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European Spring?

Editorial

By Ann Rudinow Sætnan

It’s been just over two years now (http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/interactive/2011/mar/22/middle-east-protest-interactive-timeline) since Mohamed Bouazizi, in frustration/desperation/depression/fury over unemployment, corruption and tyranny self-immolated, triggering however inadvertently what came to be known as the Arab Spring. That Spring is still unfinished, still evolving, still a painful emergence of we know not what new forms of societies. If that Spring were not so violent, and so long emerging, in so many places, I might feel it even more appropriate that the whole metaphor puts me in mind of Karin Boye’s (1935) poem “Ja visst gör det ont när knoppar brister”. Scandinavians will all know this poem, but for the rest of us I translate (my modification of a translation by David McDuff, see http://www.a-w-i-p.com/index.php/poetry/2010/03/24/ja-visst-gor-det-ont-yes-of-course-it-h):

Yes, of course it hurts when buds burst.
Why else would Spring hesitate?
Why would all our heated longings
Be bound in white-frozen bitter state?
The bud was swaddled all through Winter.
What is this new that swells and tears?
Yes, of course it hurts when buds burst.
Hurts for that which grows and that which bars.

I wonder now, what frustrations, desperations, depressions, furies are we facing in Europe as unemployment rises, as corruption is exposed, as our environmental recklessness reveals its consequences, as some romanticize past tyrannies and some discover tyranny behind liberal democratic veils? Will those frustrations, desperations, depressions, furies trigger the emergence of a European Spring? And if so, what pains will that season entail, what new social forms will emerge, and how might our training in STS help us to understand it, survive it, contribute to it constructively?

At a recent meeting, a Greek colleague told of managing on reduced and uncertain wages. His wages as professor were officially cut in half, but he actually rarely received even that amount. Nor were there research funds to be had to supplement the loss of income. But academics are nothing if not resourceful. He and other colleagues had helped set up exchange networks where goods and services could be exchanged in kind, their own contributions being advice and social analyses.

So what (else, more) can we in the STS field do for societies already in crisis, and for ourselves if (when?) crisis strikes at home? I’m afraid I have no answers, only questions. Feel free to propose answers via the website, not least in response to this issue’s three essays.

Editorially yours,
Ann Rudinow Sætnan

References:

Boye, Karin (1935) Ja visst gör det ont när knoppar brister. From the collection För trädets skull [For the tree’s sake].
Prototyping an Academic Network: People, Places and Connections. Three Years of the Spanish Network for Science and Technology Studies

by Adolfo Estalella, Rebeca Ibáñez Martín, Vincenzo Pavone

How would an academic association look that doesn’t have the characteristics of a “typical association”? Which members would form the association? Which places would be its sites of action? These are a few questions that, at least partially, describe the developing process of the Spanish Network for Science and Technology Studies (Red eSCTS) since its launch in 2010. The very name of a “network” (instead of association) points to a first main goal: to explore a new modality of academic relation.

Indeed, the main goal of the network is to promote a stable and fluid network of collaboration and dialogue between STS researchers in Spain and abroad. This is accompanied by a more ambitious idea of providing a space that will allow the collective imagining of new ways of collaborating and researching in an academic and research environment in turmoil.

A second aim has to do with the openness and composition of the network. Some of us wonder whether the network could be composed not only of academics, but be open to other social actors. Some of us have started to play with the idea, thinking how we could broaden the academic dialogue to include new social actors. In that sense, we like to consider this process as an experiment of prototyping a modality of academic formal association.

But, before setting this argument we want to offer some reflections on the process of development of the Spanish Network for Science and Technology Studies (Red eSCTS). For that, in the next sections, we will explicitly refer to the “connections”, “places” and “people” that shape the network.

Connections. The network grew out from the very fragmented situation of STS studies in Spain, located either within departments of Philosophy or Social Psychology or pursued by single individuals. To the best of our knowledge, there are only two masters programmes that explicitly provide a specific training in the field, namely the Master in Science, Technology and Society1 (organized by the University of Salamanca and the University of Oviedo) and the Postgraduate course in STS2 (organized by the STS department at the Philosophy Institute at CSIC), and they stand as the exceptions to the norm. Within this context in 2011, a year after the launch of the network, there was a shared feeling among many participants that the Spanish STS network (Red eSCTS) stood at a crucial point. It was a crucial moment for several reasons, some related to the internal development of the network and others related to the overall situation of academic research and science policy in Spain. The context for the network inception was also crucial because of the dramatic changes in the scientific and academic environment in Spain, which have been recently characterized by massive cuts on public funds to public research, by the drastic reduction (or altogether elimination) of doctoral and post-doctoral grants, the interruption of turnover in public jobs and salary cuts to public employees.3

The network expanded rapidly to include more than 140 members (last checked in February 2013) and has spread across different institutions, fields and research groups in Spain and abroad. At the same time, the network has consolidated its day-to-day activities thanks to digital technologies (an active Google-groups space, a Facebook page and a not so buzzy blog4). We had an intense debate during the second meeting of the network about the kind of digital infrastructure that the network should use. Some participants strongly argued for abandoning the afore-mentioned technologies and advocated in favor of using free

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1 http://mastercts.usal.es
2 http://www.cchs.csic.es/es/content/cursocts
3 http://www.nature.com/news/spanish-changes-are-scientific-suicide-1.10027
software technologies as an exercise of technological autonomy. At present, these digital infrastructures are in use but the debate has not been closed and is expected to be raised again.

**Places.** Two meetings have been held and a third one will take place in Barcelona in June 2013\(^5\) (on that more below). The meetings have been a central element in the configuration of the network and its sensibility, as we have promoted experimentation with different formats in these encounters. During recent years there has been an explosion of experiments with what could be dubbed “methodologies of the encounter”. PechaKucha\(^6\) and unconferences\(^7\) are innovative methodologies for meeting, sharing and discussing that aim at thinking and practicing new ways for organizing and producing and putting knowledge in circulation. Drawing inspiration from these methodologies we have opened up calls for new formats in our meetings, trying to follow up this path of experimentation. Sadly, we never received more than one or two proposals and it probably points out to the difficulties of creating new ways of academic exchange. In spite of the lack of success in previous meetings, the space for this kind of innovation is still open for exploration.

One of the main concerns, in the configuration of the meetings, has been, however, the place. We have consciously opted for non-academic spaces as venues for the meetings. The first one, in 2011 was held in the cultural institution Medialab-Prado (Madrid), a centre that works in the intersection of art, science and technology. The second one was also meant to be held in a similar venue in Gijón, in northern Spain, although it was finally celebrated in it a different cultural centre. The next meeting in Barcelona will probably be held, at least in part, in Can Batlló\(^8\), a civic centre run by residents of the Bordeta neighbourhood, after squatting the long abandoned factory Batlló. In many ways, these are places that reconfigure the boundaries between experts and non-experts.

There is a growing literature in our field showing the relevance of places for and of science, casting light on the complex dynamics between the organization of space and the production of knowledge. Behind the selection of the spaces, we try to explore what it means for an academic association to be emplaced in a non-academic space. What opportunities does it offer to interact with other actors? Is the location of encounters in non-academic venues a potential strategy to open up the network to other relevant non-academic actors? Could we make of the selection of place a manifesto of the academic sensibility that the network is trying to embody? Surely, some of us believe, the geography that the network is making visible could be one of its most singular and distinctive properties.

**People.** The network works as a non-collegiate group of STS researches. There is no formal membership and there is no formal and permanent structure either. This also means that this review is not representative of the network as such as we are not representatives of it. On the contrary, this is a personal view of the authors that, most likely, is not shared by everybody. We have tried to maintain a loose structure assuming the risk of fading silently away. Who is then part of the network? Whoever participates in its different instances in which the network is brought into life: meetings, virtual spaces of interaction, and so on.

**The meetings.** The topic for the next meeting in Barcelona 19-21 June 2013, clearly defines the effort to open the network: “What if I don’t buy it? Unmaking and remaking common worlds”. It tries to problematize the insistent reminder that we are in crisis, and make visible that this has not generated passivity or inaction but, on the contrary, an enormous proliferation of reactions. Through growing collective agitation new proposals and actions seeking to revitalize the common world are gushing forth, be they proposals to transform expertise or to generate new citizen responses creating new experimental objects, new methodologies and proposals of collective designs… So, we are in crisis, but wait… What if I don’t buy it?

The third encounter follows the previous one celebrated in Gijón, north of Spain, under the slogan **“Between Disillusion and Hope”**. The title was not exactly a guiding topic for the presenters but a slogan that exposed a pressing issue that researchers were facing during 2011 and 2012 in Spain and, certainly, many other countries in the world. You didn’t need to work hard to find disappointment everywhere. Many of us – young

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\(^5\) More information about the setting up of the network and the first meeting are available in a 2011 issue of the EASST Review “Making Visible the Invisible” STS Field in Spain” (vol. 30, No.3, 2011).

\(^6\) http://www.pechakucha.org/

\(^7\) http://www.unconference.net/

\(^8\) http://canbatllo.wordpress.com/

researchers, or not-so-young junior researchers—saw our academic careers truncated thanks to the amputating budget cuts by the Spanish Government. Beyond career dramas, many of us were restless witnesses of how the possibility of a decent life and a fair society slip and slide away before our eyes. However, the interest was not so much to give free rein to ominous visions of the future but to investigate on how not to resign ourselves to the role of the doomsayer but to intervene in what Oliver Coutard and Simon Guy (2007) have designated as a more hopeful research practice.

**Prototyping.** Now we want to come back to our title and the suggestion what we want to think through: the experimental dimension of the Spanish STS network as an exercise in prototyping. Prototypes have acquired certain prominence and visibility in contrast with the figuration of the model recently. Prototypes have become a trope for description in art-technology contexts, where the emphasis is on the productive and processual aspects of experimentation. Medialabs, hacklabs, community and social art collectives are spaces where prototyping and experimentation have taken hold as both modes for knowledge-production and cultural and sociological styles of interaction. Software development is perhaps the most well-known case, where the release of non-stable versions of software, open to tinkering, have become commonplace, as is famously the case in free and open source software.

From a historical and sociological angle, the backdrop of such practices of prototyping is not infrequently connected, if in complex and not always obvious ways, with the do-it-yourself, environmental, and recycling movements of the 1980’s and 1990’s. What would then be prototyping an academic network? We don’t really know but we have decided to explore it through the figure of openness and experimentation: opening spaces of dialogue with other actors and institutions outside the academic environment; experimenting with our academic modalities of rationality and their spatial organization.

One last word: Remembering the debates of our second encounter on “Disillusion and hope” allow us to finish with a reflection: if hope can be defined as a way for opening up new futures and our aim is to sustain the openness of the network, perhaps we could say that prototyping an open network is nothing but bringing into life the conditions of possibility for a more hopeful research practice.

**References:**

Bridging the gaps - Summer Schools on Climate Engineering

by Nils Matzner and Miranda Böttcher

As the study of climate engineering (CE) is an emerging field involving a wide range of disciplines, the summer schools described here aimed to bring young researchers together and help constitute a scientific community. Since Nobel Prize laureate Paul Crutzen published his controversially discussed article in 2006 calling for research into CE methods, technologies involving the “deliberate large-scale manipulation of the planetary environment to counteract anthropogenic climate change” [1] are being discussed seriously and the number of CE-studies is steadily increasing. While the first studies were carried out by atmospheric physicists, oceanographers, engineers, etc., social scientists, philosophers and ethicists have more recently begun to enter the field.

The growing number of disciplines involved in researching issues related to CE resulted in the call for increased interdisciplinary cooperation. The series of three interdisciplinary summer schools on CE aimed to encourage such interdisciplinary work, as well as facilitating communication and cooperation between universities from both sides of the Atlantic: University of Heidelberg (Germany), Oxford University (England), University of Calgary (Canada), Carnegie Mellon University (USA). Early researchers and experienced scientists from around the world attended the three schools and were able to exchange ideas and learn from each other. This multiple diversity proved to be very fruitful, although challenging.

The following report describes the three summer schools on CE, details the development of the academic discourse, outlines the scientific debate about if and shows, how CE could be translated into policy.

Organisation: Communicating and collaborating

The first summer school was held in 2010 at the University of Heidelberg, Germany where the interdisciplinary research group “The Global Governance of Climate Engineering” was initiated in 2009 (it ended in 2012). More than forty international students and twenty professors from a wide range of disciplines including Human Geography, Philosophy, Political Economy, Political Science, Psychology, Law, Environmental and Climate Physics, as well as Economics met in Heidelberg at a week long summer school to discuss the wide range of issues related to CE. Although the focus of the summer school was on the natural science of climate engineering, several sessions discussed issues related to the technologies’ regulation and governance. Speakers included pundits from a wide range of fields, including international governance expert Catherine Redgwell, environmental physicist David Keith, atmospheric chemist Thomas Peter, environmental economist Timo Goeschl, and meteorologists Philip Rasch and Alan Robock, as well as the man credited with enlivening the CE debate with his seminal essay on the topic; Paul Crutzen.

In his talk Paul Crutzen stressed his preliminary idea of developing CE [2] technologies only as a ‘Plan B’ in case of mitigation failure, and indicated that the wider discourse often referred to CE as ‘mad scientists’ ideas. Other speakers also emphasized the environmental and geopolitical risks involved in the deployment of CE technologies, especially of solar radiation management (SRM) [3] measures. Alan Robock (Rutgers University) discussed ”20 reasons why geoengineering may be a bad idea” [4] (a frequently cited paper) and also added some comments on possible positive effects, for example the positive effect increased CO₂ concentration could have on agriculture.

The various workshops supported interdisciplinary as well as disciplinary work to pool current knowledge and define research deficits. Using creative methods such as role playing and group brainstorming sessions, the school tried to generate ideas, which could answer hard natural and social science questions related to the development of CE technologies. For example, the participants in Catherine Redgewell’s (University College London) workshop were asked to put themselves into the
role of a small island state, scientist, company, etc, and attempt to define principles for the regulation of research and development of CE measures. The results were then compared with the so-called Oxford Principles [5], and although many similarities emerged, it became clear that actors with varying interests also had differing opinions on levels and types of regulation and governance needed. The CE field experiments of the year 2012 demonstrated the strong need for regulation of private interests and patent concerns.

The University of Calgary housed the second summer school in 2011 in Banff, Canada. The more than 48 participants included young researchers from Europe, North America, China, and Russia. To facilitate the event major scientists like Edward Parsons (UCLA Michigan), Jason Blackstock (Oxford Geoengineering Programme), Jane Long (Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California), many professors from Heidelberg University, and other guests came in addition to the attendees of the 2010 summer school.

After several participants at the Heidelberg summer school had voiced their interest in more social science discussions, the Banff summer school reduced the number of natural science lectures in favor of sessions on the legal, ethical and philosophical aspects of CE research and deployment. In addition, the organisers attempted to actively facilitate the initiation of interdisciplinary research projects which could be developed over the course of the summer school. To assist in the creation of such interdisciplinary collaborations, several ‘speed dating’ sessions were organised, after which groups incorporating at least three varying disciplines were formed. These groups were expected to develop and present a project proposal to a panel of experts by the end of the summer school and, ideally, continue working together on the project after its conclusion. This practical approach led not only to many productive discussions, and the creation of several lasting collaborations, but also to the initiation of an online network of young CE researchers.

M. Granger Morgan (Carnegie Mellon University), professor for engineering and public policy, elaborated on some interesting problems regarding international CE policy. In his lecture he outlined that not all risk analysis and risk management techniques can be applied to every single CE technology, because there is “no utility for the world.“ Furthermore, if a single nation declares itself a victim of a climate emergency, urgent deployment would be possible. Therefore, we need research now, Morgan claimed. David Keith added that it is important to “squeeze the interest out of SRM", because of its riskiness. For Edward Parsons, the inclusion of bad decision-making in policy models could be a way to think outside the box.

The third summer school took place in Oxford, England in 2012 with 54 participants and many facilitators as in 2011. While many of them did come back, some new researchers from different fields enriched the discussion. Its central aim was to help young CE researchers to learn more about the science-policy-interaction, as well as communication with the media and the general public. To promote more successful science-policy-interaction, experienced policy advisor Jason Blackstock organised a session focussing on identifying the type of information political representatives needed to enable informed decisions on CE. A skilled BBC journalist organised a workshop to coach young researchers on giving informative and succinct interviews to the media, and an open question-and-answer session involving academics, policy makers and the media facilitated an open exchange of knowledge and opinions.

In addition to the focus on communication with those outside the academic community, the Oxford summer school included several workshops to encourage and improve interdisciplinary communication. This included several very successful peer-to-peer-teaching sessions, during which natural scientists explained their work to social scientists and vice versa before the groups then presented to the plenum what they had learned. Social scientists got a basic understanding of climate modelling with the opportunity to ask elementary questions while the ethic course for natural scientists provided exercises in philosophical thinking. Both groups learned a lot.

With his inspiring talk, Andy Stirling (University of Sussex) brought insights from Science and Technology Studies into the discussion. He wanted to widen the perspective of knowledge creation. His talk explained knowledge creation and the problem of knowing knowledge and identifying not-knowing. But simple know-how is less important than know-why. Why should we do research on CE when we see that it is wrong? Stirling compared CE research with
research on torture. No one wants torture (no one should want that), however, under this condition research doesn’t make any sense. Research could also be advocated by the public. The report from Ashley Mercer’s interaction with the public made clear that the public perception of CE is diverse. After publishing the results of their survey [6] - that suggest a broad support for CE research (but not deployment) - Mercer had 15 press interviews. The media interest in CE seems to rise constantly, notably with a unexpected and relatively high trust in science concerning a high risk project.

Similarly to at the Banff summer school participants were encouraged to start new projects or continue work on various collaborations at Oxford. A group led by Andy Parker (Senior Policy Adviser of The Royal Society) worked on the idea of a memorandum. Also existing online platforms - the new Oxford Reference Library (http://www.geoengineering.ox.ac.uk/geolibrary/index/, provided by Oxford) and the Climate Engineering News Site (http://www.climate-engineering.eu/, provided by Kiel/Heidelberg) were able to coordinate the internet news distribution.

Evolution of the Scientific Discourse

Over the course of these three summer schools, the group of researchers involved became larger and more diverse, and the way CE was discussed, also changed: Rather than mirroring the development of the group by becoming broader and more heterogeneous, the scientific discourse on CE became more concrete, as notions were defined and a pattern of concepts and arguments became well established among the CE research community. While at the first summer school the participants were unable to decide on what to call the field they were researching (suggestions ranged from climate remediation and climate management to climate manipulation and climate geoengineering), and the debate as to whether it even made sense to study such measures was still going strong, at the last school several concepts had become well established among the attendees.

The first and foremost point made by the majority of CE researchers attending the summer schools (and almost all in the field) is that mitigation of CO₂ emissions must remain the top priority of the global community. However, the notion, originally emphasized by Paul Crutzen, about the need for CE as a ‘Plan B’ in case of mitigation failure in the future has also become well established. It is argued that, as mitigation is likely to fail in order to prevent dangerous climate change, research into the risks and benefits of CE technologies is needed now to allow informed decisions about deployment can be made in a future emergency situation. The second point made by many members of the CE research community is that deployment of CE would be extremely risky and entail environmental and geopolitical side-effects. Therefore, research is needed. If enough research is done, knowledge can be improved, uncertainties can be reduced, risks can be quantified and thus informed decisions can be made for or against future CE deployment.

In contrast to these arguments in favour of CE research, several counterarguments have also become central to the scientific discourse, e.g., the concept that continued CE research could potentially constitute a ‘moral hazard’ by offering the public the idea of an alternative to mitigation and thereby weakening the incentive to reduce the CO₂ emissions. A second key concern is the idea that research on CE will put us on a ‘slippery slope’, meaning that the development of deployable technologies will most likely lead to their deployment. Those social phenomena were introduced a few years ago and remain a constant factor in CE discussions concerning climate political options. ‘Moral hazard’ and ‘slippery slope’ arguments are still not solved and maybe unsolvable.

Thus, despite a general agreement within the scientific CE community that research should continue, concerns about the implications of research remain prominent. These concerns have led to repeated discussions about the need for regulation and governance of CE research. To date there is neither a research regulation nor a governance structure for possible deployment. Edward Parsons suggested taking a step back to first establish the ability for governance [7]. Scientific research and regulation have to be built up slowly and will need to be adapted constantly.

How the research strategy should proceed is still far from clear. At the second summer school Ulrich Platt (Heidelberg University) presented new ideas for CE measures using some methods which are well known in the discussion, like stratospheric aerosol SRM (SSRM) and cloud brightening. The question here is: Should research be done with a broader scope or focused on the most feasible/most efficient/least risky technologies? SSRM technologies are being described as possibly highly effective as well as highly uncertain, despite the fact that atmospheric scientists, volcanologists and other scientists have
been working on this idea for some years. Platt's concept was to think outside the box and create new ideas. But still there is no agreement on research priorities.

**Conclusion**

The summer schools have helped to create a network of researchers who constitute an interdisciplinary CE research community. Various disciplines and the full range of academic ranks, from students to professors, came together to discuss a global, high-risk topic. The ideas about altering the weather and atmosphere were born in military and grew in science [8], but even David Keith admits that the most difficult problems related to CE are social. The summer schools integrated social sciences and ethics from the start and strengthened their position in the discussion.

Over the course of the three summer schools, the academic CE discourse became increasingly homogenous, but a consensus on research strategies is far from being reached. While the notion of anthropogenic climate change is agreed upon inside of climate science [9] the ideas of CE will stay controversial for a while.

**Notes and references**


[2] There are two main categories of CE: Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) and Solar Radiation Management (SRM). CDR methods reduce the levels of carbon dioxide (CO2) in the atmosphere, allowing outgoing long-wave (thermal infra-red) heat radiation to escape more easily. SRM methods reduce the net incoming short-wave (ultra-violet and visible) solar radiation received. See The Royal Society (2009).

[3] SRM involves reducing the amount of solar radiation reaching the Earth by means of a) increasing the reflectivity of clouds, b) placing reflectors in space or c) injecting reflective particles (commonly discussed methods focus on the injection of sulphur particles) into the stratosphere. For a comprehensive overview see Royal Society (2009).


[5] The Oxford Principles of CE research were originally authored in 2009 by Steve Rayner, Tim Kruger and Julian Savulescu of the Oxford Geoengineering Programme, together with Catherine Redgwell (University College London) and Nick Pidgeon (University of Cardiff). In December 2009 these principles were submitted to UK House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee on “The Regulation of Geoengineering”. The Committee endorsed the principles and recommended that they be developed further. See: http://www.geoengineering.ox.ac.uk/oxford-principles/principles/.


SAME, SAME BUT DIFFERENT
Review of EASST/4S Conference Track “Comparing and Connecting Concepts of Practice”¹

by Stefan Laube, International Research Center for Cultural Studies, Vienna (IFK) and
Katja Schönian, Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna (IHS)

The German language provides the term “Stammlokal”, a restaurant or pub where people go on a regular basis. In a Stammlokal certain things are taken for granted; for instance, it is not necessary to order my drink since I can assume that the waiter knows my routines and will show up with my favourite beer. Furthermore, when ordering a burger I don’t need to mention that I dislike cucumber; in my Stammlokal my burger is served with tomatoes, lettuce and, of course, without cucumber. Indeed, what makes a Stammlokal so appealing is the fact that a few basic understandings are self-evident, they are confirmed and don’t have to be negotiated.

Upon entering the panel on “Connecting and comparing concepts of practice” organized by Elizabeth Shove, Nicola Spurling and Gordon Walker, we did not expect the presentation of a coherent outline of distinct theories of practice. In fact, a distinguishing feature of theories of practice is the multiplicity of backgrounds informing different concepts and understandings. Since the programmatic exclamation of a “practice turn” (Schatzki et al. 2001), the notion of practice has been further developed in relation to a variety of empirical studies across various fields of investigation (e.g. Shove et al 2012, Schmidt 2012, Law & Mol 2008, Orlikowski 2007). This year’s conference programme illustrates very well the variety in which the notion of practice currently receives attention, either explicitly (several panels focused on ‘practices’) or implicitly (numerous papers included the term ‘practices’ in their title). For these reasons, we assumed the panel would shed light on the different ways distinct theories of practice inform empirical research.

In line with this expectation, the panel brought together a number of theoretical and methodological papers as well as reports on empirical research projects. While the discussion of these papers was fruitful, their conception of practices as well as their methodological strategies moved in a tension between shared basic assumptions about what a practice-theoretic framework entails and the questioning of these understandings. In fact, we got the impression that research on practices still lacks the very feature that makes a Stammlokal so appealing: the fact that a lot of actions in a Stammlokal are taken for granted.

Before we detail this impression, we will give a brief overview of the paper contributions. In sum, there were thirteen presentations, organized in three sessions. The papers addressed the multiplicities of theories of practice, methodological concerns and the application of distinct approaches to empirical research. Niklas Woermann undertook the endeavour to map and classify the heterogeneous field of theories of practice: taking Wittgenstein’s rule following as his starting point, he traced different interpretations of this philosophical problem in order to give an overview and moreover, search for a coherent vocabulary within the diverse field of practice theories. This undertaking stood to some extent in contrast to our own paper, which described the multiplicity of theories of practice as a rich resource in relation to empirical research. The metaphor of the monocle made explicit that any theory is actively engaged in the research process, but theories of practice must be understood as specific monocles; they offer multiple readings and perspectives, thus prompting the researcher to work back and forth between theory and data in very comprehensive ways. Importantly, the two papers raised the question of to what extent the diversity and the different philosophical traditions of practice theories are problematic and, if so, whether a homogenous vocabulary is desirable.

All of the papers shared the understanding that approaches informed by theories of practice are strongly tied to methodological considerations; that is, the investigation of practices suggests certain methodologies, for instance in the case of
practices as situated activities, ethnographic research methods are implicated. Nevertheless, researching practices on larger scales possibly implicates not only qualitative methodologies but the generation of quantitative data. This was apparent in the paper by Elizabet Shove; her investigation of practices of water drinking, cooling and heating explored how these practices (as entities) occur on larger scales and how they relate and configure each other. Moreover, her research illuminated what actually “counts” as practice when tracing the dynamic and changing appearance of practices over time. The first move involves quantitative methods of aggregation enabling the researcher to investigate the interaction between practices; the second asks the researcher to draw boundaries while doing ethnographic research so as to identify distinct practices. In linking practice theory to a socio-technical system approach, Maarten van der Kamp continued the focus on larger scales of practices and the account of change. His paper showed how a systemic understanding of practices may inform empirical research in order to intervene in the transportation system in the UK towards a less carbonised future.

In a similar fashion, Alma Carrasco Altmirano combined the sociocultural theory of writing with practice theory and illustrated the practice of scientific writing of PhD students as a specific learning process. Moreover, the papers presented by Daniela Rosner and Graham Dean illuminated the relation between digital technologies and skilful practices. Both presentations showed that the digital manifests itself in bodily performances and connects to the craft of knitting and binding (Rosner) as well as to the craftwork involved in digital maker culture (Dean). Indeed, following the practices digital technologies are part of the digital manifests itself in bodily performances and connects to the craft of knitting and binding (Rosner) as well as to the craftwork involved in digital maker culture (Dean). Indeed, following the practices digital technologies are part of the communities that are virtual, detached realm as a realm that is very much connected to the bodies it relates to and the material spaces in which it occurs.

The discussion of change and the relation between the different elements of a practice was the centre of investigation in a number of papers. Maarten van der Kamp’s presentation on organic farming revealed that standards are locally enacted in relation to the sociomaterial settings they are part of. He discussed the ways in which farming practices overlap with the practice of certification, thus making the individual performance of organic farming comparable across different sites. The paper by Ralph Brand put emphasis on studying the different elements of spiritual practices. It showed that practices are contested moments of coordination of these elements and, moreover, one element of a practice might dominate the others. For instance, theological understandings shape the materialities of spiritual practices (i.e. buildings, altars) and the spiritual competencies (i.e. praying) they rely on.

The investigation of how theory informs empirical research was continued in Nicola Spurling’s presentation on the practice of driving. As part of a policy-informing research project, her paper made explicit that theories of practice can help to think outside the behaviouristic understanding of agency and, moreover, highlighted that policy regulations are part of practices and shape these.

A rather unfamiliar theoretical framework to us was the understanding put forward in the three papers by Ardis Storm-Mathisen, Britt Kramvig and Jo Helle-Valle which they called a “radical practice perspective”. With reference to research on nursing practices and their sociomaterial embeddedness, this perspective emphasised taking into account “nothing beyond the observable practices” (Kramvig). In addition, the papers pointed to the necessity of relevant research methods considering the context-sensitivity of data (Storm-Mathisen).

While we could entirely comprehend the methodological concerns put forth, we were rather surprised by the call for a stronger consideration of “the actor” within practice theory (Helle-Valle). Contrary to our expectations, the discussion on the notion of “the actor” and whether it needs to be re-appropriated within theories of practice received great attention. Assuming practices, and not actors, to be the focus of practice-theoretic informed research projects, we assumed this to be a rather uncontested issue, but apparently the question of who is part of practices is still a controversy amongst practice theory scholars. In addition, the notion of a “radical practice perspective” presupposing “nothing beyond observable practices” appeared to us as a statement pushing aside (or overlooking) the work that has been done so far within the realm of practice theory. In fact, several authors have tried to overcome behaviouristic understandings and in doing so demonstrated that the notion of practice is not simply an equation for performance, behaviour or routine; instead, theories of practice try to overcome reductionist understandings by relating material dimensions of practical action to symbolic dimensions such as meanings and

This brings us back to the question of to what extent the diversity of concepts of practice is problematic and, if so, whether a homogenous vocabulary is desirable. Our answer to this is twofold: First of all, as said above, we appreciate the multiplicity of theories of practice as they stimulate the engagement with empirical research. Indeed, a good way to decide what counts as a practice is to investigate empirically how practices make themselves accountable and recognizable. This can be accomplished by tracing their dynamic and changing appearance over time and/or in different settings (see Shove et al. 2012; Schmidt 2012: 156-89). Secondly, however, we think it is of much benefit to share a minimum of basic understandings when investigating practices; for instance, actors are neither the central nor the most important parts of practices. Despite their diversities, theories of practice share the basic understanding that “actors” (i.e. individuals or groups of individuals) are not the authors of practices. Actors participate in practices alongside and in relation to other partakers such as artefacts, spaces, competences and meanings. In fact, as long as these basic understandings are not self-evident, we have to investigate practices without the comfort of a Stammlokal.

References


Notes and Acknowledgements:
A special thanks to Alexandra Vinson for commenting on an earlier version of this paper. We also thank Elizabeth Shove, Nicola Spurling and Gordon Walker for organising the panel and we are grateful to everyone who participated and shared their work and thoughts with us.

1) We borrow the title from the movie „Same, Same But Different“ (Germany 2009, directed by Detlev Buck). The movie tells the story of a German backpacker travelling to Vietnam where he falls in love with a local woman. This plot makes the film not only a story about love, but also a story about the difficulties of engaging in a romantic partnership without sharing common understandings about it.
EASST announces a Call for Applications for Support for 2013 Activities

In the non-conference year 2013 EASST wishes to support smaller activities, such as summer schools, network meetings, seminars, workshops, web or other media productions, public events, exhibitions etc. The core aim of the support program is to promote cross-national community building within EASST.

EASST especially encourages applications from parts of Europe where EASST activities and membership are under-represented (Southern and Eastern Europe) or for activities where the funds would be used to support the participation of individuals from these areas. Examples of previous successful applications have included the part-funding of a conference launching a new national STS organization in Spain and a bursary to allow a southern European student to attend a summer school in Lancaster. We also encourage applications for innovative formats of cross-national community building within EASST.

Since only a small number of EASST members will benefit directly from the activities supported, EASST also encourages applicants to build-in initiatives that involve the EASST community more widely or share the outcomes with them (such as a video from the activity which can appear on the EASST web-site or an online discussion, or a web-exhibition). A report for the EASST Review will also be required from those receiving awards.

EASST has budgeted 6000 € in total for this area of activity with no single activity receiving more than 2000 €. Applications for smaller sums are welcome. The applicant must be an EASST member.

Applications should take the form of a completed application form (which can be downloaded from the EASST website, www.easst.net. This should be submitted to admin@easst.net no later than 18th March 2013. Decisions will be announced by 15th April 2013.

Science & Technology Studies Journal News
By Samppa Hyysalo, Coordinating Editor

The EASST initiative launching Science & Technology Studies has started well. The journal has received an increasing number and quality of both open call papers and special issues.

The next issue of the journal will be available for EASST members and other subscribers on 15th of April. Even though it is an open call issue, it has a focus around research on innovative projects and their networks and publics. The first article by Anders Blok “urban green assemblages” uses Copenhagen’s new eco-friendly regeneration district Nordhavn to illustrate what actor network theory offers for urban studies. The second article by Hyysalo et al. “Internet forums and the rise of the inventive energy user” examines how new forms of Internet mediated communication, user run internet forums, have had an effect on what citizen users are willing and able to do with their energy technologies. The third article by Torun Granstrøm Ekeland and Britt Kramvig “Negotiating Terrains: Stories from the Making of ‘Siida’”, continues exploring the dynamics of digital environments by examining the development process of Siida, an arena that sought to challenge the static and monolithic representation of Indigenous Saami culture and history. The final research article by Kai Eriksson “Innovation and the Vocabulary of Governance” examines the themes of openness and closedness of innovation in more conceptual plane by examining the ontology of innovation networks and network governance in the context of “national innovation system” and its political adoption. In all these open call papers deal with the potentials and pressures within open collaborative arrangements and tensions therein.

We welcome your submissions to the journal, we are off to a very good start, let's make the journal work well for the EASST community!
EASST Membership Renewals
By Sonia Liff, EASST Office

EASST memberships run out at the end of April 2013 for most members. We hope you will all want to renew to continue receiving benefits including access to Science & Technology Studies and EASST Review as well as continuing to support the broader aims of EASST. Membership fees are being held at the same rate as in previous years.

I will be in touch with everyone by email with information about how to renew. We have been encouraging members to take out a Futurepay agreement when they join EASST. If you have one of these in place then a renewal payment will be made on June 1st. I will write to remind you of this in time for you to cancel if you do not wish to continue with your membership.

If your card has changed or expired before that date this system will not work. EASST does not keep card details (these are held by Worldpay who are one of the main payment processing companies). We are informed if your card has run out during the year and I will be in touch with you shortly if this is the case giving details about how to update your card details.

It is still possible to pay by bank transfer if you prefer, but the Futurepay system does help us keep our admin costs and time down and so allow us to use your membership fee more effectively for EASST activities.

Announcements

Most of 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 www.easst.net/joineurograd.shtml

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.

Conference/Event Announcements and Calls for Papers


The program for the conference has now been posted online, at http://tinyurl.com/cr5k8gy or visit http://tinyurl.com/cr5k8gy

Besides plenary talks by Marcel Boumans, Hasok Chang, Nadine de Courtenay, Michael Heidelberger, Martin Kusch, Luca Mari, Joel Michell, Mary Morgan, Simon Schaffer, Eran Tal, and Laura Dassow Walls, there will be 15 sessions that explore measurement concepts and practices from a variety of philosophical and historical perspectives.

There is no registration fee but if you are interested in attending please contact Marina Hoffmann (marina.hoffmann@uni-bielefeld.de) or Alfred Nordmann (nordmann@phil.tudarmstadt.de) no later than March 10.

Calls for papers: A number of open sessions planned for the 4S conference in San Diego, CA October 9-12 2013 have issued calls via Eurograd. We list these below:

The Cultural Construction of Curiosity in Science. Curiosity is considered to be fundamental for science. But is curiosity just a psychological drive, manifested in individual scholars, or could it be viewed as embodied and socially enacted? This panel explores curiosity as a collective, constructed and distributed emotion. We welcome papers addressing the following questions:
How is the meaning of curiosity interpreted within scientific communities and individual researchers? Which factors are defined as central for curiosity? Classic studies in STS emphasize that social relationships coevolve with scientific practice. How then do shared notions of curiosity contribute to social coherence in scientific communities? Moreover, STS has devoted attention to how knowledge circulates, e.g. between different laboratories. How does curiosity fit into this analytical framework? Do notions of curiosity travel together with knowledge and practitioners? How has the value and joy of curiosity enrolled the public in knowledge making? The embodied character of knowledge making is by now a well-established topic. What is the embodied nature of curiosity? How can it be understood as co-constructed with gender, class and sexuality in knowledge-making practices?

By using curiosity as an example, we wish to connect STS with a burgeoning research on emotions as contextually plastic, culturally and socially constructed phenomena. STS has developed sophisticated understandings of how scientific knowledge making is a social and cultural effort. However, very little has been said about the social and cultural construction of scientific emotions, such as curiosity.

If you are interested to present a paper in this panel, please submit your abstract of 250 words on March 15 to the panel organizers: Staffan Bergwik staffan.bergwik@idehist.uu.se, mailto: staffan.bergwik@idehist.uu.se, Helena Pettersson helena.pettersson@kultmed.umu.se mailto: helena.pettersson@kultmed.umu.se

Machine Learning Worlds: Politics and Practices. Organizers: Shreeharsh Kelkar (MIT); Goede Both (TU Braunschweig)

Machine learning (ML) is so pervasive today that you probably use applications based on it many times without knowing it. It enables search engines, spam detectors, video tracking systems, self-driving cars, automated trading, and credit card fraud detection. ML technologies help to settle disputes in sports, achieve situational awareness in robotics, and pick the right novel for your reading pleasure. Economists Brynjolfsson and McAfee (2011) suggest that the next few decades will see rapid advancements in the power of machines; the nature and political economy of work will thus be irrevocably transformed. They cite as evidence the recent advances in machine translation (e.g. Google) and software agents (e.g. “Watson”). These tools are the result of ML practices involving large amounts of Big Data and computing power.

This panel is comprised of empirical and theoretical contributions that deepen our understanding of the politics and values of ML practices. We welcome, but not exclusively, discussions of questions like:

* How does ML research exist along with imaginations of people, societies, work and workplaces?
* How have different fields within and outside computer science -- language translation, computer vision, computational neuroscience and genomics, theoretical physics -- used ML?
* How does the work of ML “theoreticians” differ from those who practice “applied” ML?
* Classifying is a political act (Bowker & Star 1999). As classifiers, what kind of values and assumptions are inscribed into ML systems?
* What kinds of realities do these systems enact?
* Contrary to what the term “machine learning” suggests, doing ML actually requires a lot of “human intuition”. The system's designer must specify how the data is to be represented and the mechanisms used to model the data. How can we grasp practices such as calibrating sensors, tinkering with parameters, and adjusting models?
* What methodological innovations would be needed to study ML practices empirically?

Please submit your abstract electronically via the webpage of the conference Submission-platform: http://convention2.allacademic.com/one/ssss/4s13/ and suggest your paper to open panel 34 "Machine Learning Worlds: Politics and Practices". Paper and movie abstracts should be up to 250 words. They should include the main arguments, methodology, and their contribution to the STS literature. The deadline for abstract submissions is March 17. For further information and details, feel free to contact the organizers: Goede Both, TU Braunschweig: goedebboth@gmail.com, Shreeharsh Kelkar, MIT: skelkar@mit.edu

Open Session No. 29. Revisiting Embodiment and Materiality in Ethnography of Sciences and Technologies. Ethnographies are among the commonly used approaches within STS. At the beginning ethnographies such as by Knorr Cetina, Lynch and others as well as the cultural anthropological approach by Traweek investigated scientific disciplines that are enacted in laboratories or in experimental machineries.
Meanwhile the methodological and theoretical approaches have been broadened to a wide spectrum of ethnographies ranging from focused short-time to multi-sited ethnographies. With this panel we want to bring together ethnographies within STS that reflect aspects of embodiment and materiality in the socio-material entanglements of epistemic practices.

Embodiment and materiality are discussed within recent STS research, in particular in feminist studies of science and technology where reflexive and interactive accounts of ethnographies have been developed. Among many issues these approaches reflect upon the situatedness of the ethnographer and the relationship between observers and actors being observed within the ethnographic setting. For instance, it can be asked for the consequences that arise when the field under scrutiny might be close to the investigator's own academic background. Others have discussed the relations of the researcher and the materialities in the lab as socio-material entanglements. Here the question is raised how this plays out in data-driven technologies where materiality is not an issue at first hand. In particular we want to focus on the following themes and questions:

What role does the embodiment of the observer and of the actors being observed play in ethnographic settings?

How do socio-material entanglements in different fields of study (lab sciences, data-driven sciences, etc.) differ?

How can embodiment and/or materiality be conceptualized in interactive and/or reflective approaches of ethnography?

How may embodiment and socio-material entanglements be addressed methodologically in these settings?

Invited are theoretical and methodological reflections as well as empirical ethnographic studies that connect to the issues of embodiment and/or materiality. Please submit your abstract electronically via the webpage of the conference Submission-platform: http://convention2.allacademic.com/one/ssss/4s13 / and suggest your paper to open panel 29 "Revisiting Embodiment and Materiality in Ethnography of Sciences and Technologies".

The deadline for abstract submissions is March 17. For further information and details, feel free to contact the organizers: Martina Erlemann: martina.erlemann at fu-berlin.de, Petra Lucht: petra.lucht at tu-berlin.de.

Dear scholars in the field Public Participation and Public Engagement with Science and Technology, Richard Watermeyer (Cardiff University; ESRC Genomics Network) and Koen Dortmans (Radboud University; Centre for Society and the Life Sciences) would like to invite you to submit abstracts for open panel 14 ("Evaluating the Quality of Public Deliberation on S&T") which is part of the upcoming conference of the Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S), October 9 - 12, 2013. Please find below, a description of our open panel, as well as important practical information and links to the 4S-website for submission.

Feel free to ask us questions or to distribute our invitation to anyone you think could be interested.

Kind regards,

Richard Watermeyer, WatermeyerRP at cardiff.ac.uk

Koen Dortmans, k.dortmans at science.ru.nl

14. Evaluating the Quality of Public Deliberation on S & T. In the context of continued global financial instability and the consequent parsimony and/or conservatism of national governments in funding science R&D, public engagement in science and technology, remains a priority investment. In the UK context for instance, the UK government’s ongoing patronage of the Sciencewise programme of public dialogue concerning emergent and/or controversial science for policy purposes, signifies a value determination of public engagement, albeit one arguably narrowly and instrumentally conceived.

However, there is little evidence beyond supposition or anecdote, which reliably informs and articulates the benefit(s) of public engagement to policy-making communities and by extension, the electorate as both participants within and benefactors of the anticipated or imagined outcomes of public engagement activity. By way of response, evaluators of public engagement activity are beginning to focus more assiduously on the quality of public engagement processes more generally, surpassing the normative and grossly simplistic depiction of public engagement as an inherently "good thing".

This panel provides an opportunity for those involved in the practice, study and evaluation of public engagement in science and technology, to build a shared discourse around the value, benefits and quality of public engagement. Drawing on the conceptual framework of input, throughput and output of public participation, this panel aims at
bringing together and discussing the quality of public dialogue in terms of openness and access; quality of deliberation; effectiveness and efficacy; and publicity and accountability. Submission of papers:

http://convention2.allacademic.com/one/sss5/4s13

Deadline for submission: March 17, 2013.
Acceptance notification: May 12, 2013

Money, Credit, Value: Devices, Practices and Modes of Knowing, Sensing and Making the 'Economic' (Open Panel 33.)

This panel is contributing further to the recent trend of exploring the 'economie' in STS. Complementing the great literature existing on high-finance, here the discussions are going to revolve around topics sometimes even economics or economic-minded social sciences leave without notice, namely how (economic) value is recognized, measured or perceived; what role money and other valuing devices - being particular kinds of method assemblages - play in enacting the economy; how credit and debt is recorded, remembered and managed; and how (dis)abilities and power is played out, made possible, conceived or revealed. We are waiting submissions from any related disciplines in so far the topics talk to the panel, but would be happy to see contaminations of STS, material semiotics, economic anthropology, economic sociology, and, of course, economics (both mainstream and heterodox). We are especially interested in ways money, or other types of currencies and valuation frameworks perform value and the economy; in numbers, the works of numberings, accounting and calculation practices; in economic measures, statistics, and governmentalities; in non-modernist systems of exchange, transactions, and conversions; in economics and other ritual-systems; and in modes of sensing and feeling the economy. Especially encouraged are case studies or even actual experiments where the economic is tried to be reimagined or remade, or cases where STS and anthropological insights are put into conversation with both the theory and the practice of economics.

Abstracts can be submitted electronically at http://convention2.allacademic.com/one/sss5/4s13 and the deadline is *March 17, 2013.* Feel free to contact me with you questions in advance at andras.novoszath at open.ac.uk.

There are many more open panels that may be of interest to EASST members. It is also possible to submit abstracts without panel assignment. Please check out the conference web site http://www.4sonline.org/meeting

**Ph.D. Course Theories of Sustainable Transitions**

*When: May 22-24 2013*
*Where: Aalborg University – Copenhagen*

**Description:**
This PhD course is intended for students conducting research related to analysis, design and innovation processes for the needed transformations to achieve sustainability goals. The teachers of the course will offer advanced discussion in theories of transitions and will illustrate their theoretical work through case studies conducted in various places including Denmark, the United Kingdom, Brazil and Argentina. These case studies range from local community-based initiatives, to city projects to country and regional programs for sustainability. International collaboration efforts will also be discussed.

**Lecturers:**
- Adrian Smith, Senior Lecturer SPRU - Science and Technology Policy Research, The Sussex Energy Group, United Kingdom
- Anabel Marín, Researcher, Centro de Investigaciones para la Transformación (Transformation Research Center), Argentina
- Ulrik Jørgensen, Director, Center for Design, Innovation and Sustainable Transitions DIST, Aalborg University, Copenhagen
- Enza Lisandrello, Department of Development and Planning, Aalborg University
- Andrés Valderrama, Jens Stissing Jensen and Erik H. Lauridsen, DIST, Aalborg University, Copenhagen.

If you are interested, please contact Andrés Valderrama afvp at plan.aau.dk, mailto: afvp at plan.aau.dk for more information.

**Credits:**
7,5 ECTS

**Location:**
Aalborg University, Copenhagen Campus, A. C. Meyers Vænge, 2450, Copenhagen SV room TBA.

**Activity timeline:**
Deadline for enrolment: 31 March 2013
Preparatory reading and writing: 1 April – 15 May 2013
Meetings: 22-24 May (3 full days)
Delivery of a 15 page paper: 15 June 2013
Dimensions of Value and Values in Science, Technology and Innovation Studies, A Two Day Symposium and Advanced Training for Postgraduate Research Students

Venue: University of Edinburgh (Seminar Room 1, Chrystal Macmillan Building, 15a George Square)

Dates: 17th and 18th April 2013

We would like to welcome applications from UK-based postgraduate research students to attend this exciting two-day symposium and advanced training on the topic of value and values in science, technology and innovation studies. The event will take place at the University of Edinburgh and is organised by the ESRC Innogen Centre, on behalf of the Science, Technology and Innovation Studies pathway of the Scottish Graduate School in Social Science, and in collaboration with the White Rose Social Science Doctoral Training Centre.

The event will bring together a number of internationally renowned STS and innovation studies scholars who have through their work explored the complexities and nuances of both economic, financial and commercial value; and broader socio-political values. Over the two days we will have both keynote presentations and dedicated advanced training for PGR students. The objective is to bring together a variety of scholars and students with an interest in this increasingly important topic to advance understanding of how value and values may best be identified, critically explored and measured by social scientists.

For further information contact Alyson Macdonald or check out:
http://www.stis.ed.ac.uk/events/dimensions_of_value_and_values_in_science,_technology_and_innovation_studies

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS

We are now accepting applications to attend this event from UK-based postgraduate research students. There is no charge for attending this Symposium and Advanced Training, but as places are strictly limited to 20, we will be selecting students on a competitive basis. We are not able to provide travel or accommodation expenses, but meals will be provided. Research students (who may be in any year of their doctoral studies) who wish to attend should send a brief CV and description of their doctoral research and a short paragraph explaining how attendance at this event will benefit their research. Please send this by post or electronically to:

Ms. Alyson Macdonald
ESRC Innogen Centre Manager,
University of Edinburgh, Old Surgeons' Hall, High School Yards,
Edinburgh, EH1 1LZ Tel: 0131 650 9113
Email: alyson.macdonald@ed.ac.uk

For academic queries about the event, please contact:
Dr. James Mittra,
Research Fellow and Lecturer
Science, Technology and Innovation Studies (STIS) & ESRC Innogen Centre
Old Surgeons' Hall, High School Yards
University of Edinburgh, EH1 1LZ
Tel: +44 (0)131 650 2453
Email: James.Mittra@ed.ac.uk

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2013

Somatechnics International Conference
Missing Links: The Somatechnics of Decolonisation

http://www.tema.liu.se/tema-g/somatechnics-international-conference-missing-links?l=en

Linköping University, Sweden
June 17-19, 2013

Keynote speakers include: Sara Ahmed, Susan Stryker, Alexa Wright, Jasbir Puar, Madina Tlostanova, Cathy Waldby

For information about registration and abstract proposals, see below.

Announcement and Call for Papers: Victorian pseudo-anthropology’s fascination with ‘missing links’ derived from a racist imaginary that equated darkness with primitivity and animality, and whiteness with superiority, and that conjoined the pursuit of Western scientific knowledge with practices of empire and colonization. In this conference we seek to decolonize and reclaim the concept of ‘missing links’ by investigating not only territories or the individual bodies supposedly found there, but the ‘somatechnical’ linkages between them —those very practices of settlement, coercion, cultivation, exploitation, seduction, and domestication that transform individual corporealties into aggregate bodies politic. Think, for example, freak show displays, ethnographies and visual representations of the colonial other, prosthetic technologies to enhance the disabled body, gender reassignment strategies or zoos. It is a mode of analysis that can extend and deepen many contemporary interdisciplinary accounts of embodiment and biopolitical forms.
The decolonisation of bodies requires making critical connections across putatively different arenas of inquiry - such as postcolonial, indigenous, queer; trans, crip, feminist, critical race, animal, science and technology studies, to name but a few - in order to better conceptualize the intimate and diverse means through which colonization of all types is sustained and reproduced. It necessitates an analysis of the concrete, specific, and material means and processes through which bodies achieve their essentialized (yet historically contingent) forms as racialized, sexed, dis/abled or as natural inhabitants of a land - processes whose operations are masked by their traversal of macro- and micro- scales of organization and management. Equally the divisions of knowledge and affect within the dominant epistemological frame work to prevent us from grasping the extent of the relevant phenomena. Breaking down the segregation of thought within contemporary critical inquiry thus serves a vital political need and calls attention to perhaps unexpected sites of pragmatic decolonial actions, while simultaneously informing new visions of liveable and just social orders.

We invite papers from any relevant area of enquiry – history, philosophy, postcolonial theory, critical disability studies, feminism, queer theory and more – that engage with and unsettle the notion of missing links.

*Online registration and payment for the conference will open mid-February, so please check in on our webpage* [http://www.tema.liu.se/tema-g/somatechnics-international-conference-missing-links?l=en](http://www.tema.liu.se/tema-g/somatechnics-international-conference-missing-links?l=en)

*then. In the meantime you are welcome to send abstracts to somatechnics at tema.liu.se and suggestions for panels to malena.gustavson at liu.se*

Info on registration: Please send abstracts of 250 words by 22 March to the organisers Susan Stryker, Margrit Shildrick and Nina Lykke (somatechnics at tema.liu.se)

Somatechnics panels: in addition to general abstract submission, the following specific panels are looking for participants, and more will be added as they are suggested (see developing website). Please send your abstract (by 22 March) to the panel co-ordinator if you are interested – your abstract will also be considered outside the panel if unsuccessful there.

- Somatechnics of normalising and queering bodies in medical contexts (marie-louise.holm at liu.se)
- Where be Dragons? Locating contemporary monsters (line.henriksen at liu.se)
- Somatechnics of the Living: art, science, technology and the (non)human embodiment (Marietta.radomska at liu.se)
- Monstrous Sexualities/ Monstrous Cinema (frida.beckman at liu.se)
- Decolonising Roma peoples (pia.laskar at liu.se)
- Prostheses and queer crip bodies (margrit.shildrick at liu.se)

Further suggestions for panels of 4 presentations very welcome. Contact malena.gustavson at liu.se as soon as possible.

*Registration fee: *

1200 SEK [$190] full price (includes reception, 2 lunches, 1 years subscription to the journal Somatechnics); 700SEK [$110] student/unemployed discount (includes reception, 2 lunches, 1 years subscription to the journal Somatechnics).

We are also offering 20 free places to participants from low income countries. Please apply (with a few sentences) to malena.gustavson at liu.se.

Conference dinner: 340SEK [$54] (includes 2 courses + coffee + complimentary wine)


Call for Papers:

Conference Focus

One of the most important developments in the history of science and technology in recent years has been the recognition that, far from being an essentially western history, it can best be understood and analyzed in the broader context of global history. This is not a call to investigate ‘influence’ or to compare the ‘achievements’ of ‘the West and the Rest’, but to consider how globally spread interactions and networks of commercial and cultural exchange both depended on and fed scientific and technological investigation and development. Such an approach has proven extremely fruitful in the history of medicine, natural history (botany, etc.), astronomy, cartography and geography. Surprisingly, the history of chemistry has yet to be analytically integrated with global history in a sustained and organized way. This conference and subsequent edited volume are a first step in that direction.

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For the purposes of this conference, the term ‘chemistry’ should not be considered in a scientifically narrow, discipline-bound way. Rather, we are interested to include examinations of knowledge-claims and practices, wherever they were situated or travelled, that somehow involved the de- and re-composition of material compounds, irrespective of whether they were labeled as ‘chemistry’ by contemporaries.

Topics
In order to provide a manageable way into this huge and fascinating field, the conference will be limited to the seventeenth - twentieth century and be organized around a small number of topic areas:

· Chemistry and Global Commodities – examples include porcelain, sugar, oil, rubber (natural and synthetic) and ‘recreational drugs’.

· Chemistry and Environment – modifying or sustaining the environment through chemistry, whether conscious or as an unintended by-product. Examples range from pest control to ‘cradle to cradle’ modes of production and include globally connected topics such as the Green Revolutions and Bhopal.

· Chemistry and Global Health – from the early-modern circulation of drugs and pharmaceutical knowledge to recent struggles over patent rights and distribution of medicines.

· Chemistry and Industry – from the early-modern world of porcelain manufacture, textile production and dyeing to recent issues relating to the mining and exploitation of minerals only available in war-torn areas of Africa, production of computers and cell phones.

· Chemistry and Governance – the role of governments, trading companies, (professional and amateur) scientific societies and corporations in managing and directing the production and circulation of chemically-based productions, methods and knowledge

· Chemistry and Everyday Life - the introduction of new processes and materials such as glass, cement, synthetic fibers, ersatz foods, plastics and nano-materials. Subject areas might include topics such as architecture, clothing and fashion, food and drink.

Running through the entire conference, we hope, will be attention to the material exchange of chemical techniques of all kinds across different cultures around the world, whether carried by commodities, books, concerns about public health, or profit-seeking entrepreneurs.

Submit a Proposal

One-page proposals for individual presentations or round-table discussions that fall under any of these rubrics or focus on relations between them are welcome. We hope to include not only historians of chemistry, but also historians who more generally investigate global commodities, the environment, global health, industry, governance and material culture. The deadline for proposal submission is June 1 2013. Travel support for participants, to defray the cost of transportation and lodging will be available. The conference will be open (without cost) to all who are interested.

Proposals should be sent to: cberkowitz at chemheritage.org

For further information, please contact Carin Berkowitz [Cberkowitz at chemheritage.org] or Lissa Roberts [l.roberts at utwente.nl]

Scientific Committee
Lissa Roberts, University of Twente
James Delbourgo, Rutgers University
Fa-Ti Fan, SUNY Binghamton
Catherine Jackson, University of Notre Dame
Carin Berkowitz, Chemical Heritage Foundation

The Cain Conference is an annual conference intended to foster discussions about the intersections of scholarly historical knowledge and practical information, discussions that have a bearing on contemporary culture. It is supported by a generous gift from Gordon Cain and is hosted by the Chemical Heritage Foundation, an independent research library and center for scholars in Philadelphia, PA.

Sustainable Technologies and Transdisciplinary Futures: From Collaborative Design to Digital Fabrication. STTF2013 Summer School, July 8-12. ISCTE-IUL University Institute of Lisbon [sttf2013.iscte-iul.pt] [facebook.com/sttf2013] [twitter.com/sttf2013]

STTF2013 invites you to apply for a one week intensive programme of social and technical methods, in a transdisciplinary environment that will engage participants in both conceptual and practical activities with all four pillars of sustainability as background.

STTF2013 is intended for Master and PhD students, researchers, and professionals from STS, Product and Service Design, Social Sciences and Humanities, Architecture and Engineering, Communication and Media, Environmental
Regardless of individual experience, everyone will have the opportunity to work in sociotechnical processes of design, construction and discussion of concrete objects, through Introductory Sessions, Masterclasses and Hands On Workshops.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Jerry Ravetz (University of Oxford, UK)
Liz Sanders (MakeTools, US)
Tomas Diez (FabLab Barcelona, ES)
Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent (Université Panthéon-Sorbonne, FR)
Alex Schaub (FabLab Amsterdam, NL)

IMPORTANT DATES

Application Deadline – APRIL 1
Notification of Selected Participants – APRIL 15
Early Registration and Payment Deadline – MAY 1
Late Registration and Payment Deadline – JUNE 1

FIND OUT MORE

For more information on How To Apply, Fees, Programme, Speakers, or Venue, please visit our website http://sttf2013.iscte-iul.pt

Are you interested in questions of ethics and responsibility in research and innovation in ICT? Do you have experience of projects or technologies that raised interesting or challenging questions of responsibility? Are you doing research on novel technologies that are likely to have interesting or controversial social consequences?

The UK EPSRC funded project on a “Framework for Responsible Research and Innovation in ICT” (www.responsible-innovation.org.uk) is inviting you to submit case studies and other short documents (less than 2000 words) to share your experience of ethics and responsibility in ICT with the communities of ICT researchers and other stakeholders. Areas of interest include:

• Case studies – discussion of actual projects
• Ethical issues – debates around a particular ethical issue
• Technologies – thoughts on specific technologies
• Solutions – actual or proposed resolution to dilemmas
• Concepts – opinions related to the broader topic

All submissions must be original contributions based on real experience and events. They may involve original research but may also be based on previous work. They should be anonymised where appropriate. The authors are responsible for ensuring the truthfulness of the entries.

Examples of case studies from the first call and other examples of relevant entries can be found at: http://torrii.responsible-innovation.org.uk/

All submissions will undergo peer review. The best 25 entries will receive a prize of £500 each.

Submission deadline: 19 April 2012

Why should I submit?

If you are interested in the potential social consequences of ICT and critical reflection of how research outputs may impact broader society, then there are several good reasons to submit an article:

• Authors of contributions that meet set criteria (see Evaluation section below) will see their article published to the website. They can opt to become an Associate of Responsible Research and Innovation in ICT and be listed on the website.
• The Observatory is part of an EPSRC-funded project and the submissions will undergo stringent peer review and scored. Successful entries therefore may be seen as peer reviewed publications.
• The best 25 submissions will receive £500 each. Each author can submit as many articles as they wish and receive up to 2 awards.
• All submission authors will be asked to contribute to the peer review of other submissions. This will provide you with an opportunity to view a wide range of material that focuses on the broader societal implications of ICT research.
• Students are also encouraged to submit articles following the same principles. There will be a separate ranking for student contributions where the 10 best entries will receive £100 each.

I am interested. What do I need to do next?

We invite you to have a look at the more detailed call describing the required content and submission and review process. This is available on the project website www.responsible-innovation.org.uk

The full call is available here: http://responsible-innovation.org.uk/frriict/call-for-contributions/

How do I submit?

Please submit using the Easy Chair website:
More detail on submission type

Key dates

Launch: 15th February 2013

Latest submission date: 19th April 2013

Further dates are available in the full call.

If you have queries regarding the submission process please contact: Dr Grace Eden, Computer Science, University of Oxford, grace.eden at cs.ox.ac.uk, Professor Bernd Carsten Stahl, De Montfort University, bstahl at dmu.ac.uk, or Dr. Marina Jirotka Computer Science, University of Oxford, marina.jirotka at cs.ox.ac.uk

Topical and Call for Papers:

- LATE CALL FOR EXTENDED ABSTRACTS Social Science/Digital Humanities and Late-Breaking Research
- Deadline for abstracts: March 16, 2013

ASE 2013 invites high quality contributions describing significant, original, and unpublished results for submission in three categories:

- Conference * Tool Demos * Workshops * Tutorials * Doctoral Symposium *

WEBSITE URLS:

- http://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf= rriict2013
- https://www.dropbox.com/sh/pl130rtd134fxu6/hiyzXgWwTs
- http://ase2013.org

We particularly seek extended abstracts from the full range of disciplines involved in Web Science research.

Archival publication is optional. (If accepted you can choose whether to have the paper appear in the proceedings)

The conference separates mode of presentation from mode of publication. (The committee will recommend the appropriate presentation mode for each paper)

Extended abstracts can be up to 6 pages, and should be formatted according to the official ACM SIG abstract template (extended abstract format) here:

...
1. Technical Research Papers should describe innovative research in automating software development activities or automated support to users engaged in such activities. They should describe a novel contribution to the field and should carefully support claims of novelty with citations to the relevant literature. Where a submission builds upon previous work of the author(s), the novelty of the new contribution must be clearly described with respect to the previous work. Papers should also clearly discuss how the results were validated.

2. Experience Papers should describe a significant experience in applying automated software engineering technology and should carefully identify and discuss important lessons learned so that other researchers and/or practitioners can benefit from the experience. Of special interest are experience papers that report on industrial applications of automated software engineering.

3. New Ideas Papers (new category!) should describe novel research directions in automating software development activities or automated support to users engaged in such activities. New ideas submissions are intended to describe well-defined research ideas that are at an early stage of investigation and may not be fully validated.

SUBMISSION


Technical Research Papers and Experience Papers must not exceed 10 pages (including figures and appendices) plus up to 1 page that contains ONLY references. New Idea Papers must not exceed 6 pages (including figures, appendices AND references). Submissions that do not adhere to these limits or that violate the formatting guidelines will be desk-rejected without review. All submissions must be in English.

The submission site will be posted on the conference website ([http://ase2013.org](http://ase2013.org)). Papers submitted to ASE 2013 must not have been previously published and must not be under review for publication elsewhere. All papers that conform to submission guidelines will be peer-reviewed by members of the Program Committee and members of the Expert Review Panel. Submissions will be evaluated on the basis of originality, soundness, importance of contribution, evaluation, quality of presentation and appropriate comparison to related work. Note that the Program Committee may re-assign a submission into a different category than the one it is submitted to if it decides that it is a better fit for that category.

All accepted papers have to be presented at the conference by one of the authors and will be published by IEEE.

=== TOOL DEMONSTRATIONS ===


Automated software engineering consists of automating processes related to requirements, design, implementation, testing, and maintenance of software systems. The automated processes facilitate better productivity and improve the overall quality of software. Tool development is an integral part of automated software engineering. The tool demonstrations track provides an opportunity for researchers and practitioners to present and discuss the most recent advances, experiences, and challenges in the field of automated software engineering.

The ASE conference solicits high-quality submissions for its tool demonstrations track. We invite submission on tools that are

(a) early research prototypes or

(b) mature tools that have not yet been commercialized.

The submissions should highlight the underlying scientific contributions, engineering ingenuity, applicability to a broader software engineering community, and scalability of the tool. In contrast to a research paper which is intended to provide details of a novel automated software engineering technique, a tool demonstration paper should provide an overview of how the technique has been implemented as a functioning tool. Authors of regular research papers are thus encouraged to submit an accompanying tool demonstration paper.

EVALUATION

The tool demonstration program committee will review each submission to assess the relevance and quality of the proposed tool demonstration in terms of usefulness of the tool, presentation quality, and appropriate discussion of related tools. Accepted tool demonstrations will be allocated 4 pages in the conference proceedings. Demonstrators will be invited to give a presentation of the tool during the conference.

There will also be an area open to attendees at scheduled times during the conference during which demonstrators can present live demonstrations. Presentation at the conference is a requirement for publication.
Prizes will be given for an overall best tool demonstration and a best student tool demonstration where a student is the first author on the paper and presents the demonstration. The prizes will be decided based on the votes of the conference attendees.

SUBMISSION
Submissions should:
* Consist of a proposal of at most 4 pages that adheres to the ASE 2013 proceedings format (IEEE proceedings style). The proposal should provide an overview of the tool, how it relates to other industrial or research tools, including references, and its potential impact to a broader software engineering community.
* Provide a link to a video, not more than 5 minutes long, that demonstrates the tool being used. The goal of the video is to provide the reviewers a usage overview of the tool that enables them to evaluate the tool. A screencast of the tool demo with a voice-over can be used for the video.
* Provide a URL from which the tool can be downloaded, with clear installation steps. If the tool cannot be made available, the authors must clearly state their reasons in the paper. Examples and scenarios presented in the paper should be independently replicable.
* Be submitted by June 6, 2013 via EasyChair: https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=ase2013tools
  Contact: asetools2013 at easychair.org
  === WORKSHOPS ===
  [http://ase2013.org/workshops.html]
A workshop co-located with the ASE 2013 conference should provide an opportunity for exchanging views, advancing ideas, and discussing preliminary results on topics related to Automated Software Engineering.
Workshops may also serve as platforms to nurture new scientific communities. Workshops should not be seen as an alternative forum for presenting full research papers. The workshops co-located with the conference will be organized before the main conference (Monday, Tuesday). The organizers will decide the exact day after the proposals have been reviewed and accepted. A workshop may last one or two days.

SUBMISSION
Proposals for organizing workshops should be written in English, limited to 5 pages (in IEEE format), and submitted in PDF to both workshop co-chairs, by email at ase2013workshops at easychair.org. Workshop proposals should include the following information:
* Theme and goals of the workshop including its relevance to the field of Automated Software Engineering
* Targeted audience and the expected number of participants (minimum and maximum)
* Workshop format (e.g., paper presentations, breakout sessions, panel-like discussions, combination of formats)
* The equipment, room capacity, and any other resource necessary for the organization of the workshop
* Participant solicitation and selection process
* Workshop publicity strategy that the workshop organizers will use
* Initial version of the call for papers that the workshop organizers intend to use
* Preferences for workshop dates, duration (1 or 2 days), and any other scheduling constraints

Note that the workshop co-chairs will consider the preference of workshop dates specified by the organizers, but the acceptance of a workshop proposal does not guarantee adherence to the requested date/time. The workshop co-chairs will assume that workshop proposers will be able to run a workshop on the dates that ASE 2013 has reserved for workshops.

Review Process. Workshop proposals will be reviewed by the ASE 2013 tutorials and workshop co-chairs. Acceptance will be based on an evaluation of the workshop's potential for generating useful results, the timeliness and expected interest in the topic, the organizer's ability to lead a successful workshop, and the potential for attracting a sufficient number of participants. Accepted workshops must adhere to the common deadlines listed below for submissions of papers, acceptance of papers, and preparation of proceedings.

Contact, ase2013workshops at easychair.org
  === TUTORIALS ===
  [http://ase2013.org/tutorials.html]
Tutorials may address a wide range of mature topics from theoretical foundations to practical techniques and tools for automated software engineering. The tutorials will be organized before the main conference (Monday, Tuesday). The organizers will decide the exact day after the proposals have been reviewed and accepted.
Tutorials are intended to provide independent instruction on a relevant theme; therefore, no commercial or sales-oriented proposals will be accepted.

**SUBMISSION**

Instructors are invited to submit proposals for half-day or full-day tutorials and, upon selection, are required to provide tutorial notes or a survey paper on the topic of presentation in PDF. Proposals for organizing tutorials should be written in English, limited to 5 pages (including formatting page), and submitted in PDF to both tutorials co-chairs, by email at: ase2013tutorials at easychair.org. Tutorial proposals should include the following information:

* Name and affiliation of the proposer/organizer (including postal address, phone number, fax number, e-mail address)
* Name and affiliation of each additional instructor
* Instructors’ experience in the area, including other tutorials, courses, etc.
* Title, objective, abstract, duration
* Outline with approximate timings
* Target audience, including indication of level (novice, intermediate, expert)
* Assumed background of attendees
* Brief biography of each instructor (for publicity materials)
* Indication of whether a survey paper will be provided (max. 30 IEEE-formatted pages)
* History of the tutorial (if it has been already presented; provide location, estimated attendance, etc.)
* Justification for full day (if a full day is proposed)
* Audio-visual and technical requirements
* References including the proposers’ papers on the subject
* Preferences for tutorial date, duration (half-day or full-day), and any other scheduling constraints

Preferences for tutorial date, duration (half-day or full-day), and any other scheduling constraints Note that the tutorial co-chairs will consider the preference of tutorial dates specified by the organizers, but the acceptance of a tutorial proposal does not guarantee adherence to the requested date/time. The tutorial co-chairs will assume that tutorial proposers will be able to run a tutorial on the dates that ASE 2013 has reserved for tutorials.

Review Process. Tutorial proposals will be reviewed by the ASE 2013 tutorials and workshop co-chairs. Acceptance will be based on the timeliness and expected interest in the topic, the proposer's ability to present an interesting tutorial, and the potential for attracting a sufficient number of participants.

Contact, ase2013tutorials at easychair.org

--- DOCTORAL SYMPOSIUM ---

[http://ase2013.org/ds.html]

The goal of the ASE 2013 Doctoral Symposium is to provide a supportive yet questioning setting in which the PhD students have an opportunity to present and discuss their research with other researchers in the ASE community. The Symposium aims to provide students with useful guidance and feedback on their research and to facilitate their networking within the scientific community by interacting with established researchers and with their peers at a similar stage in their careers.

The technical scope of the Symposium is that of ASE. Students should consider participating in the Doctoral Symposium after they have settled on a dissertation topic with some initial research results. Students should be at least a year from completion of their dissertation (at the time of the Symposium), to obtain maximum benefit from participation. The Doctoral Symposium is open to Ph.D. students at any stage of their research, whereby students at the initial stage (first or second year) will be able to challenge their ideas and current research directions, while students at a more mature stage (third or fourth year) will be able to present their thesis and get advice for improvement and for better exposition of their contributions and conclusions. Attendance is open to students of accepted research abstracts and Doctoral Symposium committee members.

**EVALUATION**

The Doctoral Symposium Committee will select participants using the following criteria:

* The potential quality of the research and its relevance to ASE
* Quality of the research abstract.
* Diversity of background, research topics and approaches.

Students should not infer that a list of prior publications is in any way expected or required; we welcome submissions from students for whom this will be their first formal submission as well as those who have previously published

**SUBMISSION**

To apply as a student participant in the Doctoral Symposium, you should prepare a submission package consisting of two parts, both of which must be submitted by the submission deadline.
Part 1: Research Abstract (max. 4 pages). Your research abstract must conform to the ASE 2013 formatting and submission instructions and should cover:

* Your targeted research problem with justification of its importance
* Discussion why related and prior work has not solved the problem
* A sketch of the proposed approach or solution
* The expected contributions of your dissertation research
* Progress you have made so far in solving the stated problem
* The methods you are using or will use to carry out your research
* A plan for evaluating your work and presenting credible evidence of your results to the research community
* A list of any publications either appeared, accepted or submitted for which the student is an author.

Students at the initial stage of their research might have some difficulty in addressing some of these areas, but should make their best attempt. The research abstract should include the title of your work, your name, your advisor, your email address, postal address, personal website, and a one paragraph short summary in the style of an abstract for a regular paper.

Please submit your research abstract using the EasyChair submission site: https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=dsa se13

Part 2: Letter of Recommendation. Please ask your dissertation advisor for a letter of recommendation. This letter should include your name and a candid assessment of the current status of your dissertation research and an expected date for dissertation submission. The letter should be in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF), and sent to: Marsha Chechik and Paul Gruenbacher at ase-org at cs.toronto.edu with the subject: ASE 2013 DOCTORAL SYMPOSIUM RECOMMENDATION.

Acceptance. All accepted papers will be published by IEEE. Authors of accepted contributions will receive further instructions for preparing their camera ready versions. Authors must register for the ASE 2013 Doctoral Symposium and present their work at the Symposium.

Dear all

We have extended our deadline for the submission of paper and session proposals for the 3rd Meeting of the Spanish Network of STS (esCTS) to next March 8th 2013.

All the best for now
Tomás Sánchez Criado

>> What if I don’t buy it?
>> Unmaking and remaking common worlds
>> 3rd Meeting of the Spanish Network of STS (esCTS) http://redescsts.wordpress.com/
>> 19-21 June 2013 | Barcelona
>> This is a call

>> We are in crisis, even though we are not pretty sure what that means, despite the sheer decadence, the rampant precariousness, and the growing conditions of exclusion we live by...

>> We are in crisis, but maybe we could do something about it, for crises are also fertile moments. However, we are not thinking here of cashing out profits or searching for new joint ventures, but of conceiving and acting us in meetings like this...

>> We are in crisis, and in order to know what is happening to us we are in need of collective trials. Trials to tackle, to name, to define ‘what’s going on.’ But also trials to outline alternatives –be they more or less clear, more or less beneficial-, or to simply find out frictions and interferences that could make us think and imagine other criteria of what could be done, other ways of doing...

>> We are in crisis, because some experts tell us so. But also because some others deny it, clarify it, redefine it and they go on and on and on. We are also in crisis because we don’t know which expert to believe and why. Oh, long gone are those days where we could find certainty in the people who know, and surrender to their wisdom in order to be governed by good kings, righteous generals and honest pirates...

>> We are in crisis, even though it is being said that this is more a swindle than a crisis, because one of the main sources of certainty we had is being made to go through a heavy crisis: the definition of the public sphere as it had been delineated up until now –that technoscientifically regulated part of the life in common hosted by the institutional forms of the social or welfare state- is falling apart...

>> We are in crisis, but despite the financial mayhem, the endless comment on state debt and international pressure, or the failure of the brick economy, maybe this is a deeper sort of crisis: a crisis of legitimacy of the variegated knowledge-production institutions as we have known them till
today; of the stabilised formats for the circulation of knowledge (together with their legal articulation); of the role attributed to experts as neutral and technical consultants or specialists; of the master narratives of innovation, light against darkness, the perpetual search for ‘the new,’ and its uses to justify anything; or of the ubiquity of markets in their manifold forms (including science)...

>> We are in crisis, and we would like to know how that affects our modes of knowing and the design of our environments, because the movements and the reactions this produces are very interesting: without even noticing it we are being shown the ways of doing that remained hidden, the unquestioned frames of thought, and the supposedly stable sociomaterial tissue we dwelt by. That’s right, the crisis makes visible the materiality of the relational, cruelly exposing us to its frailty, but also offering us an opportunity to go back and reinvent skills, wisdoms and practices long ignored...

>> We are in crisis, yet this has not generated passivity or inaction but, on the contrary, a brutal proliferation of statements and reactions. Through growing collective agitation new proposals and actions seeking to revitalize the common world are gushing forth, be they proposals to transform expertise or to generate new activist and citizen responses creating new experimental objects, new methodologies and proposals of collective designs...

>> We are in crisis, but wait... What if I don’t buy it?

>> Take part!

>> If you are interested in STS (be it from the fields of history, anthropology, philosophy, sociology, or any other discipline), regardless of your academic position or degree.

>> How

>> There are different options

>> (1) Communication

>> Send your proposal (max. 250 words) before February 28th, 2013/March 8th, 2013

>> Language: It might be in any of the official languages of the Spanish state, English and Portuguese

>> Include contact data (name, email address, institution)

>> (2) Postgraduate workshop

>> If you are a postgraduate student and instead of a regular communication you would be interested in out postgraduate workshop, this workshop will be dedicated to discuss any aspect of your research process, be it a draft text, a research proposal or methodological and writing issues.

>> Send us your proposal on what you would like to work on. The proposal should fit the requirements of the regular communications.

>> (3) Other type of sessions

>> Send us your proposals and we will discuss them.

>> Inbox: es.cts.es at gmail.com

>> Communication acceptance will be notified by April 14th 2013

>> Spanish Network of STS (esCTS)

>> The esCTS is a not-for-profit, open and horizontal network of scholars and professionals, whose aim is to put in contact everyone working in the field of STS in the Spanish state. Thus enabling a space for participation, communication and reflection for tenure-track researchers, professionals, young scholars, and graduate students.

>> Travel grants

>> Depending on budget availability a limited number of travel grants will be offered to cover travel and allocation expenses. These grants will be offered to those of you whose communication has been accepted and who might have provable economic difficulties to attend the meeting. Selection criteria will be published once the acceptance process is concluded, only in case the number of applicants exceeds the number of grants available.

>> --

>> All the best,

>> esCTS Network Team

Please post. Due to several requests on further extensions on submissions, we have considered extending submission on "Tobacco Roads" till March 10, 2013.

*Call for Papers- Deadline Extended *

*Tobacco Roads:*

*Technology Transfer in Tobacco Industry during the Early Twentieth Century*

*5-7 July 2013*

*Kavala**, Greece***

The workshop marks the centenary anniversary of Kavala’s accession to the Greek state in July 1913. It is supported by the National Technical University of Athens, the Municipality of Kavala, ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA, Athens, and the Austrian Embassy in Athens.

*Organizer: *Maria Rentetzi, Associate Professor, National Technical University of Athens, Greece
The venue of the conference is a wonderful tobacco warehouse renovated to host the tobacco museum of the city of Kavala in northern Greece.

The conference invites historians and scholars from the history of technology, technology studies, the humanities, architecture, museum and cultural studies and other related disciplines to an interdisciplinary discussion of the history of tobacco technologies. It aims to reassess the role of technology transfer in the social construction of whole cities and urban infrastructures and retell their history through a multidisciplinary approach. By focusing on major dimensions of technological change in the area of tobacco production and processing, the workshop aims to answer how and why tobacco technologies were crucial in shaping whole cities. The conference is especially focused on the tobacco industry in Kavala, a town by the sea in northern Greece, and its interrelation to the Austro-Hungarian tobacco monopolies. We encourage, however, contributions that deal with the seminal issue of technology transfer in the tobacco industry in general during the early twentieth century, given that the transfer of technology affects the practices of both the new locality and the point of origin.

During the early 20th century the economies of a number of Greek cities relied almost exclusively on the cultivation, processing, and sale of tobacco leaves. Especially in coastal cities such as Kavala, everyday life mirrored the incessant tobacco production cycle—picking, drying, processing and baling tobacco. This was then transported to the port, loaded onto barges lined up at the quays in front of the city’s enormous tobacco warehouses and ferried out to foreign company steamers anchored out to sea.

Since the 1840s, Lloyd, the major Austrian steamship company, had established a fortnightly service between Trieste and Kavala. Tobacco exports were directed mainly at the Hapsburg Empire, but also Russia, England, Egypt, France, and even the United States. The city attracted both the Greek bourgeoisie—retailers who traded tobacco as independent exporters in mainly the Balkans, Russia, Egypt, and Turkey—and European corporations.

These were powerful investors who built their own tobacco warehouses and often had the double role of foreign consul in the city and tobacco merchant. It is indicative that by 1880 all the major European countries had established consulates in the city of Kavala. By the end of the nineteenth century, around 4,000 tons of tobacco were being sent abroad annually from the city’s port mostly by the Austro-Hungarian *Herzog et Cie*. By 1913 there were 61 tobacco trading houses in the city.

In this context of economic growth, powerful tobacco dealers mainly from the Austro-Hungarian empire, introduced innovative processing and packaging machinery in order to maintain a firm grip over tobacco production. Indeed, the tobacco industry stood at the cutting edge of business practice. The history of tobacco in Greece has been told as part of the country’s political, economic, and labor history; fortunately it has also evoked interest in gender and women’s history. Yet, historians, sociologists, and anthropologists have paid less attention to the ways that the transfer of tobacco technologies, mostly from the Hapsburg Empire, shaped local societies, were transformed by them and also greatly influenced the national economy after the city’s accession to the Greek state.

Transferring artifacts and methods for tobacco production and processing is but one form of technology transfer. The history of Greek cities such as Kavala has witnessed many other forms of technology transfer that touch on the technological know-how, the actors, the practices, and the industrial buildings. The story of the Greek city of Kavala and its tobacco trade relations with Vienna is an example of technology transfer and a starting point for a wider discussion on the use of technology in tobacco production, processing, and distribution.

Thus, we invite contributions on, but not limited to, the major actors in the tobacco trade in Kavala, such as the Austro-Hungarian Jewish industrialist Pierre Herzog who monopolized trade of Balkan and Turkish tobacco in Central Europe by the end of the nineteenth century and his company’s representative in the city, Adolf Wix von Zsolnay; the tobacco trade and economic relations and technology transfer between Kavala and Vienna; the traditional tobacco processing methods and their mechanization; the work culture and the political upheavals that were resulted from the introduction of new technologies in tobacco warehouses; the transfer of architectural styles and forms from Austria to the wider area of Kavala and neighboring cities. Also references to other parts of the world and tobacco centers are welcome.

*Submission guidelines:*

A 250-words abstract along with a short one page cv as a word or pdf attachment are requested by March 10, 2013. Please send these to Maria...
Rentetzimrentetz at vt.edu. Proposals will be reviewed and notification of the outcome will be made on March 30, 2013.
*Conference registration fee:* 50 euros

ROMANTIC FEELINGS. Continuities and Discontinuities in the History of Emotions (From the aftermath of the French Revolution to the Revolutions of 1848), 16-18 September 2013, Jeantet Foundation Auditorium, Geneva Switzerland

Dolores Martin Moruno – IHMS, Geneva University
Alberto Fragio – IMGWF, Universität zu Lübeck

Organized by the IHMS, Geneva University and HIST-EX EMOTIONAL STUDIES, CCHS/CSIC

**Deadline: 31 May 2013**

Does Romanticism really imply a revolt of the affective dimension of the human being above the intellectual, breaking from the beliefs of previous epochs, or can it be better understood as the culmination of a long term process, which started with the 18th century cult of sensibility? Alternatively, should we interpret it as the rise of an “emotional style”, which grew out of the suffering and desperation experienced after the Terror in France and relegated feelings and their expressions to the private, while reason became the virtue cultivated in the public sphere?

This three-day conference seeks to discuss to what extent the Romantic celebration of feelings involved continuities and discontinuities in the history of emotions by means of analysing the representations of passions, feelings and sentiments in the production of artistic and scientific knowledge, as well as their role in world politics during the period from 1780 to 1840. The nostalgia of childhood innocence described by the poet Novalis, the dark melancholy represented in Francisco de Goya’s Saturn or the most elegiac feeling praised by John Keats in his poetry, the emotional flow in Schubert’s or Chopin’s music, the resentment expressed by German, British, Italian and Spanish national communities against French cultural hegemony, the intense blushing that characterised the embarrassment felt by Jane Austen’s heroines or romantic love as portrayed in Goethe’s The Sorrows of Young Werther are only a few examples of the most common feelings shaped by different European Romanticisms.

This conference proposes to discuss the multifaceted expression of Romantic feelings in a wide range of disciplines such as literary and artistic creations, anatomical and physiological models, psychiatric and psychological investigations, as well as moral and political theories in order to revaluate their specificity within the history of emotions. Contributions of scholars interested in participating in this conference are encouraged to focus on the following topics:

* From heartfelt Feelings to brainful Emotions. This section discusses the representation of feelings in Romantic art and science as the original manner of expression of the modern self and its intimate connection with Nature. Coming from very different traditions, William Wordsworth’s poetry, Vicenzo Bellini’s operas, Eugène Delacroix’s paintings, François Maine de Biran’s philosophy or Johannes Müller’s physiology included detailed explanations on the nature of feelings, their production, their functioning and expression in the human body. We encourage the analysis of Romantic feelings in relation to the prominence of organs such as the heart and the brain, which have been alternatively considered as the place in which lie the emotional identity of the self.

* Reading Disease in Romantic Bodies. Taking Goethe’s condemnation of Romantic subjectivity as sickness, this section attempts to shed light on the pathological expression of feelings and sentiments –which were usually termed “passions”- by examining diseases such as melancholia, hypochondria, and consumption, or the fear induced by epidemics such as those of cholera and suicide. Particular attention will be focused on the representation of passions as symptoms that explained the rise of mental diseases such as in Johann Christian Reil and Jacques Joseph Moreau de Tours’ psychiatry, or in Theodore Gericault’s paintings of the criminal insane. Late 18th and early 19th historical perspectives on the affective nature of mental disorders will be explored in connection with experimental practices such as the induction of artificial somnambulism or the ingestion of psychoactive substances. There will also be reference made to artistic techniques such as the use of colours in Romantic painting in order to represent madness.

* Natural Feelings and Romantic Politics. From the aftermath of the French Revolution to the Congress of Vienna, European Romanticism takes shape under the influence of the Napoleonic Wars, which shook the foundations of the whole of Europe giving rise to national feelings such as
anger, resentment, terror and mourning in Italy, Ireland, Germany, Switzerland, Greece and Spain.

Natural feelings had already been introduced in morals and politics since the publication of Rousseau’s Social Contract, in order to justify not only rightful actions, but moreover individual’s freedom against the abuse of authority as is shown by Henry Thoreau’s notion of civil disobedience. Feelings also became the subject of strong criticism coming from writers such as Mary Wollstonescraft, who unmasked the ideology of sensibility as a way of reinforcing women’s slavery. Furthermore, this panel proposes to examine the ways in which the colonial discourse made reference to animal feelings in order to portray the non-civilized man as a brute.

If you are interested in participating in this conference, please send a proposal of no more of 300 words in English or French to Dolores.MartinMoruno at unige.ch or albfregio at gmai.com by the 31st of May, 2013. A selection of papers presented in this workshop will be included in a publication.

New Exhibition at Medical Museion: Biohacking: Do It Yourself!

Biotechnology research is usually locked away in universities and industrial laboratories, but biohackers and do-it-yourself biologists want to set it free. The biohacking movement argues that the tools of biotechnology should be available and affordable, through places such as hacker labs where anyone can come and experiment.

>From the 25th of January, Medical Museion, the University of Copenhagen’s medical museum, will house an open biohacking laboratory, pieced together from recycled furniture, IKEA cabinets, and cheap "hacked" instruments made by do-it-yourself biologists from BiologiGaragen and Hackteria. At a series of hands-on events and discussions, visitors are invited to step inside the world of practical biotechnology, and encounter the dreams and realities of open science.

In this project, the museum is also being ‘hacked’ – as the Director Thomas Söderqvist writes, “Museums can learn a lot from hacker culture, for example, to build exhibitions and events on the user’s initiative and with simple and available resources”.

A video trailer is available here: http://vimeo.com/57536108

Hours: Wednesday-Friday and Sunday, 12-4pm, from 25th January.

Exhibition Opening: Thursday 24th January at 7.30pm, and is free to all.

Open Days: Biohackers will be working in the lab on three Sundays in February (10th, 17th, and 24th), and visitors can join in the experiments.

Workshop: A do-it-yourself workshop will be held on the evening of March 14th at 7.30pm.

Symposium: On March 21st, 7.30pm, a public symposium in collaboration with the University’s Center for Synthetic Biology will bring together ethicists, legislators, sociologists and hackers to discuss the goals, concerns, and visions of open biology.

Tickets: The exhibition is included in the museum entrance price. However, tickets for the workshop on 14th March and for the Symposium on 21st March are sold through Billetto:

014th March: http://billetto.dk/da/events/workshopigoer-det-selv-biologi

0 21st March:
http://billetto.dk/da/events/kanmanbygelivsyntetiskbiologipraksisogtildelab

Details about all our partners and events can be found at medm.us/biohacking

Please contact Karin Tybjerg (karin.tybjerg at sund.ku.dk) or Louise Whiteley (louise.whiteley at sund.ku.dk) with any enquiries

Aarhus Summer University: Integrated History and Philosophy of Science
http://kursuskatalog.au.dk/en/coursecatalog/Course/show/34727/

How are history and philosophy of science related to each other? How can historical studies of science be brought to bear on the philosophical interpretation of scientific practice? Conversely, how can philosophical reflection on science enrich the historical understanding of scientific development? In this course, we will discuss these questions and examine various possibilities of blending history and philosophy of science, by exploring topics such as the dynamics of scientific change, the function of experimentation and measurement, and the structure of scientific discovery.

Lecturer: Theodore Arabatzis, University of Athens

Dates: 3-31 July 2013
Application deadline: 15 March 2013
*How users matter: between democratized technology and creative capitalism*
*Editors:*
/Samps Hyysalo, Aalto University, Finland/
User involvement in innovation is no longer a fringe activity. In both industry and academia, users have become accepted as important part of R&D activities. Some hold that users are now in more empowered position than ever before, ready to do it for themselves by themselves and in doing so challenging the dominant innovation regimes altogether. Others are more skeptical towards such democratization of innovation, pointing that most user participation appears either token or, more cynically, that user participation is a clever way to fuel creative capitalism. At the middle ground many seek ways to mainstream user involvement to fit them more seamlessly into extant R&D structures and processes, regardless of ideological underpinnings.

These changes can be captured in resonances to title "how users matter" in Oudshoorn and Pinch edited volume 2003. At the turn of the millennium how users matter was apt for exploring the variety of roles users may play in the co-construction of technologies and everyday practices. Now, a decade later, the same question is more about how these roles have been appropriated and reacted to by different stakeholders. Democracy advocates, various industries, consultants, designers, and policy makers are just a few of the groups that have seriously embraced "the user".

With these changes it has become interesting to make a new major edition on the work that social studies of technology have produced on users. We hence call for papers to flag outstanding work in science and technology studies. This call for papers is twofold. On the one hand the ten most suited papers will be selected into an edited book we seek to publish with a major academic publisher such as MIT press. On the other hand we will compile a special issue in EASST journal Science & Technology Studies <http://www.scientifictechnologystudies.org> out of all those papers that pass the peer-review process but are not topically suited i.e. due to crowding out of papers on some themes. With this two tiered process we can welcome all work on users conducted within the broadly defined S&TS field of research.

We are particularly keen to receive work that would fall under the following themes, which we tentatively seek to use as those organizing the book:

* Extending and re-evaluating early STS work on "User"

The earliest contributions to the study of consumption and use emerged within STS during the late 1980s. Since then hundreds of researchers have conducted research on issues such as domestication, user representation, scripts, configuring, intermediaries and so on. Works extending, debating, updating, critiquing and refining these extant lines of work would be of special interest now that "user studies" have arguably matured considerably.

* Techno-scientific practices and user communities

One of the strongholds of S&TS work on users is on rich and insightful treatise of techno-scientific practices both in laboratories as well as in the everyday lives of people. This is an area where S&TS researchers are genuinely original in contrast to more superficial treatises of these topics in areas such as innovation management, media studies, open source studies and human-computer interaction. We are particularly keen to receive papers that address techno-scientific practices of user collectives rather than individual users because the latter has received more attention in STS. We seek work that exemplifies and renews the STS tradition for thick descriptions and insightful analysis of techno-scientific practices.

* Between creative capitalism and democratization

The ways in which industry players organize their user driven and open innovation efforts have become increasingly nuanced and complex. Many software producers have generated arrangements that routinely generate (free) work from tens of thousands of users to every launch they make in the form of designs, testing, marketing and new uses. Similarly independent or semi-dependent peer creation communities are strategically created and nurtured for competitive advantage. Activists and enthusiasts have not stood idle in the face of the corporate interest, but become equally proficient in playing the game with industry to further their own cause. In all what is currently being co-constructed in the liaisons among users and between them and industry partners begs for closer analysis, which may include Actor Network Theory analyses, biography of artifacts studies, and long line of research on citizen activism in S&TS. We seek high-quality work along these lines.

Deadline for paper submissions is 15th of August 2013. All submissions should be made...
In recent years, there has been a notable cross-fertilization of ideas from the fields of communication studies and science and technology studies (STS). Researchers from both domains are increasingly seeking to better understand various facets of the relationship between communication and sociotechnical infrastructures. For example, growing numbers of communication researchers have been employing conceptual tools and methods offered by STS to assist in understanding the sociotechnical character and situatedness of media and information technologies and their configurations. Likewise, in organizational communication, STS concepts have brought attention to the ways in which artifacts influence organizational life. At the same time, more and more STS researchers are drawing upon various facets of critical inquiry provided by communication studies as they examine phenomena that weave together the material and symbolic. For instance a range of conceptual tools from communication studies pertaining to the analysis of audio, textual, and visual objectshave been used to examine mediated practices such as the informatization of the body, the role of images in popular representations of science, and the role of rhetoric in the development and introduction of new technologies.

*Focus of the Special Issue*

This special issue aims to contribute to the growing dialogue between communication studies and STS by investigating complementarities and divergences between the two fields. In particular, we are interested in exploring the historical evolution of both fields, points of intersection (e.g. conceptual, methodological, theoretical), and articulations of explicit bridges between communication studies and STS. Authors are invited to submit original conceptual or empirically grounded papers, addressing topics such as those listed below in a variety of contexts (e.g. digital media, environment, health, organization, transitioning economies):

- Collaboration and participation
- Design, production, and consumption
- Ethics and Morality
- Gender
- Identities
- Infrastructure
- Innovation
- Knowledge and expertise
- Mobilities and migration
- Politics, policy and regulation
- Risk
- Social Justice
- Space
- Surveillance

The above topics are merely indicative and this special issue will welcome papers discussing other themes relevant to understanding the intersections between communication studies and STS. We invite submissions of papers (7000-9000 words in length) in English or in French. For information about the Canadian Journal of Communication and for the submission guidelines please visit [http://www.cjc-online.ca/submissions.php](http://www.cjc-online.ca/submissions.php).

*Papers should be submitted electronically to the guest editors at the email addresses provided below*.

Daniel J. Paré: dpar2 at uottawa.ca

Florence Millerand: millerand.florence at uqam.ca

Lorna Heaton: lorna.heaton atumontreal.ca

Prospective authors are encouraged to contact the guest editors for any enquires about the special issue.
**Important Dates**

*The deadline for submission of papers is: Friday March 15, 2013*.  
*Tentative date for publication: Autumn 2013*

*Canadian Journal of Communication--Numéro spécial*

*Appel à contribution: Au croisement des études en communication et en science, technologie, société (STS)*

*Rédacteurs invités:*

/Daniel J. Paré, *Département de communication, *l’École des sciences de l’information, Institut de recherche sur la science, la société et la politique public (ISSP), Université d'Ottawa/

/Florence Millerand, *Département de communication* sociale et publique, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Centre interuniversitaire de recherche sur la science et la technologie (CIRST), /

/Lorna Heaton, *Département de communication*./Université de Montréal /; /Centre interuniversitaire de recherche sur la science et la technologie (CIRST) /

On a observé, durant les dernières années, une fécondation croisée d'idées entre le champ de la communication et le champ science, technologie et société (STS). Un nombre grandissant de chercheurs et chercheuses issus de ces deux champs d'investigation travaillent au développement d'une meilleure compréhension des multiples facettes de la relation entre communication et infrastructures sociotechniques. Par exemple, de plus en plus de travaux en communication mobilisent des outils conceptuels et des méthodes développés en STS pour saisir la dimension sociotechnique et le caractère situé des médias et des technologies, pour mieux en comprendre les configurations. Dans le domaine de la communication organisationnelle, les outils conceptuels des études en STS ont fait porté l'attention sur la façon dont les artefacts influencent la vie des organisations. Parallèlement, de plus en plus de chercheurs et chercheuses en STS s'inspirent des outils fournis par les recherches critiques en communication pour examiner des phénomènes où s'entremêlent le matériel et le symbolique. Ainsi, toute une gamme d'outils conceptuels forgés en communication pour l'étude des objets audio, textuels et visuels a été mobilisée pour analyser diverses pratiques médiatiques comme l'informatisation du corps, le rôle de l'image dans les représentations populaires de la science ou le rôle de la rhétorique dans le développement et l'introduction de nouvelles technologies.

*Thème central du **numéro***

Ce numéro spécial vise à contribuer au développement du dialogue entre les études en communication et en STS, en examinant les complémentarités et les divergences entre les deux champs. Plus particulièrement, nous cherchons à explorer leur évolution historique, leurs points d'intersection (conceptuel, méthodologique et théorique), ainsi que l'articulation des points de passage entre les études en communication et en STS. Les auteurs sont invités à soumettre des textes originaux, basés sur des travaux conceptuels ou empiriques, abordant des sujets tels que ceux énumérés ci-dessous, dans divers contextes (médias numériques, environnement, santé, organisations, pays en transition, etc.):

* Collaboration et participation
* Conception, production et consommation
* L'éthique
* Genre
* Identités
* Infrastructure
* Innovation
* Connaissance et expertise
* Mobilités et migrations
* Politique et réglementation
* Risque
* Justice sociale
* Espace
* Surveillance

Les sujets ci-dessus ne sont mentionnés qu'à titre indicatif. Les textes discutant d'autres thèmes pertinents à l'élargissement du dialogue entre les études en communication et en STS seront bienvenus. Nous invitons les auteurs à soumettre des textes (comprenant entre 45 000 et 60 000 caractères incluant les espaces, sans les références) en anglais ou en français. Pour plus d'informations sur le /Canadian Journal of Communication/ et sur les consignes de soumission, veuillez visiter le site web de la revue: [http://www.cjc-online.ca/submissions.php](http://www.cjc-online.ca/submissions.php).

*Les auteurs doivent soumettre leur texte directement aux rédacteurs invités, par voie électronique aux adresses de courrier électronique suivantes:*

Daniel J. Paré: [dpar2 at uottawa.ca](mailto:dpar2@uottawa.ca)

Florence Millerand: [millerand.florence at uqam.ca](mailto:millerand.florence@uqam.ca)

Lorna Heaton: [jorna.heaton at umontreal.ca](mailto:jorna.heaton@umontreal.ca)

Les auteurs sont invités à contacter les rédacteurs invités pour toutes questions relatives à ce numéro spécial.
It is our great pleasure to announce that the call for proposals for the Euroscience Open Forum 2014 scientific programme is open as of January 15, 2013. Please, learn more about the call for proposals [http://esof2014.org/calls-for-proposals](http://esof2014.org/calls-for-proposals).

The 2014 edition of ESOF will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, June 21-26, 2014 and is organised in collaboration between the Danish Ministry for Science, Innovation and Higher Education and the founder of ESOF, Euroscience.

The multidisciplinary scientific programme of ESOF 2014 is highly prestigious and we expect numerous proposals. The call will close May 9, 2013, and we encourage you to put together an excellent proposal respecting the selection criteria.

ESOF 2014 Copenhagen also comprises the ambitious Science in the City programme that is organized in order to facilitate public dialogue, interaction and mutual responsiveness between scientific communities and society at large. If you want to take part in this dialogue and contribute with activities you can read more in the call for [expression of interest](http://esof2014.org/calls-for-proposals).

**International workshop on ‘Constructing and Contesting spaces for low-carbon energy innovation’. November 26-28, 2013, School of Innovation Sciences, Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands**

**Abstract deadline: April 1st, 2013**

Convened by: Rob Raven/Bram Verhees (TU/e); Adrian Smith/Florian Kern (SPRU); Staffan Jacobsson (Chalmers)

Aim: This workshop aims to bring together leading scholars who study the construction and disruption of socio-political ‘spaces’ for low-carbon energy innovations from different conceptual and theoretical perspectives. The aim is to critically reflect on the analytical advantages, and limitations, that ‘spaces’ thinking brings to understanding low-carbon innovation. Abstracts (max 300 words) should be submitted to r.p.j.m.raven@tue.nl.

**Ph.D. Course: Sociotechnical Theory and Analytical Methods**

Part 1: May 6-8, 2013 (2½ days).

Part 2: August 13-14, 2013 (2 days)

Locations:

**Part 1: Technical University of Denmark (DTU Lyngby Campus, Denmark)**

**Part 2: Aalborg University, Copenhagen (AAU Campus in Copenhagen, Denmark)**

**ECTS Credits: 5**

A Ph.D. course in Sociotechnical Theory and Analytical Methods will be offered at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) and Aalborg University, Copenhagen. The course is intended for students already familiar with Science and Technology Studies (STS), while those who may be relatively new to the field may also apply. Course supervision will emphasize the individual participants’ Ph.D. projects, in relation to the course's subject matter.

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 draws on 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 more delimited capacities.

The course is shared between DTU Management Engineering and Department of Planning and Development, AAU Copenhagen, but is open to both participants within, as well as outside the two universities. The maximum number of participants is 15 and the minimum number of participants is 8.

Preparations and assignments

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 be asked to prepare 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 May and August dates, the participants are to develop a working paper (on the order of no more than 10 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 preliminary work on the actual analytical...
treatment of empirical material. The nature of the draft can depend on how far into the dissertation work the participant is at that point in time. The draft is intended for the participant to be able to discuss and receive critique on writing that would be relevant for the dissertation work, and which may ultimately be incorporated into the dissertation.

How to apply:

Application to the course is to be made by e-mail to Yutaka Yoshinaka: yosh at 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. It would be useful, if you have already completed at least two-three months of empirical work by the start of the course in May.

- 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.

Inquiry regarding the application process or about the course in general, may be directed to Yutaka Yoshinaka.

The deadline for applications is Monday, March 11, 2013, at 12 o'clock, and applicants may expect to receive notification of acceptance by Monday, April 1, 2013.

Important notice: The next time the course is run will be in 2015.

Course fee:

Participation in the course is free of charge, while any expenses toward accommodation or transportation for participating in the course must be met by the participants themselves.

Important information: There is a no-show fee of DKK 5,000 is accepted and enrolled students does not show up. Cancellations are accepted no later than 2 weeks before start of the course. Registered illness is of course an acceptable reason for not showing up on those days.

Course instructors:

Assoc. Prof. Yutaka Yoshinaka, Technical University of Denmark (DTU), email: yosh at dtu.dk. Post Doc. Søsser Brodersen, Aalborg University Copenhagen (AAU Copenhagen), email: sbro at plan.aau.dk

Groningen Energy Summer School 2013

A multi-disciplinary approach to energy transition, from policy to physics. With a case study of Russia

The Groningen Energy Summer School 2013 for PhD students takes a multi-disciplinary approach to energy transition. By bringing together and combining a broad range of disciplines, this event will offer a unique opportunity for PhD students to become aware of different aspects of the energy transition, to develop novel insights, and to create synergy in approaches to energy transition. During the summer school, the PhD students will attend lectures by specialists in the field, present their own work, and participate in workshops and discussions.

The summer school will be held from 17 to 28 June 2013 in Groningen, The Netherlands. It is jointly organized by the Groningen Energy and Sustainability Programme (GESP) and by the department of International Relations and International Organisations. The summer school is realized in partnership with the University of Groningen, EDGaR, EDI, and the Stichting Noord-Nederland Rusland 2013.

For more information, see the summer school website:

http://www.rug.nl/research/energy/education/summerschool/

or contact Anne Beaulieu j.a.beaulieu at rug.nl

Opportunities Available

*2013 ESST European Award for Aspiring Undergraduates in Science, Technology and Society (STS)*

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 2013 award committee are:

- Ericka Johnson, Linköping University, Sweden
- Faidra Papanelopoulou, University of Athens, Greece
- Juan Carlos Salazar, Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain

Past Winners:

2012, Alina Marktanner, Maastricht University
2011, Miklós Horváth, Eötvös Loránd University
2010, André Feldhof, Maastricht University

*Deadline: 30 June, 2013*

For more information: ww.esst.eu

*How to apply:*

Applications should consist of a cover sheet (available at www.esst.eu), completed and scanned, and a double-spaced pdf copy of the student paper or essay. Applicants may not submit more than one piece of work. Applications should be emailed to Aristotle Tympas, the 2013 ESST Award coordinator, at: tympas at phs.uoa.gr.

De Montfort University, Centre for Computing and Social Responsibility
Faculty of Technology
Starting April 2013 / July 2013

A PhD research studentship covering stipend (£13,770 p.a.) and tuition fee costs within the Centre for Computing and Social Responsibility (CCSR), (Faculty of Technology) working with an internationally recognised research team is available to suitably qualified UK or EU students.

The project will be in the area of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) theory and practice. It will be located in the context of the EU FP7 research project GREAT (Governance of REsponsible innovATion) which started in February 2013. For initial information on the GREAT project, check the project website: <http://www.great-project.eu/>

The studentship furthermore builds on earlier work undertaken in the area, including previous and current EU (ETICA, http://www.etica-project.eu/, CONSIDIER, http://www.consider-project.eu/) and current UK funded projects (FRRRIICT, http://www.responsible-innovation.org.uk/) conducted within the CCSR. These projects have identified emerging technologies, their ethical issues, and methods for fostering good, ethical governance and practice in research and innovation.

These research activities feed into the broader field of RRI. The studentship will contribute to this debate.

Areas this PhD studentship might explore include the following:

- Critical review of current theories and practices of RRI
- Applicability of RRI methods or procedures between different fields
- Shortcomings and limitations of discourses around RRI
- Methods for evaluation of RRI activities and initiatives
- Methods for implementing and disseminating RRI

The project can build on the findings of the GREAT ETICA, CONSIDER and FRRRIICT projects.

In addition to the projects already mentioned, the CCSR will lead a work packages in another recently awarded European networking project on RRI (RESPONSIBILITY) which will run in parallel to the GREAT project. The successful applicant will therefore be able to access current discussions and contribute immediately to European policy formulation.

Since 2008 the CCSR has led successful research application worth more than £3 million in research funding and been involved in projects worth another £3 million. All of the funded projects feed directly into research and policy discussions on RRI in ICT. The Centre boasts an active research agenda and a significant number of postgraduate students, with opportunities for the successful student to become involved in a supportive, enthusiastic, and collegial atmosphere aimed at fostering the highest quality of research and significant impact of research output.

For a more detailed description of the studentship project please visit our web site (http://www.dmu.ac.uk/ccsr) or contact Prof. Bernd Stahl on +44 116 207 8252 or email bstahl at dmu.ac.uk

This research opportunity builds on our excellent achievements in the past and looking forward to REF2014 and beyond. It will develop
the university’s research capacity into new and evolving areas of study, enhancing DMU’s national and international research partnerships.

Applications are invited from UK or EU students with a good first degree (First, 2:1 or equivalent) in a relevant subject. Doctoral scholarships are available for up to three years full-time study starting April 2013 and provide a bursary of £13,770 pa in addition to university tuition fees.

To download an application pack, please visit the Graduate School Office website: http://www.dmu.ac.uk/research/graduate-school/phd-scholarships.aspx

Completed applications should be returned to researchstudents at dmu.ac.uk via the Apply button below.

Please quote ref: DMU Research Scholarships 2013 TECH FO1

Closing Date: 15 March 2013

The Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service in Washington, DC is now accepting applications for the position of 2013-2014 Yahoo! Fellow in Residence. The fellowship is supported by the Yahoo! International Values, Communications Technology, and Global Internet Fellowship Fund, which was established in 2007-08 at the School of Foreign Services (SFS) at Georgetown University with the help of a $1 million gift from Yahoo! Inc. Every year, the fund supports one fellow attached to the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy (ISD) and two junior fellows from the MSFS graduate program at SFS to do research on how international values apply to the development and use of new communications technologies. Additional information can be found on the Institute's website using the following links:

http://isd.georgetown.edu/programs/yahoofellow/
http://isd.georgetown.edu/files/Yahoo_Announcement.pdf

Privacy Research Fellowship at NYU available for 2013-14

The Information Law Institute of NYU’s Engelberg Center on Innovation Law and Policy is accepting applications for one-year fellowships in the area of privacy law and policy to begin in Fall 2013. The fellowship is open to law school graduates or PhDs in relevant disciplines with excellent credentials. Additional legal or policy experience is a plus, particularly if in a related field. While in residence at NYU School of Law, the fellow will be expected to devote time to joint projects, pursue his or her own privacy-related research agenda and help with programming of topical events. Joint research may be supervised by Helen Nissenbaum (Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication), Katherine Strandburg (Professor of Law), or Ira Rubinstein (ILI Senior Fellow). A special focus for 2013-14 will be education privacy in light of cloud computing and other third-party educational service providers (e.g. MOOCs). Thus, a basic understanding of relevant law (or willingness to learn quickly), ability to engage with US regulatory agencies as well as corporate and educational actors, and some appreciation of underlying technologies would be a plus.

The fellow will have the opportunity to participate in Information Law Institute activities, including the multidisciplinary Privacy Research Group, to interact with other faculty associated with the ILI and Engelberg Center, and to take part in many other activities at NYU School of Law. Further information about the ILI and our associated Privacy Research Group is available at http://www.law.nyu.edu/centers/ili/index.htm.

Applications for the fellowship should be sent by email to ILI assistant Nicole Arzt, nicole.arzt at nyu.edu, and should include: a cover letter, curriculum vitae, copies of or links to any relevant publications, and the names and contact information of three references. We will begin reviewing applications on March 20 and continue until the position is filled.

The fellowship is supported by a grant from Microsoft Corporation.

* Nicole Arzt
NYU School of Law
40 Washington Square South
Room 336
New York, NY 10012
212-998-6013
(fax) 212-995-4760
nicole.arzt at nyu.edu

* Helen Nissenbaum, Professor
Media, Culture, & Communication, NYU
http://www.nyu.edu/projects/nissenbaum

JOB ADVERT
Job Reference
WU-2013-HL001
Job Title: Full Professor Sociology of Consumption and Households
Job description
A full (1.0/0.8 fte) Professor of Sociology of Consumption and Households (F/M; permanent position) who will lead the chair group ‘Sociology of Consumption and Households’ (SCH).

The chair group Sociology of Consumption and Households focuses on the ways in which two core phenomena - consumption and households – develop in different parts of the world. Consumption is studied as a wide range of practices in everyday life. Households are considered an arena of everyday life in which social actors shape consumption practices and (gender) relations under the impacts of global developments. The chair group also generates knowledge of demographic developments and dynamics in a global network society. Both qualitative and quantitative methods have an important role to play in this research. The chair group Sociology of Consumption and Households considers households as sites of consumption as well as sites of domestic production and it integrates the following themes into the research programme of the chair group:
- the social and cultural significance of consumption
- sustainability in everyday life
- household composition, power relations and dynamics of everyday life (e.g. gender perspectives)
- the household production of care, health and well-being
- the appropriation of technology and food, as well as their innovations, within households

A major task of the new chair is to further stimulate the development of high-quality theoretical, methodological and contextual knowledge focused on the household dynamics of everyday life from a global and gender perspective, which fits well in Wageningen University’s ambition to improve the quality of life.

The chair holder will lead and manage the group and generate ideas for research directions and projects. She/he will conduct research, generate publications in relevant key journals, and supervise PhD candidates. She/he will be responsible for courses at BSc, MSc and PhD level in the scientific domain of the chair group, and will collaborate closely with other chair groups within the Social Sciences Group, especially within the sub-department ‘Sociology and Governance’.

The chair holder will use her/his scientific expertise and networks to increase both the visibility and the applicability of the research, to broaden the international network of the chair group, and to develop externally funded research programmes. To accomplish this, she/he will maintain close contacts with other universities, policy makers and research institutes.

We ask:
- a PhD degree in and profound knowledge of sociology or a related discipline and affinity with one or more research themes of the group
- an outstanding research record, showing publications in relevant international journals and supervision of PhD candidates
- willingness to stimulate and support research from different theoretical and methodological traditions manifested in experience in interdisciplinary research networks (beta-gamma, as well as within the social sciences)
- a proven record in acquisition and a strong and relevant (international) network
- outstanding didactic qualities and the capacity to motivate students
- experience and/or interest in working with social-cultural issues from a comparative perspective
- an effective leadership style and an ambitious team builder with good social and interpersonal skills

We offer:
Besides a competitive salary we offer a number of additional benefits, such as an end-of-year extra month, a holiday allowance and a pension at the pension fund ABP.
We offer flexible working conditions to support a good work – life balance of our employees.
Applicants from abroad moving to the Netherlands may qualify for a special tax relief, by which 30% of their salary is tax free.

Further information about the position can be obtained from:
Prof.dr Gert Spaargaren, Chair of the Search Committee
Tel: +31 317 483874
E-mail: gert.spaargaren at wur.nl

More detailed information on the profile and the chair group is available on request: Eveline.vaane at wur.nl

Additional information can also be obtained through the following links:
- about the organisation: www.wageningenur.nl
- about the chair group:
Wageningen University strives for a better gender balance to improve the quality of our organisation. Therefore, we explicitly invite female candidates to apply.

Are you interested? Please send your application, including your detailed Curriculum Vitae and list of publications, before 30th March 2013 to:

Drs. Eveline.Vaane
Secretary of the Search Committee
Department of Social Sciences
P.O.box 8130
6700 EW Wageningen
preferably in digital form to Eveline.vaane at wur.nl

Please, note that the interview dates are set at 23 and/or 25 April, 2013.

We are:
We are Wageningen UR (University & Research centre) has the ambition to play a major role in research and education in the field of Virology. The chair closely collaborates with related groups within and outside Wageningen UR. The Chair Group is embedded in the [Plant Sciences Group] of Wageningen UR.

HR Excellence in Research

Additional information can be obtained through one of the following links:
- www.wur.nl
- www.vir.wur.nl

Wageningen University & Research centre: Delivering a substantial contribution to the quality of life. That's our focus – each and every day. Within our domain, healthy food and living environment, we search for answers to issues affecting society – such as sustainable food production, climate change and alternative energy. Of course, we don’t do this alone. Every day, 6,500 people work on ‘the quality of life’, turning ideas into reality, on a global scale.

Could you be one of these people? We give you the space you need.


Acquisition regarding this vacancy is not appreciated.

The master programme Science-Technology-Society at Vienna University is accepting applications for 25 positions for 2013/2014, deadline April 15th 2013. The MA is taught in English language.

For details on the programme and on the application procedure, please see: http://sciencestudies.univie.ac.at/en/teaching/master sts/

News from the Field

Following a 10-year period of formal and informal collaboration between several researchers, the establishment of the Society for the Philosophy of Information (SPI, [1]) inaugurates the next phase in the development of the philosophy of information as an independent and self-sustained philosophical field.

The Society was founded during the fourth workshop on the philosophy of information [2] held at the University of Hertfordshire in May 2012, and is now ready to open its membership to anyone interested in the philosophy of information while promoting its scientific and educational activities.

Prior collaborations, including part of the work done at the Oxford-based IEG research-group [3], several editorial projects [4-8], and a highly successful workshop-series [9], will find a new home in this society. In addition to this legacy, several new activities will be launched and led by some of the current members of the society [10].

Concretely, the SPI:
- brings together scholars in the area harnessing the multidisciplinary and international nature of the Philosophy of Information;
- organises workshops, seminars, conferences and other similar activities to explore the philosophical issues concerning the concept of information and its cognate notions;
- publishes teaching material for undergraduate and graduate courses on the Philosophy of Information;
- maintains a state-of-the-art collection of bibliographic resources; fosters editorial projects and funding proposals.

In this way, the SPI offers learning and research instruments to undergraduate and graduate students, while promoting the academic network and activities of junior and senior academics whose work focuses on the Philosophy of Information.

The website of the SPI (http://socphilinfo.org) is the main centre of activity where we present the aim and focus of the philosophy of information, the mission of its society, and, most importantly, provide information about the current and soon to be launched activities of the SPI. The current activities include:
- a regularly updated PI-related news feed;
- an overview of previous workshops in the philosophy of information, and an announcement of the fifth workshop;
- a brand new textbook [11] on the philosophy of information that forms the cornerstone of our teaching resources;

While the soon to be launched activities include:
- a sustained presence of SPI-sponsored sessions at international conferences;
- a repository of teaching resources, including an overview of courses in the philosophy of information that are currently taught;
- bibliographic resources on the philosophy of information, including an annotated bibliography;
- an overview of the many edited volumes and monographs on the philosophy of information that were published during the last ten years;
- book-reviews and book-symposia on notable publications that fit within or are relevant to the philosophy of information.

Interested researchers and students are encouraged to support this enterprise by becoming a member (link) and by taking part in the activities of the society.

Please circulate this amongst undergraduate students and others you might think interested in postgraduate courses in interaction design, design-led methods and design/sts crossovers:

The Department of Design at Goldsmiths is pleased to announce a brand new masters programme entitled: MA Design: Interaction Research. Grounded in Interaction Design, this programme offers a unique synthesis of practice-based research and cutting edge sociological concepts and methods, and will equip you to play a leading role in the development and understanding of emerging technology in society.

The following four themes correspond to the core courses delivered as part of the MA:
• Interaction design
• Design and the sociology of science & technology
• Design research and engagements with field settings
• Innovative and inventive methodological approaches to design and the social

Programme key points:
An innovative 15 months programme including an organisational placement or piece of self-directed fieldwork.
Supporting a balance between practice-based design and written work.
A competitive, fees-only bursary for either two home/EU applicants or one international applicant.

The course will be led by Tobie Kerridge and Alex Wilkie, experienced members of Goldsmiths’ Interaction Research Studio.

For further information see The MA Design: Interaction Research home page
http://www.gold.ac.uk/pg/ma-design-interaction/
A link to the Design Department postgraduate booklet
http://www.gold.ac.uk/media/design-pg.pdf
The Interaction Research Studio homepage
http://www.gold.ac.uk/interaction/
Contacts
Tobie Kerridge: t.kerridge at gold.ac.uk
Alex Wilkie: a.wilkie at gold.ac.uk
Publications

Note: please consider reviewing for EASST’s on-line journal, Science & Technology Studies! http://www.scientecolumn.org/

We are pleased to announce the release of a new scientific online journal, RESET. Its first issue is devoted to the relevance of the social class notion. Please find below the table of contents and the URL of the journal website.

RESET. Social Science Research on the Internet is a biannual peer-reviewed academic journal. It publishes research articles (in French or in English) where the Internet appears as a field and/or an object of study useful to the understanding of social phenomena. RESET aims at integrating the study of the Internet into the general social sciences rather than considering solely the singularity of this medium.

For the editorial board,
Samuel Coavoux (ENS Lyon, France)& Sébastien François (TELECOM ParisTech, France)
Numéro coordonné par/Special issue edited by Samuel Coavoux& Sébastien François
http://www.journalreset.org/index.php/RESET/issue/current

Présentation/Presentation
RESET. Recherches en sciences sociales sur Internet Comité de rédaction/Editorial Board
Introduction/Introduction
Introduction. Des classes sociales 2.0 ?
Samuel Coavoux
Dossier/Thematic Articles:
La stratification sociale des pratiques numériques des adolescents
Pierre Mercklé& Sylvie Octobre
Les pratiques des écrans des jeunes français.
Fabienne Gire& Fabien Granjon
Information-Seeking 2.0. The Effects of Informational Advantage
Laura Robinson
Antiracisme ordinaire et (re)catégorisations sociales dans les commentaires d’internautes
Matthieu Mazzega
Perspectives/Perspectives
Espace urbain et stratification sociale. Une lecture spatiale des inégalités sociales à l’heure d’Internet Margot Beauchamps

Actualité des classiques/Revisiting the Classics, Elective Affinities 2.0? A Bourdieusian Approach to Couple Formation and the Methodology of E-Dating
Andreas Schmitz

Issue 3 / 2012 of the ITAS Journal Technikfolgenabschätzung - Theorie und Praxis (TATuP) has been published [21.1.13]

The disposal of radioactive wastes is a difficult-to-solve socio-technical problem and has been so for years. The straightforward implementation of a maintenance-free repository, in which highly-active wastes could be safely isolated from the environment, is a far more difficult task than many actors anticipated. Currently, issues such as retrievability and the necessity of technical monitoring activities, implemented in a transparent manner, are being discussed. Monitoring the behaviour of the wastes during the operating phase of the repository is considered to be a central part of a high-quality inspection. Planning for such a high-quality monitoring concept - particularly in the case of highly-active wastes - is a great challenge, not only for technology assessment. The thematic focus of the current issue of TATuP offers a thorough overview of the current discussion on this topic.

Under the heading "TA-projects", the following research projects are presented: Erich Griessler and Peter Biegelbauer present results from the project CIT-PART, in which participatory and expert-based TA was analysed and compared between different EU-countries. Michael Nentwich and Ulrich Riehm describe the projects "TA Portal" and "openTA" aiming each to establish an online-portal addressing the international TA-community, and reflect on potential competition and synergies of both efforts. Finally Christopher Coenen and Arianna Ferrari discuss the results of the project EPOCH on Human Enhancement.


Digital Agenda for Europe
European Commission

The Onlife Initiative - A Europe 2020 Initiative
Chairman: Luciano Floridi

The Onlife Manifesto and the book ("user's manual") accompanying it are now publicly and freely available online: https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/sites/digital-agenda/files/Onlife_Initiative.pdf

The Onlife Initiative - Concept Reengineering: rethinking public spaces in the digital transition.

The deployment of ICTs and their uptake by society affects radically the human condition by modifying our relationships to ourselves, to others and to the world around us. The increasing pervasiveness of ICTs upsets established reference frameworks and blurs the boundaries between real and virtual, shifting the primacy from entities to connections & information. Concept reengineering puts us in the best position to reflect meaningfully on what is happening to us, and thereby helps us envision the future in positive terms. Fear of the new or rejection of the unknown can be overcome by better understanding of the concepts we are dealing with. The "Onlife initiative" aims to help us better understand these concepts.

For more information about the Onlife Initiative see: http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/onlife-initiative

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Dear EASST members,

We have just received permission to publish an extensive study on Parliamentary Technology Assessment organisations in Europe. It is available for download on http://www.pacitaproject.eu/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/TA-Practices-in-Europe-final.pdf.

The report describes and compares practices in Austria, Catalonia (Spain), Denmark, Flanders (Belgium), Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland. It is one of the early milestones in the four year PACITA project, funded under FP7. The project ties up established TA organisations with newcomers to the field, often coming from new EU member states.

One of the outcomes of the study is a new open way of modeling Parliamentary TA and, arguably, TA in general. For this reason, we feel it may be of interest to an audience broader than the Parliamentary TA community only. We kindly invite you to share any feedback you may have with us, through j.ganzevles at rathenau.nl and q.vanest at rathenau.nl.

Kind regards,
Jurgen Ganzevles and Rinie van Est

New book now available internationally:
Olof Hallonsten (ed)
In Pursuit of a Promise: Perspectives on the Political Process to Establish the European Spallation Source (ESS) in Lund, Sweden
http://www.amazon.com/Pursuit-Promise-Perspectives-Political/dp/9198085417/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1357830104&sr=8-1&keywords=9789198085419[cid:10A0F6DB-382F-4207-997A-D34DA9FA5E2C at bredbandsbolaget.se]

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