EASST Review

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EASST offers travel stipends to EASST events for Ph.D. students, young scholars and researchers from developing countries.
EASST funds and awards three biennial academic prizes for excellence in various aspects of community-building – the Olga Amsterdamska award for a creative collaboration in an edited book in the broad field of science and technology studies, the Chris Freeman award for a significant contribution to the interaction of science and technology studies with the study of innovation, and the John Ziman award for an innovative venture to promote the public understanding of the social dimensions of science.
EASST publishes the EASST Review and offers member access to the journal Science & Technology Studies.

Cover Illustration: “Entanglement” (Guira cuckoo perched in thorn bush). Photo by Ann Rudinow Sætnan, Otamendi Reserve, Argentina, August 2014
A tale of one two conferences
Editorial by: Ann Rudinow Sætnan

I had vaguely planned to make my last editorial a tale of two conferences, comparing the experiences of 4S/ESOCITE in Buenos Aires and EASST in Torun. But there’s information that needs to be out before the Torun conference, so this will be a tale of only the one. Probably just as well. I’ll be quite busy coordinating a track at Torun, not browsing sessions as I did in Buenos Aires, so any comparison would be unfair anyway. In fact, just one person’s impressions from browsing sessions at one conference is pretty unfair already, but take it for what it is: One person’s musings, open for your own critiques. So here they come, under three sub-headings: location, activism, buzzwords.

LOCATION: Buenos Aires was certainly an interesting city, even an ethically challenging one. Here we were in a luxury hotel, with the English language newspaper hung on our doorknobs every morning telling of the impending doom of US-based vulture funds sweeping down to gobble up the country’s finances. Or we read of the immediate disaster of families evicted at no notice from shantytown homes and left without shelter or belongings in a sudden thunder-, rain- and hailstorm, blocked by police from the bulldozed shantytown while former neighbours from the other side of the town plundered what could be rescued from the rubble. We, meanwhile, were enjoying the visual charm of brightly painted neighbourhoods, the low-cost artefacts at street markets, the views of urban wildlife in the city’s parks and ecological preserves (one I visited also apparently occupied by squatters living in shacks among unofficial parcel gardens), the gourmet meals at the hotel’s restaurants or the amazingly cheap ones at nearby cafés, the cultural extravaganzas of tango shows … and, of course, the conference’s morally uplifting and intellectually stimulating discussions about STS as socially responsible praxis. The contrasts gave ample room for reflection.

ACTIVISM, which was the theme of the conference’s opening-day plenary, was another stimulation to self-reflection. In a tri-lingual, multi-screened marathon relay roundtable, 24 presenters had three minutes each to speak about how they combined STS research and/or STS theory with social activism. Amazingly … it worked. That is: The logistics of speakers taking the podium and pre-taking the podium for the next quick changeover functioned smoothly. The speakers all kept to their three-minute limits and filled those meaningfully. The triple screens shifted with reasonable timing, keeping up with the presentations. And, for the most part, it was possible from wherever you were seated or standing to view a screen in a language you could understand. However, it did sometimes take a few seconds to identify which screen was in ones preferred language, the centre screen always being the current speaker’s own slides and the translations to the two remaining languages appearing on either of the two side screens respectively. Also, the speakers’ slides were often somewhat cryptic and unhelpful if one was unable to keep up with the whirlwind pace of the presentations … or simply unable to hear. And finally, the accumulating burden of guilt over one’s own failure to be activist in each and all of the myriad ways presented became, over the course of an hour and a half, a bit overwhelming. (I speak for myself here. Others may have been put off entirely, totally inspired, or found themselves critically considering a handful of the many STS activism possibilities presented.)
BUZZWORDS may be a poor choice of sub-headings. It sounds so dismissive. But listening to the buzz, listening for what theoretical concepts are being used with increasing frequency, does tell one something about on-going changes in a field. For instance, I have a colleague whose most-cited paper so far is about the proliferation of the term “risk” in medical research. The increasing frequency of that term signalled a shift in the understanding of disease and what (or even more: when!) to do about it.

At the last two-three years’ 4S and EASST conferences, it was noticeable how many papers there were about “mess”. This year at 4S/ESOCITE the term “entanglement” seemed to me to be buzzing, with at least one presenter giving a sort of apologetic nod back to “mess” that it wasn’t being forgotten. So what might “mess” and “entanglement” and the possible shift of emphasis from the one to the other signify?

Although paper presentations don’t always include full references, I think we can safely guess that these two terms are not being used as spontaneously, simultaneously discovered (as it were) metaphors. Rather, they signify the impact of influential works, much as the proliferation of the term “network” signified the academic successes of Science in Action (Latour, 1987) and the bright yellow “school bus book” (The Social Construction of Technological Systems, Bijker, Hughes & Pinch (eds.), also 1987). I started up in STS that year, at an STS centre, so back then I heard the buzz just as it started buzzing. Now that I’ve become a somewhat marginalized STS’er within a traditional disciplinary department, I mostly pick up on the STS buzz only when it’s really humming quite loudly at a conference. Writing about “mess” and “entanglement” from that perspective, and condensing them down to the format of an editorial, I risk appearing rather stupid to those who’ve been using the terms for some time. But hopefully my comments may be useful for those like me who are marginalized STS’ers in disciplinary departments. And [shrug], if I appear stupid, or even senile … what could be more appropriate for my last editorial before retiring from the editorship? So, with all due humility here goes:

“Mess” was coined as a metaphor by John Law, I think first in his article “Making a Mess with Method” (Law 2003), but likely reaching buzz levels via the book After Method: Mess in Social Science Research (Law 2004). Summarized to the point of oversimplification (and thus of inescapable irony), Law’s is a counter-argument to Occam’s razor, the 14th century cutting edge on what should constitute the best explanation of any phenomenon: Pluralitas non est ponenda sine necessitate. Or, as Newton restated the point: “admit no more causes of natural things than such as are both true and sufficient to explain their appearances”. The simplest single answer that accounts for the data is the best. Not so, says Law. The world is infinitely variable and interpretable, i.e. messy. To pretend otherwise is to suppress legitimate truths. So we should find ways to de-Other, de-silence those many alternatives, even acknowledging those we find impossible to express.

“Entanglement” might, at first glance, seem another term that acknowledges multiple causes and interpretations, complexity, mess … Certainly it has similar associations in everyday language, but it has a different genealogy as a science term. When questioned (and I did ask some), presenters using the term in Buenos Aires referred back to Karen Barad (2007) Meeting the Universe Halfway.

Barad, a physicist by training, is building from how the term is used in quantum mechanics, where it refers to how quantum particles can be somehow related so that measuring one particle’s state not only determines that one particle’s quantum state (remember Schrödinger’s
cat?), but also the potential quantum states of the related (mutually entangled) particle, even across a great distance. Note! I don’t pretend to understand this. I’m just summarizing what I found when I googled the term across multiple physics sites. But, if we accept this as a real phenomenon, one that exists outside of and/or in relation to ourselves (depending on what we mean by “real”), then this has implications for our conception of matter, of individual, of Nature with and/or versus Culture … one implication being that nothing is separate, all is constituted through relationships.

Now, that’s a fascinating and promising idea, whether or not one fathoms the physics side of it. But, that’s not always how I felt the term entanglement was being used. Just to illustrate, I found this example in a post by the web persona larvalsubjects (http://larvalsubjects.wordpress.com/2010/05/02/entanglements-diffraction-patterns/):

One of the key terms I used throughout my paper was that of “entanglement”. I’ve lifted the term from Karen Barad’s Meeting the Universe Halfway, though, given my disagreements with certain aspects of her epistemo-ontology, I suspect that I use it in a rather different way. At any rate, my proposal is that one thing flat ontology should allow us to think is entanglements of objects without one type of object, such as language, overdetermining the other objects. In this connection, the marvelous, loquacious, and brilliant Barbara Stafford, who gave closing remarks for the symposium, was kind enough to remind us that “entanglement” refers not only to folded and arranged drapes such as one might find in a nomads tent, but also threads that are entangled with one another while retaining their identity. Needless to say, I rather liked these associations.

In other words, some are expanding the term to include associations they themselves are attracted to (entangled with?) from everyday language usages. In another example, from the Buenos Aires conference, one presenter (if I understood correctly) saw entanglement and mess as layered over one another, with entanglement being in focus in that particular presentation, and mess back-grounded. All this renaming and sub-specification of complexity may be a good thing. It may be an unavoidable thing. It may be a phenomenon resonant with both mess and entanglement as the two were respectively first proposed. Or it may be turning them into bubbles that will eventually become over-filled, thin-surfaced, and then burst. It may open for importing a cargo of associations that sour the term (tangles as in Alzheimer’s, for instance?). It may, as in the game of Telegraph (I think also called Chinese Whispers?) morph into whole new metaphors (Entangoment, anybody?). Worst case, seen from my perspective as a teacher, it may become yet another fancy way of naming and excusing one’s own sloppiness - although I didn’t yet get that impression from the presentations where I encountered the terms this year, so I’ll stop there before I get myself into worse trouble.

That’s it from me, friends: My last Review editorial, possibly also my last event review in the Review. I hope those who missed out on 4S/ESOCITE found this useful. I assume those who were there had different experiences and perspectives from mine and hope they will share them. I look forward to what the EASST meeting will bring and how the field as a whole will continue to evolve. See you in Torun?

References:
http://www.sciencedaily.com/articles/q/quantum_entanglement.htm

p.s.: Time worked against us and we didn’t get this issue sent out before the Torun conference after all, which means I do get to add some brief impressions from Torun.

1) I wondered how the Torun organizers would manage to offer a social event as memorable as the tango lesson and tango show in Buenos Aires. Now I wonder which I will remember longer: tango in Buenos Aires or fireworks in a fortress in Torun.

2) I heard different opinions in Buenos Aires regarding the relative advantages of hotel vs. campus conferences – price, food quality, convenience, cohesiveness. I’m sure both preferences still have their adherers as the two conferences made the most of their respective relative advantages.

3) Having attended almost only my own track at the EASST conference, plus one session of a closely related track when my own was finished, I of course got an impression of a very compact, cogent conference. That papers I heard about when chatting with other conference attendees on the tram to and from seemed to resonate with my own conference theme was, I have to allow, probably down to my own state of mind at the time.

4) I have to consider with the same self-sceptical distance the sense that my take on the discursive archaeology - the rise and fall, the spread and implosion - of concepts, and on the meaning(s) and role(s) of the concepts “mess” and “entanglement” in particular, also seemed to be confirmed by other attendees when the topic came up. Please don’t hesitate to challenge me on this topic! Debate is far more constructive that simple acquiescence!

5) EASST’s awards policy of celebrating community efforts in and for science was yet again confirmed with a well-deserved trio of prize-winners. Of course, we are battling against a tsunami of individualistic awards, tick-boxes, benchmarks, and (not least!) negative sanctions for somehow falling behind in zero-sum individually competitive rankings. Still, we hope our three awards will inspire to further community efforts. Please read up on them on the EASST web site and in this now updated issue of the Review, congratulate the winners, recognize potential future winners in your midst and nominate them for the awards in 2016, and aspire to make award-worthy community contributions of your own!

6) And finally, I’m happy to announce that at least one person has come forward and expressed an interest in being the Review’s next editor. Don’t let that stop you if you were thinking of making that offer yourself. The decision is not yet finalized by either the prospective new editor or EASST Council. But it does seem that a solution to the editorship question is on the horizon. 😊
EASST holds a General (members’) meeting every 2 years during the Conference. It is an opportunity for Council members to report on activities and EASST’s financial situation. It is a chance for members to ask questions and propose changes. Fuller details of EASST’s governance can be found at www.easst.net/about-easst/.

EASST held a General Meeting at the Toruń Conference on Friday 19 September 2014. Below are the draft minutes from that meeting.

Draft Minutes of General Meeting 2014

Fred Steward, EASST President welcomed members to the meeting.
Non-members: Alena Bleicher, Bilel Benbouzid,

1. Minutes of the previous meeting.
These had been available from the EASST website. Fred Steward reported that the main issues included some comments on the Copenhagen conference which had been taken into account in planning the Toruń conference. There has also been agreement that EASST should adopt a new legal status and the launch of journal Science & Technology Studies. The latter two issues would be reported on as part of the report back on the last 2 years. The minutes were agreed as a true record.

- EASST organisational form. As agreed EASST has now become a Vereniging (a not for profit organisation) in the Netherlands. This was achieved without any substantial changes to the Constitution. EASST has been registered with the Chamber of Commerce and we have a Netherlands postal address and bank account. These changes have streamlined EASST’s operations and protect Council members from individual liability. Overall this makes EASST more resilient as an organisation.
- Membership and membership benefits. EASST council has been working to improve membership benefits and grow the membership. We have been improving our rate of people renewing their membership. We currently have around 700 members with nearly 70% paying the full membership rate, 25% student members and 5% other discounts. Over 90% of members come from Europe, broadly defined. About a third of all members are from the UK or Europe.
- Supporting the community and networking within it. Grants have been allocated to support activities and events in the year between conferences (2013). EASST Council had a second (the first was in 2010) meeting with representatives from National STS
organisations. This has been reported in a recent EASST Review and led to a commitment to continue to pursue strong informal relationships. EASST Review and the Eurograd discussion list support networking between members and within the wider community. In broader terms Council wishes to increase the visibility of STS in Europe, including through our new journal Science & Technology Studies.

- The Toruń conference. Organising this has been a major activity for Council over the last year. EASST has taken a bigger role than usual, supporting the local organisers by taking responsibility for registration and other issues using a new conference management system which integrates with our membership database. Krzysztof Abriszewski (conference chair) reported on the conference. He particularly commented on one of the aims of having the conference in Poland was to strengthen the STS community in Eastern Europe and in Poland. He said it has been difficult to engage scholars working in the field. STS does not exist as such in Poland, but consists of scholars of working within different disciplines also engaged in STS. Polish scholars and indeed students have participated in the conference and have thereby been introduced to STS and this way made STS more visible in Poland, including the size of the community which had been perceived as more marginal by scholars in Poland. A Polish scholar thanked the organisers for the conference and emphasised that it is difficult to organise critical conferences (also) in Poland and emphasises that it may be important for establishing STS in Poland even though it must be followed up by more activities. There was some discussion of how that might be done. The meeting thanked Krzysztof and his colleagues for their great efforts and impressive conference. Following the successful social he was congratulated for producing fireworks for the first time in STS history! Thanks were expressed through warm applause.

- Financial report. The summary budget was circulated to members before the meeting and can be downloaded from http://easst.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/EASST-accounts-for-Members-2014.pdf. Harro van Lente (treasurer) explained the budget. Council’s approach is to be cautious with spending and to keep a significant reserve. This is intended to cushion the organisation against the unpredictability of income through membership and particularly conferences. This currently amounts to around 100,000 Euros. Council has been discussing whether this is correct / whether we should be spending a bit more. Les Levidow asked whether the variability of membership income between conference and non-conference years could be addressed by a two year membership offer. Council has decided to address this through encouraging members to sign up for a continuing membership payment which has reduced membership churn. Membership price needs to be comparable with that of 4S as those coming to joint conferences can choose either and a 2 year price would be uncompetitive in those years. Members thank Harro for his work.
EASST Review. Ann Rudinow Saetnan will retire as editor after the September 2014 issue. She announced the vacant position and emphasised that the editorship is a good career move and it does not take too much work. It takes about 3 days per issue, and it is even (partly) fun. EASST Council has considered different ways of editing the Review and is keep to discuss this with potential editors. The editor becomes a co-opted Council member. Ann will provide the new editor with written instructions for the publication procedure.

Fred and the members thank Ann for her 8 year editorship of the Review.

Science & Technology Studies. Sampsa Hyysalo, S&TS editor, reported on the first two years of S&TS. Submissions of papers to open calls have improved and there is also a healthy stock of Special Issues both in development and proposed. There has been an increase from two to three issues per year. The intention is to move to 4 issues when this is sustainable – perhaps in 2016. S&TS is in Scopus and SSCI evaluations are in process. Steady growth in website views since S&TS turned into the EASST journal in 2012, about 6000 counts per issue. Web platform has been updated, but we need a real publishing platform in the future. Editor rotation: Two editors have stepped down, one new has been appointed. Sampsa steps down as a coordinating editor in 2016 after 10 years. New mission statement and scope has been developed in the editorial group. Comments are welcome.

Sally Wyatt: 4S has started a new open source journal. Do you feel you get enough high quality contributions? Sampsa replies that the editorial board has had internal discussions of whether we reject too many papers. Feel that it is important to keep the quality of the journal high. Feel that there are enough contributions, and the field is growing, so we are not concerned. Members and Fred thank Sampsa for his work.

3. Aims and Strategy for the following two year period (2014 – 2016)

EASST/4S 2016 conference
EASST Council has publicised the call for venues but has not yet been able to find an appropriate host for the 2016 joint EASST/4S conference. The call will be reissued. The Council prefers a southern European location, yet due to the urgency of finding a host the Council has broadened the search to whole Europe. The Council prioritizes the organisation of the conference by a group at a university (in contrast to a professional company organizing it or a hotel solution). We are in a very positive dialogue with 4S about the future organisation of conferences, which is becoming increasingly challenging due to the increase in size of the conferences. Also, the temporal overlap between 4S conference and EASST-only conferences is being discussed.

EASST awards. Our awards for collaborative activity were still to be announced at the time of the meeting. The concepts of the awards has been very positively received by the STS community, particularly the collective focus is highly appreciated. We would aim to continue to make such awards.

Non-conference year activity. Council intends to issue a call shortly for both network and
workshop activity. As on previous occasions a condition would be a report in EASST Review to share the experience with the wider membership.

- Collaboration with national associations. The aim is to build on our meeting in 2013 and to ensure that we regularly exchange information and publicise activities and events through each others' networks. Also look for other ways to increase the visibility and voice of STS in Europe.

- Elections. Council consists of 8 elected members (of which one is a student representative), plus the elected President. Of these 2 members (Attila Bruni and Laura Watts) have come to the end of their 4 year terms. Fred thanked them for their contributions. The Council now looks for nominations and encourages members to nominate themselves (see separate notification). The election will open on 17th November and will take the form of an online ballot using Survey Monkey and will run until 15th December.

- Horizon 2020. EASST intends to take some initiatives in relation to Horizon 2020, following the discussion in one sub-plenary session at the conference. EASST Council would like to support the community in participating in this call.

4. Any other issues
None were raised by members.

The President thanked members for their attendance and council members for all their work. He reported that Council works very effectively as a team. Special thanks go to the Council office staff, Sonia Liff.

EASST Elections: Call for Nominations

EASST Council Representatives – two vacancies

Both positions are for 4 years and arise from the completed terms of current council members Attila Bruni and Laura Watts.

Details of the current council can be found at www.easst.net/about-easst/easst-council-members and the role of the president and council is described in the EASST constitution www.easst.net/about-easst/easst-constitution. EASST Review carries regular reports of Council activities or you can contact one of the existing Council members for more information. EASST Council usually meets twice a year at different European locations.

Candidates need to be current members of EASST.

If you are interested please nominate yourself by sending an email to admin@easst.net providing a short statement (no more than 250 words) introducing yourself and saying why you are interested in standing for the Council and what skills and experiences you would bring to the role. This statement will be made available to those voting.

Nominations must be received by 14th November 2014 and the election will open soon afterwards.

Members will be sent an email with details of how to vote by a unique online link. The election will close on 15th December.
EASST Awards for Collaborative Activity 2014

From left to right: Johan Schot, Ulrike Felt and Israel Rodriguez-Giralt after the awards ceremony where they received awards on behalf of collaborative projects (Photo by Ann Rudinow Saetnan)

The awards were made by President of EASST, Fred Steward, and EASST Council members Estrid Sørensen and Pierre-Benoit Joly at the EASST biannual conference in Torun, Poland on Friday 19 September:

Citations for the Awards

The EASST Amsterdamska award 2014 for ‘a significant creative collaboration in an edited book in the broad field of science and technology studies’ is awarded to Disasters and Politics. Materials, Experiments, Preparedness (Wiley-Blackwell 2014) edited by Manuel Tironi, Israel Rodríguez-Giralt and Michael Guggenheim

The EASST Council stated:

‘This book represents a long standing, extensive, diverse and interactive collaboration among senior and junior European and international STS colleagues. The edited collection contributes original insights into disasters, their ontology, governance and related preparedness. Its creative development of the theme enriches a core concern of the Science and Technology Studies domain.’
The EASST Freeman award 2014 for ‘a publication which is a significant collective contribution to the interaction of science and technology studies with the study of innovation’ is awarded to: Making Europe – Technology and Transformations 1850-2000 (Palgrave Macmillan Book series launched 2013 edited by Johan Schot & Phil Scranton)

The EASST Council stated:

‘This series reframes the grand theme of European history and identity from a technology based perspective.

Genuinely pan-European in scope. A refreshingly ambitious and original collaborative project. It reveals the interplay between the material and the social in the creation of different meanings of Europe. Shows how the lens of innovation presents a strikingly new view of the dynamics of interaction across national boundaries in the making of Europe. The work resonates strongly with Freeman's concerns with history, innovation and politics and with EASST's engagement with sociotechnical change in Europe'.

The EASST Ziman award 2014 for ‘a significant innovative cooperation in a venture to promote the public understanding of the social dimensions of science’ is awarded to Science in Society: caring for our future in turbulent times, (European Science Foundation: Policy Briefing; Strategic Action ‘The Future of Science in Society’ 2011-2013)

The EASST council stated: ‘This action constructs a broad and original framework for addressing science and society issues. It translates notions of diversity and reflexivity into agendas for policy and practice; articulates notions of relevance and responsibility into a social framework of caring rather than control, and resonates with contemporary themes of crisis, austerity and governance.

A collaborative endeavour of a prominent group of science and technology studies academics, chaired by Ulrike Felt, with extensive participation of research funders and European policy makers in a series of workshops.

An imaginative and elaborate engagement with public policy in the domains of science and society’.
Call for Applications for 2015 EASST Activities

In non-conference years EASST wishes to support smaller activities, such as conferences, network meetings, seminars, workshops, summer schools etc. The 2015 support scheme aims to promote cross-national community building within EASST, advance new questions, topics and perspectives in science and technology studies, as well as enable collaboration with non-academic actors engaged in science and technology.

Applications can be submitted in two categories:

The EASST Network Fund will support events, publications, summer schools and other activities organized by or leading to the creation of national and local academic associations, non-profit organizations and other academic and non-academic networks committed to promote academic and public engagements with science and technology in the European region.

The EASST Workshop Fund will support the organization of workshops and small conferences with European reach and the potential of making significant theoretical and/or empirical contributions to the field. Activities associated to plausible publication endeavours are very welcomed.

Activities should take place between February and December 2015.

EASST especially invites applications from parts of Europe where EASST activities and membership are under-represented (Southern and Eastern Europe), as well as activities where the funds would be used to support the participation of individuals from these areas. There is a total budget of 6000€ for this support scheme with no single activity receiving more than 2000€. Applications for smaller sums are welcome. There are no quotas for the announced support categories.

How to apply?

- Applications can only be submitted by EASST members.
- Applications should specify the category they apply for and include a description of the proposed activity, addressing the criteria above. They should also include the venue, date, participants and organizers along with a budget specifying how the funds requested will be allocated.
- Application forms can be downloaded here and submitted to admin@easst.net no later than 28th November 2014.

Further requirements

- Communication of award is expected for January 12, 2015. Recipients should notify the Council their acceptance of award by January 19, 2015.
- Since only a small number of EASST members will benefit directly from the activities supported, a c. 2000 words report will be required from those receiving awards for publication in EASST Review. Beyond this, EASST also encourages applicants to pursue further strategies to address or involve the EASST membership more widely (such as a video from the activity which can appear on the EASST web-site or an online discussion or a web-exhibition).
- EASST support should be recognized in the public dissemination of the funded activity. This could involve the official denomination of the activity in question, the use of EASST logo or simply a short statement.
Conference/Event Announcements and Calls for Papers

Emilie Cloatre (Kent Law School) and I are organising a workshop in London on the 6th October at the Wellcome Trust Conference Centre (Euston) for our AHRC project on 'Technoscience, Law and Society'. Please see below for details.

In this workshop, we seek to discuss the role of think-tanks and non-departmental public bodies in governing the development and use of bioscience. We're delighted that Joanna Chataway (RAND Europe), Jack Stilgoe (UCL), and Hugh Whittall (Nuffield Council on Bioethics) will be giving talks, with Jane Calvert (U. Edinburgh) providing both concluding reflections and provocations for wider discussion. Patrick Middleton of the BBSRC has kindly agreed to provide some framing comments at the beginning of the day. Please follow the link for an agenda: https://t.co/ATgPMgrQFe

This afternoon event will take place at the Wellcome Trust Conference Centre on Euston Road (close to Euston, King's Cross, and St. Pancras stations). There will be a light lunch, and a wine reception will round off the day. Please see attached for further information.

To register, please write to: martyn.pickersgill at ed.ac.uk. We will be capping numbers at 40, so please let us know as soon as possible if you'd like a place.

Many thanks, and all best wishes, Martyn.
Dr Martyn Pickersgill / Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow in Biomedical Ethics / Centre for Population Health Sciences / University of Edinburgh I +44 (0) 131 650 3202 / martyn.pickersgill at ed.ac.uk / http://twitter.com/PickersgillM / http://edin.ac/125uqo3

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Dear colleagues,

We would like to inform you about a call for papers within the course of the PACITA conference in Berlin, 25-27 February 2015 (http://berlinconference.pacitaproject.eu/call-for-papers/).

The session is entitled Governance networks - fit for the future? and asks for contributions from the fields of Sociology, Planning Studies, Technology Assessment, Political Sciences and similar.

The deadline for this call is 1st of October 2014. Please follow the link for further
information and feel free to circulate the call in your professional networks and communities.

With best regards, Anika Hügle, Christina Merz, née Götz and Sophie Kuppler

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Call for Papers: Indicators in Technology Assessment. Passive choices or reflected options? 2nd European Technology Assessment Conference - The Next Horizon of Technology Assessment


Technology Assessment (TA) is dealing with complex problems. The description of complex problems and the strategies for their solution are heavily influenced by the use of indicators. For example, the debate about risks of nuclear power plants shifted in the moment the indicator of climate neutrality came in, because nuclear fission seemed to be a “green technology”. This use, selection and shift of indicators is not specific for this debate, but is to be found in any debate. With the use of indicators, the scope and quality of the problem addressed is fixed (e.g. sustainability: “Security of livelihood” or regulation of chemicals “toxicity”). Therefore, the systematic look on the use of indicators in TA is key to critically analyse such problems, their description and political relevance.

Against this background, the selection of indicators is a sensitive, crucial and sometimes hazardous exercise during a TA study in two ways. On the one hand, there is the use of indicators by actors in the field under analysis. They frame the problem in a way which is in correspondence to their normative background and economic-political interests. In fact, their selection can entail options that are not neutral, trivial or conscious, creating an implicit and sometimes controversial space for “indicator politics” in the exercise. On the other hand, there are the TA-experts using indicators to describe the problem and to evaluate options of action and decision. Therefore, it is important to have a close look on the criteria to select indicators which may be based on their policy relevance, utility, analytical soundness and measurability, as well as on other (un)conscious factors.

In this session we would like to reflect on the perils of the selection of indicators in both directions: the actors in risk-policy arenas using indicators for their purposes of describing and solving problems and the TA-experts using indicators to analyse such processes. Regarding this tension, we want to address the following questions: Is there sufficient reflection on the selection of indicators? Is the selection of indicators misleading to certain technology options? Or is it opening new technology options? What exactly is the role of indicators in TA exercises? Do they describe the initial problem? Are we creating space for reflexivity regarding the selection of indicators? Is this space sufficient?

With regard to the construction of TA-expertise, the argument is that TA exercises need a clear formulation of the initial problem and the indicators used to do so. This procedure should allow a transparent selection of indicators that describe the problem. A TA exercise should also include space to reflect about the inclusion and the non-inclusion of certain indicators. In addition, the analysis phase should include a reflexive process about the selection of indicators, before technology options are suggested and recommendations elaborated.

We would like to invite both theoretical contributions and practical cases coming from all types of technologies such as energy, electric storage systems, mobility, health, nano-technologies, ICT, etc. Contributions should reflect on the effects of choices of indicators in TA exercises.

Your abstract for a presentation should be sent directly to nuno.boavida at kit.edu or stefan.boeschen at kit.edu by *October 1, 2014*. The abstracts should not exceed *400 words*, not including contact information.

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NOTIONS OF SELF – exploring theories of immunity. 30 September 2014 | ICBAS – U.PORTO | Porto, Portugal

NOTIONS OF SELF – EXPLORING THEORIES OF IMMUNITY aims at discussing the self-nonsel discrimination as determined by the immune system in the context of diverse points of view and disciplinary frameworks. The meeting gathers, around this common interest, researchers from the natural sciences and the clinic as well as from the social sciences and the humanities.

The symposium is expected to be an opportunity for a multi-disciplinary debate around questions that are central in life sciences and
biomedicine but that also matter in the context of other disciplinary fields.

+info and registration (free): http://notionsofself.wordpress.com

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Today, geolocalized information and communication have become not only the content but also the context of our social interactions. New sociospatial formations have arisen from the spread of computing into the geomedia environment. On the one hand, electronic media have created an increasing dissociation between physical and social places, deeply changing the way we define, experience and communicate sociospatiality. On the other hand, locative media appear as more and more location-aware and context-dependent, foregrounding a transformation that interests places and media at the same time. This delineates a different scenario for contemporary social actors in terms of new affordances and constraints. The title of this call draws on Joshua Meyrowitz's renowned *No sense of place* (1985), in which the idea of the *situation* of communication is explored, and we would like to expand this definition so as to include more recent approaches to the hybrid and multiple spaces of the contemporary media environment (Boyd; de Souza e Silva; Ito; Frith; Morley; Moores; Wilken & Goggin).

Additionally, it relies on a definition of locative media that is not merely technical or restricted to the positioning devices employed, but rather foregrounds the situated experiences of social actors and the way their practice of the locative and mobile infrastructure in turn modifies the infrastructure of their experiences (Dourish & Bell).

This issue of *Sociologica* will explore the numerous ways in which the contemporary diffusion of locative and mobile media puts into relief the spatialization of communication events, as well as the communicative quality of places, in a condition of *diffuse addressability* (Mitchell). This underlines a co-emergence of information and sociospatial formations, pointing to the performativity of both (Mackenzie; Thrift). The issue also foregrounds the way in which the relation between the subjects and objects of communication also changes in such contexts of distributed agency and pervasive mediation, in which new sociotechnical formations emerge.

Contributions focusing on empirical case studies as well as methodological and theoretical reflections on (but not limited to) the following topics are welcomed:

- Communication, space and mobility (location and mobility, theoretical and practical redefinitions of space and place, mobile methodologies, material and virtual mobilities, net localities, mobile devices);
- The creativity and performativity of space (the social sciences after the non-representational turn, embodiment and situated aesthetics, materiality and mediation in space, locative arts);
- Sociotechnical formations in mediaspaces (sociotechnical assemblages, hybrid spaces, mobile interfaces, The Internet of Things, smart objects);
- The reshaping of the urban sphere (augmented environments, urban games, urban screens, open source urbanism, community and participative practices in digital localities, citizenship and civic engagement, the redefinition of the public and the private);
- Mapping practices (geomedia environments, new visualization systems, surveillance, Location Based Social Networks, code/spaces, the aesthetics of mapping, grassroots mapping, emergency mapping, media-flânerie and navigational platforms).

Abstracts of 450-500 words, together with a short bio (100-200 words) describing the author's background, current affiliation and research interests, should be submitted by e-mail before 30 September 2014 to the symposium editor at the following address: ftimeto at gmail.com

Upon abstract acceptance, papers of no more than 8,000 words (including references and notes) in Word format must be submitted by 31 December 2014.

Papers will go through a double blind peer review process. Notification of acceptance will be given to authors, along with the reviewers' comments, by February 2015. Final papers after revision will be due by March 2015.

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In recent decades we have witnessed important changes in research and knowledge production. Whether these changes are promoted as a transformative force enabling new forms of investigation or perceived as buttressing existing forms of research, they are associated with developments in information technologies and infrastructures. These developments aim to pull people together, supporting distributed collaboration or facilitating new joint activities and endeavors across domains, fields, institutions, and geographies. They offer new opportunities for the sharing and connecting of information and resources – data, code, publications, computing power, laboratories, instruments, and major equipment. They often bring together a diversity of actors, organizations and perspectives from, for instance, academia, industry, business, and general public. The social, material, technical, and political relations of research and knowledge production are changing through digitalization of data, communication and collaboration, virtualization of research communities and networks, and infrastructuring of underlying systems, structures and services. These emerging phenomena participate in ongoing transitions in the scholarly arena, and in society in general: traditional ways of doing research may be challenged and knowledge production may become more distributed and broader in participants. These phenomena have been cast under several labels such as big science, data-driven science, networked science, open science, Digital Humanities, and science 2.0. Other terms used are: e-Science, e-Social Science, e-Research, e-Infrastructure, and cyberinfrastructure.

The aim of this first special issue on the topic of knowledge infrastructures in an STS journal is to take stock of existing research and chart new directions. For taking stock our scope is inclusive. We are open to investigations of knowledge infrastructures of all disciplines and research fields, from all theoretical and methodological perspectives, from all geographical locations. We also solicit studies of knowledge infrastructures that are not limited to scholarly knowledge production, but address, for instance citizen science, ‘hacker science’, as well as studies that address emerging forms of knowledge production, for instance open science and research 2.0, or studies that explore knowledge infrastructures in commercial or public services domains. To be able to chart new directions we encourage papers that clearly focus on knowledge infrastructures and contribute to furthering our understanding of infrastructures for research and knowledge production.

This special issue seeks articles that help the STS field to understand complex issues involved with knowledge infrastructures for research and knowledge production. We encourage empirical, conceptual, theoretical, and methodological contributions.

Submission date: October 19, 2014. Please, let us know as soon as possible if you intend to submit.

Further information available: http://www.sciencetechnologystudies.org/node/2333

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We invite researchers working in the field of mobile communication and gender in the developing world to submit an abstract for consideration for a volume whose current working title is: Intersections of gender, development and mobile technology: social context and relations of power, planned for submission to the Routledge series Advances in Feminist Studies and Intersectionality. The deadline for abstract submission is September 30th, 2014 (please see guidelines below). Once decisions have been made regarding abstract selection, those who submitted abstracts will be informed in a timely manner and the editors (Caroline Wamala, Laura Stark) will then write the book proposal to the publisher on the basis of the accepted abstracts.

If Routledge accepts our proposal, our target deadline for completion of full chapters is December 31st, 2015. However, this deadline will depend on the publisher’s timetable. A workshop may also be organized for authors to meet and discuss their research if funding becomes available.

THEME: Mobile technologies such as mobile phones, smart phones, tablets, and note books have revolutionized our way of life. How we communicate, relate and organize our way of living has been impacted and aided by the
proliferation of these devices. In order to narrow the socioeconomic disparities between countries and regions, the use of information communication technologies (ICTs), mobile technologies included, continue to be championed by development efforts, and access to timely information enabled through ICTs is said to promote socio-economic well-being. Communication technologies that are mobile in character have enlarged development prospects due to their widespread adoption among even the poor in so-called developing countries. Mobile phones enable communication and information exchange in the remotest parts of the globe, and have consequently become synonymous with the discourse on poverty reduction and economic growth.

The proposed volume focuses on the changing intersections between technology, gender and other categories of social and cultural power difference (age, race, ethnicity, class, caste, religion, etc.), and asks how these intersections can inform development discourse, practice and research. The theoretical underpinnings of the volume engage with the intersectionality paradigm in teasing out the complexities involved in using mobile technologies for development purposes, and the concept of development is problematized through analysis of empirical materials.

The inspiration for this volume comes from new trends observed at the Mobile Communications for Development (M4D) conference held in Dakar, Senegal in April 2014. At the first M4D conference held in 2008, issues related to society and gender were barely on the agenda and only a few voices were raised in skepticism of the dominant climate of techno-optimism. Just six years later, the mobile-for-development field has come a long way. Both researchers and practitioners, often for different reasons, attend closely to the implications of gender and are taking a more critical view of the transformative capabilities of mobile telephony. They are also calling for more sensitivity to the socio-cultural and political contexts of behaviors linked to mobile use, as well as the social consequences of that use.

There is a growing sense that well-being and empowerment, two concepts central to current development discourses, need to be examined from more nuanced perspectives, with greater attention to their internal contradictions. For example, increased benefits through mobile health interventions measured in physical health may come at the cost of social or cultural disempowerment, when for instance HIV patients who come to prenatal clinics are treated badly by community healthcare workers, or when outreach efforts enhance the authority of the mother-in-law over the reproductive rights of her daughter-in-law within the home. While mobile phones are said to provide women with feelings of safety and security both at home and in public because they are tools for women and other vulnerable groups to alert others for help if needed, they have also been shown to lead to physical abuse of women when information in the hands of women can be perceived as a threat to men’s decision-making positions in the home. In addition, just as other technologies have contributed to the expression of hegemonic as well as subordinate masculinities, we hope to receive contributions that highlight how the engagement with mobile technologies in everyday communication practices reinforce, challenge or even subvert contextual expressions of masculinities. Development interventions may entail costs and risks for users other than those which are measurable by quantitative means. Questions need to be asked whether some targeted beneficiaries are empowered while others are disempowered, and we need to forge a more holistic view of well-being. This has led both researchers and practitioners in the field of mobiles-for-development to call for a more profound and rigorous examination of how different dimensions of social life are intertwined, and how forms of differentiation create complex systems of oppression.

**PUBLISHER’S DESCRIPTION OF SERIES:** Routledge Advances in Feminist Studies and Intersectionality is committed to the development of new feminist and profeminist perspectives on changing gender relations, with special attention to:

* Intersections between gender and power differentials, based on age, class, dis/abilities, ethnicity, nationality, racialisation, sexuality, violence, and other social divisions
* Intersections of societal dimensions and processes of continuity and change: culture, economy, generativity, polity, sexuality, science and technology
* Embodiment: Intersections of discourse and materiality, and of sex and gender
* Transdisciplinarity: intersections of humanities, social sciences, medical, technical and natural sciences
* Intersections of different branches of feminist theorizing, including: historical materialist
feminisms, postcolonial and anti-racist feminisms, radical feminisms, sexual difference feminisms, queerfeminisms, cyberfeminisms, posthuman feminisms, critical studies on men and masculinities

* A critical analysis of the travelling of ideas, theories and concepts
* A politics of location, reflexivity and transnational contextualizing that reflects the basis of the series framed within European diversity and transnational power relations

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT: Please send a 1-page abstract of your proposed chapter to both Caroline Wamala (caroline.wamala at kau.se) and Laura Stark (laura.stark at jyu.fi), in which the following information is clearly stated (this information will help us to make a more convincing case for the book’s merits to the publisher):

- the main research question(s) of your proposed chapter, please limit these to three questions, and state them in the form of concrete, specific question(s).
- your source data and methods
- the geographical scope of your data and analysis
- to what current discussions do your research findings contribute, with what research literature does your chapter engage?
- in keeping with the themes of the Routledge series in which our volume will be published, how does your chapter topic/theme relate to Masculinity and feminist studies and intersectionality? How will it advance our knowledge in these areas?

ABOUT THE EDITORS: Caroline Wamala is senior lecturer at the Department of Gender Research, Karlstad University. She is also the Director for the HumanIT research centre also at Karlstad University. Her research is situated within the field of gender and technology focusing on how ICTs contribute to the construction and expression of gender, as well as the other way round.

Laura Stark is Professor of Ethnology at the Department of History and Ethnology, University of Jyväskylä, Finland. She has been the director of the multi-researcher research project Mobile Technology, Gender and Development in Africa, India and Bangladesh funded by the Academy of Finland 2010–2013.

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Cfc: Book on Standardisation Management
First Call for Book Chapters

EFFECTIVE STANDARDIZATION MANAGEMENT IN CORPORATE SETTINGS
Editor: Kai Jakobs, RWTH Aachen University General

Standardisation is no longer an almost exclusively technical activity. Rather, most large firms as well as policy makers and many other public sector entities have by now realised the economic and political relevance of standards. This holds particularly, though certainly not exclusively, for the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

Accordingly, an increasing number of both firms and public authorities experience the need to properly manage their standardisation activities. These activities range from a 'laissez-faire' approach to a strictly managed activity with well-defined roles and processes.

Over the past decades, standardisation research has become an increasingly popular topic, with potentially significant practical ramifications. 'Potentially' is an important qualification, though thus far, the links between research and real-life practice are still weak; all too often insights from academia just don't get noticed by industry. Likewise, research does not necessarily address those aspects of relevance for practitioners. This book aims to help narrow the gap between research and practice in the field of standardisation management.

Objective

The book covers the various aspects that relate to the management of standardisation in private firms as well as in the public sector. Its main objective is to help identify good practices in the management of standardisation activities, both internal and external.

Target Audience

The book's topic may be addressed from very different angles. Accordingly, it will be of relevance to both practitioners and researchers from various disciplines including, but not limited to Business Studies, Computer Science, Economics, Engineering, History, Information Systems, Law, Management Studies and Sociology.

Sample Topics

- Topic covered include, but are by no means limited to
  * approaches to corporate standardisation management in the public and the private sector;
  * corporate standardisation strategies;
* selection of suitable standards bodies;
* internal vs. external standardisation;
* IPR management;
* links between R&D and standardisation;
* standardisation and organisational learning aspects;
* intra- and inter-organisational flows of information about standardisation;
* marketing and standardisation;
* the individual in standards setting? selection, training, motivation;
* new ways of co-operation between standards bodies;
* potential new standardisation landscapes.

Submission Procedure

If you are interested in contributing to this book, please submit a chapter proposal of 1,000 - 2,000 words by 31 October 2014. Notification of acceptance will be mailed by 30 November 2014. Authors of accepted proposals will be asked to submit a full draft manuscript by 16 February 2015. These manuscripts should have around 12,000 - 14,000 words. All full chapter submissions will go through a double-blind peer-review process. Notification of acceptance/rejection will be e-mailed by 19 April 2015. Deadline for final chapters will be 31 May 2015, with a target publication date of Spring 2016.

All submissions need to be made through IGI-Global's submission system at http://www.igi-global.com/authorseditors/titlesubmission/currentprojectsbooks.aspx.

Authors of full proposals may be asked to provide supplementary reviews.

Publisher

This book is scheduled to be published by IGI Global (formerly Idea Group Inc.), an international academic publisher of the ?Information Science Reference? (formerly Idea Group Reference), ?Medical Information Science Reference, ?Business Science Reference? and ?Engineering Science Reference? imprints. IGI Global specializes in publishing reference books, scholarly journals and electronic databases featuring academic research on a variety of innovative topic areas including, but not limited to, education, social science, medicine and healthcare, business and management, information science and technology, engineering, public administration, library and information science, media and communication studies, and environmental science. For additional information regarding the publisher, please visit www.igi-global.com.

Important Dates
31 October 2014: Proposal Submission Deadline
30 November 2014: Notification of Acceptance/Rejection
16 February 2015: Full Chapter Submission
19 April 2014: Review Results Returned
15 May 2015: Final Acceptance Notification
31 May 2014: Final Chapter Submission

Editorial Review Board
Kai Jakobs, RWTH Aachen U., DE
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Tim Weitzel, U. of Bamberg, DE (tbc)

Please send all inquiries to the editor at Kai.Jakobs@cs.rwth-aachen.de;
Kai Jakobs, RWTH Aachen University, Informatik 4, Ahornstr. 55, D-52074 Aachen, Germany.

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Partnership, interdisciplinary skills, erasmus+ early stage researchers

We, Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers are looking for partners to co-organize Erasmus+ project.

The project will focus on identifying crucial skills, concepts and techniques that could be beneficial for engaging into and performing interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research. The output will be disseminated to junior and early stage researchers. We hope that it will help to organize European and worldwide research.

Please reply to me if you are interested in participating in the project. Currently we are
looking for organizations, but individual inquiries are also welcome.

If the project itself is not as interesting, we would be grateful for any comments, questions and other feedback that you could give on the topic.

Sincerely, Aidis Stukas
Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers
Board member
+370 641 39571

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«Reclaiming the Internet» with distributed architectures: rights, technologies, practices, innovation

Final Symposium of the ADAM project
(October 2-3, 2014, MINES ParisTech, 60 boulevard Saint-Michel, 75006 Paris)

Thursday, October 2
10:10:30am. Arrival of participants/Registration
10:30-10:45am. Introduction/Welcome: Cécile Méadel, Alexandre Mallard & Francesca Musiani (CSI MINES ParisTech)
10:45-11:30am. Keynote #1: Dominique Boullier (SciencesPo). Cosmopolitical network architectures
11:30am-1:30pm. Session #1: “Case Studies in Decentralization”
Nicolas Bertrand (Utopia/IRIT) & Julien Rabier (FFDN). Introducing a new framework for digital cinema transport: The DCP Bay
Nick Lambert & Benjamin Bollen (Maidsafe.net). The SAFE Network, a new, decentralized Internet
Jean-Christophe Plantin (University of Michigan/Université de Technologie de Compiègne). ‘Unicorns exist, but only in the Google office’: promises and perils of web data for research
Maya Bacache & Julia Cagé (Télécom ParisTech). Pair-à-Pair: les véritables enjeux économiques
Discussant: Ksenia Ermoshina (CSI MINES ParisTech)
1:30-2:30pm. Lunch (on site, provided)
2:45-3:30pm. Keynote #2: Niva Elkin-Koren (University of Haifa). Beyond Design: The Role of Law in Distributed Architectures
3:30-5:30pm. Session #2: “Decentralization: ‘Code is Law’ Revisited?”
Argyro Karanasio (Bournemouth University). Law Encoded: Towards a Free Speech Policy Model Based on Decentralised Architecture

Mélanie Dulong de Rosnay (Institute for Communication Sciences, CNRS, & LSE). Peer-to-peer as a design principle for law
Primavera De Filippi (CERSA CNRS & Berkman Center). Ethereum: the quest towards a decentralized social system – when ‘dry code’ meets ‘wet code’
Roberto Caso & Federica Giovanella (Università di Trento). Liability issues in Wireless Community Networks
Discussant: Danièle Bourcier (CERSA CNRS)
5:30-6:15pm: Keynote #3: Panayotis Antoniadis (ETH Zurich). Local networks for local interactions: four reasons why and one way forward

Friday, October 3
9:30-11:30am. Session #3: “Futures of Decentralization”
Paris Chrysoy (ISC Paris, Mines-Télécom). Can the Internet become distributed again? The limits of network approaches
Christian Sandvig (University of Michigan), Paul N. Edwards (University of Michigan), Jean-Christophe Plantin (University of Michigan, Université de Technologie de Compiègne), Carl Lagoze (University of Michigan). Histories of future networks: Exit, voice and loyalty in alternative infrastructures
Jeffrey Andreoni (Nottingham Trent University). Digital Gerrymandering: how wireless communities will redraw social, political and geographic boundaries
Annie Gentès & François Huguet (Télécom ParisTech). Translocal devices-as-infrastructures-networks, alternative practices, tactical networks: toward resilient media or empowerment tools?
Discussant: Valérie Schafer (ISCC/CNRS)
11:30am-12:15pm. Keynote #4: Vincent Toubiana (CNIL). Is a decentralized Internet better for privacy?
12:15am-1:15pm. Lunch (on site, provided)
1:15-3:15pm. Session #4: “The Decentralization of Everything?”
Darryl Farber (Pennsylvania State University). Architecting Evolving Sociotechnical Interdependent Infrastructure Systems
Sarah Gold (Central Saint Martins). Alternet Rules
Graham Meikle (University of Westminster). Distributed Citizenship and Social Media
Harry Halpin (W3C/MIT) & Alexandre Monnin (INRIA). The Decentralization of Knowledge
Discussant: Eric Dagiral (Université Paris Descartes)
3:15-4pm. Keynote #5: Geert Lovink (HvA Institute of Network Cultures, Amsterdam, NL). **Social Media Alternatives Before and After Snowden**
4-4:15pm. Conclusions & Wrap-Up: Cécile Méadel, Alexandre Mallard & Francesca Musiani (CSI MINES ParisTech)

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**Call for Papers: Indicators in Technology Assessment. Passive choices or reflected options?**

2nd European Technology Assessment Conference - The Next Horizon of Technology Assessment, Berlin, 25-27 February 2015

Technology Assessment (TA) is dealing with complex problems. The description of complex problems and the strategies for their solution are heavily influenced by the use of indicators. For example, the debate about risks of nuclear power plants shifted in the moment the indicator of climate neutrality came in, because nuclear fission seemed to be a “green technology”. This use, selection and shift of indicators is not specific for this debate, but is to be found in any debate. With the use of indicators, the scope and quality of the problem addressed is fixed (e.g. sustainability: “Security of livelihood” or regulation of chemicals “toxicity”). Therefore, the systematic look on the use of indicators in TA is key to critically analyse such problems, their description and political relevance.

Against this background, the selection of indicators is a sensitive, crucial and sometimes hazardous exercise during a TA study in two ways. On the one hand, there is the use of indicators by actors in the field under analysis. They frame the problem in a way which is in correspondence to their normative background and economic-political interests. In fact, their selection can entail options that are not neutral, trivial or conscious, creating an implicit and sometimes controversial space for “indicator politics” in the exercise. On the other hand, there are the TA-experts using indicators to describe the problem and to evaluate options of action and decision. Therefore, it is important to have a close look on the criteria to select indicators which may be based on their policy relevance, utility, analytical soundness and measurability, as well as on other (un)conscious factors.

In this session we would like to reflect on the perils of the selection of indicators in both directions: the actors in risk-policy arenas using indicators for their purposes of describing and solving problems and the TA-experts using indicators to analyse such processes. Regarding this tension, we want to address the following questions: Is there sufficient reflection on the selection of indicators? Is the selection of indicators misleading to certain technology options? Or is it opening new technology options? What exactly is the role of indicators in TA exercises? Do they describe the initial problem? Are we creating space for reflexivity regarding the selection of indicators? Is this space sufficient?

With regard to the construction of TA-expertise, the argument is that TA exercises need a clear formulation of the initial problem and the indicators used to do so. This procedure should allow a transparent selection of indicators that describe the problem. A TA exercise should also include space to reflect about the inclusion and the non-inclusion of certain indicators. In addition, the analysis phase should include a reflexive process about the selection of indicators, before technology options are suggested and recommendations elaborated.

We would like to invite both theoretical contributions and practical cases coming from all types of technologies such as energy, electric storage systems, mobility, health, nanotechnologies, ICT, etc. Contributions should reflect on the effects of choices of indicators in TA exercises.

Your abstract for a presentation should be sent directly to nuno.boavida@kit.edu or stefan.boeschen@kit.edu by October 1, 2014. The abstracts should not exceed 400 words, not including contact information.

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CfP: Assembling Cities: STS concepts and methodologies in planning studies
International workshop, ETH Zurich, Switzerland, January 21 and 22, 2015

Organizers: Jean Ruegg and Marko Marskamp, Institute of Geography and Sustainability (IGD), University of Lausanne; and Monika Kurath and Julio Da Cruz Paulos, ETH CASE, Faculty of Architecture, ETH Zurich.

The planning community is still trying to come to terms with the rational and functional project of modernist planning. Both theory and
practice are revisiting the tools, aims and knowledge of urban planning. To address these issues planning studies are increasingly drawing upon concepts and methodologies of science and technology studies (STS). At this intersection, theoretical and empirical approaches have underlined the complexity and uncertainty in the object of planning, and have brought into focus the relation between planning practices, techniques, expertise and politics. Also in the field of STS and urban studies, the notion of planning as a technocratic and a rational exercise has been challenged. Where STS has turned to the city and its planning in order to examine the relationship between technologies, knowledge and power, urban studies has looked at the city not as a stable and bounded entity but as an object that is continuously made through diverse and situated practices.

The workshop aims at discussing and further developing conceptual, methodological and practical aspects of STS approaches to the planning and making of cities. Particularly inviting theoretical and empirical contributions, the workshop aims

1. to consider cities not as the backdrop but as the object of science and technology in urban planning research. That is, to study how knowledges and technologies such as planning ideas, instruments and procedures come to frame and are being framed by the city
2. to focus on the specific sites and practices that relate planning knowledge and practice. In particular to find out empirically how urban planning is a technical or political exercise legitimized in participatory and expert driven planning processes, and how diverse actors mediate planning intervention
3. and, to explore the ways STS approaches can be productive in planning research and practice. It is interested in how STS concepts retain and gain an analytical and methodological edge among comparative and normative planning studies.

Confirmed speakers are Anders Blok (Copenhagen, DK), Ignacio Farias (Berlin, DE) Michael Guggenheim (London, UK), Anique Hommels (Maastricht, NL), Mattias Kärholm (Lund, SE) Francisco Klauser (Neuchâtel, CH), Jonathan Metzger (Stockholm, SE) and Ola Söderström (Neuchâtel, CH).

Please forward your abstracts of a maximum of 400 words by October 31 to Julio Da Cruz Paulos (dacruz@arch.ethz.ch) and Marko Marskamp (marko.marskamp@unil.ch).

Marko Marskamp, MSc
Doctoral researcher | STS and Urban planning | UNIL and ETH

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What do think-tanks do to science? AHRC event at the Wellcome Trust Conference Centre (London), 6th Oct

Emilie Cloatre (Kent Law School) and I are organising an event in London on the 6th October at the Wellcome Trust Conference Centre (Euston Rd., London). In this workshop, we seek to discuss the role of think-tanks and non-departmental public bodies in governing the development and use of (bio)science. We're delighted that Joanna Chataway (RAND Europe), Jack Stilgoe (UCL), and Hugh Whittall (Nuffield Council on Bioethics) will be giving talks, with Jane Calvert (U. Edinburgh) providing both concluding reflections and provocations for wider discussion. Patrick Middleton of the BBSRC has kindly agreed to provide some framing comments at the beginning of the day.

The programme for the day is as follows:

12.30-13.30: Registration & light lunch
13.40-14.00: Presentation from Dr Patrick Middleton (BBSRC): 'What role for engagement? A research funder's perspective'
14.00-14.45: Presentation from Dr Jack Stilgoe (UCL): 'Institutions & independence in the governance of emerging technologies'
14.45-15.30: Presentation from Professor Joanna Chataway (RAND Europe): 'Generating & translating evidence: RAND Europe's approach to policy research'
15.30-16.00: Tea & coffee
16.00-16.45: Presentation from Mr Hugh Whittall (Nuffield Council on Bioethics): 'A role for the think tanks: disrupting technology governance'
EU member states are asked to make a national program for the management of radioactive waste. This program is part of the 2011/70/Euratom directive. This directive requires EU member states to clarify their national policy for managing radioactive waste disposal. The directive also requires that the ‘public’ should be given the opportunity to actually participate in the decision-making process about the management of radioactive waste disposal. Long term public participation on radioactive waste management raises many difficult questions. For instance, how do we ensure that our children and grandchildren can join this participation process? Who has to participate in public participation? How can we make such a highly complex problem concrete enough for participation? Are we justified in passing responsibility for taking a final disposal decision to our grandchildren? And, how will we deal with progressive insights and developing technologies?

We call for papers that give insights in ways of organizing long term public participation for complex policy problems. Even though radioactive waste management is mentioned as an example, papers on public participation trajectories for other complex policy problems are also welcome. The papers address abovementioned difficulties and give insights in ways of organizing public participation that is imbedded in both society and government.

Please send your abstract directly to Annick de Vries by October 1st (a.devries@rathenau.nl). Your abstract should not exceed 400 words.

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Rewriting the History of Science and Philosophy in Late Colonial India
Dhruv Raina, Professor of History and Philosophy of Science and Education Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Thursday Oct. 2, 7PM Atlantic (6PM Eastern)
KTS Lecture Room, 2nd Floor, New Academic Building, University of King’s College, 6350 Coburg Rd., Halifax, NS
Free public event. Reception to follow
Watch live / Download poster:
www.CosmoLocal.org

How did Indian intellectuals receive and respond to Western notions of the histories of
philosophy and science in the late 19th and early 20th centuries? How did Indian intellectuals attempt to reconstruct the history of their own tradition? This talk will explore how the works of key thinkers William Whewell and J.S. Mill were taken up by Indian philosophers and historians in Calcutta at the end of the nineteenth century, and how these influenced the interpretation of the history of Indian philosophy and science. The Indian response will be gleaned from a detailed discussion of the works of the Indian philosopher B.N. Seal and the sociologist Benoy Kumar Sarkar.

Part 2 of the Centuries of Dialogues: Asia and the West lecture series.

Supported by:
University of King’s College Early Modern Studies, Contemporary Studies and History of Science and Technology Programmes, Dalhousie University Chinese Studies Program and the SSHRC-funded Cosmopolitanism in Science and Nature SSHRC Partnership Development Grant (www.CosmoLocal.org).

For more information, visit CosmoLocal.org and “Subscribe” to their project own mailing list.

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CFP: Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice (SPSP) Fifth Biennial Conference University of Aarhus, Aarhus, Denmark June 24-26, 2015

Abstract Submission Deadline: 5 January 2015
Please submit paper or session proposals via spsp2015.au.dk/submission
Notification of acceptance: 1 March 2015
Main Contact: Sabina Leonelli, S.Leonelli@exeter.ac.uk

Keynote speakers will include: Marcel Boumans (Erasmus University of Rotterdam), Nancy J. Nersessian (Georgia Institute of Technology), Hans-Jörg Rheinberger (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science), and Léna Soler (University of Paris-I)

The Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice (SPSP) is an interdisciplinary community of scholars who approach the philosophy of science with a focus on scientific practice and the practical uses of scientific knowledge. For further details on our objectives, see our mission statement on our website at http://www.philosophy-science-practice.org/en/mission-statement/.

The SPSP conferences provide a broad forum for scholars committed to making detailed and systematic studies of scientific practices — neither dismissing concerns about truth and rationality, nor ignoring contextual and pragmatic factors. The conferences aim at cutting through traditional disciplinary barriers and developing novel approaches. We welcome contributions from not only philosophers of science, but also philosophers working in epistemology and ethics, as well as the philosophy of engineering, technology, medicine, agriculture, and other practical fields. Additionally, we welcome contributions from historians and sociologists of science, pure and applied scientists, and any others with an interest in philosophical questions regarding scientific practice.

We welcome both proposals for individual papers, and also strongly encourage proposals for whole, thematic sessions with coordinated papers, particularly those which include multiple disciplinary perspectives and/or input from scientific practitioners. You may wish to involve other members of SPSP (a listing is available on our website) or post a notice to the SPSP mailing list describing your area of interest and seeking other possible participants for a session proposal. (To post to this list or to receive updates on the conference, please subscribe via http://www.philosophy-science-practice.org/en/mailing-list/.

Individual paper proposals must include a title and an abstract of 500 words, and full affiliation details and contact information for the author(s)/speaker(s). Session/symposia proposals must include an overall title for the session, a 250-500 words abstract of the session, and a 500-word abstract for each paper (or an equivalent amount of depth and detail, if the format of the proposed session is a less traditional one), and full affiliation details and contact information for each contributor. Session proposals should be submitted as a group by the organizer of the session; typically 3 standard length or 4 shorter papers can be accommodated within our usual session formats. Individuals should only appear on the programme once as presenters, and one additional time in another role (e.g., commentator, chair, or co-author). If in doubt, please contact the organizers in advance about your anticipated submissions.

There will be a pre-conference workshop on teaching philosophy of science to scientists to be held at Aarhus University, Aarhus on 23 June,
as well as a pre-conference casual social event that evening.

For more information on local arrangements and updates on the conference, please see [spsp2015.au.dk](http://spsp2015.au.dk)

Sabina Leonelli
University of Exeter

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**Call for papers - SCIENCE SHAPING THE WORLD OF TOMORROW - international workshop**

18-20 March 2015, Antwerp, Belgium

On 18-20 March 2015 UCSIA organizes an international academic workshop on Science Shaping the World of Tomorrow. Scientific Imagination and Development of Society at the University of Antwerp, Belgium.

We understand imagination in relation to the scientific context as the art to creatively design, produce, discuss and envisage societal alternatives for the future. In that sense it opens a window on the future and constitutes a source for societal development. Placed within a broader context, imagination processes play a role in the development of sciences and in the construction of societies, as well as in the interaction between sciences and societies, the former stimulating the further development of the latter, and the latter providing an environment in which the former thrives. Sciences and societies shape and further one another’s imagination processes.

The study of the creative and productive use of imagination at the intersection of science and society in view of building and shaping the future constitutes the main purpose of this workshop. This reflection will be stimulated by focusing on four subthemes:

1. Imagination at work in the sciences
2. Sciences as part of the imaginary of societies
3. Imaginaries of the future shaping contemporary reality
4. Politics of imagination

**Confirmed keynotes:**

Peter Galison, Pellegrino University Professor of the History of Science and of Physics, Harvard University (USA)

Matthias Gross, Professor of Environmental Sociology, University of Jena (Germany) / Head of the Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ, Leipzig (Germany)

Sheila Jasanoff, Pforzheimer Professor of Science and Technology Studies, Harvard Kennedy School (USA)

Tom Moylan, Glucksman Professor Emeritus in the School of Languages, Literature, Culture and an Adjunct Professor, SAUL - School of Architecture of the University of Limerick, UK

Helga Nowotny, Professor emerita of Social Studies of Science, ETH Zürich (Switzerland) / founding member of the European Research Council

The workshop consists of a two-day international meeting with specialized lectures and presentations and debates by invited senior and junior scholars. It provides a forum of exchange of research from different disciplines such as philosophy, history, literature and the arts, sociology, economics, physics, science and technology studies, political sciences, policy studies, …

Researchers, doctoral students and other experts are welcome to submit their application until 31 October 2014. Candidates should send in the completed application form, accompanied by an academic curriculum vitae and an outline of the proposed paper. The selection of participants will be communicated by the end of mid-December 2014 at the latest.

The selected participant will present her/his paper in a panel session (20 minutes in English) and will afterwards send in an article to be considered for publication (which will be submitted to careful selection). The aim of the organizer is to publish a selection of articles presented at the workshop.

The organizer takes on charge all costs pertaining to participation and stay in Antwerp of all selected participants, while travel arrangements and costs are incumbent on participants themselves.

Full details on [www.ucsia.org](http://www.ucsia.org).

**Organizing committee:**

Arthur Cools, University of Antwerp
Raf de Bont, KU Leuven and Maastricht University
Luc Braeckmans, Director of Academic Affairs ad interim, UCSIA
Barbara Segaert, Scientific Coordinator, UCSIA
Jean Paul Van Bendegem, VUB - Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Maarten Van Dyck, Ghent University
Frédéric Vandermoere, University of Antwerp
Geert Vanpaemel, KU Leuven
Gert Verschraegen, University of Antwerp
Design for Civic Co-management: A GeoSocial Intelligence Approach to Crowdsourcing Urban Data
Etienne Turpin in the Citizen Sense "Sensing Practices" seminar series
15 October 2014, 16:00 - 18:00
Department of Sociology, Goldsmiths, University of London, 138 Richard Hoggart Building

In the data-rich environments of contemporary megacities, free and open source software (FOSS) platforms can help make legible trends, transformations, and opportunities regarding community resilience. Critical for the development of such platforms are questions about how citizens are mobilized through designed engagement, how their participation is validated, and how the insights revealed are integrated into new governance models that enable and encourage political transparency, participatory budgeting, and civic co-management. The lecture will present recent and ongoing #bigdata research from the GeoSocial Intelligence Research Group (GSI) at the SMART Infrastructure Facility, University of Wollongong, and the 'Data Made Me Do It' Research Initiative at the UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design. Supported by the FOSS platform CogniCity, developed by the SMART OSGeo Lab, GSI is coordinating infrastructure research through the social media platform Twitter as part of the PetaJakarta.org Joint Pilot Study with the Jakarta Emergency Management Agency and the United Nations Pulse Lab, which is supported by a Twitter OSS Engineering #DataGrant and the Australian National Data Service. Etienne is the founder and director of anexact office, a design research practice based in Jakarta, Indonesia, and a member of the Synapse International Curators’ Network of the Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin, Germany; he is also currently a lecturer at the UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design, where he teaches urban data politics. He is the editor of Architecture in the Anthropocene: Encounters Among Design, Deep Time, Science and Philosophy (Ann Arbor: Open Humanities Press, 2013), and co-editor of Art in the Anthropocene: Encounters Among Aesthetics, Politics, Environments and Epistemologies (Ann Arbor: Open Humanities Press, forthcoming 2014), and Jakarta: Architecture + Adaptation (Depok: Universitas Indonesia Press, 2013).

Opportunities Available

Call for postdoctoral research fellowships at the UOC, for UOC Departments and Research Institutes

The program of postdoctoral research fellowships has as its objective the recognition of new researchers within existing UOC research groups. The new personnel will make it possible to expand the research teams of UOC research groups, as well as improve the quality and
competitiveness of the R+D+Innovation being carried out.

The awarding of these grants will be carried out in function of certain indicators demonstrating the scope and productivity of the various research areas of the UOC. The program will be carried out by means of a single call offering three postdoctoral grants. This program is financed by the Fundació per a la Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Foundation for the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, FUOC).

The objective of the call is to encourage fellowships at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya for teaching and research personnel who have acquired their doctoral degrees at another university in any active research area of the University’s departments for a period of three years. The existence and scope of the said grant will be adjusted to corresponding budgetary availability, and will be for an overall maximum of 371,000 Euros for the three years.

The program of postdoctoral research fellowships is set out in the terms of Law 14/2011, for Science, Technology and Innovation. In agreement with Article 22 of Law 14/2011, for Science, Technology and Innovation, the beneficiaries of the program will receive an employment contract providing access to the Spanish System of Science, Technology and Innovation, for the term of one year. The maximum length of the contract, including all prorogues, will be three years. Contract renewal will require a favourable report from the Research and Doctoral Commission, which will evaluate the fulfilment of the research objectives as agreed upon by the beneficiary of the grant, and in the time period foreseen.

The period of presentation of applications and of the required accompanying documentation will be from July 30 to October 1, 2014.

Further information at: suport_admrecerca at uoc.edu
Daniel López Gómez
Psychology and Education Department | STSb research group
Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

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Israel, offers post-doctoral and graduate fellowships or positions for exchange students and other qualified individuals in the history and philosophy of modern biological, biochemical and medical sciences. Deadline for applications is 15 October 2014. Please visit our website <http://in.bgu.ac.il/en/loeb/Pages/Research-Opportunities.aspx> for further details.

We kindly ask you to distribute this announcement for post-doctoral and other research opportunities among those who would be interested.

Regards,
The Jacques Loeb Centre for the History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences
<http://in.bgu.ac.il/en/loeb>
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, P.O.Box 653, Beer Sheva 84105, Israel. Building 72, room 635, phone +972-8-6472258, fax +972-8-6428497.

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Assistant Professor in the History and Rhetoric of Science and Technology, UC Berkeley

The Department of Rhetoric at the University of California, Berkeley invites applications for a tenure-track position at the Assistant Professor level in the History and Rhetoric of Science and Technology, for an expected start date of July 1, 2015. At the time of application, applicants must either have a Ph.D. or equivalent, or be near completion of a Ph.D. dissertation or equivalent. A completed Ph.D. or equivalent is required by the start of employment. Additional qualifications include evidence of strong research agenda and excellent scholarly potential, research and teaching that complement existing strengths in the Department, and the ability to teach courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Candidates should demonstrate broad competence in the history and theory of science and technology. Area of specialization and period are open. The Department is interested in candidates whose research and teaching include comparative and non-western dimensions. Candidates should submit cover letter, curriculum vitae, a writing sample of no more than thirty pages, and three letters of recommendation. All letters will be treated as confidential per University of California policy and California state law. Please refer potential referees, including those whose letters are provided via a dossier service or career center, to the U.C. Berkeley statement of confidentiality.
All application materials should be uploaded to the secure search portal at https://aprecruit.berkeley.edu/apply/JPF00485. Applications must be submitted by October 15, 2014. Questions pertaining to the application process can be directed to rhetoric_search@berkeley.edu.

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applications will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age or protected veteran status. For the complete University of California nondiscrimination and affirmative action policy see http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4000376/NondiscrimAffirmAct. The University is also committed to addressing the family needs of faculty, including dual-career couples and single parents (see http://calcierge.berkeley.edu for details). The department is interested in candidates who will contribute to diversity and equal opportunity in higher education through their teaching and research.


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Associate Professor position in Linguistic Anthropology
The Department of Anthropology at the University of Texas, Austin, invites applications for a position in linguistic anthropology at the rank of Associate Professor beginning Fall 2015. We welcome applicants with a strong record of research funding and ethnographic fieldwork, application of linguistic theories and methods to questions in anthropology with broad sociocultural implications, and theoretical innovation. Specialty and geographical area are open.

The selected candidate will be expected to teach both undergraduate and graduate courses, develop a strong research program, direct graduate research, demonstrate evidence of successful research productivity, and exhibit a commitment to service to the department, college, and university. Salary is competitive and dependent on qualifications and experience. Position funding is pending budgetary approval. Background check conducted on applicant selected. The University of Texas at Austin is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Qualifications
Applicants must have a Ph.D. in hand and an established reputation of high quality research and scholarly production as well as have a demonstrated record as an effective classroom teacher at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Application Instructions
Please submit a cover letter detailing research and teaching expertise, a C.V., a writing sample or publication, and the names and contact information for three references via Interfolio: apply.interfolio.com/24981

Questions about application submission should be directed to adriana.d@austin.utexas.edu

Application deadline: Dec 1, 2014.

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Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Economics
Closing Date - 26 October 2014

Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge, UK, is seeking to recruit a Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Economics.

Applicants with an interest in the economics of innovation are particularly welcome.
For more information, please click on the link below.
Publications

**European Patient Organisations in the Knowledge Society (EPOKS)**

We are pleased to announce the publication of a series of articles, drawn on our European-funded research project EPOKS (European Patients' Organizations in Knowledge Society).

We have a special issue, published in BioSocieties, which provides empirical data and analysis on what we call "evidence-based activism". In addition to the introductory chapter, the issue comprises four articles on patients' and users' groups engagement with knowledge-related activities, and on how these activities relate to their role in the governance of health issues. Below are the summaries and the link to the website of the journal. Should you encounter problems in accessing the articles, please let us know.

We also have an article published in European Societies, which examines European patients' organizations and their role in the shaping of European healthcare policies.

We hope that these articles are of interest to you.

Best wishes,
Volololona Rabeharisoa and Madeleine Akrich
Centre de sociologie de l'innovation, UMR CNRS 7185
PSL Mines-ParisTech, Paris, France


**Evidence-based activism: Patients’ and activists’ groups in knowledge society**
Vololona Rabeharisoa, Tiago Moreira and Madeleine Akrich
BioSocieties 9: 111-128; advance online publication, March 31, 2014; doi:10.1057/biosoc.2014.2

This article proposes the notion of ‘evidence-based activism’ to capture patients’ and health activists’ groups’ focus on knowledge production and knowledge mobilisation in the governance of health issues. It introduces empirical data and analysis on groups active in four countries (France, Ireland, Portugal and the United Kingdom), and in four condition-areas (rare diseases, Alzheimer’s disease, ADHD – Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and childbirth). It shows how these groups engage with, and articulate a variety of credentialed knowledge and ‘experiential knowledge’ with a view to explore concerned people’s situations, to make themselves part and parcel of the networks of expertise on their conditions in their national contexts, and to elaborate evidence on the issues they deem important to address both at an individual and at a collective level. This article argues that in contrast to health movements which contest institutions from the outside, patients’ and activists’ groups which embrace ‘evidence-based activism’ work ‘from within’ to imagine new epistemic and political appraisal of their causes and conditions. ‘Evidence-based activism’ entails a collective inquiry associating patients/activists and specialists/professionals in the conjoint fabrics of scientific statements and political claims. From a conceptual standpoint, ‘evidence-based activism’ sheds light on the ongoing co-production of matters of fact and matters of concern in contemporary technological democracies.

**Practising childbirth activism: A politics of evidence**
Madeleine Akrich, Máire Leane, Celia Roberts and João Arriscado Nunes
BioSocieties 9: 129-152; advance online publication, March 31, 2014; doi:10.1057/biosoc.2014.5

The literature on childbirth organisations focuses on their critique of medical definitions of birth practices, their efforts to promote ‘natural’ or ‘normal’ birth, their espousal of choice rhetoric and their relationship to feminism. It says little, however, about the practices these organisations use to achieve their aims. Our study of the United Kingdom, Ireland, Portugal and France explores the centrality of knowledge-based activities to childbirth activism. Through these activities, we show, organisations (i) elicit the emergence of a concerned public through constituting evidence about women’s experiences of childbirth and obstetric practices; (ii) produce evidence about obstetric practices from women’s perspectives;
(iii) articulate this vision of obstetric practices with a critical appraisal of scientific literature; and (iv) make visible international networks of actors who share similar concerns and conceptions. Drawing upon our empirical data we propose the notion of evidence-based activism in order to capture the specificity of birth organisations’ modes of engagement and to describe what they bring about. Through evidence-based activism childbirth organisations get involved in policy making and become recognised as legitimate stakeholders; reframe the issues at stake; open debate with other stakeholders; and bring about changes in the health system. Knowledge-based activities also shape the missions and objectives of the organisations.

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in France and Ireland: Parents’ groups’ scientific and political framing of an unsettled condition
Claire Edwards, Etaiione Howlett, Madeleine Akrich and Vololona Rabeharisoa
BioSocieties 9: 153-172; advance online publication, March 31, 2014; doi:10.1057/biosoc.2014.3

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is an unsettled condition whose history is characterised by controversy among medical professionals. Its emergence has frequently been interpreted as an example of the growing ‘medicalisation’ of society and the individualisation of social issues. This article examines how groups representing children with ADHD in France and Ireland engage within this contested medical domain to develop different politics of knowledge around the disorder which become visible in their ‘epistemic efforts’. These efforts emerge from, and enact, groups’ understandings of ADHD as a condition, and frame their development of a politics of healthcare as a basis for articulating claims to appropriate services and treatment. We show how, in Ireland, organisations remain committed to a biomedical approach to ADHD, although their practical efforts are oriented towards complementing medication with non-pharmaceutical treatments. In France, the key parents’ group opposes any paradigm that focuses exclusively on one aspect of the disorder, be it social, psychological or neurological; rather, it struggles to ‘open up’ the scientific domain of ADHD. Our empirical material therefore enables us to demonstrate patients’ organisations’ politics of knowledge as situated practices which aim to reshape the different networks of expertise on ADHD that exist in each country, and to explore medicalisation as a complex set of processes which is neither a solution to parents’ problems, nor an end point for their actions.

Assembling dementia care: Patient organisations and social research
Tiago Moreira, Orla O’Donovan and Etaione Howlett
BioSocieties 9: 173-193; advance online publication, April 14, 2014; doi:10.1057/biosoc.2014.6

In this article, we take the concept of evidence-based activism as a point of departure to understand how Alzheimer’s disease (AD) associations have mobilised knowledge to rearticulate their role in the public sphere. We are specifically interested in political initiatives deployed by these organisations to shape the field of dementia care research, policy and practice in the last 5 years in the United Kingdom and Ireland. In both countries, the campaigns have emphasised the importance of developing and funding services and devices that mediate between the formal and the informal sectors of dementia care in order to support people living with dementia to stay at home for longer. Drawing on our analysis of documentary and interview data, our suggestion is that the transformation of dementia care into a ‘matter of concern’ is underpinned by AD organisations’ harnessing, fostering, sponsoring and circulating of social research conventions and methodologies such as the survey or the interview. Our main claim is that social scientific techniques and ways of reasoning have been key in the production and maintenance of boundary relations between informal and formal care in dementia. Our work can thus be seen as integrated in a renewed interest in understanding the epistemic cultures of social research and its relationship with political institutions of contemporary societies.

From ‘politics of numbers’ to ‘politics of singularisation’: Patients’ activism and engagement in research on rare diseases in France and Portugal
Vololona Rabeharisoa, Michel Callon, Angela Marques Filipe, João Arriscado Nunes, Florence Paterson and Frédéric Vergnaud
This article investigates how the engagement of patients’ organisations (POs) in research relates to the dynamics of their activism in the area of rare diseases. It traces back how certain concerned families and groups elaborated rareness as an issue of equity and social justice, gave shape to what we call a ‘politics of numbers’ for stating the fact of rare diseases as a major public health problem, and promoted patients’ critical involvement in biomedical and therapeutic research as a solution for mainstreaming rare diseases in regular health systems. It then studies three Portuguese and three French POs, which point to the limits of the epidemiological notion of rareness for capturing the compounded and intersecting nature of the bio-psycho-social make-up of their conditions. It finally shows how these critics progressively lead to the emergence of an alternative politics, which we call a ‘politics of singularisation’. At the core of this politics stands a collective and ongoing profiling of conditions and patients, whose similarities and differences relates to the ubiquity of biological pathways and diseases categories. Our contention is that this ‘politics of singularisation’ not only pictures a politics of illnesses which questions the rationale for nosological classifications, but also, and consequently, affects the making of social links by suggesting the simultaneous identification of individual patients and constitution of collectives to which they partake while asserting their specificities.

http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/GqmWsvyPAPfvCh5sP85eWv_VBHOfb_raQs

In this article, we examine how European patients’ organizations (EPOs) contribute to moving patient advocacy beyond national level organizing and acting. In contrast to Europeanization studies, our contention is that EPOs are not content merely to bring national claims up to the European level nor simply enrich national debates with European issues. Rather, we argue that EPOs engage in a compounded multilevel construction of patients as ‘European individuals’ and of their conditions as matters of concern for Europe. Based on an analysis of the projects, pronouncements, and politics of three EPOs – European Organization on Rare Diseases, Alzheimer Europe, and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Europe – we explore how they form European communities of patients and give shape to health issues they deem important to address at European level. We show that EPOs' involvement in the ongoing construction of Europe relies on their capacities to collect, format, and circulate comparative facts, figures, and data on the functioning of domestic health systems, drawn notably on their members' experiences. This helps them to raise discussions on the need for European health-care policies which articulate a ‘Europe of markets’ and a ‘social Europe’ to the benefit of the patients. We discuss the form of politics that this EPOs' ‘evidence-based activism’, as we call it, entails, and conclude with a few thoughts on their influence on the making of European health-care policies.

Madeleine Akrich, directrice de recherche Centre de sociologie de l’innovation, associé au CNRS (UMR7185), Mines-ParisTech 60 boulevard Saint Michel, 75006 Paris tel: 33 1 40 51 92 84; fax: 33 1 43 54 56 28

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'Embedding Social Sciences?' Forum in Science as Culture 23(3), September 2014 issue, already online at <http://www.tandfonline.com/csac>

The term 'embedding' has become prominent in discussions on the EU's 2014-2020 research programme. There have been proposals to embed the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) across all research areas, towards closer collaboration with science and engineering. What should be the role of the social sciences in wider research agendas? How do social sciences intervene in technoscientific research policy and priorities? In what ways have the social sciences been embedded in policy frameworks - or questioning them? How have the social sciences devised various collaborations with science and engineering? What kinds should be promoted – or avoided? Such questions are discussed in this SaC Forum section.

Contents of Forum:
- Introduction: 'Embedding Social Sciences?', Les Levidow
‘Within, Across and Beyond: Reconsidering the Role of Social Sciences and Humanities in Europe’, Ulrike Felt

‘EU Research Agendas: Embedding what future?’, Les Levidow and Claudia Neubauer

‘Embedding Social Sciences in Interdisciplinary Research: Recent experiences from interdisciplinary energy’, Mark Winksel

‘From Ethnography to Engagement: The lab as a site of intervention’, Mads Gjefsen and Erik Fisher

‘Entangled Histories and Imaginative Geographies of Technoscientific Innovations’, Amit Prasad

*Luca Guzzetti (Università di Genova – IT)
*Christine Hine (University of Surrey – UK)
*Alessandro Mongili (Università di Padova – IT)
*Michele Nacci (Università dell’Aquila – IT)
*Federico Neresini (Università di Padova – IT)
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The new issue of TECNOSCIENZA | Italian Journal of Science and Technology Studies is now on line. Full Issue Download, PDF: <http://tecnoscienza.us5.listmanage.com/track/click?u=0577b27d75f836ebbf0f664d0a&id=60b4c80226&c=728035745b>

TECNOSCIENZA | Italian Journal of Science and Technology Studies, Vol. 5, No. 1, 2014
From Bench to Bed and Back: Laboratories and Biomedical Research.

Guest Editors' Introduction: From Bench to Bed, Back and Beyond: The Four Bs of Biomedical Research, pp. 5-10 PDF

Big Data and the Collective Turn in Biomedicine. How Should We Analyze Post-genomic Practices?, pp. 11-42 PDF

The Bio-Objectification of Umbilical Cord Blood: Socio-Economic and Epistemic Implications of Biobanking, pp. 67-90 PDF

What's Being Translated in Translational Research? Making and Making Sense of Data between the Laboratory and the Clinic, pp. 91-114 PDF

The Controversial Molecular Turn in Prenatal Diagnosis. CGH-array Clinical Approaches and Biomedical Platforms, pp. 115-140 PDF

Nanomedicine in the Making. Expectations, Scientific Narrations and Materiality, pp. 43-66 PDF

The Bio-Objectification of Umbilical Cord Blood: Socio-Economic and Epistemic Implications of Biobanking, pp. 67-90 PDF

What’s Being Translated in Translational Research? Making and Making Sense of Data between the Laboratory and the Clinic, pp. 91-114 PDF

The Controversial Molecular Turn in Prenatal Diagnosis. CGH-array Clinical Approaches and Biomedical Platforms, pp. 115-140 PDF

The Role of Bioinformatics in Facilitating Translational Science and Medicine, pp. 141-164 PDF

Visualising Bodies Within and Beyond Laboratories and Clinics, pp.165-190 PDF

Translational Research: An Imperative Shaping the Spaces in Biomedicine, pp. 191-202 PDF


Barcoding Nature. Shifting Cultures of


Judy Wajcman, Pressed for Time: The Acceleration of Life in Digital Capitalism

The University of Chicago Press. The book interrogates the relationship between time and digital technology, and has received glowing reviews from the likes of Sherry Turkle, Saskia Sassen, Paul DiMaggio and Helga Nowotny. A fuller synopsis is below. If you’re in the London-area, Professor Wajcman is giving a public lecture based on her new book at the London School of Economics on 27 November 2014. Please see the LSE Events page for more details: http://www.lse.ac.uk/publicEvents/events/2014/11/20141127t1830vOT.aspx

The technologically tethered, iPhone-addicted figure is an image we can easily conjure. Most of us complain that there aren’t enough hours in the day and too many e-mails in our thumb-accessible inboxes. This widespread perception that life is faster than it used to be is now ingrained in our culture, and smartphones and the Internet are continually being blamed. But isn’t the sole purpose of the smartphone to give us such quick access to people and information that we’ll be free to do other things? Isn’t technology supposed to make our lives easier?

In Pressed for Time, Judy Wajcman explains why we immediately interpret our experiences with digital technology as inexorably accelerating everyday life. She argues that we are not mere hostages to communication devices, and the sense of always being rushed is the result of the priorities and parameters we ourselves set rather than the machines that help us set them. Indeed, being busy and having action-packed lives has become valorized by our productivity driven culture. Wajcman offers a bracing historical perspective, exploring the commodification of clock time, and how the speed of the industrial age became identified with progress. She also delves into the ways time-use differs for diverse groups in modern societies, showing how changes in work patterns, family arrangements, and parenting all affect time stress. Bringing together empirical research on time use and theoretical debates about dramatic digital developments, this accessible and engaging book will leave readers better versed in how to use technology to navigate life’s fast lane.

News from the Field

Dear all,

I am doing research about the composition of PhD defense committees. Disciplinary aspect of the composition interests me the most. I’ve had a hard time looking for the literature about the topic. Maybe some of you have noticed some authors, articles or journals that are close to the topic that I have mentioned? Sincerely, Aidis Stukas

Hi everyone,

We would be grateful if you could share the below survey information with any potential participants. Thanks!

Do you have a CREATIVE child?
Does your child like to BUILD things?
Do they like VIDEO GAMES?

The Playing at Making Project at The University of Toronto Semaphore Lab is surveying parents/guardians of children who play creative games. From Minecraft, to LittleBigPlanet and everything in between, we want to know more about what kids are creating and making while they play today’s popular videogames.

The survey can be found here on our project website here:
http://playingatmaking.com/survey-information/
This study has been reviewed and approved by the University of Toronto Research Ethics Board (REB) and is being conducted out of the Semaphore Lab at the University of Toronto. For additional information please email playingatmaking at utoronto.ca or contact Dr. Sara M. Grimes at sara.grimes at utoronto.ca

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**CFP: Digital Practices in History & Ethnography Interest Group, Research Data Alliance**

**CALL FOR PARTICIPATION**

New members are invited to join the Digital Practices in History and Ethnography Interest Group (DPHE-IG), in the Research Data Alliance (RDA), an international initiative to facilitate the development of effective data practices, standards and infrastructure in particular research areas, and across research areas – aiming to enhance capacity to archive, preserve, analyze and share data, and for collaboration both within and across research communities.

RDA’s DPHE-IG works to advance data standards, practices and infrastructure for historical and ethnographic research, contributing to broader efforts in the digital humanities and social sciences. Bi-weekly calls move the work of the group forward. Many meetings are “project shares” during which someone leading a digital project describes their efforts and challenges. Some calls are with other RDA groups (such as the Provenance Interest Group), aiming to draw their expertise into our work in history and ethnography.

Our call-in meetings are on Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. EST; see our schedule through May 2015, and let us know if you would like to share a project. Also see our annual report of activities, including a list of project shares thus far.

RDA holds two plenary meetings each year at which interests group can meet, and interact with other interest groups. The next plenary is in Amsterdam, September 22-24, 2014. The following plenary will be in San Diego, March 9-11, 2015.

Please join the group (just below the calendar here) and pass on this information to others who may be interested. We would especially appreciate help reaching people outside Europe and North America.

Jason Baird Jackson (Indiana University), Mike Fortun (RPI), Kim Fortun (RPI), co-chairs
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