversity / animal production; IPR and developing countries; Values, conflicts in values & culture / Persuasive technology / Soft impacts; Internationalization and equity; and Governance and converging technologies / Bio security and dual use. The background is that since 2008, the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) has funded the thematic Responsible Innovation research programme, abbreviated to "MVI" from the Dutch "Maatschappelijk Verantwoord Innoveren". For details see the programme website: <http://www.nwo.nl/mvi>. The Responsible Innovation programme is an alliance between the NWO divisions for Humanities, Social Sciences, Science for Global Development, the Technology Foundation STW, the Netherlands organisation for health research and development (ZonMW) and six Dutch ministries. Its total budget is approximately €12m. That budget will be used for two types of projects. It will be spent on long-term projects (4 years) with a maximum budget of €550,000, and on projects that focus specifically on policy-support research. The maximum duration of those projects is one year, with a maximum budget of €125,000. In 2009 11 long-term and 5 short-term project have been awarded funding. The outcome of a second subsidy round will become available in Fall 2010. For more information on the projects currently running, see <http://www.nwo.nl/responsible-innovation>.

The **Summer School on Smart Homes and Health Telematics**, entitled "**Toward useful services for elderly and people with disabilities**," is to take

place on **16-22 June 2011 in Montreal, Canada**. See www.icost2011.org. Smart Environments can be considered as an augmented environment capable of utilizing embedded computers, information appliances, micro/nano systems and multi-modal sensors, in which computational intelligence is ubiquitous to provide contextual, proactive and personalized services to people. Current advances in such enabling technologies make it possible to build real Smart Environments and hence provide the opportunity for novel applications and services to be delivered for improving the quality of life and health of people in their home and outside. In the near future, elderly and people with disabilities will avail of smart assistive technology to assist with carrying out daily living activities, to socialize, to enjoy entertainment and leisure activities all whilst maintaining good health and wellbeing. These Smart Environments are complemented through the role of health telematics. Health telematics approaches utilize advanced networks and telecommunication technologies to provide healthcare remotely. Combined with Ubiquitous technologies in Smart Environments, health telematics can radically transform the way health-related services (diagnosis, therapy and assistance) are conceived and delivered.

The History of 'Economics as Culture' has issued a call for its **3rd Workshop. Deadline for proposals is January 15, 2011**. "Histoire culturelle des savoirs économiques)" will be held on **Friday, April 8th, 2011 at the University of Cergy-Pontoise (near Paris, France)**. Our intention is to bring together scholars from different disciplines to discuss from an historical vantage point, the place of economics in our culture. Below are some suggestions of topics that exemplify what will be at issue: To consider the interactions between art, literature and economics; To discuss the interactions between cultural or artistic objects such as magazines, books, maps, photographs, paintings, graphs and economic thinking and to consider economic texts as cultural items and to reflect upon the consequences their physical form had on their reception; and to consider economics as part of cultures (political, commercial, scientific, etc.) of past (including very recent past) societies; in particular, to discuss the economic representations (or culture) of specific social groups such as merchants, workers, businessmen, etc. The workshop will comprise of 5 or 6 papers containing genuine unpublished research. If you have an interest in these topics, please send us a proposal of no more than 1000 words or a draft paper of what

you want to present **before January, 15** at the following address: historyofeconomicsculture@gmail.com. If you are interested in the subject but are unable to send a proposal, feel free to contact us at the same address for further discussion/information. Also, last year program is available here: <http://economix.u-paris10.fr/fr/activites/colloques/?id=113>.

Organizers are Loïc Charles (INED / University of Reims) and Yann Giraud (THEMA / University of Cergy-Pontoise).

The Epistemology of Modeling & Simulation, the conference to be held at the University of Pittsburgh, 1-3 April 2011, has issued a call for abstracts, with the deadline on 7 January 2011.

All information: www.modelingepistemology.pitt.edu. Submission of extended abstracts (approximately 1,000 words) is invited for presentations of approximately 30 minutes. Modeling work in any discipline or application is welcomed that includes philosophical

reflection on epistemological issues raised. Philosophical work in any relevant area is welcomed, with preference given for work that includes a focus on specific examples of contemporary modeling. Projects that involve both philosophers and those active in modeling research, outcomes, or policy impact are particularly encouraged. Limited graduate student and postdoctoral fellow travel support is available. The three-day conference will focus on philosophical issues that arise within the practice and application of contemporary research using modeling and simulation. The goal is to bring together sophisticated work in philosophy of science and ongoing efforts in modeling in order to build more effective collaboration between philosophers of science and those who build and employ models in a range of disciplines and applications. There is no registration fee for this event but pre-registration is requested at the following link: www.modelingepistemology.pitt.edu/registration.

Opportunities available

The Center for Genetics and Society is seeking **interns for Spring and Summer 2011** to support our efforts to ensure socially responsible policies regarding new human biotechnologies. Interns will play key roles in helping organize a major convening of public interest advocates, scholars, lawyers, scientists, and others working on the social justice/legal/policy dimensions of human genetic and reproductive technologies, to be held near New York City in late July. Applicants should have: Strong people and networking skills; ability to help get people working in concert; Strong event planning and management skills; Strong research, writing, and editing skills; Knowledge of or affinity for online communications tools and applications; and A Bachelors degree or higher or are in their final year of undergraduate study. Specific tasks might include: Preparing background materials for participants at the leadership meeting; Providing support for convenors of working groups at the meeting; Logistically supporting participants at the meeting; and Researching, writing, and editing CGS whitepapers, reports and other written materials. Familiarity with and strong interest in the issues is beneficial. Aspects include: Understanding of the politics and social implications of reproductive and

genetic biotechnologies, and of CGS's perspective on these issues; Technical understanding of human reproductive and genetic biotechnologies; Familiarity with domestic and/or international policy and legal frameworks regarding these technologies; and Experience in political or community organizing. **Part-time internships are available beginning in February 2011. Half to full-time internships, for 8-12 weeks, are available from mid-May or early June to late August;** Stipend/salary negotiable depending on experience and skills; and course credit may be arranged in cooperation with your institution. The Center for Genetics and Society is a nonprofit public affairs organization working to encourage responsible uses and effective societal governance of the new human genetic and reproductive technologies. We work with a growing network of scientists, health professionals, civil society leaders, and others. CGS supports benign and beneficent medical applications of the new human genetic and reproductive technologies, and opposes those applications that objectify and commodify human life and threaten to divide human society. CGS works in a context of support for the equitable provision of health technologies domestically and

internationally; for women's health and reproductive rights; for the protection of our children; for the rights of the disabled; and for precaution in the use of technologies that could alter the fundamental processes of the natural world. For more information about CGS and our current activities, see our website, www.geneticsandsociety.org. To apply, send cover letter and resume to Jillian Theil at jtheil@geneticsandsociety.org. Only strong candidates will be invited to interview, at which time they will be asked to provide references and a writing sample.

The **interdisciplinary post-graduate program "Topology of Technology" at Darmstadt University of Technology, Germany, announces 2 postdoc fellowships, starting Feb. 1, 2011, and running for 2 years.** The program is organized by teachers from the subjects of history, sociology, philosophy, literature criticism, mechanical engineering, informatics, and the planning sciences. It focuses on the relationship between technology and space at present, in history, and in a possible future. It has five thematic foci: The Persistence and Routinization of Daily Life in Technical Surroundings; The Formation and Limitations of Action in Spatial-Technological Settings; The Planning and Design of Technologies in a Spatial Context; and The Modeling and Simulation of Spatial Relations by Technological Means. The program is primarily financed by the German Research Council (DFG); see www.dfg.de. Monthly stipends range between 1,468 and 1,570 euros plus a consumables allowance of €103/month (parents receive additional child allowances). Applicants need to have a doctoral degree or at least they have to have submitted their dissertation. Since course work and seminars are carried out in both German and English, it is expected that applicants are willing to learn to read and understand spoken German. Fellows are expected to work together in our beautifully situated villa downtown Darmstadt and thus need to take up their residence in the city or the vicinity. Applications are only accepted in electronic form. They should include (1) a CV, (2) copies of academic diplomas, (3) a short description (max. 5 pages) of the planned doctoral dissertation, and (4) the names and addresses of two university professors who are willing to act as reference persons. Please send your application no later than 3 January, 2011 to topologie@ifs.tu-darmstadt.de. Please make sure that it includes a personally formulated explanation why you are particularly interested in the topic of the program and to which thematic focus your research will, in the first

instance, contribute. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact one of the directors: Petra Gehring (gehring@phil.tu-darmstadt.de) or Mikael Hård (hard@ifs.tu-darmstadt.de). More information about the research and teaching program of the post-graduate college/graduate school may be found under <http://www.ifs.tu-darmstadt.de/index.php?id=1921&L=2>.

King's College London and the University of Stuttgart are pleased to announce a new round of applications to their successful **PhD-Network: "The Internationalisation of Literature and Science since the Early Modern Period"**. Since 2008, this network has been run collaboratively by the two universities, and is based around a bi-national PhD programme which leads to the award of a Joint PhD by both institutions. The PhD-programme aims to forge interdisciplinary connections between various subjects in the Humanities (German Studies, Philosophy, English Studies, Comparative Literature, History, as well as the Histories of Medicine, Science and Technology). Partner institutions include the German Literature Archive in Marbach and the Institute for the History of Medicine of the Robert Bosch Foundation. The programme is particularly interested in projects which address inter- and transnational tendencies within the Humanities. Projects will develop both theoretical models for the as yet under-researched area of internationalisation, as well as critically assess historical case studies from the early modern period onwards. Specific areas of interest include the role of exchange movements and networks and the transfer of topics, practices and methods in literature and/or science. Current projects cover a diverse range of subjects, including the internationalisation of satire in Early Modern texts; the development of scientific conceptualisations of history in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; the international reception of contemporary German bestsellers; and the dissemination of theories of totalitarianism around the globe. Applicants from all disciplines are welcome to apply to the programme. Support includes a PhD stipend of 2,000 GBP a year for all successful candidates not otherwise funded by a full scholarship and who decided to undertake the full Joint-PhD. The PhD programme lasts three years, and students registered at King's will spend their second year at our partner university in Stuttgart. The programme is bilingual, and as such some knowledge of German is desirable for English speaking applicants. Applications should include: a CV; a brief project outline (max. 2,000 words)

including the topic, thesis, state of research, methods and a plan of work; and a cover letter (max. 600 words) explaining your interest in the programme and the thematic connections between your research project and your previous academic experience. Please address all applications and enquiries to: Dr. Ben Schofield, PhD-Net "Internationalisation of Literature and Science", Department of German, King's College London, Strand, London WC2R 2LS, UK. Email: benedict.schofield@kcl.ac.uk. The **deadline for applications is Friday 14th January 2011**.

MIT's Program in Science, Technology, and Society expects to fill a **post-doctoral fellowship for the 2011-2012 academic year**. The purpose of this fellowship is to foster research on the history of modern physical sciences by a recent recipient of the Ph.D. degree. The physical sciences may be interpreted broadly to encompass such disciplines as physics, astronomy, chemistry, mathematics, and earth sciences, as well as border fields between these disciplines. Projects should focus on topics dating since the beginning of the nineteenth century. Although projects may focus on any geographical region, comparative studies or projects that focus on non-European and non-American topics are particularly encouraged. The fellowship is open to all candidates regardless of citizenship, who have earned a Ph.D. in the history of science or cognate field. The candidate must be eligible for visa sponsorship. To apply for the fellowship, the candidate must have the Ph.D. in hand by the time the fellowship would begin, and must have obtained the Ph.D. no more than three years prior to beginning the fellowship. Primary responsibilities include (1) residence in the Boston / Cambridge area during the term of the appointment; (2) presentation of research in a colloquium or seminar in MIT's Program in Science, Technology, and Society; (3) participation in area workshops on the history of physical sciences; and (4) participation in the teaching of a one-semester undergraduate course. The fellowship provides a salary of \$44,304 plus health insurance. The one-year, 12-month position begins July 2011. There is a possibility for an additional one-year renewal. For more information, contact Prof. David Kaiser at dikaiser@mit.edu. In addition to a c.v. and two recommendation letters, applicants should submit a proposal for research to be conducted during the fellowship year; a writing sample (a published article or section from the dissertation); and a proposed course syllabus. Please do not send electronic copies. **Application materials should**

be sent by 1 February 2011 to: Patee Pinkney, Program in Science, Technology, and Society, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, E51-185, Cambridge, MA 02139 USA.

A **doctoral studentship** is available at the **Institute for Science, Innovation of Society (University of Oxford)** for a student interested in conducting doctoral research on intellectual property rights and biomedical research. The studentship is for a minimum of two years, with a possibility of extending it to a third one. The doctoral project will be part of a new research program on property rights and modes of exchange in the contemporary biosciences. Candidates with postgraduate experience in qualitative social scientific research will be preferred. Projects may focus on public-private collaborations for research on neglected diseases, the legal status of pluripotent cell lines, the uses of patented genetically modified animals in medical research, and similar topics. For more information, please contact Javier Lezaun (javier.lezaun@sbs.ox.ac.uk). The Institute for Science, Innovation and Society (<http://www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/centres/insis/>) is part of the University of Oxford's Saïd Business School. **The deadline for application to the School's Doctoral Programme is 7 January 2011**. For more information on see: [http://www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/Documents/newsletters/DPhil/Doctoral Programme Flyer 2010.html](http://www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/Documents/newsletters/DPhil/Doctoral%20Programme%20Flyer%202010.html) and <http://www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/degrees/dphil/>.

Applications are invited for **three six-month Post-Doctoral Researchers in 2011** within the **STS research programme of Maastricht University**. See <http://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/web/Faculties/FASoS/Theme/Research/ResearchInstituteForArtsAndSocialSciences.htm> or contact Prof. Wiebe E. Bijker for more information: w.bijker@maastrichtuniversity.nl. The fellowship is designed for junior scholars who have recently received their PhDs in order to provide an opportunity to prepare material for publication and to develop a research funding proposal to the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). During the six months of the fellowship, a professor of the STS staff will act as mentor. These include Prof. Wiebe Bijker, Prof. Karin Bijsterveld, Prof. Ernst Homburg, Prof. Tsjalling Swierstra, Prof. Sally Wyatt. The Post-Doctoral fellows are expected to deliver a presentation within the internal STS research seminar during the first month,

prepare at least one publication (in which STS Maastricht is acknowledged upon publication). A draft of the publication should be circulated no later than 2 months before the end of the fellowship to receive feedback, prepare a grant application for a new research project, and participate in all STS research meetings during the period of the fellowship, and be present at the department on a regular basis. We are looking for a prospective Post-doc candidate with PhD in STS, from a university in the Netherlands or abroad. The PhD should be completed by the time of application. Clear evidence of or potential for international excellence in published research. Fluency in spoken English and excellent written and verbal communication skills. Experience with grant acquisition would be desirable. Willingness and proven ability to work in a team and to liaise with colleagues and students in a university environment. Ability to develop contacts and participate in internal and external networks for the exchange of information and collaboration. The appointment as Post-doc candidate (researcher) is offered for a six-month period with a probation period of two months. Depending on experience and qualification, the gross monthly salary is about € 2.977,00 gross per month, scale level 10 (based on a full-time appointment). The gross salary for the six-month period is about € 20.700,00 (based on a full-time appointment). There is no formal application form. Applications are welcome in any area of the work of the STS research group. Candidates are invited to submit their application, including: (1) letter of motivation, (2) CV, (3) a 2-page statement outlining what you will work on while in Maastricht and why you want to be based the STS group in Maastricht University, (4) a copy of a publication, (5) a copy of your dissertation and (6) the names and addresses of two referees. **The deadline for submitting your application is January 1, 2011.** Please send your application to the Secretariat of the Faculty Office, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, P.O. Box 616, 6200 MD Maastricht, The Netherlands. Applications can also be submitted electronically at: mail pzfdewvacatures@maastrichtuniversity.nl.

The Innovation Studies Group at Utrecht University would like to draw your attention to these upcoming positions and invite interested candidates to contact Dr. Alexander Peine (e-mail: a.peine@geo.uu.nl; Tel: +31 30 2532782) or Prof. Dr. Harro van Lente (e-mail: h.vanlente@geo.uu.nl); Tel: +31 30 2537807). **Post-doctoral position: Socio-technical scenarios and strategy articulation in the fields of**

Nanomedicine and energy (full-time for the duration of 18 months). While the shape of nanotechnology applications and their eventual embedding in society and economy are uncertain, controlled speculation about applications and impact is possible with the help of socio-technical scenarios (see the results of the TA NanoNed program, www.nanoned.nl). Socio-technical scenarios as a constructive technology assessment approach build on insights from science, technology and innovation studies and on stakeholder knowledge. The postdoc will develop scenarios and organize stakeholder workshops aimed at articulation of strategic implications and potential impacts in the areas of Nanomedicine and energy. The project will be conducted in cooperation with a parallel project at the University of Twente. **PhD-positions: Articulation of sustainability in Nanomedicine and energy** (full-time for the duration of 4 years). The PhD project will explore the co-evolution of nanotechnology and articulations of sustainability in the fields of Nanomedicine and energy. While it is common knowledge that technology co-evolves with societal and individual needs, little is known about the early dynamics of this co-evolution. This project strives to illuminate these early dynamics by zooming in on the articulation of sustainability in the two complementary fields of Nanomedicine, where sustainability is related to the increasing pressure on health care systems in aging societies, and energy, where sustainability is defined by the quest to alter current regimes of energy production and use. To this end, the project will address how these broad ideas of sustainability are articulated and translated into more concrete ideas of “needs” as they are aligned with forms and definitions of nanotechnology in the ongoing streams of R&D activities and projects in the field.

The Leo Apostel Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies (Brussels University) offers **Post Doc positions and PhD scholarships** in a broad range of research fields including science and technology studies. See <http://www.vub.ac.be/CLEA/news/joboffers>.

There is a vacancy for a **full-time PhD position at the Free University of Brussels** (ref. IBBT/SMIT/Privacy). The research centre IBBT-SMIT at the Free University of Brussels (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) offers a full time PhD position in the field of Social Sciences, more in particular of Media and Communication Studies. The vacancy is open for a research position of 4 years, in order to

realize a PhD on the use of social media and social networks sites, the reconfiguration of privacy practices and the social and technological consequences thereof. The position starts in January 2011, and is supervised by Prof. Jo Pierson. Candidates are expected to show strong affinity with and interest in the domain of audience and user studies, social media technologies and media sociology, and are holder of a Masters degree in Social Sciences (Communication Studies, Sociology, ...). **Applications are to be sent electronically as soon as possible (at the latest by 14th January 2011)** to Hans De Canck (Hans.De.Canck@vub.ac.be) and Prof. Jo Pierson (jo.pierson@vub.ac.be). When applying, a motivation and an elaborated vision on the theme under concern are expected to be included with the CV. Contact information: Hans De Canck, IBBT-SMIT, Free University of Brussels (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), Pleinlaan 9, B-1050 Brussels, Tel.: +32-(0)2-6291628. We are witnessing the rapid growth of a new generation of participatory and collaborative network technologies that provide individuals with a platform for sophisticated online social interaction. Social networks today have hundreds of millions of users and are transforming our social and professional interactions and to some extent are shaping society itself. Gradually, society is discerning that this development not only brings strong benefits to the social and economic fabric, but also introduces new risks related to privacy violations. At this stage, these issues are often perceived as isolated incidents that most organizations do not take accountability for. Yet, the implications of social networking environments for individual users, communities, organizations and society at large will become much more evident and most likely more substantial if necessary precautions are not taken. Especially alarming is the massive responsibility that individuals incur with respect to managing privacy and security risks arising from the information collected and shared about their everyday life on social networking sites. This phenomenon is has been coined as the responsabilisation of individuals. The main objective of the overall research project is to mitigate the responsabilisation of individuals who use or are affected by social networking services by making the underlying social networking infrastructures and the organizations that run them more accountable. In order to achieve this objective first an understanding of the target audience is required as well as forms of responsabilisation. This target audience includes users, communities and organizations in Flanders (Belgium). The plan is to

develop solutions that facilitate better decision making with respect to the target groups, privacy and security concerns, and that mitigate the risks, threats and concerns that currently are manifest in this domain. The PhD research position at IBBT-SMIT (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) is part of this larger four-year interdisciplinary research project on security and privacy in online social networks, involving different Belgian universities and one American university. More in particular the doctoral research has a twofold perspective. On the one hand it wants to understand the practices and needs of users with regard to privacy issues within social network sites, mainly based on the use of qualitative and ethnographic methods. On the other hand it will focus on the critical design variables and tools for social software. For the latter a translation needs to be made from the user research findings to possible guidelines and requirements for future media and technological solutions.

Harvard University has a Postdoctoral Position available in Science, Technology and Society. The **deadline is January 15th, 2011.** The John F. Kennedy School of Government and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) at Harvard University are seeking to hire a Postdoctoral Fellow with expertise in Science, Technology and Society (STS). The one-year position will carry a teaching load of one undergraduate course in Technology and Society; the successful candidate will also assist in STS Program activities and build links between STS and SEAS. Renewal for a second year may be possible contingent on satisfactory performance. Candidates should be qualified to carry out research on the social implications of one or more aspects of engineering or applied sciences, such as information and communication technologies, biotechnology, or nanotechnology. Areas of specialization might include studies of innovation; risk and regulation; intellectual property; new research partnerships and research governance; or ethical issues in technological R&D. Research experience on comparative, international and global issues is especially welcome. Interdisciplinary teaching experiences are highly desirable. Candidates should hold a Ph.D. or equivalent degree in an appropriate field, including science and technology studies, sociology, law, political science, economics, or engineering. Interested candidates should submit a curriculum vitae, a cover letter with a statement of research interests, a writing sample or representative publication, and three letters of recommendation in paper copy to Professor Sheila Jasanoff, Director,

Program on Science, Technology and Society, Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, 79 John F. Kennedy Street, Mailbox 17, Cambridge, MA 02138. Review of applications will begin on January 15, 2011 and continue until the position is filled. Applications from women and minorities are especially encouraged. Harvard University is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer.

The Center for Nanotechnology in Society at Arizona State University (CNS-ASU) seeks to fill **one post-doctoral associate position in the societal aspects of nano-scale science and engineering (NSE) starting October 2011**. The post-doctoral associate is expected to collaborate closely with CNS-ASU researchers on the Center's ongoing research and outreach activities, perform significant independent research, and contribute to educational programs. The fellowship is available for one year and renewable for additional years. Required qualifications for the post-doctoral fellowship include: a doctorate in a related area; demonstrated interest in the societal aspects of scientific and technological advance in general and nanotechnologies in particular; and evidence of high achievement in both research and teaching. Desired qualifications include interest and/or experience in: urban sustainability, equity issues, outreach and informal science education. **Closing date is February 28, 2011**; if not filled, every Friday until search is closed. A complete application consists of a detailed letter of application stating qualifications, experience, research plans, and teaching interests; curriculum vitae; and the names and contact information of three references. Please submit to: Regina Sanborn, Program Manager, Center for Nanotechnology in Society at Arizona State University at regina.sanborn@asu.edu (applications by email ONLY). Applications missing any of the required documents will not be considered. This appointment is dependent upon funding from a specific source other than state appropriations (i.e., a cooperative agreement and supplementary awards from the National Science Foundation for CNS-ASU). As such, this appointment may terminate if funding is not available. The Center for Nanotechnology in Society at Arizona State University (CNS-ASU) (<http://cns.asu.edu>) is a federally-funded research, education, and outreach center dedicated to understanding the legal, ethical, and other societal implications of nanotechnology. CNS-ASU works intimately with the Consortium for Science, Policy and Outcomes (www.cspo.org), which offers an

innovative, interdisciplinary environment for developing and testing research and teaching ideas related to the governance and conduct of science and technology in the public interest. ASU conducts pre-employment screening for all positions, which includes a criminal background check, verification of work history, academic credentials, licenses, and certifications. Arizona State University is a new model for American higher education, an unprecedented combination of academic excellence, entrepreneurial energy and broad access. This New American University is a single, unified institution comprising four differentiated campuses positively impacting the economic, social, cultural, and environmental health of the communities it serves. Its research is inspired by real world application blurring the boundaries that traditionally separate academic disciplines. ASU serves more than 70,000 students in metropolitan Phoenix, Arizona, the nation's fifth largest city. ASU champions intellectual and cultural diversity, and welcomes students from all fifty and more than one hundred national across the globe.

The Department of Technology and Social Change at Linköping University will hire a new **full professor** during 2011 (employment will commence July 1, 2012). The position is defined within the broad area of Science and Technology Studies and/or Science, Technology and Society. As yet the position has not been announced but this notification is posted as it will be, in February 2011, before this website is updated again. For information about the Department of Technology and Social Change, please see: <http://www.tema.liu.se/tema-t?!=en&sc=true>. This is also where the position will be advertised in February 2011. For information, please contact Sven Widmalm (sven.widmalm@liu.se) and, after January 1, Jenny Palm (jenny.palm@liu.se).

A PhD position is available for the project, "**Older people, information and choice: assessing the reconfiguration of social care and health care for older people**". The position is at **Aston University in Birmingham, UK**. Choice is at the heart of current policy proposals to transform the delivery of health and social care. Failure to incorporate older people's understandings of their role in relation to service delivery has been consistently highlighted as leading to policy weaknesses. To remedy this position, key objectives for the studentship are: To examine how older people perceive choice in social care and health services: whether these perceptions differ across sectors, and whether they are static

over time or amenable to change depending on personal experience; and to examine how older people exercise choice in social care and health services. In particular, to identify the barriers to, and facilitators of, older peoples' use of information, and the role of sectoral context and formal and informal networks in this process. The PhD studentship adopts an interdisciplinary approach, spanning public policy, sociology and psychology to develop a rich and contextualised understanding of the decision-making processes involved in the extension of service user choice for older people across health and social care in the West Midlands. It will be the first study to have used such an interdisciplinary approach to tackle this topic of growing policy importance. Applications, comprising a full CV, a supporting letter stating your interest in the project and in ageing research more generally, and a completed application form downloadable from: <http://www1.aston.ac.uk/lss/research/postgraduate-research/research-degrees-structure/> should be returned by e-mail directly to Anneliese Dodds at a.dodds@aston.ac.uk. Eligible applicants must have, or expect to obtain, a good honours degree (first class or upper second) or hold an MSc in a relevant discipline. Eligible applicants must have the necessary English Language requirements: a minimum score of 620 (260 minimum in computer test) in TOEFL OR IELTS with minimum marks of 6.5 in each section and an overall band of 7.0. Interviews for shortlisted candidates will take place week commencing 28th February 2011. (If you have not heard from us within six weeks of the closing date, please assume that on this occasion, your application has been unsuccessful.) **Closing date for receipt of applications: Friday, 28th January 2011.**

There is a job available as a **Curator in the History of Science at the Science Museum, London**. A specialist curatorial position has arisen in the Collections Unit based at the Science Museum, London. This role is for an individual with a good knowledge of the history of science and, ideally, experience of working with museum objects. A commitment to developing and communicating knowledge of the history of science and its associated material culture using all media – exhibition, publication, web, presentation and broadcast – is essential. You should be able to present knowledge in innovative ways to a wide variety of audiences, including the general public, specialists and academics. You must be able to research and deliver outputs across a range of media

engaging with a variety of audiences; this will entail the ability to write in different registers to suit different audiences. You should be able to demonstrate experience of, or capacity for, good collecting practice [discrimination in selection within collecting policy of objects, assessing their usability for story-telling]. It would be an advantage to have collections management experience, including handling and assessing objects, basic documentation and more detailed cataloguing. As a major part of this post's responsibilities will be focused on the Making of Modern Science gallery (due to open 2014), team-working skills are an essential prerequisite for this job. You must be comfortable dealing with people at all levels. We are looking for an individual with specialist interests in, for example and in particular, the history of the physical sciences, earth sciences, history of environmental studies, and knowledge of the modern period (from 1750). We will, however, consider candidates with knowledge of other sciences and periods who have the requisite skills. You should be able to work with contextual understanding to represent these subjects effectively at a level that would normally be represented by a minimum of a Masters degree in a relevant discipline: history of science, technology, medicine, etc. Candidates with alternative – or greater – qualifications are welcomed. The Making of Modern Science gallery development is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. For further information about the Science Museum, a full job description, and details of how to apply, please visit www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/vacancies (Job reference: CUR/1210-EXT). Please note that, under European Community employment law, the Museum is obliged to assess candidates from the UK and EC before considering candidates from other nations. **Closing date: 10th January 2010.** Interviews will be held in the week commencing 17th January.

There is **one vacant post for a doctoral student or a postdoctoral fellow** in the **Department of Information Processing Science, University of Oulu, Finland**. The post will be filled until July 31 2012 (with a possibility of a two year extension, i.e. until July 31 2014). The successful applicant will participate in a research project funded by Academy of Finland that addresses e-research collaboration and e-infrastructure development from a socio-technical point of view. Applicants may have a variety of interests in the topic area, including but not limited to digital preservation and curation, sharing and reuse of scientific data, scientific

information management, collaborative work in research networks, scientific collaboration, large-scale infrastructures, collaborative infrastructure building ('infrastructuring'), Research 2.0/3.0, open research movements, such as open access, open data, open source, open standards. A successful applicant is likely to be interested in some of the following fields of research: Information Systems, Computer-Supported Cooperative Work, Social Informatics, Workplace Studies, Participatory Design, Action Research, Information Studies, Science and Technology Studies, Infrastructure Studies. A successful candidate should hold a suitable M.Sc. or Ph.D. degree. For a doctoral student it is required that the applicant will apply for a doctoral student status in the Department of Information Processing Science, University of Oulu. The duties of the doctoral student consist mainly of full-time academic research required for doctoral degree. The postdoctoral fellow is expected to carry out research that relates to the topic of e-research collaboration and e-infrastructure development. The duties of both posts may also include some research administration and research assistance, which enhance development in the researcher career. The salary for the post will be based on levels 1-4 (doctoral student) or levels 5-6 (postdoctoral fellow) of the demand level chart for university-level teaching and research staff of the government pay system for Finnish universities, the job-specific component of the salary thus being EUR 1687,28 - 2311,51 per month (doctoral student) or 2682,35 - 3145,32 (postdoctoral fellow). In addition, a salary component based on personal work performance will be paid (maximum of 46,3 % of the job-specific component). Applications should be written in English. An application should present the applicant's reasons for applying for the post (a motivation statement). In addition, applications should include the following appendices: Curriculum Vitae; List of publications; A transcript of studies (doctoral student); A copy of the doctorate certificate (postdoctoral fellow); A brief statement of research interests or a preliminary research plan; 2-3 publications (if the applicant has already published scholarly papers); and other documentation that the applicant considers relevant. Applications should be sent to University of Oulu, Kirjaamo/Office of Registrar, PO Box 8000, FI-90140 University of Oulu, FINLAND **by January 14 2011 before 4:15 p.m.** Note that application documents will not be returned. In the application

process, priority will be given to applicants who have good research potential. Interviews may be organized with selected applicants. More information is available at <http://www.tol.oulu.fi/index.php?id=871> and by contacting Helena Karasti, by mobile phone +358-(0)40-7093606 or email [helena.karasti\[at\]oulu.fi](mailto:helena.karasti[at]oulu.fi).

There is an **opening for a Research Associate in the History of Medicine, Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, University of Manchester**. The job reference is LS/11353, and the URL is <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/jobs/vacancies/research/vacancy/index.htm?ref=179967>. Manchester University has an increasing reputation for studies in the 'contemporary history' of British medicine. We have used the Manchester Region as a 'laboratory' for studies of Public Health Politics, of Hospital development, of minority ethnic clinicians, and of the reconfiguration of bio-medical sciences. The present vacancy represents a substantial development of this research programme -- to help research and write a history of the Manchester Faculty of Medicine and its associated hospitals and departments since WWII -- a pioneer analysis of the interplays of research programmes, teaching and service developments, viewed in national and international contexts. The post would suit a historian of modern medicine, science or allied field, with a recent (or imminent) PhD, who wishes to develop their profile in recent history of medicine. It might also suit a PhD graduate in social sciences with a demonstrably strong interest in recent medical and political history and a determination to train as a historian. Informal inquiries may be made to Professor John Pickstone, Tel: + 44 (0) 161 275 5926, or Email: John.Pickstone@manchester.ac.uk. Further particulars - ref LS/11353: http://www.manchester.ac.uk/contentlibrary/vacancies/furtherparticularsmax10mbpdf,179967_en.pdf. To request a hard copy, please contact The Directorate of Human Resources Tel: + 44 (0) 161 275 8836 or Email: lifesciences-hr@manchester.ac.uk. **The closing date for applications is 28 January 2011.**

News from the field

The International Committee for the History of Technology, ICOHTEC, welcomes sub-missions for its new article prize, Maurice Daumas Prize, which aims to encourage innovative and superbly written research in the history of technology. ICOHTEC is interested in the history of technology focusing on technological development as well as its relationship to science, society, economy, culture and the environment. The history of technology covers all periods of human history. There is no limitation as to theoretical or methodological approaches. The Maurice Daumas Prize will be awarded to the best submission of an article on the history of technology published in a journal or edited volume in 2009 or 2010. Submissions are welcomed from junior and senior scholars of any country, and they can focus to study the technological past of any part of the world. Eligible to the prize are original published articles in any of the official ICOHTEC languages (English, French, German, Russian or Spanish). If the language of publication is not English, applicants should include a three-page English summary. For the Maurice Daumas Prize 2011, please send your submission to each of the four Prize Committee members. Your submissions must be postmarked not later than 24 January 2011. The submission should be accompanied by a CV and, if applicable, a list of publications. Applicants are free to add references or reviews on the work submitted. The winner will be contacted in mid-June 2011. The prize will be awarded at our 38th Symposium, 2–7 August 2011 in Glasgow, UK. The winner will receive a money prize worth of Euro 500 as well as travel grant of Euro 300 (if needed) to attend the ICOHTEC Symposium of 2011. Send a complete application as a pdf-file attachment to each of the following Article Prize Committee members: anna.storm@sh.se, colin.divall@york.ac.uk, mhessler@hsu-hh.de and pierre.lamard@utbm.fr. The history of technology would never have become a prominent field of historical research without energetic pathbreakers. Maurice Daumas was one of them. His broad scientific production include an early work *Les instruments scientifiques aus XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles*, which gained good reputation and was also published as an English translation. During years 1962–1978, he edited a highly valued history of technology *Histoire générale des techniques*, 5 volumes, which has been translated into English and Spanish and used as a textbook in various countries.

In France, Daumas was also the pioneer of industrial archaeology. Daumas put great efforts to promote the history of technology as a discipline, and he contributed to several societies, journals and conferences. He was also the first secretary general of ICOHTEC and the host of its symposium at Pont-a-Mousson in 1970. For further information: http://www.persee.fr/web/revues/home/prescript/issue/rhs_0151-4105_1984_num_37_3

The **British Society for the History of Mathematics** is pleased to announce the biennial **Neumann Prize for 2011**. The prize is awarded for a book in English (including books in translation) dealing with the history of mathematics, aimed at a broad audience and published in 2009 or later. The prize is named in honour of Peter M. Neumann O.B.E., a former President and longstanding contributor to the Society. The winner of the prize of £600 will be announced in autumn 2011. Nominations for the prize are invited from individuals and publishers. Nominations should be sent to the chair of the judging panel, Martin Campbell-Kelly at m.campbell-kelly@warwick.ac.uk. Publishers should send three copies of their nominated book(s) to Professor Martin Campbell-Kelly, Chair: BSHM Neumann Prize, Department of Computer Science, Warwick University, Coventry CV4 7AL, United Kingdom.

André Feldhof wins the 2010 ESST Award for Aspiring Undergraduates in Science Technology and Society (STS). The recipient of the 2010 ESST European Award for Aspiring Undergraduates in Science, Technology and Society (STS) is André Feldhof, a BA student in European Studies at Maastricht University, the Netherlands. The award committee thought that Feldhof's paper offered an informed and elaborate account of the connection between development of policies towards sustainable development in China and the relationship between this Asian country and the European Union. The European Masters Programme in Society, Science and Technology (ESST) is sponsoring an award of 1,000 euros annually for the best undergraduate paper in Science, Technology and Society. Undergraduates studying at any European university are eligible to apply and the competition is open to students in any field. For more information see www.esst.eu.

A call for papers has been issued for a **special edition of the journal, Philosophy and Technology, on Robotics: War and Peace**. The **closing date for submissions is January 9th, 2011**.

Two of the most philosophically interesting aspects of robotics technology are their use in military applications, and as engineered companions and helpers in the home. Military technology is going through a change that is as significant as the advent of gunpowder, or nuclear weapons. Robotics has made great advances in the last decade due mostly to research and development funded by various militaries around the world. The resulting systems stand to change every aspect of war and peacekeeping. At the other end of the spectrum, robots are being engineered to care for the elderly and provide love and companionship for the lonely. This special issue will be devoted to exploring the constellation of philosophical issues that revolve around the roll of robots in war and peace. We are interested in high quality papers that research not only the how of robotics, but also answer the tough questions of why we should, or should not, deploy these systems in our homes and battlefields. Suggested topics include, but are not limited to, the following: How does the growing use of telerobotic weapons systems affect the future of peaceful relations? Should autonomous weapons be deployed to the modern battlefield? Can the values of just war be advanced through robotics? Is it feasible or desirable to build peace keeping robots? How do robotic weapons systems change the roll of the human warrior? How can we program warrior virtues into a machine? Do drones contribute to a more or less stable world? What changes need to be made to modern thinking on the rules of war given the rapid growth of autonomous and semi-autonomous weapons systems? How do drones change the public understanding of war and peace? What values are driving the raise of robotic casualty care systems? How does one engineer ethical rules in robotic weapons and love or companionship in artificial agents? What philosophical values are driving the development of elder care robots? What ethical norms should inform the design of companion robots? Can philosophically interesting relations occur between humans and machines? Is Eros a robot? What are the sexual politics and gender issues involved in building robotic love dolls? We are particularly interested in papers that not only critique, but suggest ways to move forward on one of the most important issues confronting the philosophy of technology today. Given the pace at which robotic technology is developing, we have adopted a very tight schedule for this issue. Initial

submissions for review must be uploaded to the journal editorial management system by January 9th, 2011 with revised papers uploaded for final review in March 2011. This special issue will be published in July 2011 (3rd issue of Philosophy & Technology). Submissions will be taken through the journal's

website: <http://www.editorialmanager.com/phte/>. For further information please write to the guest editor: Professor John Sullins john.sullins@sonoma.edu

Spontaneous Generations: A Journal for the History and Philosophy of Science has issued a **call for papers**. Spontaneous Generations is an open, online, peer-reviewed academic journal published by graduate students at the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology at the University of Toronto. Spontaneous Generations publishes high quality, peer-reviewed articles on any topic in the history and philosophy of science. For our general peer-reviewed section, we welcome submissions of full-length research papers on all HPS-related subjects. Scholars in all disciplines, including but not limited to HPS, STS, History, Philosophy, Women's Studies, Sociology, Anthropology, and Religious Studies are welcome to submit to our fifth (2011) issue. Papers from all historical periods are welcome. In addition to full-length peer-reviewed research papers, Spontaneous Generations publishes opinion essays, book reviews, and a focused discussion section consisting of short peer-reviewed and invited articles devoted to a particular theme. This year's focus is "Science and Public Controversy." The journal consists of four sections: The focused discussion section, this year devoted to "Science and Public Controversy" (see below). (1000-3000 words recommended.) A peer-reviewed section of research papers on any topics in the fields of HPS and STS. (5000-8000 words recommended.) A book review section for books published in the last 5 years. (Up to 1000 words.) An opinions section that may include a commentary on or a response to current concerns, trends, and issues in HPS. (Up to 500 words.) **Submissions should be sent no later than 25 February 2011** in order to be considered for the 2011 issue. For more details, please visit the journal homepage at <http://spontaneousgenerations.library.utoronto.ca/>. The current focused discussion topic is Science and Public Controversy. The relationship between science and the public is often framed in terms of controversy. From early modern arguments over the age of the Earth and its place in the cosmos, through twentieth century discussions of

the biological credibility of racial categories, to contemporary debates over the production of genetically modified foods and the anthropogenic nature of global climate change, science has served to both create and resolve controversy. Science, in turn, has been shaped by political and social controversies. The variegated interactions throughout history between science and the public raise a host of questions, particularly concerning the appropriate and inappropriate roles of science in public life. Historical episodes of scientists engaging in public controversies offer historians and philosophers of science an ideal starting point for investigating the complicated inter-relationships between scientific research and public life.

In this issue of Spontaneous Generation

Some questions that may be addressed by papers submitted for the focused dis

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How has scientific change led to new discussions

What roles have historians and philosophers of science played in public controversies involving science? What rol

How have different societies, at different times and in different pl

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Picturing Science is an exhibition at the Riverside Gallery, Old Town Hall, Richmond, UK that runs to 26 February 2011. Disease, dissection, and Darwin become the subject for artists displaying at the Riverside Gallery, Richmond from 4th

December 2010. Orleans House Gallery presents Picturing Science, an open exhibition which examines the collision between two harmonious and contrasting fields of symbolic representation, Art and Science. Picturing Science continues the successful programme of open exhibitions from Orleans House Gallery, Twickenham. After receiving 650 works from over 130 artists and an intense selection process, the judging panel whittled the submissions down to just 26 works in various media. The criteria included a direct yet imaginative concept and technical virtuosity. The exhibition features experiments with ink, mould growth and microscopes that have produced visually stunning images. Julia Hembrow's Temporal Flow 3, could be interpreted as a landscape or figurative work yet is in fact a representation of the effect of early morning drizzle which fluctuates between scientific observation and visual art. Detailed anatomical and botanical drawings and three dimensional works such as Susan Harrison's ecorché inspired sculpture are also highlights. Other exhibiting artists, both local and international include Anais Tondeur, Chris Boland, Niki Simpson, Johanna Davidson, Amon Alt-Jafarbay, Jonathan Wright, Pery Burge, James Collett, Tracey Holland, Pauline Pratt, Annie Ridd, Izzy Wingham, Frédérique Swist, Stan A. Lenartowicz, Sally Hewett, Pascale Pollier, Hilary Arnold-Baker, Amy Louise Nettleton, Charlotte E. Padgham, Julie Light, Heather Jukes, Margaret R. Marks, Nick Pollen and Andy Dunn. In addition Artist in Residence Alex Baker will be producing a series of new drawings made using sound and ink. He will also be working with the local community on a workshop exploring the effects of sound vibrations using his technique of drawing as a start point. Curator Mark De Novellis stated: "Although science is seemingly the logical, rational, ordered antithesis of artistic creativity, artists and scientists still share a common drive to innovate, explore, dissect and reveal. They have a unified love and awe for the world around and within them. Exhibiting artists draw from a wide variety of scientific disciplines from botany, astronomy to astrophysics to create an accessible, compelling and though-provoking show that is not to be missed!" See also www.richmond.gov.uk/arts

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