

EASST

Review

Volume 25 (2) European Association for the Study of Science and Technology June 2006



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

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

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The cover image is taken from the website for
the EASST 2006 conference Reviewing
Humanness: Bodies, Technologies and Spaces
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Welcome to the Lausanne issue of the EASST Review

This is an unusual issue of the EASST Review, in two respects. Firstly, whilst most issues of the EASST Review are open to contributions across the breadth of members' interests, in this issue we have chosen to develop a special focus on one event. That event is the forthcoming EASST conference in Lausanne. Articles in this issue introduce the theme of the conference, depict activities in STS in and around the University of Lausanne, and introduce the Swiss STS network. Hopefully these articles will give those attending the conference some context to what their appetites and to help them understand the surroundings they will encounter. Those who are unable to attend will hopefully be able to make up for a small part of what they are missing with this taster of the events in Lausanne.

The second regard in which this issue of the EASST Review is unusual is its editorship. This is the first issue since 1991 not to have been edited by Chunglin Kwa. He will be returning for one final issue in the Autumn before handing over the editorship. I was happy to guest edit this special issue, with the assistance of the conference team.

Best wishes,

Christine Hine
EASST President
Guildford, 5 July 2006

Glimpses into the forthcoming EASST 2006 Conference in Lausanne, Switzerland, 23-26 August: *Reviewing Humanness: Bodies, Technologies and Spaces*

Marc Audétat and Ola Soderström**, chairs of the Programme committee*

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The theme

A few years ago, Peter Sloterdijk, pointed to the peculiar animal species that human beings constitute.¹ In a short and stimulating text, he reminded us that we all begin our lives as fragile, dependant and 'unfinished' bodies. Compared to us, other animals are, at their birth, much stronger, autonomous and 'finished'. This specificity of humanness implies that we need a protected space and a series of technologies of care to insure that our precarious bodies have a chance to survive. For this reason and a series of other reasons², the conference organisers suggest that human 'nature' is made and remade by ideas and practices assembling bodies, technologies, and spaces.

How we conceive humanness and its transformation is at the centre of the 2006 EASST conference in Lausanne. We think that focusing on specialities, technologies, bodies and their co-constitution is a fruitful way of organizing our discussions on this broad theme. We also suggest in the call that it is important, considering the state of the art and the themes of former EASST conferences, to put particular emphasis on the political dimensions of a reviewed humanness.

These discussions, but also many others on quite different topics³, will be distributed in different plenary sessions and parallel sessions. We would like to give you here a brief 'sneak preview' of what is going to happen on the shores of the Lemman Lake this summer.

The plenary sessions

The principle of each plenary is to create a

¹ Peter Sloterdijk, *La domestication de l'être*, Paris, Mille et une nuits, 2000.

² See call for papers:

<http://www2.unil.ch/easst2006/callpapers.htm>

³ An EASST conference is of course a come-together of the STS community as much as a thematic colloquium.

(temporary) couple of keynote speakers⁴: one being within the STS community and the other more of an outsider. Our aim is to avoid the 'chapel effect' and to de-center our vision both of humanness and the STS world.

The opening plenary on the 23rd of August, entitled *Reviewing Humanness*, is dedicated to political issues in STS and to an historical approach to humanness through mind reading, with the contributions of two historians, Dominique Pestre (EHESS, Paris), and Michael Hagner (ETH, Zurich).

The second plenary which takes place the same day, *Re-thinking Science, Policy and STS in the 21st Century: Analytical Insights from an Outsider Within*, is organized by the Swiss Association for the Studies of Science, Technology and Society (STS-CH). It is articulated around a talk given by Helga Nowotny (European Research Council) on the relationship between science, policy and STS, and notably on STS in the 7th Framework Programme of the European Union.

The third plenary on the 24th of August, *Queer Science: Transbiological 'Facts'*, will question the sexed body through an archaeology of feminist and queer theory, with the talks and discussions between Judith Halberstam (University of Southern California) and Sarah Franklin (London School of Economics).

The plenary on Friday the 25th, *Accessing Space and Technology*, will host a discussion between Stephen Graham (University of Durham) and Sally Wyatt (University of Amsterdam) on space, technology and inequality with particular emphasis on the electronic filtering of access (to places, facilities, etc.).

The fifth and last plenary session on the afternoon of 26th of August brings together two notable scholars to discuss issues of "Biopolitics, Biocapital and STS": Sheila Jasanoff (Harvard)

⁴ Except for the second plenary which has other aims (see below).

will revisit issues of biopolitics and Nikolas Rose (London School of Economics) will address the “value of life” in the context of biocapital.

The parallel sessions

Examining the abstracts and sessions received for the parallel sessions, we can already identify a series of general trends. A first important point is the increasing number of participants (approx. 630) and, consequently, of parallel sessions, compared to previous editions. The disequilibrium in terms of the origins of participants however remains. Most participants come from the North and few from the South or from Eastern Europe. This being said, we are very pleased to welcome colleagues from countries as diverse as Brazil, Bolivia, Bangladesh, South Africa, United States, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, Russia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Japan, China, and South Korea, to mention those from outside of the European Union. The gender balance is quite satisfying at all levels of the conference programme and the mix of juniors and seniors, as well as of participants to previous conferences and new ones is very promising. These are clear and positive indicators of the vigour of the STS field.

In terms of content now, here are a few comments on the 144 parallel sessions of the Conference. Among the themes proposed by the organisers (in the call), some are well represented in the Programme. There is ample space for contributions on the biomedical and technological re-shaping of humanness. The sessions about biomedical practice, technology, and policy, as well as health care systems gather a large number of contributions (threads 1 and 2, and also 8 and 10). This thematic cluster contains a session organized by colleagues from South Korea, addressing the implications of the Hwang scandal for the S&T studies. There follows a series of sessions about the governance of stem cells and its controversies, testimony of the emergence of an important research network on this topic. Further in the same large cluster, the Bios Centre of the LSE prepares a ‘surprise session’, and there are series of sessions on neurosciences and the ‘cerebral subject’, bodies, patients and therapies, neonatology, genomics, the production and the commodification of knowledge.

Socio-economic approaches to S&T, innovation studies, and R&D policies, are also well represented. There is a broad range of different industries, strategies and markets in focus. Some

sessions discuss f.i. the role of S&T in ‘transition economies’ with colleagues from Russia and Poland (see threads 4, 9 and 12). The parallel sessions also host a large bulk of papers on long-standing research themes, such as the ICTs (mainly threads 3 and 4). There are sessions on ‘the biography of software systems’, on ‘open source softwares’, on ‘instructional technology’, or on the relations between technologies, social organisation, work and daily life.

Noteworthy also is the variation of interest for certain themes between EASST conferences. Consider for instance the importance of risk studies and GMOs at the York Conference in 2002, and the scarce number of contributions proposed under these headings this year. What happened? Are GM crops not controversial anymore? Did STS scholars jump to the more fashionable issue of nanotechnology? Things are certainly more complicated. Studies and assessment of agrofood, biotechnology, uncertainty, and precaution, probably reached their peak in Europe a few years ago. On the other hand, many factors influence the trends observable in the parallel sessions. It took for instance years of work to prepare what appears now in 2006 as a important network of research on nanoscience with sessions on ‘politics of expectations’, ‘visions’, and ‘public engagement’ with nanotechnology.

We could reflect along the same lines on themes such as technology assessment (TA) and participation, not quantitatively very important but still present in this edition. Is this a consequence of a certain disillusionment concerning such procedures (observed in other fields of social science and political analysis)? It could be the case, but it could also be related to the way such issues are framed today both by funding institutions and by the sessions’ organisers of EASST 2006. If there are few papers labelled “TA” f.i., there is however a large group on matters of governance, of expertise and public debate (thread 7). Other sessions are approaching these issues in terms of ‘social control of technology’, of ‘management of social conflicts’, theorizing at another level the governance of S&T.

Among the topics less represented than expected, there are sessions on sustainable production and consumption, urban development, human-technology interaction in built environments, ‘contested spaces’ and local participation (threads 5 and 6). A couple of sessions discuss the place of S&T studies in industrialising and developing countries (see thread 10). Contributions around science, culture, literature

and arts are unfortunately not many, perhaps because we did not manage to give such issues enough visibility in the call.

Those who like the STS way to tackle issues directly 'in the middle of socio-technical networks', instead of framing them by using disciplinary categories, will certainly be happy with the numerous sessions and contributions on non-humans, hybrids, cyborgs, boundary objects, or embedded norms (especially under thread 10 'knowledge objects, practice, and culture'). Last but not least, thread 13, about 'STS in practice, methods, research networks, and computer tools', has managed to attract a fair amount of sessions to help young researchers finding their way in the maze of the publishing world, sessions on constructivism, collaborative and interdisciplinary research, as well as e-research, and digital knowledge archives.

Finally, political issues are addressed under different guises in the sessions: such as the articulation of lab studies with macro trends in

science and politics, the reframing of bioethics, the contemporary reforms in higher education, or the demands for the engagement of public debate in the course of the development of new technology. In a period when governments are actively participating in the 'manufacture of uncertainty'⁵, downplaying f.i. scientific expertise in climate change, further reflections and experiments on the politics of, and in S&T studies may indeed be necessary.

What we now very much look forward to is to see these themes and questions coming to life this summer in Lausanne.

⁵ Sheldon Krimsky : *Science in the Private Interest : Has the Lure of Profits Corrupted Biomedical Research?* Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2003.

STS in Lausanne: an overview

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Since the mid 1990's, STS development in Lausanne is an ongoing process, and the study of science and technology is nowadays well established in our university. It includes several teachers and researchers active in different fields, such as sociology, anthropology, philosophy and history. Therefore, there are increasing opportunities for students and scholars, but also for a broad audience, to get involved in STS through the numerous lectures and researches and also thanks to very active mediation structures. Some of them are briefly introduced here as an illustration of our broad offering.

Teaching

As far as teaching is concerned, many lectures are currently provided at both undergraduate and graduate levels, mainly in The Faculty of Social and Political Sciences and The Faculty of Biology and Medicine. While some of them are clearly tagged STS, others are STS topics introduced in general teaching. For instance, Farinaz Fassa teaches Methodology in social sciences, and she uses her main field of interest - technology and education / gender and technology - as the general background for her teaching.

In 2007, part of these lectures will be included in a new MA degree on "Health, Science and Medicine" provided by the The Faculty of Social and Political Sciences for students in social sciences.

This attractive and challenging new option will include lectures and seminars on the socio-historical construction processes of science and medicine, given by Francesco Panese under the name "Social studies of science and medicine". To give an idea of the content, in this year's lectures, he presents different "histories of knowledge" (e.g. emergence of modern science, anatomy, madness, transparent and genomic body, brain, fœtus). The seminar deals with "the fabric of the human as a scientific and medical object".

A gender perspective will be developed by Cynthia Kraus who is already in charge of an interdisciplinary gender seminar on the clinic of intersexuality in collaboration with psychiatrists,

psychologists, surgeons, paediatricians, and intersex activists; and an introduction to science and gender studies for BSc students in The Faculty of Biology and Medicine. In the new MA, she will teach a course on gender, science, sexualities and the body.

As another example of what will be included in the new MA, Daniela Cerqui will teach in the field of "anthropology of the body and technology". Deeply rooted in her research in collaboration with the first man to have an implant directly connected to his nervous system, her lecture will be about implants, robotics and the so-called converging technologies, and the way they redefine what it means to be human.

Also involved in this forthcoming MA, The Institute for History of Medicine and Public Health (IUHMSP, director: Vincent Barras), which is part of The Faculty of Biology and Medicine, hosts teachings in history and social studies of medicine and life sciences, currently mainly addressed to medical students.

Finally, apart from this degree, the University of Lausanne also provides an introductory course on STS (taught by Bruno Strasser, a historian from The Faculty of Arts working on the biomedical sciences in the 20th century) at the Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, as part of the humanities teaching program for engineering students.

Research

The research centre « Observatoire Science, Politique et Société » (OSPS; director: Jean-Philippe Leresche) analyses the changing characteristics of higher education institutions, production of knowledge and dissemination processes. It also promotes public debate with an interdisciplinary and comparative perspective (See <http://www.unil.ch/osps>).

The OSPS runs a certificate on *Higher education and research policy* in collaboration with the University of Bern. It features themes such as research promotion, assessment, innovation systems and technology policies and knowledge engineering (See <http://www.unil.ch/osps/page18692.html>).

The IUHMSP has set up a new interdisciplinary *Neuroscience research group* that brings together PhD students and researchers working on historical and contemporary features of the neuroscience and the process of biomedicalisation of psychiatry. Their interests focus on techniques, concepts, illnesses and processes such as neuroimaging, plasticity, the unconscious, and the “corticalisation” of mental illness and subject categories.

This Institute has a rich library and resource centre on the history, the philosophy and the social science of medicine and on ethics and public health. Archives, medical instruments and iconographic collections are also part of it (See: <http://www.chuv.ch/iuhmsp>).

Communicating and sharing with the public

In Lausanne, two central institutions are devoted to the mediation of scientific and medical cultures towards the public: The Fondation Claude Verdan and The Science-Society Interface.

With thoughtful, ambitious and entertaining exhibitions, the Fondation Claude Verdan (director: Francesco Panese) promotes critical understanding of recent developments and issues related to biomedical, technological and

scientific innovations. The current exhibition, for instance, is exploring the complex ways babies get “made” (*Du baiser au bébé*, see <http://www.verdan.ch>).

Within the University of Lausanne, The Science-Society Interface (director: Alain Kaufmann) is a department that promotes public awareness and critical dialogue on science and technology. It works in collaboration with different actors, including science museums, schools, researchers, the STS community and the public at large. Moreover, in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, it co-ordinates the “Réseau Romand Science et Cité”, a network of 30 museums, science centres and universities that develop common initiatives. The Science-Society Interface recently established a public biology laboratory inspired by STS, open to schools and the general public: L’Eprouvette (The Test Tube). The Interface conducts interdisciplinary research on technological risks (GMOs, nanotechnology) and the involvement of civil society in science and technology issues (participatory Technology Assessment, technical democracy). It also contributes to different courses in the fields of science studies (See: <http://www.unil.ch/interface>).

Science Policy and STS in the 21st century: toward new frontiers?

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STS in Switzerland

Science and Technology Studies are an emergent recent research field in Switzerland. ETH Zurich, i.e. the Collegium Helveticum and its chair in Philosophy and Social Studies of Science, and the *Observatoire Science, Politique et Société* in Lausanne have until recently been the only centres with researchers involved in STS since the end of the 1990s. The establishment of a chair for Science Studies at the University of Basel in 2002 involved the formation of still another research group in this field.

If an increase of interest in STS in recent years can be observed, this is not least due to the activities of STS-CH – the Swiss Association for the Studies of Science, Technology, and Society. The association had been founded by junior scholars as a network to promote Science and Technology Studies in Switzerland. Since its establishment in 2001, STS-CH has been very active. It has organized numerous lectures, workshops, and other events, including three international summer schools in cooperation with scholars from local universities. These activities have been acknowledged in 2005: the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAGW-ASSH) has accepted STS-CH as a new member. This was a major step for the still young STS-CH. The association is now in a much better position concerning the increased access to information, contacts, and financial means. The membership also provides better visibility and contributes to the institutionalization of Science and Technology Studies in Switzerland. Finally, the membership is a very good starting point for the association's further activities and events.

One such event will take place at EASST conference in Lausanne. STS-CH will organize a plenary session entitled: "Re-Thinking Science, Policy and STS in the 21st century: Analytic insights from an outsider within?". The session will discuss some features of current EU science policy. Keynote speaker Helga Nowotny is a

member and vice-chair of the Scientific Council of the European Research Council (ERC). Being a social scientist and a science studies scholar aimed at bridging the gap between different disciplines and between science, society, and politics, and an outsider among her scientist colleagues in the ERC's Scientific Council, Helga Nowotny will share her experiences and political insights in how the future research policy is being shaped in the EU. EASST president Christine Hine will be the commentator.

A starting point for the discussion, is provided by and will evolve around a new term used in EU science policy: frontier research.

"Frontier research": a new notion in EU science policy

Recently, the newly established Scientific Council of the European Research Council (ERC) introduced a new concept called frontier research. The term 'frontier research' reflects a new understanding of basic research. On one hand it denotes that basic research in science and technology is of critical importance to economic and social welfare, and on the other that research at and beyond the frontiers of understanding is an intrinsically risky venture, progressing on new and most exciting research areas and is characterized by an absence of disciplinary boundaries.⁶

However, the notion of frontier research is not new and draws on a historical metaphor, which is well known in transatlantic science policy as well as in the collective memory of academics throughout the United States. Shortly after the end of World War II in 1945, Vannevar Bush submitted his famous report 'Science: The Endless Frontier' on behalf of the then president Franklin D. Roosevelt. Amongst his recommendations Bush suggested the government's responsibility to fund what he

⁶ <http://ec.europa.eu/erc/> (access 12 June 2006)

called 'basic research'. The report became a basis for a project of long-term national investment in scientific research and education, and contributed fundamentally to the creation of the National Science Foundation in 1950. It is striking that Bush's report is mentioned neither on the ERC's website nor in the European Commission's report, issued in 2005, 'Frontier Research: The European Challenge' where the term was used first in the contemporary European context.⁷ The analogies between Bush's and the EC's report, however, are remarkable and they apply to both their content and their context.

First of all, both reports envision science as a means to improve the economic and social welfare of the according nations. In his letter to President Roosevelt, Vannevar Bush wrote: "Scientific progress is one essential key to our security as a nation, to our better health, to more jobs, to a higher standard of living, and to our cultural progress" (V. Bush, Letter of Transmittal, 25 July 1945). Similarly, the EC report underlines the critical importance of frontier research in science and technology for economic and social welfare in the member states of the European Union. The European Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potocnik, is also convinced that the ERC "provides a means to further improve the quality and impact of European research, with long-term benefits for the competitiveness of our economies and our well-being" (EC report: 7). In the understandings of both reports, basic research (in Bush's term), or frontier research (in the EU vocabulary) are thus vital to the future well-being of states and individuals and their promotion by governmental authorities is an absolute necessity. Yet, while the notion of progress had always been deeply embedded in the U.S. outlook and attitude towards technology and science, the European case reveals for the first time in the history of the European Framework Programmes a need to reconcile fundamental scientific advances with not only national, but European interests.

In addition, a second analogy is noticeable. Vannevar Bush's statement that "Science offers a

⁷ European Commission (2005): Frontier Research: The European Challenge. High-Level Expert Group Report, February 2005, Brussels. (Here referred to as EC report)

This high-level expert group's report is only one among many other influential ones, but it was the first to use the term 'frontier research' which was adopted by the EC.

largely unexplored hinterland for the pioneer who has the tools for his task", points towards the role attributed to the individual researcher in this venture. In the strategic documents published by the EC, we see the pioneer rising again. The grant schemes of the ERC are oriented towards "researchers on their own initiatives, focusing on scientific opportunities they themselves have identified" (EC report, 7). It is furthermore pronounced that these will be the most excellent researchers ready to take risks in the name of science.

The analogies can not only be drawn regarding the content of the two reports, their political contexts must also be addressed. Both documents have been initiated in times of political reorientation. In both cases, the initiative came from the scientific community who lobbied their respective governments into action. In the U.S., the scientists, who had been engaged in Los Alamos eagerly wished to return to their universities, but they were keen on maintaining both, the level of generous funding and the high degree of autonomy, that they had enjoyed while engaged in the war effort.⁸ In Europe, the scientific community was frustrated by what was seen as a cumbersome bureaucracy in Brussels that left very little space for bottom-up or investigator-driven basic research. President Roosevelt was confronted with the options of a post-war society. His task was to transfer the pace of war research activities for the benefit of the nation during peace time. Scientific progress was associated with the hopes of a glorious future. In the EU, the admission of new member states into the Union, imply a political redirection as well. EU governmental tasks are oriented toward an integration of the diverse and heterogeneous nation states. Science is seen by official authorities as a means for welfare, which might also contribute to political coherence and unity in the EU. But even more pressing, perhaps, are the ongoing processes of globalization of research – exemplified by the rapid rise of China and India as future global players in R&D investment. They make it clear that Europe's chances of success in this field depend on overcoming the fragmentation of national efforts of its twenty-five member states.

Both reports were therefore written with the belief that science should contribute to a

⁸ At Los Alamos, New Mexico, the Manhattan Project had been taking place, in which a team of scientists had been working to create the first atomic bomb.

political, economic and social stabilization of a reshaped political landscape.

In conclusion, the political reorientation is mirrored by a redirection of the respective science policies. In the U.S. the creation of the National Science Foundation implemented (with modifications) Vannevar Bush's suggestion to fund basic research by the Federal government. In the EU, the creation of the ERC as a distinctive funding mechanism devoted to scientific excellence of individual researchers aims to promote investigator-driven frontier research on a pan-European level. Both reports are thus marking out historical moments in their science policies, in the latter case underlined by the EC report's speech of a "unique historic opportunity" (EC report, 11).

STS as frontier research? Reflecting STS

The inclusion of the social sciences and humanities in the development of 'frontier research' – in contrast to Bush's 'basic research' – on the one hand, and the emphasis of inter- or transdisciplinary research on the other hand, raises the question if STS can be understood as a paradigmatic realm of 'frontier research'. Has not STS always been a multi- if not even trans-disciplinary endeavour, working at the margins of and across disciplinary boundaries and thus being a risky venture? Many scholars in this field have tried to analyze current scientific trends and to interpret them as embedded in socio-political contexts, and could thus be understood as standing "at the forefront of creating new knowledge and developing new understanding" (EC report, 18) regarding both the object and the outcome of their investigations.

Comprehending STS as a realm of 'frontier research', however, points to another set of questions. Frontier can be understood – following the EC report – in a metaphorical sense as "frontiers of knowledge" (EC report, 11). In a more literal reading of the concept, it can also be interpreted as addressing the geopolitical borders of what is called the 'European Research Area'.

This raises new questions mainly into two directions, concerning the steering and addressing of science policies:

- Who governs the new European Research Area?

Recently new member states have been

welcomed into the European Union, and subsequently issues of how to address the diversity and differences amongst the broad range of member states are becoming a concern. Talking about a European Research Area thus opens discussions on scientific institution building and networking across borders. Questions arise concerning who will be producing knowledge and who is going to govern science policy. Moreover, where is science produced, who owns the means for research, who decides about funds and who benefits?

- Who is addressed by the social and economic welfare science is supposed to produce?

If the aim of this research is to increase social and economic welfare, questions of delivery and equity must be addressed. Citizens inhabiting countries outside the European borders will be affected by the technological and scientific advances of EU-research as well. Problems around immigration and border-securities are increasingly emerging. The questions are: Who will be able to participate in the social achievements and in the rise of wealth? Who will be included/excluded and if so on what terms?

Doing 'frontier research' could thus also require us to examine the social and economic distributions and inequalities both within EU member states and between member and non-member countries. Advances in science and technology can be aimed at overcoming such inequalities, but they might contribute unintentionally to increase the divides.

STS is confronted with such questions. Should STS just explore them, or should it also get involved in trying to give answers and find solutions? Should STS intervene in policy making, and if so, how? The plenary session organized by STS-CH at the EASST conference in Lausanne will be discussing such questions.⁹

Further information on STS-CH can be found on <http://www.sts.unige.ch>

⁹ We would like to thank Helga Nowotny for her helpful comments on this paper and Megan Clinch for her proof-reading.

EASST for PhD students

Young researchers unite! A lot of PhD students will attend the next EASST conference in Lausanne. Over 150 students already registered and even more are expected. So, although the attraction of EASST is its mixture of topics, countries, disciplines and age, this is also an excellent opportunity to meet fellow PhD candidates!!!

You will automatically meet during sessions, run into each other in the hallway, or gather in the **special student rate hotels**, but we also organise some special student meetings. First of all, we will have a **social event for students: drinks** in the beautiful surroundings of the conference venue. Envision a large blue lake and impressive mountains covered with sunshine.

In addition, there will be a **PhD session on publishing**. How to publish your work is an important question for every PhD student nowadays. In this session editors of major journals and PhD students with publishing experience will give you advice on how to go along. They will teach you the tricks of the trade and you can ask them your questions. In short: this workshop could be the first step towards an actual publication!

More information on student activities will be provided. We will send you an email with the exact places and times and the information will also be available on the conference website. Finally, this is the place to get acquainted with the **student community within EASST**. A couple of years ago some students wanted to heighten the visibility of students within the society. Ragna Zeiss, currently graduated and working at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, was the first elected student in the EASST council, and she currently continues to be part of the council as a general member.. She successfully jump started student activities within EASST; both at the York and Paris conference student sessions were organised. In Paris a session on “Across the Atlantic: Working and Studying Abroad” and a student party at an outdoor cafe near The School of Mines were organised together with the 4S graduate students. The elections of 2004 turned me – Niki Vermeulen, PhD student from Maastricht University- into the next student representative. Together with Ragna, I am working on setting up a wiki with a student database which will enable PhD students to get in touch with others working on similar topics and/or with similar methodologies and perhaps start exchanging literature and their own written work. The setting up of the database has been somewhat delayed, but will hopefully be up in the air soon. We will keep you informed. Upcoming **elections** in the fall will bring us another active member. So, everybody who wants to act for their fellow PhD’s in some way or another - whether in the council, organising activities or being a country representative- is welcome! Just write a mail to niki.vermeulen@TSS.unimaas.nl or let me know otherwise.

Hope to see you all in Lausanne!

Best wishes,
Niki

Conference Announcements and Calls for Papers

The Emmy-Noether Group at the Free University Berlin will hold an international workshop, "Comparative Microsociology of Criminal Proceedings," at the FU Berlin, Altensteinstrasse 2-4, Berlin 14195, January 5-6, 2007. A call for papers has been issued. There is a variety of legal concepts that invite rigorous analyses of their functions in the court of law. For example, evidence, witness, testimony, sentencing, jury are the concepts that bear tremendous significance for jurists, socio-legal researchers, and the actual parties involved in legal proceedings. The concept of "legal case" can also be considered the core concept of the legal field. Ultimately, it is the case that is being made, presented, and decided upon. At the same time, "case" and "case-making" are the notions there are too difficult to be pinned down. Although the importance of case for administering law is undeniable, for both legal researchers and lawyers, case-making remains predominantly a practical issue. The International Workshop "Making a Case: Criminal Defence-work Between Facts, Norms, and Tactics" returns to case and case-making for renewed appreciation of theoretical, practical, and legal imports of these uneasy concepts. Thus, the workshop focuses on a broad range of topics. Central issues may include, but are not limited to the following themes: performing advocacy: the constituents of a "good" case; making a case at the juncture of process, procedure, and proceedings; the effects of technology on case-making; the role of the client in preparing and enacting a case; methodological issues of doing ethnography of casework; paper cases: files, dossiers, and archives; argumentation and case-making; narrating cases; and when cases do not go to trial. Submissions guidelines: 1. Submissions of extended abstracts (between 500 and 600 words) should be sent to the editors by August 1, 2006. 2. Submissions will be reviewed by the organizers, and we would like to be able to respond to the submitted proposals by early fall. 3. The language of the conference is English, however, submissions made in German will be considered. Conference fee (50 Euro) is to be paid upon registration. Inquiries and submissions should be directed to both Alexander Kozin at alex.kozin@gmx.net and Raik Menzel at raik.menzel@arcor.de.

The inauguration of the magnificent 19th century Laboratório Chimico of the University of Lisbon in 2006 provides a timely opportunity to explore and discuss challenges related to the role of scientific heritage in the history of science in general and the history of chemistry in particular. "19th Century Chemistry: Spaces and Collections" will be held on 1-4 February 2007 at the Museum of Science, University of Lisbon, Portugal. What is the role of spaces of research and teaching - such as laboratories and observatories - in the history of science and in public engagement with scientific research? How should a 19th century chemistry laboratory be documented and interpreted? How can historians be stimulated to make more use of collections? Are they trained to carry out collection-based research? How to articulate collections and scientific archives? What are the implications of these for the daily routines and training of curators? The Conference 19th Century Chemistry: Spaces and Collections aims at contributing to a forward looking discussion of these issues and to enhancing exchanges between historians and curators. We are currently inviting submissions for oral and poster presentations pertaining to research, interpretation and promotion of 19th century chemical heritage (collections, archives and historic spaces), with particular emphasis on: bridging the gap between the history of ideas in chemistry and the material culture of chemistry; historians of chemistry and collection-based research; the material culture of chemistry and the training of historians and museum professionals; relations between chemical collections and archives; interpretation of historical spaces and collections; biographies of spaces and objects in the history of chemistry; chemical heritage and the public engagement with chemistry; and political issues in the preservation and management of scientific heritage. Registration is now available! Registration deadline: 30 November 2006. Abstract submission deadline: 30 September 2006. Please visit the Conference website at <http://19chem2007.mc.ul.pt/>.

The Post Graduate Forum on Genetics and Society (PFGS) is holding its 10th Meeting at the University of York from 30th August to 1st September 2006. The meeting is entitled, Implications and Implementations: The Meaning and Use of our Research. Now in its 8th year, the

Postgraduate Forum on Genetics and Society offers an opportunity for new researchers to share work in-progress, establish links for future collaboration, and develop skills for further work in the area of life sciences and society. While the core of this year's meeting will continue to be made up of paper presentations from fellow postgraduates (in which constructive feedback by peers can be given), a central feature of upcoming meeting in York will be the 'user' workshops. It can be discouraging for PhD students to think that they could spend years on a piece of research, and at the end of it all that research makes little impact outside of academic circles. With the theme of the York meeting being Implications and Implementations: The Meaning and Use of Our Research, we envision workshops that would team-up PFGS members with patient groups, advocacy organizations, policy makers, NGOs, and others (all working in genetics related areas) so that the attendees might gain insight into how their research could make a difference in practice. Concurrently, this would provide attendees more opportunities to disseminate their work to a wide and diverse audience. On-top of these workshops, one of the founding members of the PFGS (Dr. Richard Tutton, University of Nottingham IGBIS) will be giving a keynote opening address about the history, spirit and tradition of the PFGS, and a skills training session will also take place that will be specific to those working around the areas of life sciences and society.

Accommodation (including the night before the meeting starts), food and travel expenses (within the UK at a maximum of £100) will be provided by way of a generous grant from the ESRC Genomics Forum (whom have supported the PFGS since 2003) as well as the ESRC Innovative Health Technologies Programme. PFGS members are invited to register for the event, which includes your intention to present a paper, an abstract of the paper they would like to present (in not more than 200 words), accommodation specifications, dietary requirements, at www.pfgs.org. The deadline is July 31st, 2006. If you are not already a member of the PFGS, and you would like to become one, simply visit the website at www.pfgs.org and click 'join now', and be sure to post a short biography on the forum. Further information: Conor Douglas (cd512@york.ac.uk) and Helen Cox (hc511@york.ac.uk).

The Summer School, 'Standards, Categories and Boundary Objects; Invisible Work in the

Production of Knowledge and Technology,' with Professor Susan Leigh Star, Santa Clara University will take place on 4-8 September 2006, Soeterbeeck, Ravenstein, the Netherlands. One of the main questions addressed by Science and Technology Studies is: 'How is knowledge being (re)produced, represented and embedded in scientific practices and in the production of (knowledge-based) technologies?' In this process of producing knowledge and technologies, standards and categories such as internet protocols and the International Classification for Diseases, perform important but often invisible work in shaping technologies and deciding what counts as knowledge. Making this invisible work visible is a major objective within STS, and certainly in the work of Professor Susan Leigh Star. During this Summer School, you will have the opportunity to develop a thorough understanding of Professor Star's work. She is well known for studying the importance of standards and categories in the production of knowledge, for introducing concepts like 'boundary object' and 'invisible work', and for posing questions about which and whose work is deleted and who suffers from the stabilization of seemingly stable socio-technical networks. Her research fields include ethics in engineering, qualitative research, information systems, medicine and technology. She has analyzed work practices and knowledge production in a range of venues, including museums, laboratories, hospitals, libraries and high-tech research and development sites. The question of how knowledge is being produced is not just a subject to be investigated, but it is also immediately relevant to our own practices as STS scholars. Therefore, during the Summer School, we will also reflect on how we as academics produce knowledge. What methodologies and which writing techniques do we use? How do we create observations? How do we categorize these and make knowledge claims? How do we see what we see, and what do we not see as a result of the methodology we have chosen? To what extent is the knowledge we produce formed by the infrastructures available to us? How do organizational and disciplinary constraints and ethical, ideological and political guidelines guide our access to resources, data and research subjects? We will explore these issues during several activities as well as during various lectures by Leigh Star and other STS scholars. Professor Leigh Star is a senior scholar at the Center for Science, Technology, and Society and visiting professor of computer engineering at Santa Clara University. Her publications include:

[with Geoffrey Bowker] *Sorting Things Out: Classification and Its Consequences* (MIT Press, 1999) and *Regions of the Mind: Brain Research and the Quest for Scientific Certainty* (Stanford University Press, 1989). She was editor of *The Cultures of Computing* (Blackwell, 1995) and *Ecologies of Knowledge: Work and Politics in Science and Technology* (SUNY Press, 1995). In addition to Professor Star, other confirmed speakers include: Professor Nelly Oudshoorn (Twente), Professor Jozef Keulartz (Wageningen), Dr. Barend van der Meulen (Twente), Dr Katie Vann (Virtual Knowledge Studio for the Humanities and Social Sciences, KNAW) and Dr Willem Halffman (Twente). Further information: Marjatta Kempainen, u.m.kempainen@utwente.nl.

Cross-national Dialogue on Cultural Differences within the Ethical, Legal and Societal Aspects of GENOMICS, the conference, will be held at the University of Basel, Switzerland, 17-18 November 2006. The rapid increase in the application of human, animal and plant genomics clearly indicated a need to reflect on the societal implications of these biotechnologies. To address these implications adequately, ELSA research has become an essential accompaniment to genomics research, striving to cope with the new realities of our 'genomically' focused lifeworld. In this context it is evident that different European countries organise their ELSA research and their funding policies in different ways. It is likely that historical, cultural and political factors have had a crucial impact on ELSA structures within the different nations. The conference aims to explore cultural, historical, political and social variations in ELSA research. It will contribute to a comparative discussion and stimulate new and innovative approaches. Representatives of 12 European Countries (United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Norway, Finland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Israel, Estonia, Spain, France and Canada) will report on their national debate and reflect on contrasts with other traditions. Keynote Speakers (including Sheila Jasanoff, Harvard and Alfred Nordmann, Darmstadt) will illustrate the complexity, which goes beyond the scope of a single scientific discipline. Call for abstracts: Abstracts should relate to the conference subject. Deadline: August 15th, 2006. Send your abstract (max. 500 words) to: rouven.porz@unibas.ch. For registration and further information: www.unibas.ch/ifgem.

A call for papers has been issued for the next British Society for the History of Science (BSHS) postgraduate conference, hosted by the Department of Philosophy in collaboration with the Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease at Durham University, from Thursday 4th to Saturday 6th January 2007. The annual BSHS postgraduate conference is an opportunity for postgraduates, from the UK and abroad, researching within the history of science, technology and medicine to present their research. We welcome papers from all postgraduates working in History of Science, Technology and Medicine, and also those working in other disciplines whose research touches on any area of HSTM studies. We would like to offer as many postgraduates as possible the chance to present their papers, hence time for presentations will be restricted to no more than twenty minutes. Please send a brief abstract (not more than 350 words) to the organisers (see address as below), deadline 8th November 2006. The abstract should give a title and an outline of your paper, including methodology, sources and key questions of your research project. Please include your contact details and your institutional affiliation. If you want to submit an abstract (an electronic copy is preferred), or have any further questions please do get in touch with a member of the organisation committee (Vicky Blake, Beth Hannon and Sebastian Pranghofer).: Email: bshs.pg2007@durham.ac.uk. Write to: BSHS Postgraduate Conference 2007, Durham University, Philosophy Department, 50 Old Elvet, Durham DH1 3HN, United Kingdom. Additional information on travel grants, venue and registration can be found on the conference web-page: <http://www.dur.ac.uk/bshs.pg2007/bshspg2007.html>.

The closing workshop of the ELSA project, "Let's talk about GOLD! Analysing the interactions between genome-research(ers) and the public as a learning process," will take place on 21-23 September 2006 at the Department of Social Studies of Science, University of Vienna, in cooperation with IFZ - Inter-University Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture, Graz. The dynamic development of genome research raises fundamental ethical and social questions concerning its implications for our societies, a fact which equally applies to other emerging technosciences such as

nanotechnology or “converging technologies”. Over the past decades, methods have been developed to reflexively engage with the implications of new technoscientific knowledge for social order. Ethical reflection and public engagement with the social dimensions of technoscientific development are two traditions dealing with these issues. Though both may be argued to share common goals, their relation to each other is unclear and often controversial as is reflected in the debate around “empirical ethics”. This workshop is the concluding event of a project, which aimed at experimenting with a cross-over between these two traditions: engaging both scientists and members of the public with the ethical dimensions of genome research. Over the period of one year, a group of people met with genome researchers at seven Round Tables to discuss the ethical and social dimensions of their concrete project and genome research in general. To develop a better understanding of this engagement and possible mutual learning processes is the central goal of our project. The workshop aims at sharing and discussing the results of our analysis with the scientific community and practitioners working on similar issues. It will be organised around four thematic foci: [1] Possibilities and limits of addressing ethics of genome research in a public engagement exercise; [2] (Non)Participating in which kind of governance?: Reflecting the Round Table as a participatory setting; [3] Talking science: Images, imaginations and conceptions of science/scientists as discursive elements; and [4] Public engagement as mutual learning: Situated perspectives and learning processes. In order to allow for ample discussion time, the workshop will be organised around four plenary sessions, an opening and a closing panel as well as a poster session. Each plenary session will have an input from one invited speaker as well as from a member of our research team. In order to encourage in particular younger members of the research community to contribute by a poster and in the discussions, we will provide a limited number of travel grants for those presenting a poster. For the workshop program please see: www.univie.ac.at/virusss/workshops. No workshop fee: registration is mandatory. Contact address for registration, poster submission and inquiries: projekt.wissenschaftsforschung@univie.ac.at.

Biographical Perspectives on European Societies Research Network, an initiative of the European

Sociological Association and the Centre for Independent Social Research, St Petersburg, has issued a Call for Abstracts for its joint conference, Biographical Research on Post-Socialist Space: Ten Years After, to take place on 15-17 December, 2006. Ten years ago in Saint Petersburg, the ESA Research Network on Biographical Perspectives on European Societies and the Centre for Independent Social Research (CISR) jointly organised a conference under the title 'Biographical Perspectives on Post-Socialist Societies'. This conference will focus on the results of biographical research into post-socialist space carried out during the last decade, and will also touch on methodological questions. The conference would seek to follow up and update the original conference by exploring the following broad themes: From transformation to relative stability: 'new' and 'old' biographies; Social migration; and Methodological developments in the Biographical approach. The preliminary list of sessions includes: Methodological developments in biographical research. Challenges and future directions; Biographies of the 'old' generation and reinterpretation of the transformation. Nostalgia, reconciliation, or a complete break with the past. Stratificational and geographical dimensions. New understandings of biographical landmarks; Biographies of the 'new generation'. Life strategies, lifestyles, culture and morals; Comparative analysis in biographical research; Social strata, social classes and social milieux in biographical perspective; Changes in intimacy; Migration processes; Social movements and collective actions. Abstracts of proposed papers are to be written in English and should be no more than 300 words in length. Abstracts must include the name of the proposer, his/her affiliation, postal and e-mail addresses, telephone and fax numbers, and title. Abstracts should be sent directly to both of the conference organisers by 31 July 2006: Robin Humphrey (robin.humphrey@ncl.ac.uk) and Peter Meylakhs (mpeter@indepsores.spb.ru). Places at the conference are limited. All accommodation and living costs during the conference will be met by the conference organisers. Further information: <http://www.valt.helsinki.fi/esa/biog.htm>

The international conference, Gender and Religion in Global Perspectives: Relocating Agendas, Approaches and Practices in the 21st Century, will take place on 27-28 October, 2006, at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Gender and religion are burning issues and have

been continually exposed in the media, in politics and in culture over the last decades. Gender issues are often exposed in relation to religion in complicated ways that are both local and universal. How have gender and ideas about gender roles been used and misused in religious revivals? How do ideas about religion, gender and equality influence power relations locally and around the globe? What are the implications of understanding gender and religion as constructed and as sites for both conceptual and practical conflicts about meaning? How and where have gender and sexuality acted as central sites of negotiations, debates and conflicts, both within and between religious communities and commitments? The conference aims at bridging gender and religious studies and at transforming scholarship and reflection in both current and historical perspectives. The goal is to enhance the exchange between scholars of different disciplines and to create a space for exchange across research specialisations. Every scholar interested in framing his or her contribution in relation to the themes of the conference is invited to submit a paper or to suggest a workshop. The main themes are (1) Gender and religion. Troubling Agendas, Approaches and Practices in the 21st. century; (2) Gender and the Power and complexity of Symbols; (3) Masculinities and religious mobilisations around the Globe; and (4) Construction and Deconstruction of Gender. Global Value Surveys and beyond. Speakers include: Ass. professor, dr. Saba Mahmood, UC Berkeley, USA; Dr. Nacira Guenif-Souilamas, Sorbonne, Paris; Prof. Dr. Jone Salomonsen, University of Oslo; Prof. Dr. Thomas Blom Hansen, Yale/Amsterdam University; and Prof. Dr. Clyde Wilcox, Georgetown University, Washington DC. Information and contact: Coordination for Gender Studies, University of Copenhagen, Ø. Farimagsgade 5 A, Postbox 2099, 1014 Copenhagen K, Denmark; E-mail: religion@sociology.ku.dk; www.sociology.ku.dk/koordinationen/religion; and www.ku.dk/satsning/Religion/index.htm.

The International Committee for the History of Technology (ICOHTEC) will hold its 33rd Symposium in Leicester, U.K., on 15 - 20 August 2006.
See <http://icohtec.org/leicester2006>.

Knowledge and Society, the conference organised by the social theory committee of the

European Sociological Association, will be held on 21-22 September 2006 at Universidad Complutense de Madrid. The conference deals with the complex relationship between knowledge and contemporary society. In particular, we focus on: (a) the role of knowledge and information in society today; (b) issues concerning certainty, uncertainty and risk in contemporary society; and (c) new developments in the sociology of knowledge. Further information: Fernando Domínguez, fd234@cam.ac.uk, with a copy to Patrick Baert pjb100@cam.ac.uk.

The Seventh International Conference on Human Choice and Computers (HCC7), Social Informatics: An Information Society for All?, in remembrance of Rob Kling, will be held on 21-23 September 2006 in Maribor, Slovenia. All information regarding the Conference Frame and the Programme, as well as the on-line registration form and the accommodation may be found at <http://www.hcc7.org>. Human choice and computers, Computers and Society, Social Informatics, are terms referring to a similar preoccupation: How is the human being and its societal environment kept in the centre - How to build up an "Information Society for All" [UNESCO, 2002], [eEurope, 2002] when developing our more and more complex ICT (Information and Communication Technology) systems? The conference is organized by the International Federation for Information Processing and the contact person is Professor Jacques Berleur, Facultés Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix, Rue Grandgagnage, 21, 5000 Namur, Belgium, Phone: +32 81 72-4976; Mobile: +32 (0)475 548372; Fax: +32 81 72 4967; Email: jberleur@info.fundp.ac.be; URL: <http://www.info.fundp.ac.be/~jbl/>.

Managing Science in Society, a Ph.D. Course with Michael Lynch, Steve Woolgar and Alan Irwin explores the social conditions in which scientific knowledge production takes place. Science is produced in networks with many stakeholders. Scientific institutions are asked to be accountable in relation to both funding and the legitimacy of the knowledge produced. Scientific knowledge claims are contested and made object of controversies in which a wide range of social actors take part. Faced with the complex and conflicting demands from society, reflexivity is often mentioned as a key issue in

the management of the relation between science and society. But what does it mean for science to become reflexive and how is reflexivity helping the management of science in society? The interdisciplinary field of Science and Technology Studies (STS) has a long history of examining the social dimensions of science. The course focuses on some of the central aspects of STS in order to understand and discuss the current management of the relations between science and society. The course is organised around three crucial aspects, which have been central for the field of STS in the efforts to examine the relation between science and society. Each of these expand the issues concerning reflexivity:

Expertise and delimitation of scientific knowledge: Is the scientific definition of expertise being challenged? How does the definition of expertise delimit science? How do science and/or STS delimit expertise? How do we understand and manage the proliferation of experts and expertise as strategic tools in political and judicial debates?

Technology and usability of knowledge: What is the usability of science? Is technology the mediating link between science and its users? Who are the users? How do technologies configure their users? How do users configure technology? Is the success of science determined by its technological output?

Governance and science policy: How do science policies deal with science's increasing resource dependence in terms of money and legitimation? How do we manage the apparent 'politicisation' of science? How do we manage the 'scientification' of politics? What is the public understanding of science and the scientific understanding of the public?

Objectives: The aim of the course is to expand students' abilities to understand and participate in knowledge production within the field of STS, as well as to translate important STS insights into practical use in their respective PhD. projects. First of all, the course will provide an understanding of important academic discussions within each of the above three aspects of STS. Secondly, the course will focus on the problems encountered in students' research projects in order to discuss how STS perspectives can help take their individual analyses forward. And finally, the course will facilitate students to consider how they will seek to publish their work in peer-reviewed STS journals.

Course form: The course will consist of lectures, group and panel discussions as well as project presentations. The aim is to get a high degree of student involvement and primarily a two-way communication. Participants will be

expected to have read some central works in advance. Target group: PhD. students working in STS or with related topics. Course participants are required to submit 5 pages of text consisting of a project description as well as reflections on at least one of the three subthemes, Expertise, Technologies and Governance, in relation to their project. Further information: Julie Sommerlund, jso.ioa@CBS.DK.

The Oslo Research Workshop 2006 on "Entrepreneurship, innovation and innovation policy - a look at SMEs" has issued a call for papers. The workshop will take place on November 9-10, 2006 in brand new facilities at BI Norwegian School of Management, Oslo, Norway. The host university is the BI Norwegian School of Management, Department for Innovation and Economic Organization, in collaboration with the Gate2Growth Academic Network. The workshop is sponsored by The Research Council of Norway. Authors and participants are referred to the workshop homepage at www.step.no/osloworkshop.

The Centre for Logic and Philosophy of Science of Ghent University, Belgium is holding a conference, The Social Sciences and Democracy: A philosophy of science perspective, on the 28th - 30th of September 2006 in Ghent, Belgium. See <http://logica.ugent.be/SSD/>. A linked workshop on 'Science and Social Movements. Communicating Facts Across Expert Communities' will take place in Brussels on the 27th of September, see: <http://logica.ugent.be/ssd/workshop.php>.

Scientists and Social Commitment: Historical perspectives on the political, religious and philosophical ideas and activity of scientists is the name of the conference to be held at the Science Museum, London, 15 -17 September 2006. The British Society for the History of Science and the Science Museum, London, are organizing a joint conference to honour the 75th Anniversary of the 1931 Second International Congress for the History of Science, a foundation event in the modern history of science. The congress is remembered for the presence of a Russian delegation that raised political and philosophical issues in science and the history of science. It led to the elaboration of sociologically and politically conscious methods of research in

the relationship between science and society. As with the original congress, the venue is Science Museum, London, and it will assess and analyse the history of scientists and social commitment. The focus is on issues of ideological commitments and their relationship to scientific and social activism in the scientific community. The three realms of the ideological addressed are political, religious and philosophical commitment in historical perspective, encompassing a number of themes. The programme for the conference is now available at www.bsbs.org.uk/scientistsandsocialcommitment, along with booking forms and registration information. This can be conducted on-line with the BSBS credit card booking facility. Early registration is urged as there is a limit to the capacity of the venue for this conference. If you cannot register on-line, please contact Chris Chilvers for a copy of the registration form and return it with cheque payment to the address at the foot of the form. Among the highlights of the

conference programme are symposia on: Action and ideology in Medicine; Celebrating science; Technopolitics and rebellion
Victorian educationalism; Scientific conservation movements; Medical reform and the politics of race; Russian 'mutations'; Boris Hessen and 1931; French movements; Science journalism and social commitment; Internationalism and identity; Literary politics and Science; Philosophies of nature in literature; and Feminism, Science and dictatorship in Portugal and Brazil.

The first graduate conference of the Hellenic Association for American Studies is to take place in Thessaloniki in March 2007. The CFP can be found at <http://www.enl.auth.gr/ex-centric>. Further queries about the conference should be sent to Dr Tatiani Rapatzikou, trapatz@enl.auth.g

Opportunities Available

The Philosophy of Science Association seeks applications for the post of Executive Secretary, service to begin in June 2008. Qualified applicants are requested to send c.v. to PSA-ESSEARCH@listserv.umkc.edu. The PSA reserves the right to hold the search open until a satisfactory candidate has been found. Successful candidates will be energetic, knowledgeable in the field, and possess some management and/or business experience. The Philosophy of Science Association is an international organization which

promotes research, teaching, and free discussion of issues in the philosophy of science from diverse standpoints. To this end, the PSA engages in activities such as: the publishing of periodicals, essays and monographs; sponsoring conventions and meetings; and awarding prizes for distinguished work in the field. There are approximately 2000 members in PSA, distributed among 30-some countries. PSA is a non-profit U.S. corporation, directed by a Governing Board that has eight elected Board members, the President, President-elect, and the Past-president. The Executive Secretary is the chief managing/executive officer of the PSA; included among the duties of the Executive Secretary are: Executing the decisions of the

Governing Board; Managing the fiscal and financial affairs of the Association; Directing annual elections; Coordinating the activities involved in producing the biennial meetings; Overseeing the PSA-side of actions of the joint PSA-HSS Business Office. Executive Secretary terms run for four years, although the Executive Secretary serves at the pleasure of the board. The office of Executive Secretary is unpaid, although it may be possible to negotiate funding for a course release.

The Science, Technology & Society Program at the University of Texas at Austin is pleased to announce two positions for postdoctoral research in its growing program in societal impacts of science and technology. The successful applicants will conduct research on some aspect of the societal impacts of science and technology. As postdoctoral fellows they will teach one seminar course per semester and will work with faculty and graduate students in activities designed to foster the understanding of social impacts of science and technology. Major focus areas can include: impacts of nanoscience, biotechnology, emerging communication technologies, digital gaming, the environment, as

well as other areas. Fellows will be expected to participate in the STS Program's educational and outreach activities. The University of Texas at Austin provides many opportunities for collaboration, with leading programs in public policy, business, engineering, the sciences, law, and liberal arts. Applicants should be recent recipients of a PhD degree; areas of specialization and disciplinary approach open. The positions are 12-month positions with a flexible starting date. Salary \$35,000, plus benefits. Postdocs are expected to be in residence in Austin, Texas for the time of the fellowship. Please send a detailed cover letter, CV, and 1-page proposal for research work during the postdoc period to Professor Elizabeth Keating, Director, Science, Technology & Society Program at: ekeating@mail.utexas.edu. Applications received by July 1 will be given first consideration. For further information about the program, please see the website of the STS program, www.sts.utexas.edu.

Applications are invited for a PhD Bursary on the history of stomach diseases, c1800-c1900, especially peptic ulcer disease. This project is supported by the Bardhan Research and Educational Trust (BRET) and was stimulated by the interest of Professor Chandu Bardhan (Rotherham District General Hospital and University of Sheffield) in the history of peptic ulcer disease. It will be up to the successful candidate, in collaboration with their supervisors, to refine the proposal, but it is envisaged that the research will explore the development of general and specialist work on diseases of the stomach from the early nineteenth-century to the twentieth-century – the end point is open. One focus is likely to be changing understandings of the aetiology, pathogenesis and pathology of general and specific stomach diseases, plus an analysis of contemporary views on the epidemiology of the different conditions. In this context, it is expected that there will work on socio-economic, dietary, and environmental factors, along with age, gender and race, and how these were understood to shape the incidence and severity of different diseases. It will be essential to look at therapeutics (professional, proprietary and other), at the management of sufferers, and at prevention. There will also be an opportunity for wider context of 'stomach complaints' in non-medical spheres. The successful candidate will join CHSTM's groups of 12 doctoral students - details of

CHSTM and its PhD Programme are at <http://www.ls.manchester.ac.uk/chstm/studyhere/postgraduate/>. Ideally, candidates should have, or be soon to complete, a Masters in the History of Medicine, or allied subject. However, we will consider applicants with other relevant experience and background. In the first instance applicants should send a letter of application and a curriculum vitae to Michael Worboys – addresses below. The Bursary is at Research Council rates, and covers fees and research expenses. Professor Michael Worboys, Centre for the History of Science, Technology & Medicine & Wellcome Unit, Simon Building, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, UK, Tel: 0161 275 5431/5850; Fax: 0161 275 5699; E-mail: michael.worboys@manchester.ac.uk.

The Biomedical Ethics Unit at McGill University invites applications for a tenure-track position in bioethics with a preference for junior candidates at the rank of assistant professor. The Biomedical Ethics Unit is situated within McGill's Faculty of Medicine and linked to the Faculty of Law, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Religious Studies and Division of Experimental Medicine. Current faculty members within the Unit are drawn from law, medicine, philosophy, molecular biophysics and biochemistry, and religious studies. The new hire is expected to complement the interests and expertise of current faculty members. Additional information about the Biomedical Ethics Unit is available at: <http://www.mcgill.ca/biomedicalethicsunit/>. The holder of this position will be expected to teach within the ethics and health law component of the medical school curriculum, teach and supervise graduate students within the Master's Specialization in Bioethics, develop a funded program of research, participate in clinical ethics activities, and serve on select McGill and McGill University Health Centre committees. The holder will be appointed in the Biomedical Ethics Unit and the Faculty of Medicine. Qualified scholars from disciplines relevant to the study of bioethics are encouraged to apply. Among the areas of particular interest are medical sociology, medical anthropology, science and technology studies, public health and health economics. Ph.D. or professional degree is required. Experience or interest in clinical ethics is an asset. Cross-appointments with other faculties or departments can be arranged depending upon the applicant's disciplinary background, record of publication, and previous teaching experience. In particular,

appointment to the Department of Social Studies of Medicine is possible if the research of the candidate contributes to its work. Individuals interested in applying for this position should submit a letter of application, curriculum vitae, representative publications, evidence of excellence in teaching, a summary of previous experience in clinical ethics where relevant, and three letters of reference to Dr. Kathleen Glass, Director, Biomedical Ethics Unit, Faculty of Medicine, McGill University, 3647 Peel Street, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3A 1X1.

Applications will be accepted until October 2 or until a suitable candidate is found. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. Inquiries about the position should be directed to: kathleen.glass@mcgill.ca.

Applications are invited for the post of Research Fellow in the Department of Science and Technology Studies, University College London, to contribute to the research project "Analysis and Synthesis in 19th-Century Chemistry: Toward a New Philosophical History of Scientific Practice". This project is funded by the Leverhulme Trust. The research fellow will be expected to work in close collaboration with Dr Hasok Chang, the principal investigator for the project, and also with a PhD student funded on

the project. The appointment is for two years, and the expected start date is 1 October 2006. Salary will be £24,886 per year (plus a London allowance of £2,400), with a possible small upward adjustment to be confirmed later. The successful applicant must have submitted her or his PhD dissertation by the start of appointment. The appropriate subject of the PhD is either history of science or philosophy of science, and candidates must possess PhD-level research experience in the history of chemistry. The research fellow's work will be expected to follow closely the programme of research laid out in the grant application. For further information and the UCL application form, please see www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/chang/. Any questions should be directed to Hasok Chang by e-mail h.chang@ucl.ac.uk or telephone +44-(0)20-7679-1324. In addition to the information requested on the application form, applicants must submit a full list of publications. Short-listed candidates will be invited to submit samples of work and have referees contacted, and be interviewed at UCL if possible. All application materials should be submitted by post to Dr Hasok Chang, Department of Science and Technology Studies, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, United Kingdom. Applications submitted by e-mail will not be accepted. The deadline for the receipt of applications is 25 July 2006.

News from the Field

To celebrate the rebranding of the British Society for the History of Science website, <http://www.bsbs.org.uk>, and the founding of the Outreach and Education Committee, the BSBS is proud to announce a new competition. We are offering a prize of £250 for the best 500-word answer to this question: WHY SHOULD ANYONE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE? The prize may be split between two entries if the judges decide that they are both of high merit. The winning entry will be made available on the BSBS website. Essays should be written for a general audience; footnotes should be avoided. Entries which are accompanied by one or more images (not exceeding 200KB in memory size), on which there are no copyright restrictions, are especially welcome. The competition is open to non-members of the Society, but only one entry per person may be made, and all entrants must be aged 18 or older. Anyone wishing to submit essays should contact outreach@bsbs.org.uk to be given an entry identification number, before any essay is sent. This will permit essays to be assessed anonymously. The closing date for submission is 31st August 2006. The winner will be announced, and the prize awarded, by the end of October 2006. Chair of OEC: Dr Emm Barnes, Emm.Barnes@manchester.ac.uk.

The Library at the University of Bern has updated its bibliography on interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary studies. The Interfakultaere Koordinationsstelle für Allgemeine Oekologie (IKAOe) has its updated bibliography at <http://www.interdisciplinarity.ch>.

The Canadian Journal of Sociology has issued a call for papers for a special issue on "Globalizing Sociology." The guest editors are Dimitri della Faille (UQAM) and Neil McLaughlin (McMaster). The present historical moment is, for many scholars and public intellectuals, a time of internationalization or globalization. This call for a special issue of the Canadian Journal of Sociology seeks to address these processes of globalization as they shape and transform sociology itself. We are particularly interested in papers that address the growth of the geographical range of the object of Sociology and the implications of globalization for the very notion

of distinct national sociological traditions. We would like to see papers raising normative, epistemological and even larger visionary concerns. What might a truly global sociology look like? What conceptual, theoretical, methodological, epistemological innovations and critique would be necessary to move beyond an exclusively Western focus? What alternative traditions might we consider, as we attempt to build a global sociology for the 21st century. Empirical and theoretical papers on these broad concerns are welcome, as are specific case studies of national, regional, and global sociologies. Papers either in French and in English will be considered for publication. Authors should submit their texts to: Dimitri della Faille (dimitridf@yahoo.com), Neil McLaughlin (nmclaugh@mcmaster.ca) and cjscopy@ualberta.ca by August 31st 2006. The papers should be prepared accordingly to the CJS guidelines for manuscripts: <http://www.cjsonline.ca/submfnfo.html>.

True/False Inc. is an exhibition project in the city of Vienna that asks how science works and how it influences our life. It poses questions and provides no answers, because science and art never answer, but always raise new interrogations. The exhibition is not always an exhibition; sometimes it is a sound installation or a conversation circle—but it always tries to put science in discussion. True/False Inc. brings these questions whither they belong: to you, to your neighbourhood, to the places where they must be discussed. It comes in eleven separate modules, each dedicated to a single topic, from doping to the migration of scientists, through to biodiversity. You can view each module separately, visit the whole series, or build up your own path through the modules. You will find nearly all modules along the underground line U1, so you can travel easily from a module to another. Follow the red thread! <http://www.wahrfalsch.com/>

Science Studies is an international peer-reviewed journal dedicated to publishing articles on the study of science and technology studies. Published since 1988, Science Studies is read in over 80 countries around the world. Our journal welcomes submissions of book reviews that fit into the scope of the journal. You might choose a

title from our book list (<http://www.sciencestudies.fi/books>) or make suggestions of your own. Please consult the author guidelines at our Web Site (www.sciencestudies.fi). For further information, please contact the editor in charge of the book reviews: Mikko Rask, mikko.rask@tkk.fi.

Science, Technology & Innovation Studies, at <http://www.sti-studies.de/index.htm>, is published at the University of Dortmund. It is the first internationally oriented, reviewed online journal for the German speaking STI community. Science, Technology & Innovation Studies is a reviewed bi-annual online journal that publishes analytical, theoretical and methodological studies on the creation and use of scientific knowledge and its relation to society, on the development of technology and its social impact and control, and on innovation in industry and in the public sector. It provides a focused forum for the German speaking community of STI researchers to present their research to a broader international audience. The majority of articles will be published in English. Anonymous peer review is to assure high quality of all articles in this online journal. Contact Prof. Dr. Johannes Weyer, Universität Dortmund, Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaftliche Fakultät, D-44221 Dortmund (Germany), phone : +49/231/755-3281, fax: +49/231/755-3293, mail: johannes.weyer@uni-dortmund.de, web: www.wiso.uni-dortmund.de/TS.

The Journal of Ethics, Life sciences and Society has issued a call for papers for its inaugural edition. The PFGS is launching a new online, free access, post-graduate journal to coincide with its tenth colloquium. JELS will be a peer reviewed, bi-annual, interdisciplinary publication with the remit of providing a platform for postgraduates to publish their doctoral work/work-in-progress. We are planning to publish the inaugural edition before the York Colloquium 2006, and subsequent editions will be published at sixth month intervals, the first edition of each year being devoted to the annual PFGS Colloquium. JELS accepts papers from any discipline on any subject related to ethics, life sciences and society. If you are unsure whether or not a particular topic comes under this remit, please contact the editors for advice. All articles submitted will be subject to initial review by the JELS editors. See <http://pfgs.org/>.

Videos of the lecture series "Genomics in Perspective" are now available online at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/happening/seminars/lectureseries.html>. The lectures in this series were held at the National Institutes of Health, May-June 2006. They presented historical and social science perspectives on genomics to an audience of scientists, physicians, policy makers, and the general public.

Contents of this issue

3	Welcome to the Lausanne issue of the EASST Review
4	Glimpses into the forthcoming EASST 2006 conference
7	STS in Lausanne: an overview
9	Science policy and STS in the 21 st Century: toward new frontiers?
12	EASST for PhD students
13	Conference announcements and calls for papers
19	Opportunities available
22	News from the field