

EASST *Review*

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*EASST is in the process of rethinking its approach
to institutional membership and its relationship
with national STS organizations and centres.*

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***Cover Illustration: "Fishery in Reykjavik"
Photograph by Harro van Lente***

EASST, North and South

Editorial

By Harro van Lente, University of Utrecht; EASST Council member

An important theme of *EASST Review* in recent last years is the potential of STS research and teaching in other countries than the usual suspects. While the membership is still dominated by the northern countries, in particular the UK, the Netherlands and Scandinavia, there is increasing attention to other locations of STS research. Last year developments in Spain were discussed and in this issue we report on STS in South America, focusing on the series of ESOCITE conferences. The EASST council feels it is important that the association addresses the idea of being a European endeavour. This is reflected in the new series of EASST Awards which stress the European contribution to STS (also in this issue). They are inspired by the idea that there is something particularly 'European' about EASST research. We also hope to have an 'eastern' location for the EASST 2014 conference. We have contacted various candidates for such hosting. Apart from the symbolic message this will also enhance the viability of EASST in the east.

The current political debate, however, does not highlight 'west' and 'east' but 'north' and 'south'. In the news, the differences between the north and the south of Europe are stressed again, after two decades of highlighting the unity. Depending on where the news is produced, it is now common to read about the disciplined north and the troublesome south, or about the arrogant north and the suffering south.

The scientific communities, fortunately, seem to be less prone to such polarization. Academics in general are part of a global network. Yet, there may be different academic styles of 'north' and 'south' and this also seems to be worthwhile to explore. Such differences, for instance, have been discussed in the workshop on practices of environmental management. The workshop report in this issue took place at Bielefeld University and was about the question "How do you manage? Unravelling the situated practice of environmental management"

The difference between different styles may go deeper, though. It may be that in the very theories of STS, for instance, particular perspectives and approaches reflect a 'northern' or a 'southern' bias. To elaborate one example: the research theme of coordination and conflict in

science and technology. Countries like the Netherlands and Denmark are well-known for their consensus seeking strategies. At STS conferences numerous papers report about modes of stakeholder participation, strategies to involve users or about focus groups with envisioned consumers. Here, consensus is taken as the predominant mode of coordination and conflicts appear as items to be negotiated. This analytic approach resonates with the political culture of 'northern' countries in which different political groups have the power to block decision making and in which political parties depend on others to realize their agenda. This political culture deviates strongly from, say, Malaysia, where huge infrastructural investments are made without numerous rounds of consultation. In such top-down approaches protesters have a difficult time in raising their concerns. This, of course, will speed up developments and some Dutch engineers are tempted to envy such rapidity. Some even accuse the consensus seeking modes of coordination of being too time-consuming, and take the upsetting lack of democracy for granted. It takes much more time to develop complex infrastructures in the Netherlands, where many rounds of consultation are required to start projects.

One may argue that this particular consensual mode of coordination, which is characteristic of northern countries, has left its trace in influential STS theories. In the still popular SCOT approach, for instance, it is assumed that technological artefacts and systems are constructed through the confrontation of interpretations of various different social groups. The idea is that such public experimentation and contestation continues until a form of stability is reached. The basic assumption, thus, is that social groups are empowered to voice their opinion. It is also assumed that opinions circulate more or less freely in the press and through other societal arrangements. Such assumptions do not hold, at least not to the same degree, in countries like Malaysia, and here other perspectives are needed to explain outcomes. While the rest of Europe, of course, does not resemble Malaysia either, they differ from the typical 'northern' solutions. Thus,

a comparison of political styles and concomitant assumptions will enrich STS approaches.

The picture of rusty cables and industrial machinery on the front page points to the intricate forms of coordination that can be found

everywhere. In general, STS is keen on investigating heterogeneous interconnections. And whether they are rusty in the case of Europe, is an unresolved question.

EASST News

Awards, Conference, Membership, Website, Review

Awards

A quick reminder that nominations for 3 new EASST awards will close on **30th June**. These awards are to celebrate collaborative activity. In honour of Olga Amsterdamska an award will be made for a significant creative collaboration in an edited book in the broad field of science and technology studies. In honour of Chris Freeman an award will be made for a publication which is a significant collective contribution to the interaction of science and technology studies with the study of innovation. In honour of John Ziman an award will be made for a significant innovative cooperation in a venture to promote the public understanding of the social dimensions of science.

All details of procedure, more information on the awards and the nomination form can be downloaded from www.easst.net. Self-nominations are welcome.

The awards will be made at the EASST / 4S 2012 conference in Copenhagen.

Conference

Planning for the conference is now advanced. Our current conference page (http://easst.net/?page_id=295) provides an overview of developments. For more details, go to the Copenhagen conference organisers' great website at https://sf.cbs.dk/4s_easst/copenhagen. This currently includes an overview of the main conference programme and the introductory activities on Copenhagenization. This site is also the place where you can book a hotel for the conference.

Registering for the conference is via a 4S-managed site at https://netforum.avectra.com/eWeb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=4S&WebCode=EventDetail&&evt_key=eb0dfd6f-66cd-42d3-a433-ac17cd4ea692.

For this site your user name is your email and you can then re-set your password if you do not know what it is.

EASST members receive a discount on registration. However the transfer of membership data to 4S is NOT automated so please allow time for this to happen and don't leave it to the last minute! Paying by bank transfer (rather than via Worldpay) also increases the time for your payment to be logged. Remember you will need to register **by July 27th** for your paper to be included in the programme. This is also the deadline to be eligible for the reduced early registration rate.

Membership

Thanks to all those who have renewed their membership. All membership payments will be acknowledged so if you have paid and have not heard from us please contact admin@easst.net with details of when and how you paid. If you have not paid for the new membership year (May 2012 to April 2013) your membership will be lapsed from the end of this month.

There will be a number of communications to members in the run up to the conference – which includes our members' meeting. Please make sure we have your up to date email to receive these messages. You can do this yourself by updating your profile in the EASST directory http://easst.net/?page_id=286. If you also add a weblink and interests this helps others to find you and increases networking. If you have problems contact admin@easst.net.

Website

We hope you have seen our new website at www.easst.net. As well as the Directory we have tried to provide other opportunities for interaction. The Review pages allow for comment on particular articles (you need to register separately to do this). We are also inviting working groups to use the Networks page (this was a feature that members said that they would value).

We are keen to build up our Resources page. If you have suggestions for inclusion just

let us know. Eurograd is available live on the site or via an RSS feed.

Review

We are trying to include more accounts of workshops and conferences as well as news from

STS Centres. So if you organise or attend an event that you feel would be of wider interest do consider writing a short report about it. The Review comes out in March, June, September and December.

“Centring on the Periphery”: STS Field in Latin America Report of the Ninth Meeting of ESOCITE in Mexico, June 5-8, 2012 Dominique Vinck (Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lausanne)

Every two years, starting in 1995, a Latin-American Congress has gathered a community of 100 to 400 STS researchers under the organization of the ESOCITE (Sociedad Latinoamericana de Estudios Sociales de la Ciencia y la Tecnología): Buenos Aires-Argentine (1995), Caracas-Venezuela (1996), Querétaro-Mexico (1998), Campinas-Brazil (2000), Toluca-Mexico (2004), Bogotá-Colombia (2006), Rio de Janeiro-Brazil (2008), Buenos Aires-Argentine (2010), Mexico (2012).

ESOCITE is an active and dynamic STS network, based on a previous trajectory of more than 50 years. From the publication by Olga Gasparini (1969) of the first study in the sociology of science in Latin-America, to today, science studies in the region has achieved an exceptional and very rich exploration. Arellano-Hernández A., Arvanis R., & Vinck D. (2012), 'Circulation and worldwide connexion of knowledge. Elements of Anthropology of knowledge in Latin-America', *Revue d'Anthropologie des Connaissances*, 6(2). [http://www.cairn.info/revue.php?ID_REVUE=RAC] provides an introduction to this work. The trajectory advanced major questions of science policy like: how to give social and political legitimacy to research activities? Which instruments can coordinate research policy? How do scientific communities structure? How could science and technology answer the needs of the region? Sociologists, anthropologists and historians engaged STS studies to continue the questioning opened by physicists, mathematicians and natural scientists preoccupied by the orientation of research activities since the sixties. They were thinking about the dependency of science and technology towards northern countries. They created an original tradition called “Latin-American thinking about science technology, development and dependence” (PLACTS).

Over six decades, the Latin-American science and technology studies community has grown and developed with research groups, publications and journals, congresses and teaching activities. The journey could be divided in three periods:

1. From the 1950s to the 1980s, the field emerged around the “Latin-American thinking about science technology, development and dependence”. The main focus of study was scientific disciplines and dynamics.
2. From the 1980s to the 1990s, institutionalization of STS occurred with the organization of research groups in sociology, social history, anthropology, political science and economics of technological change. They questioned the relevance of science of subaltern or peripheral countries.
3. From the 1990s to now there has been a consolidation of the field with conferences and research groups engaged in post graduate teaching. These groups work on peripheral sciences and the social utility of scientific and technological knowledge.

The main goal of ESOCITE is to promote STS in the region and, with a critical perspective, to stimulate and to institutionalise post graduate and PhD education, to support academic publications (notably *REDES* - Revista de Estudios Sociales de la Ciencia y la Tecnología) and dissemination (e.g. the web site <http://www.uaemex.mx/esocite/>), to establish relations with similar societies like 4S and EASST and to generate proposals, which can orient science and technological policies in the region.

As well as organizing a Congress every two years, since 2002 ESOCITE has organized a doctoral school where a limited number of PhD students or young researchers meet STS academic leaders over three days for in depth discussion of

their on-going research. This meeting takes place in the year when there is no Congress.

The ESOCITE Congress, which just took place, was opened by a stimulating lecture by Hebe Vessuri on “Social knowledge in the globalizing era”. Four plenary sessions provided the opportunity for general discussion on:

- Research institutions and education of human resources in STS.
- Approach and methods for STS.
- STS and science, technology and innovation policies.
- Innovation and social inclusion.

The 350 participants then presented and discussed their research work in workshop structured around six topics:

- Institutions, disciplines and Sc&T fields.
- Processes of production, use and collaboration in Sc&T.
- Technology, innovation, applications, risks and social problems.
- The role of Sc&T in the local and regional development.

- Politics of science, technology and innovation.
- Public participation, democratization and ethic implications.

The general ambience acted to overcome shortcomings in terms of fragmentation of the field and to reflexively think about the role and possibilities of Latin-American STS in a globalized world. The meeting was an opportunity to address the problematic issue of structuring, or not, the STS field. Very constructive presentations, from Antonio Arellano, went back to the 1400 presentations made during the previous ESOCITE Congresses (1995-2010), looking for the subjects, disciplines and geographical distribution of participants. Another interesting reflexive exercise was the analysis by Ivan da Costa of the Rio 2008 Congress, looking for the connections inside and outside cited authors. As a result of the meeting, participants agreed on the importance of pursuing the regional exchanges, of bridging separated sub-fields and re-opening the political debate around Sc&T.

How do you Manage? Unravelling the Situated Practice of Environmental Management

Report on a Workshop held at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF), Bielefeld University, 29 May to 2 June 2012

Collectively authored by The Environment, Management, Society Research Group

2012 is the year of 'Rio+20', the United Nations' Conference on Sustainable Development. Invoking 'humanity's' dependence upon, and responsibility for, 'biodiversity' and 'the biosphere', as well as for 'the climate' and 'the planet', has gained currency once again. Some – scholars, policy-makers and activists alike – are trying to push concepts for global environmental management by making them more compelling and more benign at the same time. Others continue to criticise sustainability talk as being part of the apparatus which brings forth continuing environmental destruction and its social consequences. Still others turn to transformative or sustainability practices imagined as local, which are sometimes posited against, and sometimes conceptualised as complimentary to, 'global management'.

In this 'intellectual climate' twenty-five scholars from across Europe, Colombia and the United States convened in late May for the five-

day workshop '[How do you manage? Unravelling the situated practice of environmental management](#)' at the [Center for Interdisciplinary Research](#) (ZiF) in Bielefeld, Germany. Bringing together deeply empirical, often ethnographic work from science and technology studies, environmental anthropology, sociology, human geography, history, social psychology and law as well as by conservation and renewable energy practitioners, the workshop aimed to open up the black boxes of 'environment', 'management' and 'sustainability' simultaneously, which are often still taken for granted. As the workshop introduction by convenors Ingmar Lippert and Anup Sam Ninan (both STS scholars based in Germany) put it: attending closely to the entities assembled in situations-assumedly-under-management, promises to provide insights not only about the managers, but also the environments, the societal patterns of how

naturecultures are shaped, and how these enactments are entangled.

Focusing on the everyday practices of environmental managers and other relevant actors, the workshop opened up discussions about the emergent and open-ended nature of activities associated with sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and other grand narratives. The manifold ways in which environmental management consists of improvisations, negotiations and (sometimes deliberate) misunderstandings, in the context of techno-managerial infrastructures, political-economic power relations, knowledge controversies and an active and often unruly 'environment' became evident.

The workshop was structured around three themes, each exploring in detail a particular aspect of the practice of environmental management. The theme 'Performance and imaginaries' brought together a keynote on practice, performance and play in environmental management, by philologist and historical geographer Kenneth Olwig, with presentations on ecologists in the Brazilian Amazon, the Forestry Service in Finnish Lapland, Scottish farmers and landowners, and a US militant activist. The second theme 'Managing objects, enacting assemblages' featured a keynote by historian and STS scholar Kristin Asdal on the making of nature objects in politics and administration, alongside papers on animals' agency in the definition of a disaster in Spain, the intricacies of recognising, defining and communicating a tsunami in Chile, knowledge controversies in a national park in the Colombian Amazon, and the challenges of scientific wildlife research in the French Alps. Finally, the theme 'Rationalities' opened with a keynote by anthropologist Lucy Suchman on the performative contingencies of rationales and rationalities, and continued with contributions on the making of bioenergy supply chains in Germany, the translations between global and local environmental discourses in flood risk management in Belgium, the enactment of construction law in Norway, and the wide networks enabling and inhibiting an audit procedure for German utility companies.

The workshop engaged with these contributions while critically reading Arthur Mol's recent incorporation of STS notions in an environmental sociology of networks of flows. In a conceptually generative way, participants related to Ingolfur Blühdorn's notion of 'simulating'

sustainability. For zooming into practices performing the management of an environment, the workshop used core readings by Donna Haraway and John Law.

Overall, four main points emerged from discussions at the workshop. Firstly, crucial to most contributions was attention to what participants came to call '*hegemonic environmental practices*' – the continually and laboriously re-enacted practices of imagining the environment, making environmental knowledge, and construing, as well as physically constructing, objects of management according to a dominant (Western, modern) logic and reproducing dominant social and ecological relations. Crucially, taking on hegemonic environmental practices enables *critical* engagement without positing particular sets of practices as (un)sustainable or (non)transformative a priori, or even presupposing particular understandings of sustainability.

Secondly, the workshop showed the value of work which is at once deeply empirical *and* enters into substantial dialogue with contemporary social theory, without necessarily engaging in 'middle range' theorising. In particular, participants concluded that not only is there still much to be learned from scrutinising individual *cases*; but also it is inspiring to see how different theoretical notions and analytical devices highlight the characteristics of different *sites* – such as laboratories, offices, and parks – and bring to the fore the *siting*-work of actors – translations of issues from one site to another.

Thirdly, the workshop was particularly fruitful in facilitating shared conversations about theoretical notions and analytical devices across the various disciplinary affiliations. For example, it made for rewarding discussions to contrast and read through one another the different ways in which the notions of practice, performance and actor were mobilised in Olwig's keynote on the one hand, and by participants with an STS background on the other. Also, discussions of participants' contributions often probed the space generated by engaging simultaneously with the post-ethnomethodological notion of 'prescriptive devices' developed by Suchman, the Foucault and ANT inspired attention to 'ordinary political technologies' demanded by Asdal, and Tim Ingold's notion of 'textility' advanced in a core reading for the workshop.

Fourthly, engaging with hegemonic environmental practices in this way raises important ethical questions and demands attention

to power relations as well as to questions of recognition and attribution of agency. The post-colonial question 'who is allowed to speak, and in which way?' as well as the feminist question 'how to form alliances when we are divided along multiple axes of oppression?' remain pertinent also in the context of environmental management. Studying environmental management as situated practice raises similar question also regarding 'non-human' entities and forces – from protected migratory birds to tsunamis. Empirical studies of environmental practices and recent theorising of 'the non-human' – from feminist scholarship on 'becoming-with' other forms of life to the currently emerging geophilosophy in (non-)human geography – can only gain from more intensive mutual engagement.

This report was written by Niklas K. Hartmann (n.hartmann@lancaster.ac.uk), Franz M. Krause (fkrause@glos.ac.uk) with contributions by Ingmar Lippert (lippert@ems-research.org). The workshop was collaboratively organised by them as well as group members Anup Sam Sinan and Hannah S. Strauss. Information on the Environment, Management, Society Research Group can be found at www.ems-research.org. The workshop was hosted by ZiF – Bielefeld University's Institute for Advanced Studies – with the kind support of Volkswagen Foundation. The introduction to the workshop can be accessed at <http://environmental-practices.ems-research.org/>

New Centre for Design and Innovation for Sustainable Transitions at the new Aalborg University campus located in the South Harbour of Copenhagen

Ulrik Jørgensen, incoming head of the new centre, previously of DTU
Department of Management Engineering

The former section 'Innovation and Sustainability' and the 'Urban Management' group, both from the Department of Management Engineering at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), have agreed with Aalborg University to move to Aalborg University's new campus located in Sydhavnen, Copenhagen. Together with researchers from Aalborg University (AAU) the groups will be engaged in the establishment of a new Centre of Design and Innovation for Sustainable Transitions (name still tentative). The research and teaching will focus on the sustainable design of products, services and socio-technical systems, sustainability transitions, sustainable consumption and production, and urban and regional development; based on common inspiration from science and technology studies. To support sustainable transitions new forms of economic governance and models are needed, as well as new forms of innovation policy that involve a broader range of societal actors. The necessary changes in governance and policy will also be the focus of the new centre.

The transfer of the two groups of researchers from DTU is a response to organizational restructuring and budget cuts which targeted the STS-approach developed there.

The new management of the department decided to split the groups in spite of a recent successful research evaluation and considerable teaching achievements in the very successful engineering design education that was developed ten years ago. The controversy over the role of STS at the university has existed for a long time, despite it being developed with support from the former rector at DTU during the 1990s. The focus on, and contributions to, the field of STS was a deliberate response to a lack of relevance of more classic social science courses developed at DTU since the late 1970s. The deliberate goal of bringing in STS perspectives was to create more focus on technology in society and to contribute professionally relevant competences to the field of engineering. The groups have consequently been involved in the development of, for example, Engineering Studies and the introduction of STS approaches to Urban Studies.

The focus of the new strategy and organization of the department has been guided by the recent rector's attempts to re-invigorate a more technical and science centered (technocratic) focus in DTU's research and educational priorities. This has involved continued pressure at the department since the mid 2000s to prioritize

quantitative methods and mathematical models over ethnographic and qualitative research approaches. The event which finally led the groups to consider alternative places to pursue their academic contributions was a newly appointed department management emphasizing a classic business school approach to technology

and engineering with emphasis on innovation management and marketing. This left little scope for further development of the groups' activities within the department.

The transfer involves about 30 people, including PhD students and post docs, and takes place 1st of August 2012.

Conference/Event Announcements and Calls for Papers

The following announcements first appeared on the EASST-Eurograd email discussion list. To join easst-eurograd and receive messages as they are posted follow the instructions at http://easst.net/?page_id=55

Messages are also included in EASST Review if they are still relevant at the time of publication.

It is also possible to view the EASST-Eurograd archive via the link above.

Call for papers: 'Science versus Society? Social epistemology meets the philosophy of the humanities.'

Special Issue of *Foundations of Science*

<http://www.vub.ac.be/FOS/>

Guest Editors: Anton Froeyman, Laszlo Kosolovsky and Jeroen Van Bouwel (Ghent University)

Aim of the issue:

The aim of this issue is to bring together two philosophical disciplines, i.e. social epistemology and philosophy of the humanities, that have been dealing with the same topic: the relation between science and its social context.

First, the relation between science and society is one of the focal points of the recently developed discipline of social epistemology. Social epistemology can be seen as a compromise between analytical philosophy of science (departing from a too idealist and individualistic view of scientific practice) and sociology of science (departing from a merely descriptive, constructivist view). Social epistemology regards the social and cultural aspects of science as essential, while still holding on to notions such as scientific rationality and objectivity, be it in more social versions than traditional philosophy of science.

On the other hand, philosophers of the humanities and social sciences (philosophers of history, anthropology, political sciences, sociology, psychology/psychotherapy, post-colonial studies, gender studies...), have been thinking about the relation between society and the disciplines they study in comparable terms. Ever since the days of Max Weber and the Neo-Kantians, there has been a continuous discussion

about the role of the social and historical context of the humanities. Contrary to mainstream philosophy of science, the social context of the humanities has never been out of focus. Philosophers of history for example have always pondered about the role of history in the construction of national or post-national identities, and theorists of anthropology have wondered about whether or not anthropology carries an imperialistic subtext. Entire new disciplines such as post-colonial and gender studies have arisen as a consequence of changing social circumstances and have prompted many discussions about the role of social and political context in other disciplines.

Bringing these two groups of scholars together has obvious advantages for both parties. Social epistemology, on the one hand, may benefit from a surplus of tradition and experience in the philosophy of the humanities and may learn to know a whole new array of case-studies. Philosophers of the humanities, on the other hand, might learn to know a way of doing general philosophy of science that is more receptive to the issues they are concerned with.

We invite both social epistemologists and philosophers of the humanities (such as theorists of history, anthropology, psychology/psychotherapy, gender studies, post-colonial studies, political sciences,...) to submit papers on the relation between scientific (understood in the broad sense as *Wissenschaft*) disciplines and society. Purely theoretical papers are welcome, but reference to case-studies is especially appreciated. Continental and analytic theoretical frameworks will be treated with equal consideration.

Possible questions and topics for discussion include, but are not limited to:

- Impact of shifting from an individual to a social level of analysis on issues such as pursuit worthiness of theories, scientific integrity, values, engagement, objectivity, consensus, disagreement, propositional attitudes and expertise.
- Democratize science and/or scienticize democracy: why and how to deal with democratic influences on science, and vice versa.
- Political consequences of scientific theories: liberation, recognition, or imperialism?
- Governmental involvement in and funding of scientific research
- Scientific justification or legitimation of a political system, or scientific justification and legitimation of opposition or revolution; how do certain scientific research programs consolidate certain political systems?
- Uncertainty or dissensus in science versus public demand for unanimity or consensus.
- The public role of the scientist: public participation and influence on policy making
- Society and its "others": the role of history, anthropology, psychology, psychotherapy, gender studies,... in assessing, liberating or repressing the others of a community.

Submission details:

The deadline for receipt of submissions is **31 October 2012**, after which the papers will be subjected to external peer review. This special issue of Foundations of Science will appear in print as one of the issues of 2013. Articles will appear online first within a few weeks after acceptance.

Papers should preferably not exceed 8000 words. If so, please keep in mind that length should be in good equilibrium with content, in order for quality and readability to be maintained.

Authors should submit manuscripts electronically, prepared as a PDF or Word document or rtf attachment, and emailed to Laszlo.kosolosky@ugent.be with the heading 'CFP: Science versus Society'. In their email message, authors should include their full name, affiliation and address for email correspondence.

Further enquiries can be addressed to Laszlo Kosolosky (laszlo.kosolosky@ugent.be), Anton Froeyman (anton.froeyman@ugent.be) or Jeroen Van Bouwel (jeroen.vanbouwel@ugent.be). If in doubt

whether their work fits our description, authors are cordially invited to send in a short abstract.

CfP "Beyond human-centered automation"

Call for Papers for a special issue of the journal *Ergonomics* (www.tandfonline.com/toc/terg20/current)

"Beyond human-centered automation – Concepts for human-machine interaction in multilayered networks", which shall be published in summer/fall 2013.

We are looking for papers that address issues such as:

- * How do operators (re-)define their role within automated systems?
- * To what extent has control been delegated to smart systems?
- * Who is and who should be accountable in the case of system failure?
- * How does governance in different types of systems evolve?
- * How can research into automation become more prospective?
- * What are the impacts of principles like adaptive automation and "smart governance" for risk analysis and risk management?

Submission deadline for papers is 30 September 2012.

Please don't hesitate to ask for more information.

On behalf of the co-editors, Gudela Grote (ETH Zurich) and Neville Stanton (Southampton University), Johannes Weyer

Valuation Studies: New open access journal looking for contributions

A new exciting open access journal called Valuation Studies. The journal is now seeking contributions to its first set of issues (planned for 2013).

Valuation Studies is committed to foster valuable conversations in the new transdisciplinary and emerging field committed to the study of valuation as a social practice. The journal encourages contributors to focus on the pragmatic aspects of valuation activities wherever they take place and to foster dialogue between different approaches working on this broad topic. Apart from traditional journal articles, the journal welcomes short opinion pieces or research notes,

interviews, staged debates, or indeed longer than normal journal articles.

More information and the call for papers is available here:

<http://valuationstudies.liu.se/>

Twitter: @Val_Studies

Claes-Fredrik Helgesson, Professor

Linköping University

Department of Thematic Studies - Technology and Social Change

CFP- "Ding, ding, ting: Objects as cultural mediators. German, Dutch and Nordic language areas"

Paris-Sorbonne organizes an international congress in Paris 11th-13th april 2013 : "Ding, ding, ting: Objects as cultural mediators. German, Dutch and Nordic language areas"

The congress is open to many kind of studies and the subject may therefore interest those of you who are interested in history and other social sciences.

More informations on this website <http://colloque.objetsmediateurs.over-blog.com/article-call-for-papers-101444435.html>.

Deadline 30th June

Call for Papers: From Utopian Teleologies to Sporadic Historiographies: "Interfaces" of Art and Cybernetics at the 39th Annual AAH Conference

Deadline 12 November 2012)

Maia Toteva, mtt235@gmail.com

Jennifer Way, jway@unt.edu

It has been more than six decades since cybernetics was introduced to the English-speaking world by Norbert Wiener, Claude Shannon, and Warren Weaver. Stimulated by the information explosion in the 1950s, it grew as an international phenomenon that challenged disciplinary boundaries and preconceptions. Cybernetic models of "self-reproducing automata" brought about an enhanced understanding of informational and communication systems, engendered artificial intelligence and machine-biological interfaces (cyborgs), and impacted game theory. In the West, cybernetics had a lasting effect on art and popular culture from interactive art, performance, and computer art, to telematic art and American Idol. The "new science," however, received a different reception

in USSR. After its initial hostility, the Soviet government endorsed cybernetics as a panacea ensuring the rational control of a failing centralized economy. The interdisciplinary umbrella of Soviet cybernetics protected underground art—from kinetic constructions and installations, to conceptual art and performance.

The session redresses a lack of attention to cybernetics globally. It invites presenters in the visual arts and from non-art disciplines to reconsider or generate new knowledge about generations and geographies of art and cybernetics, including practices that create, distribute, and theorize art forms, concepts, and histories. Papers may explore cybernetic phenomena in artistic environments; examine artistic play on logic and reason; consider how art or non-art agents treat cybernetics as a social and cultural paradigm, or question how cybernetics is presented in historiographies of recent art and what interfaces of cybernetics and art bode for intra- and inter-disciplinary research and practice.

39th Annual AAH Conference & Bookfair University of Reading, Reading 11 - 13 April 2013

AAH2013 will represent the interests of an expansive art-historical community by covering all branches of its discipline/s and the range of its visual cultures. Academic sessions will reflect a broad chronological range, as well as a wide geographical one. We will address topics of methodological, historiographical, and interdisciplinary interest as well as ones that open up debates about the future of the discipline/s.

AAH2013 will take place over three days at the historic University of Reading, Berkshire. Follow the links below for more information about this forthcoming event.

<http://www.aah.org.uk/annual-conference/2013-conference>

Academic sessions are timetabled in blocks of 1 hour 20 minutes, allowing for 2 papers of 30 minutes each, with 5 minutes for set-up/session hopping and 5 minutes questions per paper.

PROPOSALS FOR PAPERS TO SESSION CHAIRS

Due 12 November 2012

Proposals for participation in sessions should be sent directly to the appropriate session chair(s). If a session is co-chaired, a copy should be sent to each chair, unless otherwise indicated. Every proposal should include the following items:

1. Preliminary abstract of one to two double-spaced, typed pages.
2. Letter explaining speaker's interest and expertise in the topic.
3. CV with home and office mailing addresses, email address, and phone and fax numbers. Include summer address and telephone number, if applicable.
4. Documentation of work when appropriate, especially for sessions in which artists might discuss their own work.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR SPEAKERS

1. Session chairs must be informed if one or more proposals are being submitted to other sessions for consideration.
2. Acceptance in a session implies a commitment to attend that session and participate in person.

CHAIRS DETERMINE THE SPEAKERS FOR THEIR SESSIONS AND REPLY TO ALL APPLICANTS BY 20 November 2012

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS TO SESSION CHAIRS

Due December 3, 2012

A final abstract must be prepared by each speaker and submitted to the session chair for publication in the Conference Program by December 3 at the very latest. Detailed specifications for preparation of abstracts are sent to all speakers. Submissions to Abstracts 2012 are determined by the session chair(s). The word limit is a maximum of 250 words

Call for Papers for Philosophy & Technology's special issue on Philosophy of Computer Games

GUEST EDITORS

Patrick Coppock, Olli Leino, Anita Leirfall

INTRODUCTION

Over the last decade, computer games have received growing attention from academic fields as diverse as engineering, literary studies, sociology and learning studies. The international *gamephilosophy* initiative (<http://www.gamephilosophy.org>) aims to broaden the scope of this effort by facilitating discussion of philosophical issues emergent on our growing engagement with computer games. In doing so, we want to contribute to our own understandings of this phenomenon and to the establishment of a new philosophical focus area: the *philosophy of*

computer games, capable of taking its place alongside analogous areas such as the philosophy of film and the philosophy of literature. The initiative is the result of a seminar held in 2005, after *Filosofisk Prosjektsenter*, Oslo and the *Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas* at the University of Oslo, contacted *Center for Computer Games Research* at the IT-University of Copenhagen about organizing a workshop on philosophical problems linked to games research. Since then, an expanding group of partners have been involved in the effort.

The network is informally organized, with an Interim Steering Group: Olav Asheim (Oslo), Patrick Coppock (Reggio Emilia), Stephan Günzel (Potsdam), Gordon Calleja (Copenhagen), Olli Leino (Hong Kong), Anita Leirfall (Bergen) and John Richard Sageng (Oslo). The effort is interdisciplinary and our conferences serve as a fertile meeting place for philosophers and scholars in game studies, and many other academic fields.

CALL

Following the *Sixth International Conference on the Philosophy of Computer Games* in Madrid, Spain from 29th to 31st January 2012 (<http://2012.gamephilosophy.org/>), organized by *ArsGames* (<http://www.arsgames.net/>), a special issue of Springer's *Philosophy & Technology* journal (<http://www.springer.com/13347>) is now being planned. It will contain a selection of recently revised, peer reviewed articles from the Philosophy of Computer Games international conference series. Previous conferences in the series have been held in Copenhagen, Reggio Emilia, Potsdam, Oslo & Athens.

- Authors who have presented a paper at a Philosophy of Computer Games conference are invited to submit an original, recently revised, version of their paper.
- Other interested authors are invited to submit original papers related to the topics mentioned below.
- All submissions will be double-blind, peer reviewed according to usual standards.
- Papers submitted for this Call must not have been published previously in academic journals or article collections, including proceedings of the 2008 and 2009 Philosophy of Computer Games conferences online or in print with ISSN/ISBN codes. However, submissions may be new elaborations of ideas previously developed in such publications, as long as they represent *new, original papers*.

TOPICS

Computer games and conceptions of reality; ontological status of game objects and events; computer game entities, metaphysical issues; epistemological foundations of game studies; player identity, perceptual experience; ethical and political issues in game design and consumption; experiential, interactional, cognitive dimensions of gameplay; ethical responsibilities of game-makers; ethical norms in gaming contexts; the “magic circle” of games and actions/interactions transcending it; fictionality and interaction; defining computer games; player-avatar identity; player identity and conceptions of self; identity and immersion; imagination and interpretation; world, space and experience; technology, process, experience; time experience in gameplay; embodiment, emotion and player experience; aesthetics, ethics and player experience, “gamification”.

TIMETABLE

September 15th 2012: Deadline papers submissions

December 15th 2012: Deadline reviews papers

February 15th 2013: Deadline revised papers

Summer 2013: Publication of the special issue

SUBMISSION DETAILS

To submit a paper for this special issue, authors should go to the journal's Editorial Manager (EM)

<http://www.editorialmanager.com/phte/>

The author (or a corresponding author for each submission in case of co-authored papers) must register with EM.

Authors must select article type: "SI on PCG" from the pull-down list during the submission process. This is necessary for assignment of submissions to Guest Editors.

Submissions will be assessed according to the following procedure:

New Submissions > Journal Editorial Office > Guest Editors > Reviewers > Reviewers' recommendations > Guest Editors' recommendations > Editor-in-Chief's final decision > Author Notification of Decision.

The process will be reiterated in case of requests for revisions.

For any further information please contact:

Patrick Coppock patrick.coppock@unimore.it

Anita Leirfall anita.leirfall@umb.no

Olli Leino otleino@cityu.edu.hk

Call for Papers: Beyond Boundaries: Interstices in Medical Anthropology

15th Anniversary Conference of the
Work Group Medical Anthropology of the
German Anthropological Association e.V.

University of Vienna, 29 November - 1
December 2012

The present conference – in the interstice between the 10th and 20th year of the Work Group Medical Anthropology – aims at studying in-between spaces within and beyond medical domains and phenomena. Medical Anthropology, more often than not, has focused on categorizations and boundaries within medicine and health, and sometimes on intersections, but has devoted far less attention on interstices – whether in relation to knowledge regimes, social groupings, healing practices/techniques or networks of objects.

Moving beyond binary reasoning and bounded objects, we invite discussions about what happens and who/what lives in the cracks, interstices and gaps in the structure of medical traditions. To this end, we encourage papers that explore subject matters that fall between, rather than within, familiar boundaries, such as the medical body's appropriation in politics of (national) identity, or the fabrication of new life forms through the development and clinical implementation of new biomedical technologies. We suggest approaching interstices not as empty gaps between regions full of structure, activity and meaning, but rather as clearings that may generate new knowledge, practices as well as discourses.

The conference welcomes proposals for papers that address, but are not necessarily limited to, aspects of interstitial spaces in Medical Anthropology, including:

- Interstices between different currents of thought (e.g. conceptual and activity-related interstices used for legitimation and truth claims of medicines; medical traditions and their in-between spaces; interstices within and between both defining and changing diagnostic notions in psychiatry; interstitial space of academic borderlands)

- Globalization and in-between space/Third Space/trans-x space/interstitial space (e.g. interstices between the local, the regional, the national and the global)

- Contact zones/middle grounds in medico-technical research and clinical practice (e.g. strategies and tactics for appropriating interstices between domains)

- Interstices in the production of medicine, body and nation
- Bodies at the interstices of medicine, culture, religion, politics, law, art etc.
- The emergence of new social forms within interstitial spaces (including rites of passage and initiation)
- Moral interstices in medical ethics and policy making
- The use of interstices for the reflection on methodological procedures and field experiences

We welcome innovative, exciting, and unexpected takes on the above themes. Papers contributing to one of the panels outlined below are especially welcome. All interested in contributing to this conference are invited to send a proposal (300 words maximum) including a brief description of the project, key words, contact data and short biographical information via e-mail to Bernhard Hadolt (bernhard.hadolt@univie.ac.at) and Thamar Klein (klein@dr-thamar-klein.com).

Deadlines

- Submissions due: 15 July 2012
- Notification: 1 August 2012

On behalf of the Work Group Medical Anthropology, Bernhard Hadolt and Thamar Klein.

Conference on Technology Assessment in March 2013

You are cordially invited to submit abstracts to a call for papers for a conference to be held next March (13 to 15) in Prag by the EU-funded PACITA project (Parliaments and Civil Society in Technology Assessment).

The call can be found at: http://www.itas.kit.edu/downloads/news/news_20120424_cfp.pdf

Information on the PACITA project is available at:

http://www.itas.kit.edu/english/wuw_current_hen11_pacita.php

Deadline July 16th 2012

Michael Rader

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)

Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS)

Opportunities Available

Lecturer in Information (Above the Bar)

University College Dublin - UCD School of Information and Library Studies

UCD College of Human Sciences
UCD School of Information and Library Studies

Lecturer in Information (Above the Bar)
5-year fixed-term appointment

Ref: 005197

Applicants are invited for a fixed-term 5-year appointment as Lecturer in Information, UCD School of Information and Library Studies.

The appointee will contribute significantly to the quality expansion of research in one or more of the following areas: health information, metadata & classification, information systems design and evaluation, social computing, user experience design, information design, digital youth, management in information organizations, digital libraries, information architecture, data science and/or related topics regarding the interplay of people, information, technology and social structures. Furthermore, in addition to research, s/he will also be required to

participate effectively in the School's educational programmes.

Applicants should note it is anticipated interviews for this post will be held in September 2012, with a view to an appointee commencing in January 2013.

2010 Lecturer Scale (above the bar):
€50,807 - €81,452 per annum

2011 Lecturer Scale (above the bar):
€45,728 - €73,307 per annum*

* Subject to all new entrants to public sector as of 01 January 2011

Appointment will be made on the minimum of the scale and in accordance with the Department of Finance guidelines.

Further details including a complete Job Description and guidelines on how to apply on line for this appointment are available at: www.ucd.ie/hr/jobvacancies/

Closing date: 23.30hrs on Monday 16th July 2012

Applications must be submitted by the closing date and time specified. Any applications which are still in progress at the

closing time of 11:30pm on the specified closing date will be cancelled automatically by the system. UCD are unable to accept late applications.

<http://www.jobs.ac.uk/job/AEM839/lecturer-in-information/>

Professor of Sociology, University of Exeter - College of Social Sciences and International Studies (R11281)

The Department of Sociology & Philosophy of the University of Exeter is looking to appoint a Professor of Sociology. The Department is a vibrant interdisciplinary unit which was ranked 8th nationally on the recent RAE. It specialises in studies of culture, consciousness, mind, ethics, the arts, science and technology, religion and war; and is part of the expanding College of Social Sciences and International Studies that also contains departments of politics, education, law and Arab and Islamic studies. The Department offers an expanding range of undergraduate programmes, including in Sociology, Anthropology, and Flexible Combined Honours degrees.

We are looking for a leading international figure with the ability to undertake world-class research. Applicants will be innovative researchers with a strong track record of funding and international quality publications. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Dean of the College, Prof Robert Van de Noort (tel: 01392-724461, email: R.Van-De-Noort@exeter.ac.uk) to discuss the posts further. Informal enquiries can be made to Prof Brian Rappert (tel: 01392 723353, email: B.Rappert@ex.ac.uk). You may also wish to consult our web site at: <http://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/> for further details of the College. We are offering a starting salary of not less than of £65,000 per annum, although a higher salary may be available to an exceptional candidate.

To view further details and apply online please follow this link

https://jobs.exeter.ac.uk/hrpr_webrecruitment/wrd/run/ETREC107GF.open?VACANCY_ID=6779905zl8&WVID=3817591jNg&LANG=USA

The closing date for completed applications is midnight on **Thursday 19th July 2012**.

The University of Exeter is an equal opportunity employer which is 'Positive About

Disabled People': if you have a disability, you should mention this in your application. Whilst all applicants will be judged on merit alone, we particularly welcome applications from groups currently underrepresented in the workforce.

Lectureship in Science, Technology and Innovation Studies at The University of Edinburgh

We seek to appoint an outstanding researcher and teacher to a full time 24 month post in the Science, Technology and Innovation Studies Subject Group of the School of Social and Political Science, available from 1st September 2012.

The closing date is 10th July 2012 (Vacancy Reference no. 3015850)

Applications are invited from candidates with a background in the social scientific analysis of science, technology and innovation. The person appointed will be expected to engage actively in research, teaching, and administration, and to play a full part in the collegial life of the subject area and the School.

It is essential that the successful candidate present a research profile, in both experience to date and in future potential, which is at the forefront of Science, Technology and Innovation Studies (STIS) and will contribute to achieving the highest possible REF grade. The successful candidate will demonstrate experience, achievement and outstanding potential reflected in a growing personal teaching and supervisory portfolio. S/he will be expected to contribute to existing and newly developed taught offerings within the subject group, and in collaboration with other units. The candidate will contribute particularly to the development and delivery of our research programmes and teaching, including key contributions to undergraduate courses in Science and Society.

Salary Scale: £37,012 - £44,166

For further particulars and information about the on-line application process, go to http://www.jobs.ed.ac.uk/vacancies/index.cfm?fuseaction=vacancies.detail&vacancy_ref=3015850

Informal enquiries up to 30th June 2012 to Professor Robin Williams R.Williams@ed.ac.uk After this you may direct enquiries to Dr Steve Sturdy <s.sturdy@ed.ac.uk> the incoming Head of Subject.

News from the Field

Debating Universities

Many debates are currently going on in France and Belgium with regards to the current transformations of Universities and their missions, and the conditions of scientific research.

An Associate Professor from my University resigned and explained in a public letter why she did this, and this raised an incredible amount of manifestations of public support and positive feedbacks. It turned to a movement which appointed a committee, who released a "[Manifesto for universities that live up to their missions](#)" on [their website](#).

This manifesto is now open to signatures: <http://www.univendebat.eu/signez-le-manifeste/>.

If you feel concerned by these issues, I invite you to sign the manifesto and spread the word to a wider audience.

François Thoreau

Public Consultation EU Science & Society Programme

The EU science and society programme is currently being evaluated by a group consisting of Technopolis, Fraunhofer ISI and Science Metrix. The aim is also to arrive at policy options for how "science and society" will be integrated in the next framework programme, Horizon 2020.

Part of this evaluation is a public consultation done by Fraunhofer ISI.

In its own terms the survey "aims at identifying future options for the Science-in-Society (SiS) Programme and is open to experts and the interested public alike".

I've been invited as an expert to comment on preliminary results of this survey, and it seems that the participation of the STS community has been rather limited so far. Also it seems that the link to the survey has traveled better in other communities than in ours.

The survey unfortunately is very long, and in my opinion (which I have also communicated to the organisers) has quite substantial methodological problems in how specific items are phrased, and more generally. It is however possible to skip the items section all together by just "clicking through" after initially picking one "area". At the end, there is a question on different options for continuing the EU science

in society activities, as well as a possibility to leave open comments.

After all these disclaimers, here's the link: http://ww4.efs-survey.com/uc/fraunhofer_isi_cc_p/1063/

A lot of STS activities have been funded in prior EU Science/Society programmes, so I think it is worth to add some STS perspectives on how this should go on.

Dr. Maximilian Fochler
Institut fuer Wissenschaftsforschung
Department of Social Studies of Science
Universitaet Wien / University of Vienna

2012 ESST European Award

The European Masters Programme in Society, Science and Technology (ESST) is sponsoring an award of 1,000 € for the best undergraduate paper or essay related to Science, Technology and Society (STS). Undergraduates of all fields studying at any European university are eligible to apply.

Papers or essays must be between 2,000 and 3,000 words on any topic that falls under the Science, Technology, Society agenda (for example, from environmental, ICT or innovation policy to the relationship between science, technology and gender) and must be written in English. The members of the 2012 award committee are:

- ♦ Faidra Papanelopoulou, University of Athens, Greece
- ♦ Juan Carlos Salazar, Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain
- ♦ Graham Thomas, University of East London, UK

Deadline: 30 June, 2012

For more information: www.esst.eu

Conference on qualitative research and RCTs - Sheffield UK November 21st 2012

On behalf of the Quart Team, ScHARR, Universities of Sheffield, Leeds and MRC Hubs for Trials Methodology Research (COnduCT Hub University of Bristol and Nord West Hub University of Liverpool) I would like to call your attention for the following conference:

We are holding a day conference on 'Maximising the value of qualitative research with

randomised controlled trials' on 21 November 2012 in Sheffield. The aim is to bring together researchers with experience of working in studies combining qualitative research and trials to discuss the findings of the MRC QUART Study (<http://www.shef.ac.uk/scharr/sections/hsr/mcru/uart>) and to facilitate networking, sharing of good practice and the development of a community of researchers engaged in this endeavour. The conference has been funded by the MRC Network of Hubs for Trials and will be free to delegates. We will advertise the detailed programme and open registration later in the summer. Please put the date in your diary.

QUART Team, SchARR, Universities of Sheffield and Leeds MRC Hubs for Trials Methodology Research (COnduCT Hub University of Bristol and North West Hub University of Liverpool)

Conférence publique Science, Droit et Démocratie, le 25 juin 2012

A l'occasion du 11^o Colloque du Réseau Science et Démocratie (Science and Democracy Network - SDN),

l'IFRIS et le Labex SITES vous invitent à la Conférence Publique qui réunira :

Marie-Angèle Hermitte, Directrice de recherche au CNRS, Directrice d'études à l'EHESS

et

Sheila Jasanoff, Professeur, Harvard University, Responsable du Programme Science, Technology and Society

La Conférence aura lieu au CNAM, 292 rue Saint-Martin à Paris

Amphithéâtre Prestige Abbé Grégoire (C) de 18h30 à 20h30

Entrée libre, inscriptions auprès de Julie Rust (Julie Rust <rust@ifris.org>).

La Conférence sera suivie d'un Cocktail.

Publications

Mapping Controversies in Architecture

Albena Yaneva, University of Manchester, UK

This book tackles a number of challenging questions: How can we conceptualize architectural objects and practices without falling into the divides architecture/society, nature/culture, materiality/meaning? How can we prevent these abstractions from continuing to blind architectural theory? What is the alternative to critical architecture?

It places architecture at the intersection of the human and the nonhuman, the particular and the general. It allows its networks to be re-established and to run between local and global, social and technical.. Mapping controversies can be extrapolated to a wide range of complex phenomena of hybrid nature.

Contents: Prologue; Introduction; Part I Rethinking Bifurcations: The impasse of representation; On the boundary between architecture/ society; Architecture/society reshuffled. Part II Mapping Processes: Controversies in architecture; Visualizing controversies, mapping networks; Mapping controversies; Conclusion: the architectural as a type of connector; References; Index.

Includes 20 colour illustrations

Sample pages for published titles are available to view online at: www.ashgate.com

To order, please visit: www.ashgate.com

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April 2012

144 pages Hardback 978-1-4094-2668-4 £50.00
www.ashgate.com/ isbn/9781409426684

HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE REVIEW:

This new illustrated list for professionals and lovers of history and philosophy of science has recently been launched.

Feel free to join, post, and exchange information of use to our community.

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hps_review

FACILITATING YOUR RESEARCH - ASSISTING YOUR TEACHING/LEARNING

History and Philosophy of Science Review provides a room for: full information about the current editions of the major periodicals in the field; presentation of important by forgotten

old or rare books on history/philosophy of science; reviews of recent research papers or books in the area. All this is accompanied with attractive illustrations. Announcements for upcoming scientific events in the field are also welcomed.

Check the List at

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hps_review - join and enjoy

Professor B.V. Toshev, Chemistry:
Bulgarian Journal of Science Education
<http://khimiya.org>

Care at a Distance On the Closeness of Technology

By Jeannette Pols

This widely researched study demonstrates convincingly that neither grandiose promises nor nightmare scenarios have much to do with actual care practices employing telecare. Combining detailed ethnographic studies of nurses and patients involved in telecare with a broad theoretical framework from various disciplines, the author concludes that these practices leads to more rather than less intense caring relations, resulting from a spectacular raise in the frequency of contacts between nurses and patients. Patients are much taken with this, not because they feel they are finally able to manage themselves, but because they can 'leave things to the experts'. The patients find that caring is something that is best done for others. The book frames urgent questions about the future of telecare and the ways in which innovative care practices can be built on facts rather than hopes, hypes or nightmares.

ISBN 978 90 8964 397 1 *

e-ISBN 978 90 4851 301 7 *

€39.95 / £35.50 * Paperback * 204 pages

New book on CCS technology

For those interested in an STS/social science perspective on energy/environment topics, here's a new book on Carbon Capture and Storage technology, edited by Nils Markusson, Simon

Shackley and Benjamin Evar, the University of Edinburgh.

<http://www.geos.ed.ac.uk/homes/nmarkuss/Book.html>

Publication of the Proceedings of the 4th International Conference of the ESHS - online

The Proceedings (symposia, abstracts, papers) of the 4ESHS have just been published online. You will be able to either read or download them at the Conference website:

http://4eshs.iec.cat/entrada.asp?epigraf_contingut=18

Best regards,

Technical Coordination

4th International Conference of the European Society for the History of Science.

Barcelona, 18-20 November 2010

'Inverse infrastructures: disrupting networks from below'

For those of you interested in user-driven, self-organizing networks, a book has recently been published on

Inverse Infrastructures: Disrupting Networks from Below,

Tineke. M. Egyedi & Donna C. Mehos (eds., 2012),

http://www.e-elgar.co.uk/Bookentry_Main.lasso?id=14054

as part of the Next Generation Infrastructures program. The contributions are multi-disciplinary (e.g. STS, innovation studies, complex adaptive systems and institutional economics) and address the emergence, maintenance, and governance of a very diverse set of infrastructure cases (e.g. television distribution, wireless telecommunication, Wikipedia knowledge infrastructure, water provision, wind energy, synthesis gas, e-government, city-wide WiFi and paper waste handling).

Tineke Egyedi and Donna Mehos (editors)

Contents of this issue

- 3 [EASST, North and South. Editorial by Harro van Lente](#)
- 4 [EASST News: Awards, Conference, Membership, Website, Review](#)
- 5 [“Centring on the Periphery”: STS Field in Latin America](#)
Report of the Ninth Meeting of ESOCITE in Mexico, June 5-8, 2012
By Dominique Vinck (Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lausanne)
- 6 [How do you Manage? Unravelling the Situated Practice of Environmental Management](#)
Report on a Workshop held at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF), Bielefeld University, 29 May to 2 June 2012. Collectively authored by The Environment, Management, Society Research Group
- 8 [New Centre for Design and Innovation for Sustainable Transitions at the new Aalborg University campus located in the South Harbour of Copenhagen](#)
By Ulrik Jørgensen, incoming head of the new centre, previously of DTU Department of Management Engineering
- 9 [Conference/Event Announcements and Calls for Papers](#)
- 14 [Opportunities Available](#)
- 16 [News from the Field](#)
- 17 [Publications](#)