

# APSTSNetwork News

## Members Newsletter: April to June 2012

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### FROM THE CONVENOR – *Richard Hindmarsh*



Welcome to our second newsletter of 2012.

The big news is that our **3<sup>rd</sup> biennial conference: the 2013 APSTSN Conference will be in Singapore 15-17 July**, as hosted by the STS Cluster at the National University of Singapore, with the key organiser being Dr Jerome Whittington, our current Steering Committee (SC) Singapore member, with Associate Professor Gregory Clancey (the head of the NUS STS cluster) and Dr Haidan Chen (our 2010-2012 SC China member) also on the organizing committee. It will, of course, be assisted by the APSTSN Conference Coordinating Committee. It is sure to be a success enabled by an excellent organizing committee and a central location to all APSTSN members; to showcase your research and mix with your regional colleagues, a prime site for developing collaborations and co-publications, and strengthening our regional platform and having a good time with like-minded colleagues: what more could one ask for! Please be sure to put this date in your 2013 calendar; more details will be forthcoming in the near future.

The next big news is that our second round of the **Steering Committee (2012-2014) election** is currently underway. Following the nomination period, the Aotearoa New Zealand and the China positions were filled unopposed by Doug Ashwell and Wei Hong, respectively; their profiles will be sent around with the new Australian representative once the election has decided who that will be between Emma Kowal and Stephen Healy. In addition, with no nominations for Convenor, an extended nomination period is open until the 3 August. If you're interested, and want to know more, please email me.

Finally, this is my last newsletter for the APSTSN as I step down as Convenor. As we were initially unable to secure an editorial appointment I assumed organising it and putting it out as a key component of a regional network. But, as signalled earlier, the new Steering Committee will be determined in looking for an editorial appointment to produce the newsletter from hereon, on my advice given the time it sometimes takes to produce. I enjoyed it and had fun trying out different formats but this issue is a bit thin reflecting the time of the year for news items, although there are some interesting items inside, as always that this dynamic Network is continually producing. In stepping down as Convenor but with some tasks still to do such as producing the report on the Visions for Building Research Capacity for the APSTSN, and undertaking the hand-over to the next Convenor, and such.

It's been a pleasure to be the Convenor for the last two years and to work with the Steering Committee (SC) of Tomiko Yamaguchi (Co-Convenor), Bob Frame, Wen-ling Tu, Cecilia Lim, Nicola Marks, Haidan Chen, and Mere Roberts. We established a lot of organisational infrastructure for long-term success, perhaps of most note the SC itself, the Strategic Plan and the APSTSN website (and its members directory), as well as biennial conferences and some notable special journal issues. The website we especially thank Karen Cronin for, who was able to establish it through her institution (ESR NZ) and to recently carry it over to her new institution (Landcare Research NZ), along with the enduring support of Christine Jenca as our past casual administrator (who we thank so much and wish the best in her new career). Finally, I wish the new Steering Committee and Convenors the best for the future and all of your contributions and support in making this an endeavour of note and contribution to the STS field.

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## AUSTRALIA NEWS

**David Mercer** informs us that a National Committee workshop on the History and Philosophy of Science (which also informs STS) is to be held at the University of Sydney, 26th-28th September. It will also showcase PG students. There are around 12 slots of 30 minutes each, to be held on the 28th. If you're a PG student and are interested in presenting, please submit a proposal (an extended abstract and title) to Dr Dean Rickles (at [dean.rickles@sydney.edu.au](mailto:dean.rickles@sydney.edu.au)) by the end of August. A modest amount of funding will be available in the form of Langham bursaries. (If you are supervising PG students that might be interested, please encourage them to participate. More details will be posted as they become available at: <http://aahpsss.wordpress.com/>.)

**Catherine Waldby** writes: 'I want to draw your attention to a special event co-presented by Sydney Ideas, the Biopolitics of Science Research Network, the Australian Working Group on Financialisation and co-sponsored with the **'Life and Debt: Living through the Financialisation of the Biosphere' conference** at University of Technology Sydney. Please note the time and venue and see the link for more details. [http://sydney.edu.au/sydney\\_ideas/lectures/2012/professor\\_philip\\_mirowski.shtml](http://sydney.edu.au/sydney_ideas/lectures/2012/professor_philip_mirowski.shtml)

The Modern Commercialisation of Science is a Passel of Ponzi Schemes. Professor Philip Mirowski, Carl Koch Chair of Economics and the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Notre Dame, USA

Date: Wednesday 1 August 2012 Time: 6.00pm to 7.30pm

Venue: Law School Foyer, Eastern Avenue, the University of Sydney

## INDIGENOUS NEWS

*From the Indigenous Representative on the APSTSN Steering Committee*

Kia ora koutou,

I would like to formally introduce myself as the Indigenous Representative on the APSTSN. I am a Maori woman from Aotearoa New Zealand who is currently working in Copenhagen, Denmark. I would like to see through my time being involved in the APSTSN the broadening of Indigenous participation in the Network. To that end I am currently pursuing the opportunity to have a meeting of an Indigenous caucus at the **upcoming 4S meeting in Copenhagen**, Denmark later this year. If you have the intention of attending this meeting, or cannot travel to Copenhagen but would like to be involved via Skype etc please contact me so that you can be involved in the development of an agenda. Please feel free to be in contact via my email [mahinaarangi.baker@gmail.com](mailto:mahinaarangi.baker@gmail.com)

*Mahina-a-rangi Baker*

## TAIWAN NEWS

Two items were submitted by **Yu-Juin Wang** (Post-doctoral researcher, Dept. of Public Health, Taipei Medical University)

(1) 2012 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of the first Co-60 radiation contaminated building in Taiwan. Since early 1992, more than 300 building complexes including public and private schools, nearly 1,660 apartments and more than 10,000 people have been identified with elevated levels of gamma-radiation from construction steel contaminated with 60-Co. Even today some of these buildings still exist in different urban areas in several cities in northern Taiwan. According to serial epidemiological surveys conducted by Prof. Peter Chang, who now works in the Department of Public Health at the Taipei Medical University, for those under 30 and who have received excess exposure for protracted period of time, the cancer incidence is 3.9 to 5.5 times higher than those of non-exposed citizens. The first six months of 2011 alone saw three new cancer cases registered as receiving radiation exposure during their childhood. To remind the public of the continuous struggle of those exposed and the unfinished efforts to improve public policy to provide adequate medical care to those involved, the National Association for Radiation Protection (NRPB; 台灣輻射安全促進會) plans to hold a photo exhibition later this year and to publish a commemorative book. More information in Chinese (English website is under construction) is found at:

1) <http://e-info.org.tw/node/75064>

2) A related book by Prof. Peter Chang downloadable from: <http://www.forum-rightway.org/UploadFile/UserFiles/overcome.pdf>

(2) The first Chinese book entitled “International Health” (國際衛生), edited by Prof. Peter Chang (Taipei Medical University, Department of Public Health) and several others released in June this year, mark an important turning point in several perspectives. First, this is a trans-disciplinary joined effort to focus on issues long neglected or marginalized both by health care professionals and social scientists in Taiwan. Secondly, in its 16 chapters ranging from ‘Global Health and International Health’, ‘The Development of and Challenge for World Health Organization’, ‘Millennium Development Goals’, ‘AIDS as Global Health Challenge’ to ‘Socio-economic Development and International Health’ and ‘Global Health Diplomacy’, this book illustrates in a very readable, inspiring and systematic way on issues long on the headlines of news media, but seldom taught and researched in medical schools or social science departments in Taiwan. This publication is expected to broaden and enrich education and research agenda in Taiwan. Finally, the book reflects the increasing significance and attraction of international programs in Taiwanese universities. As more and more international students studying in the island, it is vital to question how this ‘international turn’ will impact the vision and social imagination of science and technology for the public. This is an unexplored area waiting for more engagement of STS researchers.

Book Information: Book title: International Health 國際衛生

Publisher: Farseeing Publishing Co. Ltd. Taipei (華杏)

Publication Date: June 2012

Pages: 418

See Chinese Website: <http://www.books.com.tw/exep/prod/booksfile.php?item=0010548381>

From Wenling Hong:

**July 9<sup>th</sup> Monday**

09:00—09:30  
Opening Remarks  
Chair: Lu Ping-Chue

09:30—10:00  
Science Communication and Professional Responsibility  
Chair: Wenling Hong

10:00—10:30  
Science Communication in the Age of Digital Media: Vision of Engineering the East Asian Researcher as Engineer  
Speaker: Wang

10:30—11:00  
Social Responsibility of Scientists and Engineers in the era of “Cloud”: The meaning of “responsibility” and “clouds” between professionals  
Chair: Wang

11:00—11:30  
No Tea

11:30—12:30  
Ethical Issues in Health and Welfare  
Chair: Wenling Hong

12:30—13:00  
Participatory Disability in Japan: How 311 Disaster changed Non-Profit Social Welfare Movement against the Government  
Speaker: Wang

13:00—13:30  
The Nature of Emergency  
Speaker: Wang

13:30—14:00  
The Nature of East Asian STS: A Lesson from Japanese Experience  
Speaker: Wang

14:00—14:30  
Lunch Break

14:30—15:00  
Science, Medicine and Empire  
Chair: Wenling Hong

15:00—15:30  
Ethical Military Medicine in Nineteenth-Century China: The Case of the Opium War  
Speaker: Wang

15:30—16:00  
Hazard History and Learning under Japanese Engine Building  
Speaker: Wang

16:00—16:30  
A Discipline of Oil: Organization-driven Psychology for the Oil Industry  
Speaker: Wang

16:30—17:00  
How Not to Run East Asian STS Conferences  
Chair: Wenling Hong

**July 10<sup>th</sup> Tuesday**

09:00—10:00  
Introduction to EASTS 2012  
Chair: Wenling Hong

10:00—11:00  
Technology Strategy for Semiconductor: Historical Origin and Development  
Speaker: Wang

11:00—12:00  
The Contemporary and Manufacturing: Conceptually Problematic  
Speaker: Wang

12:00—13:00  
Introduction to EASTS 2012: Concluding Meeting, Dinner, and Departure  
Speaker: Wang

13:00—14:00  
Holding Singapore's Biopolis: STS Approaches to Building New Urban Spaces  
Speaker: Wang

14:00—15:00  
Risk and Governance  
Chair: Wenling Hong

15:00—16:00  
From PHOs, Without an ICA: Possible Electronic Worker/Consumer? (Session in Taiwan)  
Speaker: Wang

16:00—17:00  
Comparative Perspectives of East Asia Countries under the Globalization  
Chair: Wenling Hong

17:00—18:00  
Lunch Break

18:00—19:00  
Moderation and Study  
Chair: Wenling Hong

19:00—20:00  
Displacement of agency: the movement of political agency in and beyond biotechnology  
Speaker: Wang

20:00—21:00  
STP Anthropology and the Making of the National Body  
Speaker: Wang

21:00—22:00  
STP Policy and Cultural-Land Politics: The Making of Multiple Modernities  
Speaker: Wang

22:00—23:00  
Chair: Wenling Hong

23:00—24:00  
EASTS 2012 Closing

**EASTS Journal** had its 4th annual international conference at National Yang Ming University at Taipei, Taiwan 7/9-10. This conference invited scholars from Korea, Japan, Singapore, US and Taiwan, to discuss and share research findings from an East-Asian STS perspective.

The topics included: Science Communication and Professional Responsibility; Disaster, Science and Culture; Science, Medicine and Empire; Innovation in Different Routes; Risk and Governance; Standardization and Body.

There was also a round table called: ‘How Far Has East Asian STS Gone?’; an open discussion for author and editors; and an Editorial Meeting.

For more details, see:  
<http://www.ym.edu.tw/eastsjournal/>

## MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

### journals

**Richard Hindmarsh and Anne Parkinson** 2012. The public inquiry as a contested political technology: GM crop moratoria reviews in Australia. *Environmental Politics*  
DOI:10.1080/09644016.2012.698882.

### special journal issues

**Tomiko Yamaguchi** prompts out attention to another special journal issue, which also of note came out of the APSTSN sessions at the 4S/JSSTS conference in Tokyo 2010.

#### *Ethics in Science and Environmental Politics 2012, Vol. 12*

#### **“Ethical imperatives of dialogue for public engagement in technoscience”**

##### **Editors: Tomiko Yamaguchi, Karen Cronin and Darryl Macer**

The need for public engagement over the use of science and technology is agreed in international documents, including the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights. The field of Science, Technology and Society (STS) research has widely argued for empowering citizens in relation to science and technology. The Asia-Pacific region is an emergent and important area in world politics, trade, and technoscience development. It thus offers a valuable new arena for discussion on the intersection of technoscience and society.

This theme section (TS) explores the ethical dimensions of strategies for engaging the public in technoscience innovation and governance, and the understanding that informs those strategies in the Asia-Pacific region. It is based on themes developed at two events held in Tokyo in August 2010: a meeting of Japanese and New Zealand STS scholars which focused on nano-foods and dialogue engagement, and a session on engaging the public in technoscience in the Asia-Pacific region held at the international STS conference run by the Asia Pacific STS Network. Public engagement interventions are in themselves a form of ethical practice in technoscience governance, but the techniques and outcomes of engagement do not always meet the standards and principles implied by ethical governance. The contributions to this TS discuss new designs for public engagement which address the need for dialogue between the developers, end users and regulators of technology.

#### **Contents (article available through open access)**

##### **Yamaguchi T, Cronin K, Macer D**

INTRODUCTION: The ethical and social imperatives of dialogue for public engagement in technoscience: trends in Asia-Pacific governance (63-65)

##### **Petersen A, Bowman D**

Engaging whom and for what ends? Australian stakeholders' constructions of public engagement in relation to nanotechnologies (67-79)

##### **Kao SF**

EMF controversy in Chigu, Taiwan: contested declarations of risk and scientific knowledge have implications for risk governance (81-97)

##### **Kaji M**

Role of experts and public participation in pollution control: the case of Itai-itai disease in Japan1 (99-111)

##### **Tachikawa M**

Uncertainty of, and stakeholder response to, emerging technologies: food nanotechnology in Japan (113-122)

### book review

**Deborah Breen:** 'When Horsepower Moved the Nation': The National Carriage Gallery at the Cobb + Co. Museum, in *Transfers: Interdisciplinary Journal of Mobility Studies*, 2 (2) Summer 2012: 133-138.

### presentations

**Anna Harris, Sally Wyatt and Susan E. Kelly** 2012. Our beautiful genomes: A thematic analysis of public accounts of online genetic testing, Pare presented at Interdisciplinary Conference Communication, Medicine & Ethics, Trondheim, Norway, 28 – 30 June.

**Chandani Panditharatne** (PhD Candidate Griffith University) 2012. Governance for climate change adaptation in developing countries. Paper presented at Annual Conference of Institute of Australia Geographers, 2012 'Inspiring Connections' held from 1-4 July, Macquarie University, Sydney.

**Jerome Whittington** 2012. Apprehension/Commitment: Urban Infrastructure and Flooding Disaster Insurance for Thai Climate Change, for the conference 'InterAsia Connections III: Hong Kong,' sponsored by the Social Science Research Council (USA), the University of Hong Kong, and Asia Research Institute (SG).-, June.

**Jerome Whittington** 2012. Fingerprint, bellwether, model event: Climate change as anthropology per se, for 'Heralds of Crisis: Ecological Risk and the role of Sentinels,' Workshop in Missillac, France, sponsored by the Borchard Foundation, June.

**Nguyen Huu Ninh** (Vietnam) attended and presented at the Roundtable 'Engaging with Asia-Pacific on Climate Change', Brussels, 4 June 2012:

[http://ec.europa.eu/clima/events/0052/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/events/0052/index_en.htm)

### AWARD

Morison Prize 2012 awarded to **Gregory Clancey** from NUS

The Morison Prize in Science, Technology, and Society (STS) recognizes the accomplishments of an individual who has made major contributions at the interface between science and technology on the one hand and matters of societal concern on the other. It was endowed by the family of the late Professor Elting Morison, a renowned historian who helped found the STS Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the 1970s. Associate Professor Gregory Clancey, who received his PhD from MIT in 1999, was awarded the prize for his scholarly work on the history of technology in Asia (especially Japan) and the US, and for his efforts as a programme builder at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the Asia Research Institute and Tembusu College – all at NUS. On 11 May, Dr Clancey was at MIT to deliver the Morison Prize Lecture. It was titled "Telling Stories about Technology in an Asian Century".

### INVITATION TO JOIN

**The National Institute for Rural and Regional Australia (Australian National University)**

The National Institute for Rural and Regional Australia (NIRRA) seeks to promote Australian rural and regional research, teaching, and the academic contribution to policy and debate. NIRRA provides a fully interactive website offering access to a broad range of relevant research across disciplinary and institutional boundaries and enabling members to build networks of collaboration and exchange.

If you are developing a research project and are looking for collaborators from a range of disciplines of institutions, NIRRA will provide you with a searchable source of researchers listed by their research interests, publications and ongoing research projects. NIRRA is an efficient way to find out who else is working in your area and to track down papers you may not be aware of.

NIRRA also provides you with a platform for raising the profile of your research and we encourage you to sign up. As a member, your contact details will be easily accessible to other researchers, the media and policy makers and your publications will be visible and highly searchable. NIRRA membership is free and is open to anyone with an interest in research and policy issues relevant to rural and regional Australia. And it takes less than two minutes to join.

Visit <http://nirra.anu.edu.au> to find out more  
or <http://www.nirra.anu.edu.au/members/members> and sign up

## UPCOMING EVENT

### CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

#### **1st Global Conference: Crisis and Opportunity** (February 2013, Sydney, Australia)

The intention of this lively inaugural project is to bring together established and emerging international practitioners and theoreticians, philosophers and scientists, and writers, artists and performers who wish to share their ideas, experiential processes, practice, and research about crisis and opportunity.

Presentations, performances, papers, art-pieces, workshops, and pre-formed panels are invited on any of the following themes:

- The roles of crisis and opportunity in human development and across the life-span;
- The development of crisis theory;
- Case studies in crisis management and organisational change – examining and balancing proactive and reactive strategies;
- Critical issues in the management of crisis;
- The relationship between crisis and opportunities – crises that create opportunities, and opportunities that precipitate crises.
- Cultural perceptions of crisis and opportunity;
- Representations of crisis and opportunity in literature, the arts and in the media;
- Crisis, opportunity and psycho-spiritual development;
- Philosophical, ethical, and legal issues in crisis and opportunity;
- Learning from global crises and opportunities.

Please note that presentations that deal with related themes will also be considered. It is our hope that a number of these interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary dialogues will be ongoing and that ultimately a series of related cross context research projects will be developed. It is also anticipated that these will support and encourage the establishment of useful collaborative networks, and the development, presentation, and publication of research materials. Through such richness and diversity, it is expected that awareness for the work within and the links between crisis and opportunity will contribute to a body of knowledge that serves both individuals and organisations.

#### **What to Send:**

300 word abstracts or presentation proposals should be submitted simultaneously to both Organising Chairs by **Friday 14th September 2012**

For your details, see: <http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/probing-the-boundaries/persons/crisis-and-opportunity/call-for-presentations/>