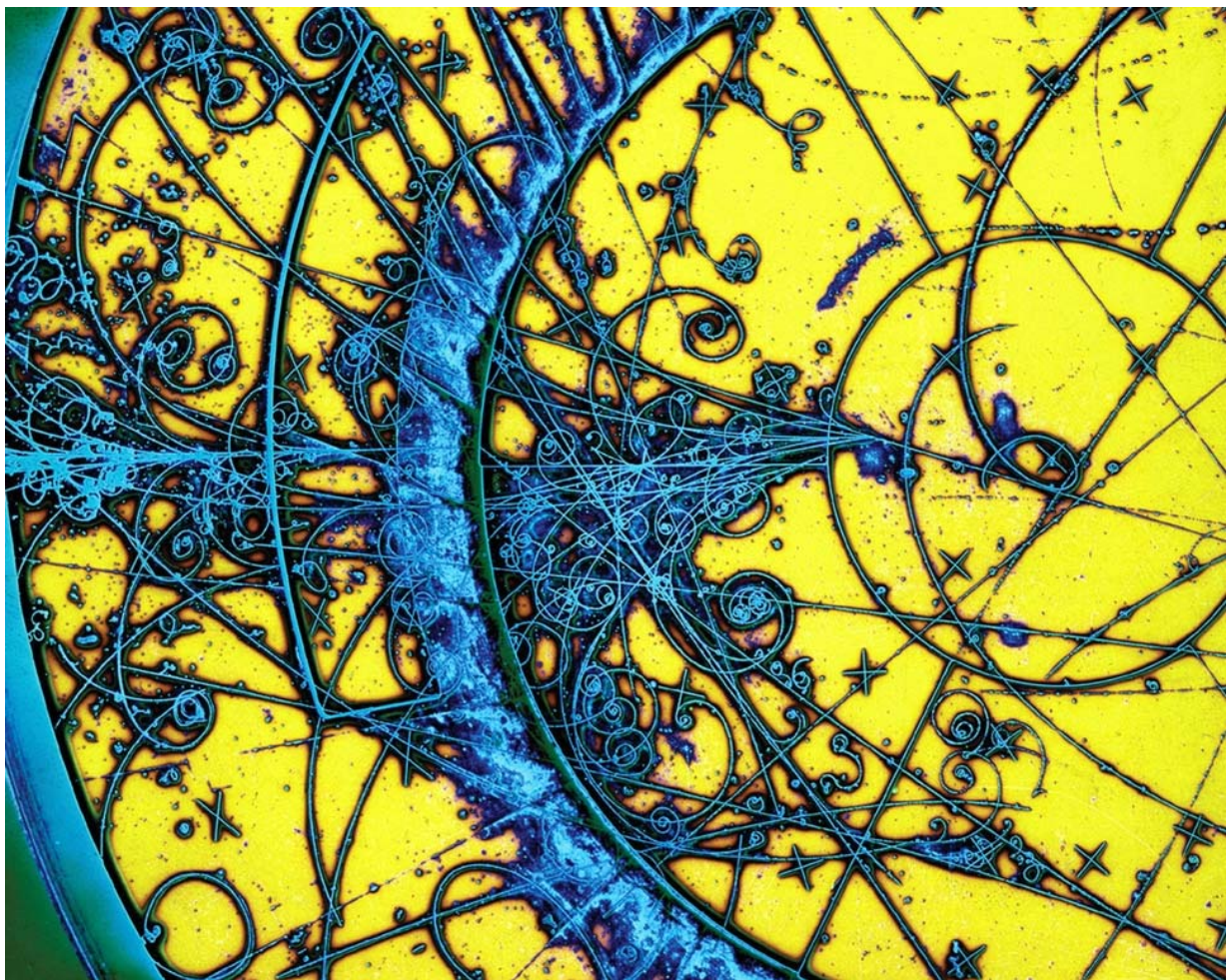


# EASST

## *Review*

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*cover illustration: CERN*

# Summertime

*Editorial*

by Ann R. Sætnan

I know, some jobs are harder, lower paid, and generally less rewarding than those in Academe. But keeping up with academic work can also be quite stressful. Now in the first weeks of summer, if you're like me, you are imagining that this summer you'll find time to catch up. Don't let me be the one to disillusion you (as if you really needed disillusionment). Spend your summer as best you can – catching up not only on reading, writing, and presenting papers, but also on sleeping, socializing, travelling, and ... well, simply enjoying life.

I plan to do the same – catch up as best I can with work tasks while also spending plenty of leisure time at home, in the garden, out on my bike, and in the woods. This issue is a first step in catching up at work. What with so many events scheduled in the summer, we need to get the announcements out. Book reviews also have a limited shelf life. And we need to lend our showcase spot to recent

graduates looking for jobs come fall. So without spending overmuch time recruiting in further reviews and comments, I'll send this short, summer issue on its way.

Look for another issue in early fall, short or long depending on what you readers/contributors send me. Then look for a double-issue around the New Year. By then I also hope to have an open forum up and running, at least on a trial basis, for discussion of matters taken up in the Review. Depending, of course, on my getting caught up on that task this summer.

Meanwhile, I think I'll leave you guessing about the same cover illustration one more round. Is there really nobody who dares to venture a guess? Here's one idea to get you started: Envision this in its full original colour – gold-speckled yellow and dark-outlined electric blue. Now wouldn't this make a lovely dinner plate design for the Royal Horological Society?

## Book Review:

Pascale Lehoux: *The problem of health technology – Policy implications for modern health care systems*  
Routledge: 2006

By: Sampsa Hyysalo / Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies / University of Helsinki / Finland

Technology has a prominent position in current discussions about the future development of health care. At the same time, however, health technology has proved to be an area which political, medical, scientific and

patient audiences have found hard to come to terms with. *The problem of health technology* clarifies some of the key issues that make health technology such a complex and elusive topic. The book aims to “illuminate the main layers of scientific and policy arguments about the ‘problem of health technology’ that are currently deployed in various industrialized countries and to show why and how they are misleading” (xviii). By bridging the fields of

health technology assessment (HTA) and science and technology studies (S&TS), Lehoux further seeks “to develop an alternative conceptualization of health technology as it is used in industrialized health care systems”(Ibid). Indeed, the chosen starting points provide two articulated, yet rather different rationales for trying to come to terms with the complexity of technical change in health care settings.

The book begins by setting out the concerns that spurred HTA and the promises it suggests. The constantly rising costs of health care create ambitions for and debates about the role of technology. It is commonly argued that new technology lowers costs, but it is almost as regularly claimed that it merely leads to more sophisticated and expensive treatments. Issues of patient safety, a flood of new candidates for future health technology, uneven rates of adoption and so on all contribute to the mandate of somehow trying to gain evidence about which technologies and treatments are effective and which are not. In Lehoux’s view, the answer that HTA provides rests on several common conceptions about how technologies and scientific evaluation are understood. HTA views technologies as neutral tools, which can be sorted into good ones (to be supported and diffused) and bad ones (to be limited) on the basis of their cost, efficiency, and safety. This is done preferably by accumulating rigorous evidence, such as that produced in gold standard randomized clinical trials.

Lehoux provides a clear round-up of empirical facts about health technology that undermine such a view. Various rationing and ethical issues related to health technologies complicate apparently clear cut cost-benefit classifications and further decision making. Denying access to health technology is a highly contested policy option: some effective technologies have few beneficiaries; other life-prolonging ones may lead to poor quality of life, and so on. HTA’s understanding of its societal purpose—revolving around rational, collective use of health technology—leads to another set of pitfalls. In reality there are multiple goals for health provision that are

variable and can conflict on both individual and organizational levels. Furthermore, the desirability of technology hinges on clinical and social practices, which, Lehoux argues, calls for integrating several different disciplinary perspectives into the current epistemic basis of HTA, as do issues concerning the decision-making process and the interrelation of and institutional links between HTA producers and the range of stakeholders in the evaluations.

The empirical criticism is intertwined well with conceptual clarifications based on ethnographic S&TS work on implementing, using and evaluating health technologies. For an S&TS reader, a great part of the attraction of the book is that it reviews in great clarity several strands of S&TS literature, which tend to remain somewhat isolated due to different debates, data, theories, style of argumentation. These strands include: a) critique of narrow positivistic scientific rationality in evaluation (for example in HTA and health economics); b) analyzing “what technologies do” both in the sense of the huge range of different functions, activities and issues there are with different “technology” as well as how various health technologies affect people and how they do not (as an antidote to piecemeal and overly simplistic accounts of technology); c) an analysis of stakeholder groups, their commitments, resources, and interests, and patterns of interaction around health technology; d) engaging with political theory about what should be discussed in relation to change and transformation of work, treatment and resource allocation.

While the book is primarily a critique of HTA, it is in many ways a healthy critique of S&TS as well, particularly with regard to the questions about the ability of S&TS to engage *productively* with real-life problems. Lehoux’s overarching and explicit question is, after all, the normative “how and when do we know a given innovation is *better*?” Her answer is, in short, an outline of how to turn the above fields of inquiry into an integrated alternative framework for thinking about evaluation of and deliberations related to health technology. 1) As technology embodies

and reinforces values, evaluation is a process that requires making values explicit. 2) As innovations can perform effectively only as part of socio-technical networks that embody multiple norms, the enabling/constraining effects of technology need to be articulated jointly in relation to both current and potential practice. 3) As health technology is a public-private good that is open to public policy interventions, reflexive science is produced within socio-political projects. 4) As the framing of policy is vital, civil society should be made a pivotal locus of transparent and public deliberations. 5) As industry develops health technology largely on the basis of its own logic, the role of the private sector within publicly-funded health care systems needs to be made explicit.

This message is hopeful. Even in highly complex matters such as health technology, fair and open deliberation can do better than the opaque dealings of an expert elite. While it is easy to hope sincerely that this optimism is warranted, the book suffers from a slight lack of reflection on the limits and pitfalls of the proposed approach. The basis for a positive stance towards political processes, and seeing health technology as being a fundamentally governable process should perhaps have been discussed more explicitly and thoroughly. For instance, arguing for an expansion of the disciplinary basis of HTA requires a more thorough discussion of the potential risks involved in such a diversification of what counts as evidence. This is underscored by how the book stresses that HTA is being used as just one resource in political decisions and industry actions. When diverse political interests, different sets of arguments and of information are contrasted, something that bears resemblance to randomized clinical trial is likely to be a trump-card in arguing for or against decisions. Such HTA evidence is harder, relatively, to debunk (by politicians, laity as well as experts) than is empirical ethics or S&TS ethnography, regardless how those of us doing such research would perceive its evidentiary value. Thus, while arguing for a broadening of evaluation methods, and recognizing the political

connections of HTA, one would expect discussion of to what extent such broadening is sensible practically and how it is not, in the context of policy processes between stakeholder groups.

There is also a relative neglect of dynamics upstream of evaluation, and how HTA effects actual company practices (as opposed to their discourse about it). Industry is discussed only in terms of characteristics of “design” and as the “big bad wolf”, the multinational, multibillion-dollar enterprises in the pharmaceuticals and medical equipment. The majority of medical technology companies, excluding pharmaceuticals, are SMEs, throughout the Western world. The rationality and calculability of innovation can easily get over-emphasized when “industry” equals companies that can choose from hundreds of promising projects those few that have the greatest commercial potential and happen to fit their own product portfolios. This rationality is also emphasized by focussing on “design” rather than “development of health technology innovation”, as if artefacts were produced during a singular process of designing. Here the book neglects work done in S&TS on innovation trajectories and other detailed case histories of the development of new technology. These insights about uncertainty about the stakeholders and their requirements and the technical shape of an eventually realizable and viable innovation would have brought in an important nuance to the book. The ways HTA – and its potential improvements – is linked to the upstream of producing desirable health technology is importantly affected by how the upstream processes are shaped and how HTA features there.

As is the explicit aim of *The problem of health technology*, the multiple perspectives covered make the book valuable for many different audiences, ranging from HTA practitioners to policymakers, and from patient-advocacy groups to people pursuing research in several areas of S&TS. Lehoux presents a range of topics and debates around health technology in a careful and instructive manner, which increases the value of the book

as course material on health technology. Due to the broad scope covered, the discussion risks being trivial at times for a specialist in any one of the topics it covers, but

nevertheless, the book has the appealing quality (and ample capacity!) of offering a fresh perspective on a less familiar body of knowledge on the very next page.

## Recent Dissertations

### **Backcasting for a sustainable future: the impact after 10 years**

*Jaco Quist, Dissertation, April 2007, at Delft University of Technology, faculty of Technology, Policy and Management. Supervisors were prof Philip Vergragt (emeritus professor in Technology Assessment) and prof Wil Thissen (professor in Policy Analysis).*

*'Backcasting for a sustainable future: the impact after 10 years'* is the first book that systematically investigates the follow-up and spin-off of various participatory backcasting experiments seven to ten years after completion. Backcasting literally means looking back from a desirable future that is constructed first. Since the 1990s sustainable futures and system innovations towards sustainability have been explored in participatory backcasting experiments, numerous stakeholders have been involved and first steps have been planned in line with the envisioned sustainable futures.

A methodological framework for participatory backcasting is developed, as well as a conceptual framework. The latter uses various concepts and theories from Leitbilder or future visions, actor learning, stakeholder participation, as well as industrial network theory and institutional theory. Three case studies from the Netherlands are described, each consisting of a backcasting experiment, conducted in the mid-1990s, and its follow-up and spin-off after ten years: (1) Novel Protein Foods and meat (NPF) alternatives; (2) Sustainable Households and Nutrition (SHN); and (3) Multiple Sustainable Land-use (MSL) in rural areas.

All three backcasting experiments studied involved a wide range of stakeholders, developed one or several desirable future

visions, proposed follow-up activities and action agendas and induced higher order learning among participating stakeholders. Higher order learning occurred on the topics under study in the backcasting experiments, as well as on the backcasting approach itself. Despite these similarities, the three backcasting experiments varied considerably in terms of stakeholder influence, the degree of stakeholder involvement, whether other types of participation than the capacity to participate were mobilised (e.g. co-funding), and the degree to which the future visions have provided guidance and orientation. There were also differences in joint and congruent learning at the level of groups of actors.

The case studies showed strongly varying extents of follow-up and spin-off after five to ten years. The SHN case showed very limited follow-up and spin-off. By contrast, the MSL case and the NPF case showed considerable follow-up and spin-off across the four societal domains distinguished, as well as instances of institutionalisation. The emphasis of follow-up and spin-off was in the research domain, while in the NPF case considerable follow-up also occurred in the business domain. Both cases showed instances of initial institutionalisation.

The cases thus show that participatory backcasting may, but does not automatically lead to substantial follow-up and spin-off at the level of niches or sets of related niches in the research, business, government and public domains. Various factors are identified that affect the emergence and the extent of follow-up and spin-off; these factors can be both internal and external to the backcasting experiment. Follow-up and spin-off are constituted by networks of actors that have been successful in mobilising sufficient resources for establishing the activities. Future

visions from the backcasting experiment provide guidance and orientation to follow-up and spin-off in a decentralised way; they show both stability and flexibility during the emergence of follow-up and spin-off, and are influenced by dynamics like exits and entries in the supporting networks.

This dissertation is interesting to scholars in the field of STS, as it uses and builds on a range of theories and concepts from STS, innovation studies and technology assessment. Backcasting experiments are conceptualised using the Leitbild concept from German sociology of technology (adjusted to use for normative visions), various stakeholder participation theories and higher order learning by actors. Follow-up and spin-off after ten years are conceptualised using industrial network theory (adjusted to use outside the business domain), institutional theory and again the Leitbild concept. The cases are evaluated using an analytical framework consisting of indicators and a set of propositions. Results are also related to system

innovation theory, such as the Multi-Level Perspective and innovation systems. The dissertation also compares backcasting to related approaches such as Strategic Niche Management and Transition Management and develops a methodological framework for participatory backcasting. Finally, it provides recommendations to researchers, practitioners of backcasting and the government.

**Key words:**

*backcasting; sustainability; future visions; learning; stakeholder participation; meat alternatives; household nutrition; multifunctional land-use; impact of backcasting; networks; institutionalisation.*

**Further information**

*The dissertation has been published by Eburon Publishers, Delft, the Netherlands, ISBN 978-90-5972-175-3. Printed copies are available at the publisher (see [www.eburon.nl](http://www.eburon.nl)), A digital version of the dissertation can be downloaded from <http://repository.tudelft.nl>. The author can be contacted through [j.n.quist@tudelft.nl](mailto:j.n.quist@tudelft.nl).*

## Conferences and Calls for Papers

**Flows, Doings, Edges: Writing a 'Relational' PhD** is the title of a *postgraduate symposium* with Jeannette Pols, to be held **28 August 2007, Kings College London**, 10:30am-5pm followed by wine reception. Why? "The relation is the smallest unit of analysis" (Haraway 2003: 24). "The world is largely messy... Contemporary social science methods are hopelessly bad at knowing that mess. Indeed it is that dominant approaches to method work with some success to repress the very possibility of mess" (Law 2003:3). Who? Postgraduates working with(in) or around a relational ontological framework from any social science discipline. What? The morning session will focus on the general challenges of relationality to our research practice, and the afternoon will provide an opportunity to share ideas and challenges of our own. Participants will be asked to read an article by Jeannette

Pols in advance, and to submit 1-2 sides of their own research 'material' such as a summary, a transcript, or images. To register, please e-mail [franklin.ginn@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:franklin.ginn@kcl.ac.uk); places are free but limited to 25. Travel bursaries are available to those travelling from outside London. **Deadline for registrations: 1 August 2007.** Organised by: Michaela Spencer, Franklin Ginn, Uli Beisel.

On **15-17 May 2008 Ghent University** is holding an *International Conference* entitled **Analogous Spaces: Architecture and the space of information, intellect and action.** The International Conference on Analogous Spaces interrogates the analogy between spaces in which knowledge is preserved, organized, transferred or activated. Although these spaces may differ in material, virtual, or operational ways, there are resemblances if

one examines their 'structure,' 'form' and 'architecture'. How do these spaces co-exist and interrelate? The conference seeks papers on the following types of spaces: architecture and elements of the built environment (museums, libraries and archives, warehouses, ministries, administrative towns, world capitals, physical infrastructure, functionalist urbanism, etc.); information storage and data processing (databases, information retrieval, data mining, conceptual maps, scholarly communication, search engines, etc.); the architecture of "the book" (contents and layout of atlases, scientific and scholarly treatises, encyclopedias, guides, manuals, children's books etc.); organizational schemes and diagrams (organigrams, functional diagrams, visual language, interfaces, artificial intelligence, taxonomies, classification systems, itineraries, etc.). Conference papers should examine analogical relationships between these types of spaces by investigating how they produce, accumulate, order, conserve, distribute, classify, and use knowledge.

The conference will be organized around three main themes: 1. The first theme explores spatial analogies in terms of social and intellectual networks. What are the geographic relationships and/or technological affordances that support or inhibit the development of such networks? What constrains their development and effectiveness and how do different kinds of network models help in understanding their formation, evolution and dissolution. 2. The second theme deals with the space of knowledge and memory. How can we compare the encyclopedia and the museum, the book and the library, the diagram and the database? How do they use architecture to structure knowledge and how is architecture used as a metaphor of memory? 3. The third theme explores the space required for speed, action and decision making. In modernity, fast and effective action generates its own space of organization, intelligence and feedback. What does this space look like, and what are the different ways in which it can be represented?

The conference considers Paul Otlet (1868-1944), Belgian intellectual, utopian

internationalist and visionary theorist about knowledge organization, as a stepping stone. The life and work of Otlet are an inspiring case study, however they certainly do not delimit the issues addressed in this colloquium. Otlet, together with Henri La Fontaine, developed the Universal Decimal Classification system for bibliography and documentation, and founded the International Institute for Bibliography and the Union of International Associations. He and LaFontaine were also influential in the movement that led to the creation of the League of Nations. Otlet was also the co-founder of the Union Internationale des Villes. In the field of architecture he is especially known for his collaboration with Le Corbusier in creating plans for a Mundaneum or international centre for information, education and science in Geneva. He was also a leading figure in the architectural design and urban planning of a model seaside community at Westend before World War I. All of his endeavours aimed at the international development and centralization of scientific and cultural networks.

The first session theme is Spaces of Intellectual Networks. Papers in this session of the conference will examine theoretical and historical perspectives on intellectual networks. The focus is on (but not limited to) the early twentieth century when European intellectuals such as Paul Otlet, Edmond Picard, Emile Vinck, René Worms, Patrick Geddes, Wilhelm Ostwald, Otto Neurath and Le Corbusier not only participated in, but also founded and developed different (trans)national networks. How are we to capture the dimensions and interconnections of the networks in which figures such as these were involved? And how do other intellectual and cultural networks centered in different nations function in terms of cooperation or competition? How can we map or describe the space of these networks which was often physically operationalized by the creation of institutions and associations, scholarly journals or bibliographical services, conferences, lecture series, and (world) exhibitions, but which also had an informal, interpersonal dimension? What was the impact of geographical scale on the development of these



networks (local, national, transnational, international)? How were they influenced by changing technologies of communication (rail networks, the telephone, the telegraph, postal services, periodical publications, news bulletin, etc.)? How did individuals position themselves within these networks? Papers may utilize new conceptual tools to help us understand the modern physical and organizational spaces of intellectual networks, and authors are encouraged to include more recent theories of network analysis and social transformation stimulated by the virtual and online technologies of information.

The second session theme is Space of Knowledge and Memory. Papers in this session of the conference will examine spatial analogies related to the architecture of accumulation (archives, warehouses, etc.), the document as a space of knowledge (books, objects, images, documents, statistical data, etc.) and the space of memory (libraries, museums, databases, records, etc.). The museum can be considered as an atlas or an encyclopedia. The space of the library is organized in part by systems for the classification and arrangement of documents. The space of the book is like that of a library where knowledge, texts and images are differentially situated and interrelated physically by conceptual structures (indexes, lists of figures, tables of contents, footnotes, bibliographies, and so on). The architecture of databases is made comprehensible by means of diagrams. Architecture can be used in all of these cases both as a means of and a metaphor for storing and making information accessible. As a means, architecture expresses the function of an archive: the structuring, putting and holding of things in place and providing routes of access to and between them. But buildings and towns are also metaphors for information space, as reflected in, for example, Castells's concept of the informational city, information highways, and modern notions as information architecture or website architecture. Moreover, architecture, the city, information, and even philosophical texts and psychological theories have been represented in spatial terms by maps, guides, diagrams, classification and index systems, etc. How do

requirements for the storage, management and accessibility of knowledge produce their own spaces? How are these spaces represented? What has been the impact of the development of artificial memory sciences and computer technology on the art and discipline of architecture itself?

The third session theme is Space of Action and Decision Making. The third session addresses the space of action, speed and decision making in the city. In order to govern the city or to make decisions on urban processes, procedures or mechanisms that guide these decision processes are needed. Not only are these processes themselves subjected to permanent managerial controls, but so are the different data networks on which they are based, such as those for water, electricity, telephony, traffic, meteorology, sewage, roads, land ownership, police, etc. To develop these networks with high precision, to legitimate choices in town planning practice or to develop effective urban planning policy, information and data must be gathered from different places, practices, institutions and disciplines. The descriptive tradition of the survey in the history of town planning for example, illustrates the importance of accumulating documented evidence. Its aim is not only to amass extensive knowledge about the city, but to synthesize and organize it in a goal-oriented way in order to be able to take action. The speed of information processing becomes a strategic dimension of decision making. Government bodies and administrative institutions look for ever more rapid and effective monitoring tools and expert systems. The papers in this session will deal with such questions as: How do these systems influence the organizational, legislative, bureaucratic and political structures responsible for city planning? How is this space of action and decision making supported, organized and represented?

Conference participants are invited to submit abstracts of not more than 750 words. The abstract should explain the methodological or conceptual goals of the paper and may use a combination of text, diagrams, illustrations, schemes, etc. Posters and multimedia presentations: however this

call is not only or formal papers but also for abstracts for posters, slideshows, movies, installations or other types of visual media relevant to the themes of the conference. Provision will be made for their display and presentation in the conference venue and for their authors to explain their work to the public. "

The International Conference on Analogous Spaces aims to provide an interdisciplinary forum for researchers and practitioners from different disciplines such as Art and Architectural History, Urban Planning, Library and Information Sciences, Computer Science, Cultural and Urban Studies, Cultural History, Sociology, Knowledge Visualization, Information Architecture, and Cognitive Art.

Here are significant dates: **31 July 2007, Deadline submission of abstracts**; 31 October 2007, Selection of papers; 31 March 2008, Submission of final papers and other contributions; 15-17 May 2008, Conference Analogous Spaces. The conference language is English, and a selection of conference papers will be published. See: [www.analogousspaces.com](http://www.analogousspaces.com). E-mail: [analogousspaces@architectuur.uio.no](mailto:analogousspaces@architectuur.uio.no).

The **University of Oslo** has issued a call for **Coming to Terms with 21st Century Practices: ICT, Competence and Cultural**. The conference, to take place in Oslo on **22-23 November 2007**, will elaborate upon some of the most current issues concerning ICT, competence and cultural change. Registration is open as of August 20th. Poster submission deadline is September 15th. The conference is based on the research program Competence and Media Convergence (CMC) 2004-2007, which represents a cross-disciplinary group of researchers from five university faculties: Arts, Law, Mathematics & Natural Sciences, Education, and Social Sciences and their international networks. This conference aims to sum up achievements from this program. New types of competencies develop in a complex and highly differentiated society. In brief, there is an increasing degree of specialization taking place that demands systems for integrating new types of competencies. As actors in society, we

participate in many different contexts as we move between various arenas in everyday life, institutions and networks involving work and learning processes. A central challenge of contemporary society is thus the challenge to cross borders between everyday life and institutional arenas. Convergence appears in technology-related changes and shifting boundaries between telecommunication, information systems, and media technologies. It reflects how previously distinct sectors have become integrated: networks are no longer technology specific, and there is steady change in services and content. Convergence is not a straightforward process, but it occurs in parallel with divergent tendencies in specialized services, terminals as and markets. The research about Competence and Media Convergence will be addressed in specific thematic as well as in cross-thematic sessions: Design, Learning across Sites, Working Life, Media Convergence and authority and Literacy. There will be challenging key notes and invited research presentations. We encourage poster presentations related to the different thematic tracks. See <http://www.intermedia.uio.no/cmc2007>.

**Reassessing Sexy Issues: The Making of Embryos and Other Hybrids, Celebration of Professor Lene Koch 60 years** is the title of the special event at the **Center for Health and Society, Copenhagen**, held at Øster Farimagsgade 5A, building 2, 1. floor, room 1.1.18, 1014 Copenhagen K, on **August 31 2007**, 3 pm. Nikolas Rose: The Politics of Life Itself; Lynn Morgan: Embryos past and present; Nik Brown: Regulating Hybrids; and more.

The **Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture at the University of Oslo** will hold a PhD-course in **Cultural Studies of Science and Technology** on **27-29 August 2007**. The course leaders are Prof. Maureen McNeil, Lancaster University, and Ingunn Moser, [i.b.moser@tik.uio.no](mailto:i.b.moser@tik.uio.no). This PhD-course will elucidate what is involved in doing cultural studies of science and technology and what 'the cultural turn' might involve for science and technology studies. As such it aims to

examine the intersection of cultural studies and science and technology studies, and to discuss and explore in particular the role of cultural formations. The course is structured around key themes in cultural studies of science and technology: evolution, nature and reproduction. It begins with theories of evolution (particularly those of Charles Darwin) in the nineteenth century and focuses on how these have been and are investigated with regard to their cultural resources, and so contextualised. Questions these studies raise include: How is context understood and investigated? What to include and what to exclude? What empirical materials to use, and what methods? The second day we move on to the issue of how to think about different ideas about nature and reproduction, with particular reference to the role of science and technology. We continue our discussions about the proper site and framing of studies of science as culture, and the contributions of different empirical materials and methods. The third and last day is devoted to questions about science, politics, and the role of (sub- or counter)culture. Again we explore implications of different research strategies and methods. Participants will gain a thorough introduction to the intellectual traditions, concepts and political concerns which have shaped the evolution of cultural studies of science and technology through consideration of key debates and issues. They will also be introduced to, discuss and critically reflect upon cultural studies research strategies and research methods. Through engagement with this course participants will gain an understanding of the diversity of perspectives and approaches to research in cultural studies of science and technology, a thorough knowledge of key debates and authors and a capacity for critical reflection on research strategy and methodology.

**The Second International Advanced Course on Public Communication & Applied Ethics of Nanotechnology** will be held **23-28 September 2007** at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford. This is a one-week, intensive training course for all those with an interest in nanotechnology and its public communication and ethical

implications. The course consists of an alternating programme of expert lectures, case studies, media training, role play, group discussions and debate. Course participants will acquire: knowledge of the relevant ethical, legal and social aspects of nanotechnology skills to communicate effectively with the media and the public understanding of issues involved in the public acceptance of nanotechnology This course organiser is Nanobio-RAISE, the European Commission Co-ordination Action, bringing together nanotechnologists, ethicists and communication specialists with the aim of anticipating the societal and ethical issues likely to arise as nanotechnologies develop. For further information please email, [info@nanobio-raise.org](mailto:info@nanobio-raise.org). See also the website: [www.nanobio-raise.org](http://www.nanobio-raise.org).

**Neurosocieties: The Rise and Impact of the New Brain Sciences** is the title of the Launch Conference of the European Neuroscience and Society Network. It is to be held on **November 12-13, 2007, London, UK**. This conference will mark the inauguration of the ENSN, a networking project funded by the European Science Foundation and convened by researchers at the BIOS Centre, London School of Economics. The last twenty years have seen unprecedented innovation in the neurosciences. Despite evidence that advances in the neurosciences are having a significant influence on the lives of individuals across Europe, there has been little formal engagement within the European social sciences with the ethical, social, legal and security implications of recent developments in this branch of scientific experimentation. The European Neuroscience and Society Network (ENSN) has been established in order to serve as a multidisciplinary forum for timely and necessary engagement with the influence of the new brain sciences on our lives. The November conference will be the first in a series of international workshops and conferences bringing together leading neuroscientists, philosophers and social scientists for sustained discussions and cross-disciplinary dialogue on the following themes: Neuroscience and society: framing the agenda

in Europe; Public health and the politics of the neurosciences; Neuroeconomics: markets, choice and the distribution of neurotechnologies; and Sources of the neurochemical self: consciousness, personhood and difference. To indicate interest and request a registration form, contact Linsey McGoey (l.j.mcgoye@lse.ac.uk), Programme Coordinator, European Neuroscience and Society Network. For more information about the ENSN, see: [www.esf.org/ensn](http://www.esf.org/ensn).

The **British Society for the History of Radiology** will hold **Snapshots of Radiology** on **Saturday 15 September 2007**. The history of radiology embraces radiology, radiography, radiotherapy, physics, archeology, forensics and the armed forces. This conference aims to demonstrate the relevance of a broad range of subject matter that has shaped radiology as it is today. Speakers comprise representatives from radiology, radiography, radiotherapy, physics, history and the military. The venue is **Sheffield Hallam University**, City Campus, Pond St Sheffield. Cost is £25. Applications and further details are available from Mrs J M Barrett, Hon Sec, BSHR 103, Slaithwaite Road Meltham Holmfirth, HD9 5PW Tel: 01484 319231.

The **SILFS Conference 2007** will be held in **Milan**, Italy, from **8th to 10th October 2007**, and is sponsored by Università degli Studi di Milano and Università Milano Bicocca. The program is divided into six parallel sessions: 1. Probability & General Philosophy of Science; 2. Logic, Computing & AI; 3. Physics & Mathematics; 4. Life Sciences; 5. Neuroscience & Philosophy of Mind; and 6. Economics & Social Sciences. The invited speakers (plenary session) are: Jeremy Butterfield (Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge); Dov M. Gabbay (Department of Computer Science, King's College London); Carlo Rovelli (Centre de Physique Théorique de Luminy – Marseille); Paul Griffiths (University of Queensland); Giacomo Rizzolatti (Department of Neuroscience, University of Parma); and Massimo Egidi (Faculty of Economics, University Luiss

Guido Carli). For more information, see the website, <http://www.filosofia.unimi.it/silfs/>.

The **Second Conference on History of Nordic Computing (HiNC2)** is to be held **21-23 August 2007** in **Turku**, Finland. See <http://hinc2.utu.fi/>.

The **ScienceFutures Conference**, the Swiss STS meeting, to be held in **Zürich**, **6-9 February 2008**, has issued a call for papers on the subject, the Science Fiction of Science Studies. The session attempts to develop improbable, inconvenient and extraordinary stories of the future of STS in the larger context of future societies, 30, 50, 100 or even a thousand years from today. The goal is to imagine a future for a specific discipline, STS, in the context of an unknown future. Presentations can explore any theoretical, methodological or material aspect of the future of STS and its related fields. The following questions should serve as starting points for your own themes and ideas: What are the sources and materials of STS 100 years from now? How does scientific change of next 50 years or so affect our disciplinary practices? Will science still exist in the future, and if not, what happens to STS? What if writing ceases to exist? What if universities and disciplines as organisational forms radically change or disappear? What will replace them? How are future generations going to assess present work in STS? What could their criteria be? What happens when a dictator once bans STS? Will it then become a clandestine or even a terrorist movement? What kinds of futurology are appropriate for STS? What are the specific problems for a Science-Fiction of STS? How could a theory of science in the 22nd century look like? Will STS provide the master-narrative for the 23rd century? The goal of the session is twofold: First, we would like to broaden STS-methods of inquiries by relying on techniques of Sci-Fi writing. Second, we would like to explore the possibilities of a discipline that has matured, but still seems to have no clear goal of its own future history and which has never had a clear vision of its future. See: <http://www.zgw.ethz.ch/sts/index.html>.

**Printed on Paper: The Techniques, History and Conservation of Printed Media** is the title of the conference to be held at **Newcastle Upon Tyne, England, September 5-7th, 2007**. This conference will bring together a wide range of experience and expertise with a view to expanding the vocabulary of scholars and conservators on the broad subject of printed ink on paper. Professionals who study and care for printed media - including conservators, curators, historians, and librarians - are invited to attend. This is the first international interdisciplinary conference focused on printed media - imagery and text, historic and modern.

Twenty-nine juried papers by curators, historians, librarians, archivists, conservators, and scientists will be presented over three days. Fifteen major U.S. institutions and nine international museums and universities are represented. The topics include: printing on paper in Mexico, China and Europe; colonial printing in the Caribbean and Australia; prints by old masters (Dürer and Schongauer) and modern artists (Andy Warhol); printing on Fabriano papers; investigations of photomechanical printing techniques; laser jet and digital printing by contemporary artists; conservation case studies.

The conference is co-sponsored by the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works and the University of Northumbria with support from the Print Council of America. It will take place at the internationally acclaimed Sage Gateshead, a building designed by Lord Norman Foster. Seating in the auditorium is limited to 300 people.

The conference proceedings will be published under the auspices of the University of Northumbria Press. The volume will be entitled **Printed on Paper: The Techniques, History and Conservation of Printed Media** and is scheduled for publication in the Spring of 2008. Further information is available: <http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/pop>.

The **Philosophy Department at the Delft University of Technology** and the 3TU Centre for Ethics and Technology are organizing a workshop entitled “**The ethics of neuro-imaging**”. This workshop will be a two-day event, targeted at a wide audience consisting of

both (a) ethicists and philosophers and (b) engineers and researchers working in the area of neuroimaging technology. The planned workshop is unique in several respects: (a) in the Netherlands, relatively little attention has thus far been paid to neuroethics; (b) to the best of our knowledge, this is the first workshop exclusively devoted to ethical issues in connection with neuroimaging; (c) the workshop should bring together a wide range of professionals, varying from clinicians and engineers to brain researchers, policy makers and philosophers. We intend to publish the proceedings either as a booklet or in the form of a special issue of a suitable journal.

The **Cooperative Researchers on Society and Genomics** (Corsage) cluster of **GeNeYouS** (the Genomics Network for Young Scientists) invites young ELSA genomics researchers working towards their PhD, as well as researchers at post-doc level to attend the **3rd Annual Corsage Workshop on 13 December 2007** in Utrecht. The location is De Witte Vosch, **Utrecht**. The workshop is to be supported by the Center for Society and Genomics (CSG, Nijmegen); the Postgraduate Forum on Genetics and Society (PFGS, Exeter/UK); and the Netherlands Graduate School of Science, Technology and Modern Culture (WTMC, Maastricht). We invite AiOs and post-docs working on ethical, legal, societal, cultural and other aspects (ELSA) of genomics and related sciences to submit abstracts related to their work, at whatever stage of maturity. We also invite young scientists working towards their PhD from the various -omics fields who in their work link up with any of the above aspects, and would like to present a paper in progress. The workshop theme – as in the previous two years - is meant to inspire discussions at the workshop but is in no means restrictive with respect to the presentations. Selection of presentations is ‘bottom-up’, i.e. any presentation will automatically be considered for the workshop as long as it satisfies the two conditions of being presentable and relating to ELSA. What are ‘contingencies’? Due to complex, not yet fully elucidated gene-disease-diet relationships, technical uncertainties of genetic

tests and what they imply for early diagnosis and treatment of genetic disorders, and the dynamic nature of the ethical, legal, political, economic and societal contexts of genomics based innovation there are limitations to predicting or forecasting the outcomes of many activities in and around genomics. The term 'contingency' highlights the uncertainties and mutual dependencies of science and technology in society, now and in the future. But 'contingencies' also mean that there is room to respond to constraints in a flexible way - by 'making other plans' and trying out a number of options, in an ethically responsible way. A contingency view emphasizes that genomics can have a robust place in our future but what the future will actually be, and how we get there depends – is contingent - on activities now. ELSA and other social science researchers can help reflecting on uncertainty and making alternative choices, in close collaboration with people from research, industry, regulation and society. For more information contact any of the conference organizers: Roy Kloet, roy.kloet@falw.vu.nl; Roel Nahuis, nahuis@geo.uu.nl; or Tilo Propp, t.propp@geo.uu.nl. See also the organizational websites: [www.geneyous.nl/corsage](http://www.geneyous.nl/corsage); [www.society-genomics.nl](http://www.society-genomics.nl); [www.geneyous.nl](http://www.geneyous.nl); [www.pfgs.org](http://www.pfgs.org); and [www.wtmc.net](http://www.wtmc.net).

**The Postgraduate Forum on Genetics and Society (PFGS)** is to be held on **29-31 August** at Grey College, **Durham University**. The theme of the Colloquium is 'Public Participation and Engagement in the Life Sciences', and we plan to run a number of workshops and sessions to reflect the theme. However we are also very keen to invite any PhD student in Europe from any discipline, studying in the area of genetics and society, to attend and to give presentations about their PhDs with others studying in similar areas. The PFGS is a European not-for-profit organisation which brings together PhD students studying in the area of genetics and society throughout the Continent (for more information visit [www.pfgs.org](http://www.pfgs.org)). Our membership covers many of the key centres of importance for such study throughout Europe, and aims to provide an excellent means for

both networking opportunities and support (visit the "Member Profiles" section on our forum at <http://pfgs.org/phpBB/>). Every year we hold a conference for PhD students, which we endeavour to make as fully subsidised as possible. This year the UK Economic and Social Research Council's (ESRC) Genomics Forum has agreed to fund the food, accommodation and up to £60 of travel costs for PFGS members to attend the conference. This means that attending the conference at low cost is easy – simply register for PFGS membership and sign up! The event and accommodation will be at Grey College, Durham University, Durham, UK, with a social trip to Newcastle on the first evening. A highlight of the colloquium is set to be the Sci/Art workshop and panel discussion which will be held at the on the afternoon of the first day. There will also be a number of sessions devoted for PhD students to present their work in an informal and supportive atmosphere. PFGS Colloquium 11 information webpage: <http://tinyurl.com/26jdcu>.

The **ESRC Centre for Analysis of Risk and Regulation** at the **London School of Economics** has announced its Sixth Annual Research Student Conference, to take place on 20-21 September 2007. The conference is intended as a forum for intense and constructive discussion and debate between research students whose projects focus on a topic within CARR's agenda. As part of the conference, we invite students in the later phases of their PhD research who wish to present their paper at the conference to apply as per the instructions on the CARR website, as well as those who are applying to attend as all applications are subject to approval. See <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CARR/events/riskAndRegulationResearchStudentConference2007.htm>. The ESRC Centre is also available by phone: 44 20 7955 6577.

**Trust in Science**, an interdisciplinary workshop to be held on **October 15-16 2007** at **Toronto's CBC Conference Centre**, will bring together leaders in broadcasting, journalism, and museology with scientists and scholars from the social sciences and

humanities who are engaged in the study of science and technology. Sessions include: Clinical Trials and the Pharmaceutical Industry; Publicizing Science, and its Effects; Public Controversies and the Distribution of Expertise; Who to Trust on Climate Change; and Museums and the Public Trust. Events open to the public will also take place each evening at the CBC in the Glen Gould Theatre. There is no registration fee for attending the workshop, but you must register in order to attend. To register, please email Bessie Goldberg at: [Bessie@yorku.ca](mailto:Bessie@yorku.ca). Include your name, email address, mailing address, phone numbers, and institutional affiliation. The deadline for registering is September 20th, 2007. However registration will be limited to the first 75 registrants. For more information, see: <http://www.yorku.ca/cshps1>.

**The Promises and Challenges of the Life Sciences Industry in Central and Eastern Europe** is the title of the two-day workshop to be held in **Prague, 18-19 October 2007**. This two-day workshop is organised by INNOGEN and OSI in conjunction with PASOS. It is aimed primarily at industry representatives, academics and policymakers and addresses the promises of the life sciences industry and its possible implications for economies, regulatory and legal frameworks, health care, ethics and human rights in Central and Eastern Europe. It examines the comparative advantages and disadvantages of these investments in the region, concluding with a discussion of futures and practical lessons. The workshop will include sessions covering five main thematic areas: Industry and Innovation, Regulation and Legal Framework, Ethics and Human Rights, Genomic Futures and Lessons for Policymakers and Industry. For further information contact Farah Huzair [f.huzair@open.ac.uk](mailto:f.huzair@open.ac.uk) or Peter Robbins, Innogen, Open University ([p.t.robbins@open.ac.uk](mailto:p.t.robbins@open.ac.uk)).

The **annual meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S)** takes place on **11-13 October 2007** in **Montreal, Canada**. The theme for the conference is ways of knowing. By this we mean several things: implicitly, that there are many ways

of knowing any particular object, process, or event; that some of these ways of knowing have historically been more valued than others; and that processes of adjudicating ways of knowing have usually been neither nice nor neutral. So we are interested in processes of valuation (from the language of debates to acts of censorship) that result in one way of knowing as “the right one” or “the natural one.” We are interested in how people, groups, or cultures hold more than one way of knowing, and whether this is stable, durable, or problematic. When different ways of knowing are triangulated, how is this actually done in practice? What is lost and what is gained in the triangulation process? We are interested in how certain ways of knowing are deemed to be “non-scientific,” (for example, magic, divination, astrology, etc). Several other interesting areas spring from this mixture of questions: historically, what is kept, or what is ignored, in studies of knowledges and paradigm shifts? How do new regimes of record keeping, such as the electronic patient record or the full text data base, affect what is remembered and what is forgotten? All sorts of questions about translation arise in discussing these issues: Who chooses what is to be translated? Who does the translation? Does the quality of the translation impact the nature of knowledge, and if so, how? In Howard Becker's famous concept, “hierarchy of credibility,” he claims that, for a well-socialized member of a hierarchical organization or institution, information coming from “the top” is de facto more credible than that coming from “the bottom.” So, a bank president, regardless of what she says, is more credible than a temporary janitor. However, within science studies, and following many sorts of principles of symmetry, we do not take members’ hierarchies for granted, especially as questions of voice and position are precisely the matters under analysis. Given that our conference will be in Quebec, one of the sites where language as a marker of difference was bitterly disputed, we must examine the idea that language carries powerful politics. In some cases, as with Aboriginal children,

the attempt to suppress a language is linked with the destruction of culture and even with genocide. Finally, there are different ways of knowing that are formed by gestures, by ways of pronouncing words, or by how names are heard and understood. Sometimes ways of knowing are different with respect to

quantitative vs. qualitative; visual vs. textual, or statistical vs. enumerative. These only suggest the ways knowledges may frame findings, thus mirroring a final finding. For further information, please consult <http://www.4sonline.org/meeting.htm>

## Opportunities Available

The **Central European University**, Budapest announces a search for a **full-time Professor or Associate Professor** in its integrated **Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology**. Central European University ([www.ceu.hu](http://www.ceu.hu)) is a graduate research-intensive university specializing primarily in the social sciences, located in Budapest, Hungary and accredited in the United States and Hungary. CEU's primary mission is to promote academic excellence, state of the art research and civic commitment, so as to contribute to the development of open societies in Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, and other emerging democracies. CEU offers both master's and doctoral programs, and it enrolls about 1000 students from more than 60 countries, including all former communist countries. The teaching staff consists of around 100 faculty members from more than 30 countries. The language of instruction is English. CEU promotes a comparative, interdisciplinary scholarly approach that integrates the Central and Eastern European region and the former Soviet Union into a wider, global perspective. CEU faculty members are encouraged to engage in high-level research and the university supports such research through appropriate institutional mechanisms. Paying systematic attention to the policy implications of the research conducted at CEU is also encouraged. The candidates for this position should be dynamic international scholars with an outstanding record of publication and teaching in sociology and/or social anthropology. They should have thought critically and reflexively about the current state of anthropology and sociology in relation to each other in terms of theory and methods and

they should be eloquent in placing their specialization in the broader context of the social sciences. We particularly welcome applicants with a strong profile in historical comparative research. Thematic specialization is open but should reflect, in approach and priorities, current global realities. Inclusion of non-European subjects/areas is seen as an advantage. The ideal candidate connects local and global perspectives and easily straddles the divides between anthropology and sociology. In addition to an excellent record of refereed publications in scholarly journals and with recognized academic publishers, the candidates are expected to have a recognized international profile. A record of research projects and grants is an advantage. The initial appointment is for 4 years and is renewable. The teaching load is 12 credits (1 credit equals 12 classroom hours) a year plus supervision of MA theses and doctoral dissertations. Salary and benefits are dependent upon qualifications and experience. The compensation package is subject to Hungarian taxation regulations. The university assists its employees who are not citizens or permanent residents of Hungary in order to obtain a work permit. The position is open from August 2008. Please send applications to Rector of CEU, c/o dr. Judit Pallos, Human Resources Office, Central European University, H-1051 Budapest, Nádor u. 9., Hungary (Fax: + 36 (1) 235-6135, e-mail: [recruitment@ceu.hu](mailto:recruitment@ceu.hu)). The application package should include: C.V., a list of publications, a sample publication, a short statement of the applicant's vision of shaping the research and graduate teaching environment at CEU, and the names and addresses of at least three referees. The



**deadline for applications is August 31 2007.** CEU is an equal opportunity employer. For queries of an academic nature please contact Prem Kumar Rajaram (rajaramp@ceu.hu)

There are Faculty Positions in **Science, Technology, and Society (STS)** at the **National University of Singapore**. The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of the National University of Singapore is seeking applicants for **research & teaching positions in the area of Science, Technology, and Society (STS)**. This is an **open-rank search** (we are offering tenure-track Assistant Professorships through Associate Professorships), and successful candidates will join a number of departments, including: History, Sociology, Philosophy, English Language and Literature, Communications and New Media. Area Studies appointments are also possible (in departments of Japanese, Chinese, Malay, South Asian, and Southeast Asian Studies). Candidates will be expected to raise the university's profile in STS-related research, and contribute to teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. We are particularly interested in candidates who can work with colleagues across disciplinary boundaries in our newly-formed STS Research Cluster. Excellent research opportunities in Singapore exist in the areas of new media & visual studies; biology and biotechnology; and cultural or anthropological studies of science, technology, and medicine, although applicants' interests need not be restricted to these topics, themes, and geographies. The National University of Singapore offers generous compensation, allowances for overseas conference travel, access to grant funding, subsidized housing, one of the finest libraries in Asia, superior digital connectivity, and a stimulating, English-speaking intellectual environment. The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is the university's largest, and is home to professors and students from dozens of countries around the world. **Interviews will begin in August of 2007**, in Singapore, and will continue until all positions are filled. Candidates should submit a CV, an article-length writing sample, and the names & addresses of three references (including email

addresses). Please tell us in the cover letter why you are applying for the position and something about your research agenda. Applications can be submitted electronically to fasssts@nus.edu.sg, or to: STS Research Cluster, DRGS, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, The Shaw Foundation Building, Block AS7, Level 6, 5 Arts Link, Singapore 117570. For further information on STS-related research at the National University of Singapore, see <http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/sts/>. For questions regarding this search, please contact the committee chair, Dr. Gregory Clancey, c/o Ms. Sorelle Henricus at fasssts@nus.edu.sg.

The Graduate School of Humanities at the **University of Aarhus** seeks applicants for **PhD-fellowships** in the humanities, including philosophy and any topics within science, technology and medicine studies. The successful candidates will receive a generous stipend during a course of 4 years. For more information about the fellowships see [www.au.dk/en/phd-studies](http://www.au.dk/en/phd-studies). For the resources within science, technology and medicine studies at the University of Aarhus please visit [www.stm.au.dk](http://www.stm.au.dk). There are two programmes suitable for candidates within these fields: "Philosophy and the Study of Ideas and Beliefs" and "ICT, Communication, Media Studies and Journalism". For further information, please see: [www.humaniora.au.dk/en/studies/phd/gradschool/graduate\\_school\\_uk](http://www.humaniora.au.dk/en/studies/phd/gradschool/graduate_school_uk). We encourage highly qualified students from all over the world to apply. Please note the **closing deadline is 15 November**. For more information about science, technology and medicine studies at Aarhus please contact Peter C. Kjaergaard, tel: +44 1223 760 485. For practical questions, contact Carsten Sestoft, [idecs@hum.au.dk](mailto:idecs@hum.au.dk).

Applications are invited for three-month **fellowships** within the **Virtual Knowledge Studio** for the Humanities and Social Sciences (VKS), a programme funded by the KNAW (**Royal Dutch Academy for Arts and Sciences**). The VKS aims to support researchers in the humanities and social sciences in the creation of new scholarly

practices, termed here e-research, as well as in their reflection on e-research in relation to the development of their fields. A core feature of the VKS is the integration of design and analysis in a close co-operation between social scientists, humanities researchers, information technology experts, and information scientists. This integrated approach aims to provide insight into the ways in which e-research can contribute to new research questions and methods in the humanities and social sciences. The Virtual Knowledge Studio has the following goals: to contribute to the design and conceptualisation of novel scholarly practices in the humanities and social sciences; to support scholars in their experimental play with new ways of doing research and emerging forms of collaboration and communication; to facilitate the travel of new methods, practices, resources and techniques across different disciplines; to contribute to a better understanding of the dynamics of knowledge creation. The fellowship is designed for junior scholars who have recently received their PhDs in order to provide the following: experience of working within an interdisciplinary research group, an opportunity to prepare material for publication and to develop new research ideas. During the three months of the fellowship, a senior member of the VKS staff will act as mentor. Here are the expectations. Deliver research seminar within internal VKS research meetings during first month. Prepare at least one publication (in which VKS should be acknowledged upon publication). A draft of the publication should be circulated no later than 2 weeks before the end of the fellowship in order to enable feedback to be given before the end of the fellowship. Prepare outline proposal for new research project. Attend all research meetings (held every 2-3 weeks) during period of fellowship and be present at the VKS on a regular basis. The qualifications are: PhD in relevant field, from a university in the Netherlands or abroad. In most cases, the PhD should have been awarded no more than 12 months prior to the application deadline. The compensation details follow. You will receive a total of 10,000 euro to cover your accommodation and other costs. You will be

expected to cover most travel as well as insurance and other costs yourself. You will be reimbursed for the costs of one return trip (economy/2nd class) between your main place of residence and Amsterdam. You will be provided with shared office space and a PC. There is no formal application form. Applications are welcome in any area of the work of the VKS. Applications are welcome from both Dutch and non-Dutch candidates. To apply, please send your curriculum vitae, a 2-page statement outlining what you will work on while at the VKS and why you want to be based at the VKS, a copy of a publication or dissertation chapter, and the names and addresses of two referees. Two fellowships will be awarded each year. The next fellowship available is Spring 2008 (**deadline: 1 October 2007**). Exact dates of the fellowship will be negotiated with the successful candidate. Application materials should be sent to: Jeannette Haagsma, VKS, Cruquiusweg 31, 1019 AT Amsterdam, The Netherlands, tel: +31 (0)20 850 0282, email: jeannette.haagsma@vks.knaw.nl. If you require further information, contact Sally Wyatt (sally.wyatt@vks.knaw.nl) but first consult the website to see the range of VKS activities ([www.virtualknowledgestudio.nl](http://www.virtualknowledgestudio.nl)).

**The Centre for Logic and Philosophy of Science at Ghent University** seeks to employ **pre-doctoral and post-doctoral researchers** for a project on the application of adaptive logics to topics in the philosophy of science. Possible research topics include: The application of adaptive logics to such topics as induction, abduction, the dynamics of theories, causation, counterfactual reasoning; and the formulation of new adaptive logics in view of such applications. A general description of adaptive logics may be found at <http://logica.ugent.be/adlog/al.html> and in several papers available at <http://logica.ugent.be/centrum/writings/pubs.php>. We offer a 2-year pre-doctoral fellowships, which will be extended for another 2 years if the researcher's work is evaluated positively by the promoters of the project. These fellowships should lead to a PhD to be defended at Ghent University. The net salary is

approximately 1500 EUR. 2-year post-doctoral fellowships; an extension is contingent on the researcher's output and capabilities and on future possibilities. The net salary is approximately 2000 EUR per month. Candidates are expected to have a fluent command of English; a good background in logic and in philosophy of science; a degree in philosophy or another relevant degree (for example in mathematics or computer science) supplemented by the required background; good problem-solving capacities in the domain; and the ability and willingness to work as a member of a team. People interested in one of these fellowships should send their CV (with list of publications) to Erik.Weber@ugent.be **before 15 August 2007**. Attaching offprints or papers may be useful. Short-listed candidates will be interviewed.

The **French National Agronomic Institute** (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique) is recruiting **post-doctoral fellows** on two-year contracts. See [http://www.international.inra.fr/join\\_us/positions/post\\_doctoral\\_positions/annual\\_campaign](http://www.international.inra.fr/join_us/positions/post_doctoral_positions/annual_campaign). These young researchers are selected, irrespective of nationality, on the basis of a coherent scientific and professional project to work as part of INRA's research teams. The recipients are recruited on a two-year contract with a gross monthly salary of EUR 2150. Deadline for submitting applications: 31st of July 2007. Applicants must have a French doctorate, PhD or foreign doctorate of equivalent level at the time of employment which must be no later than the 1st of December of the current year; not have already carried out research work at the same INRA research centre; and be less than 40 years of age on the day of recruitment. Among various disciplines and domains, INRA is proposing some positions in Social Sciences. One of them allows a young colleague to explore the field of "Innovative and sustainable agricultural systems" and we expect relevant propositions on the following theme: "Comparative studies of innovative design projects in agriculture". A full description of the Profile in French language is available at

<http://www.inra.fr/drh/postdocs2007/pdf/P-SAD-2.pdf>. Dr. Marianne Cerf is the person to be in contact with for more information. [cerf@agroparistech.inra.fr](mailto:cerf@agroparistech.inra.fr)

Tenured positions are available in social sciences and STS at **CSIC Social Sciences and Humanities Centre Madrid**. Priority areas of research for the candidates include Migration process (2 positions); Comparative Politics and Policy (1 position); Agricultural Economics and Territory (1 position); Environmental Economics (1 position); Empirical and quantitative analyses of science and technology (1 position); and Philosophy of Science and Scientific Culture (1 position). Requirements: Nationality of any of the 27 EU countries or associated. PhD or Doctorate degree (no need of early homologation of diplomas). Expected publication in the Spanish Official Journal (BOE): June-July 2007 ([www.boe.es](http://www.boe.es)).

Deadline for application: 20 days after the Call is published. All Candidates are welcome. Please see: [http://www.csic.es/sgrh/procesos\\_selectivos.html](http://www.csic.es/sgrh/procesos_selectivos.html); <http://www.iesam.csic.es>. Additional Information: Luis Sanz-Menéndez, Director, CSIC Comparative Policy and Politics Research Unit. Email: [Director.upc@csic.es](mailto:Director.upc@csic.es).

The **Société de Physique et d'Histoire Naturelle (SPHN) de Genève** has the honour to invite applications for its 2008 **history of science award** entitled: "The Marc-Auguste Pictet Prize". This Prize, in principle intended for a young researcher, rewards, every second year, a significant contribution to the history of science, which is as yet unpublished or has only recently appeared. The Prize is endowed with an amount of CHF 15'000, and may be shared. The Prize is open to both Swiss and foreign scholars. The applications should be sent before March 31st 2008 to the following address: Président de la SPHN, Muséum d'Histoire naturelle, Case postale 6434, CH-1211 Genève 6, Switzerland. The work should be submitted in two copies and include a summary and a curriculum vitae. It may be written in French, German, Italian or English. In the last three cases, the summary should be

translated into French and be approximately 12 pages in length, i.e. 4,000 words or about 20,000 characters. One copy of the prize-winning work will remain the property of the SPHN. The theme selected for the 2008 Prize is: "History of the atom, from the 19th century up to the last international fusion project." A commission composed of professors of the University of Geneva and external experts in the field will be responsible for examining the applications.

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (in which Science and Technology Studies has a prominent position) at **Maastricht University** in the Netherlands will have **5 PhD positions** available, starting between November 2007 and January 2008. If you are interested in one of the eighteen project proposals, [www.fdcw.org/phdprogram/proposals](http://www.fdcw.org/phdprogram/proposals), or have your own idea about a topic for your PhD research, see [www.fdcw.org/phdprogram](http://www.fdcw.org/phdprogram).

**Sarah Lawrence College** invites applications for a **tenure-track position in Science, Technology & Society**, beginning fall 2008. This appointment is a chair endowed by the Marilyn Simpson Trust. Candidates should have expertise in interdisciplinary science studies and their work should focus on the political, economic, and social issues arising out of the developments of modern science and technology. Teaching and research interests may include the ethical, social, and policy implications of biotechnology, engineering, environmental sciences, information sciences, cybernetics, or other emerging areas. We are seeking a candidate with teaching experience, a strong commitment to undergraduate teaching and a PhD in STS, history, sociology, anthropology, or some other appropriate field. Interested candidates should send a cover letter, vita, letters of reference and two course syllabi **by September 1, 2007** to: STS search, c/o Rosemary Weeks, Faculty Assistant, Sarah Lawrence College, 1 Mead Way, Bronxville, NY 10708.

Located in Westchester County, 25 minutes by train from midtown Manhattan, Sarah Lawrence is a small liberal arts college with a unique pedagogy based on small classes

and individual tutorials. For information on Sarah Lawrence College, our curriculum, teaching methods, and philosophy of education, please visit our web site at <http://www.sarahlawrence.edu>.

## News from the Field

There is a new scientific journal, *Revue d'Anthropologie des Connaissances*, published in French but with english abstracts of the papers and, occasionally, special issues. The review is a free electronic journal dedicated to the study of the production, circulation and use of knowledge from an interdisciplinary perspective. The journal is on the web: [http://www.cairn.info/revue.php?ID\\_REVUE=RAC](http://www.cairn.info/revue.php?ID_REVUE=RAC). It is edited by the **Society of Anthropology of Knowledge**, <http://www.ird.fr/socanco>.

The *Quaderni Journal* is publishing an issue the has as its subtitle, From Medical Advocacy to the Production of Health-Related Social Engineering. The contact person is [virginie.tournay@upmf-grenoble.fr](mailto:virginie.tournay@upmf-grenoble.fr). The sociology of collective action and mobilization is a recent stream of research in political science. NGOs, social movements, humanitarian action, the formation of new mobilizations (such as the homeless-persons movement), the transformation of feminist claims, etc. are typical of this research area. Numerous analyses have examined how these mobilizations occur, the strategies implemented to promote their actions and the framing of collective action. Persuasion issues are also an important part of the general context of these studies. More specifically, the double problem of the strength of claims made in academic discourse and the scientific objectivation of the claims forms the core of what defines the scope and effectiveness of collective action. These questions were first asked in gender studies. Many investigators have attempted to understand the role of biological sciences in the construction and perpetuation of gender inequality, and, conversely, trace how sexual-based social disparities have been conveyed in the scientific

literature. Beyond the social entry in expert discourses, this issue of *Quaderni* will explore how claims made by advocates find a permanent place in discourse and are progressively objectivized, particularly in administrative and legal practices (whether in public or private spheres). This approach requires that the claims of advocates are considered not as intrinsically subjective but as a product that can attain a degree of scientific legitimacy through concrete practices. To this end, one examines the transformation of claims into a stabilized objectivity by drawing on work conducted in other fields, apparently far removed from political science. Accordingly, we will pay particular attention to the methods and objects of medical anthropology methods as they are currently defined. The objective here is to show how this discipline may be of interest to and enrich the sociology of social mobilizations and public action. But why medical anthropology? One clear issue in medical anthropology has been to understand how to apply analytical tools to contemporary scientific medicine; i.e. to understand scientific discourse and emerging practices like any other unfamiliar or external object. Consequently, the establishment of a sustainable scientific objectivity is by definition the result of a process shaped within a local context, driven by specific stakeholders. If the research laboratory is a preferred object for anthropologists because of its esoteric nature, the production of a coherent system of standards has also been studied following other demarcations. Thus, the development of practices such as organ transplants, genetic diagnostics or hormonal therapies is analyzed according to social demarcations established by different social groups between health and disease, life and death, or men and women. It is therefore the entire rationality claimed by a group that forms the core of a critical analysis, showing, on the one hand, that the triumph of the modern Western medicine cannot be understood without taking into account ethical constructions, representations of women and local material cultures, or, on the other hand, that the success of new technologies and the other components of modern medicine provide

a remarkable image of social and cultural phenomena in our societies. In addition to providing a better understanding of different intertwined social rationalities, medical anthropology has opened the door to the establishment of a multifaceted and long history of social objectivations, marked by transformations of material cultures and local consensuses that are continually being renegotiated. Collective mobilizations are therefore not simply the expression of a claim, they may also be an emerging objectivity (Introduction, Virginie Tournay (dir.) – *La gouvernance des innovations médicales*, PUF, 2007, Forthcoming). With this observation and independent of the object, the forms of persuasion developed by advocacy groups may lead to a full social integration of their claim as standardized guidelines or political rules. This call for papers focuses on how this leads to objectivation. It asks us to consider tangible and recurring bureaucratic objectivity outcomes, as well as the practical operators that govern this bureaucratic construction and ensure that it is maintained over time. Many forms of action can be described, depending on the kind of social mobilization under consideration. For example, patient associations that call for the creation of a new nosological category (this was the case for myopathy and is still true for spasmophily) must above all convince a limited group of people (the scientific community) of the basis of their claim in order to obtain medical recognition. Similarly, the construction of AIDS as a group of predefined symptoms regularly mobilized informal forms of expertise. In another, similar case, the 2003 French heat wave produced a sustainable objectivation that required a wider circle of actors. Actually, to gain support, the claims made by emergency physicians that a weather event had provoked an abnormally high death rate required directly convincing political actors of the strength of their claim. We can therefore conclude that the credibility of a public health statement does not require the same level of proof as the announcement of a new category of disease. A third type of process for objectivation: certain social groups make moral statements to guarantee that

certain parts of the human body are protected. For emerging medical practices such as cell therapy, ethical claims result in the establishment of tangible collective devices known as consent forms and, more generally speaking, practice guidelines. This form of collective action results from a succession of deliberations in various arenas. Far from being thorough, this list of forms of social mobilization highlights another type of concern that this issue of *Quaderni* will try to address: how do we understand failure or success in the objectivation of social claims, whether they begin in patient associations, a given type of health professional, or actors in civil society? So, taking our first example: why was the objectivation process for symptoms today known as “myopathy” successful (recognition by doctors, public policies, Telethon campaigns), as compared to spasmophilia, which still constitutes a poorly defined collection of symptoms that provokes controversy within the medical community? Studying this process leads to a very political set of issues that involve following action frameworks built by groups of actors and spokespersons as they make their claims. It provides a major point of interest.

## News about Education

The **Faculty of Humanities in Aarhus**, Denmark has launched a new international ‘4+4 year’ model for graduate and PhD studies. This is a unique and highly attractive opportunity: Instead of paying tuition fees, the students receive money to study for a PhD. Students who hold a 4 year BA degree or have completed the first year of graduate studies can apply for admission into one of several programmes at ‘The Humanities Graduate School’. Students need to be on an internationally competitive level, and they need excellent skills in English. The 4 year programme consists of two parts, The first two years can lead to a research oriented MA

Understanding the claim objectivation process in interest groups is a means for combining the sociology of collective mobilizations and the sociology of public action, since it presupposes a link between the political power of claims made by advocates and their potential integration into public devices. Studying the implementation of medical objects (medical innovations: cellular therapy, new disciplines: cancerology, etc.) on the basis of social claims is a relevant point of entry for grasping how social groups will be able to convince, i.e. produce shared collective evidence that can be directly integrated into public policies in the form of precepts or concrete operators. This call for papers is open to all areas of the social sciences and the humanities that are concerned with the objects mentioned above. However, it will only consider proposals adopting an anthropological approach (i.e., describing collectives and material cultures and their relationships with the human body as healthy, sick or transforming) that acts as the point of departure for strategies of persuasion. The proposals will be considered support for a theoretical reconsideration of how durable objectivity is formed.

degree in itself, or be combined with another two years of studies, leading to a PhD degree. In their first two years at the programme students receive a scholarship of 113,000 DKK - approx. EUR 15,000 per year. For the last two years the students are employed as PhD students, with a salary of about 240.000 DKK per year. (The sums are not tax-exempt.) At the Institute of Philosophy and History of Ideas we are responsible for the Graduate Programme called Philosophy and the study of ideas and beliefs and since the subject areas covered by this programme are also the subject areas we share with our international partners, we would be grateful if you would forward this information to students of yours who consider going abroad for their graduate and PhD studies. **Deadline: November 2007.** See [www.humaniora.au.dk/en/news/grants/scholarphd/4-4\\_uk](http://www.humaniora.au.dk/en/news/grants/scholarphd/4-4_uk).



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