

Asia-Pacific STS Network News

Members Newsletter: September 2014

- Contents: [From the Convenor](#)
[Mark Munsterhjelm: Indigeneity and Ontological Violence in STS](#)
[What is a Network?](#)
[Tokyo – Roles, Responsibility and Social Imaginary in a Risk Society](#)
[Buenos Aires – Society for Social Studies of Science annual conference](#)
[Sydney – Graduate master class with Professor Nikolas Rose](#)
[Upcoming events and calls for proposal](#)
[Country news: Aotearoa New Zealand – Australia – Japan – Singapore – Thailand – Outside Region](#)
- Submissions: Email Newsletter Editor Anup Kumar Das: anupdas2072@gmail.com
- Membership: [Join or UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP](#) to stay linked in to STS scholarship in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Announcements: [Join the APSTSN Email List](#) to post and receive job announcements and more.

From the Convenor – Jerome Whittington

Welcome APSTSN Members!

The big news is that SC member **Wen-Ling Hong has been appointed to Co-Convenor** of APSTSN. As the organizer of the Biennial Conference 2015 in Taiwan, and Steering Committee representative for Taiwan, she will be best able to liaise between APSTSN and the conference organizing committee in Kaohsiung.

The Biennial Conference 2015 in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, is just a year away! Wen-Ling assures me planning is on schedule despite the **urban industrial explosion** which rocked Taiwan's second-largest city on July 31. Underground gas lines caused major destruction and killed 31 people. The government reported that the gas was propylene, used in the production of plastics and fabrics. Kaohsiung is a major industrial center and home to the country's largest port. The disaster serves to remind us of the many complex issues which interdisciplinary science and technology studies can help us understand better.

An international symposium on **Roles, Responsibility and Social Imaginary in Risk Society** was held in July in Tokyo, Japan. Tomiko Yamaguchi provides details below. The **4S meetings** held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, were a success. Sulfikar Amir reports, with photographs.

With the addition of Indonesia as a Steering Committee member this year, seven countries are now represented: Sushila Chang (Australia), Cai Zhong (China), Irfan Prijambada (Indonesia),

Aiko Hibino (Japan), Doug Ashwell (New Zealand), Wen-Ling Hong (Taiwan), and Sulfikar Amir (Singapore). We are still hoping for a network member to take the lead to represent Indigenous members on the Steering Committee. Mark Munsterhjelm, below, provides some reflection on **indigeneity and ontological violence in STS**.

The Society for the History of Technology conference SHOT 2016 will be held in Singapore! Stay tuned for more information.

Last but not least, I want to extend my **whole-hearted gratitude to Hamish Robertson** for his role as editor of the APSTSN newsletter. Hamish will be stepping down from the post to focus on other things, but he has provided an indispensable service to the network. The **new Editor, Anup Kumar Das**, is an APSTSN member based at JNU in New Delhi. He currently moderates the blog for the Centre for Studies in Science Policy (CSSP) and is an Assistant Editor for the Journal of Scientometric Research. Welcome Anup!

[Return to top](#)

Mark Munsterhjelm: Some Comments on the Problem of Ontological Violence in STS

Mark Munsterhjelm (University of Windsor, Ontario) here discusses some of the issues arising from his own research in the field of Indigenous STS. Also see details of his new book later in this newsletter, titled “Living Dead in the Pacific: Racism and Sovereignty in Genetics Research on Taiwan Aborigines” (2014, UBS Press).

If ontology is defined as *being* in the world, then ontological violence pivots on not recognizing the validity and equality of other ways of being in the world. This ontological violence exists within STS’s canon. For example, Bruno Latour’s influential discussion of the role of the ill-fated Laperouse scientific expeditions in extending French imperialism in the Pacific in his 1987 book *Science in Action*. Latour states the fate of the expedition is unknown, but still writes: “The foreigners will die en route, wrecked by typhoons, betrayed by guides, destroyed by some Spanish or Portuguese ship, killed by yellow fever, or simply eaten up by some greedy cannibals...as probably happened to Lapérouse” (Latour, 1987:219; ellipsis in the original). Latour’s ontologically violent use of racist caricatures as the punchline of a joke immediately reduces Pacific Indigenous peoples to ahistorical static stereotypes, which are straight out of 1940s Hollywood films. Critically recognizing such ontological violence has to be at the center of formulating STS studies involving Indigenous peoples; in particular, its research premises and philosophical foundations that inform reasoning and shape research problems.

Such violence can take more subtle forms when Indigenous peoples are marginalized through exclusionary emphasis. For example, Nikolas Rose’s influential 2007 book *The Politics of Life Itself* in its discussion of the Human Genome Diversity Project, directly mentions its major proponent L.L. Cavalli-Sforza by name, but Indigenous peoples are only implied in passing: “there were many critics of this project” (Rose, 2007: 168). Rose misses an important

theoretical and empirical opportunity to improve his overall hypothesis and thesis by not discussing how an international coalition of Indigenous peoples' organizations and NGOs derailed the HGDP, efforts that included many Pacific Indigenous peoples. Evidently, Rose did not think such Indigenous resistance was important to his discussion of the reinvigoration of categories of race in genetic research.

The extensive body of criticism, policy, and analysis done by Indigenous scholars and organizations are a necessary counterbalance to the underlying ontological and epistemological violence of STS's often Eurocentric canon. For example, Linda Tuhiwai Smith's *Decolonizing Methodologies* is exemplary of this scholarship with its critical synthesis of Indigenous political philosophy, social theory, colonial history and political economy. STS work with Indigenous peoples' issues must always be cognizant of the political economic hierarchies of power and knowledge that shape scientific research. STS involving Indigenous peoples is not only overtly political in its topic matter, but also in its practice since researchers' attempts to situate it within the academic field of STS and political economies of research funding will conflict with Eurocentric or metropolitan-centric ontologies and epistemologies. This raises potential questions about those who engage in STS involving Indigenous peoples:

1. Do they encounter various sorts of disciplinary effects for defying canonical conventions and openly questioning its ontological violence?
2. Do these effects include professional marginalization in their field and the general political economy of research funding and denial of potential professional or academic positions?
3. How do these disciplinary effects restrict STS research involving Indigenous peoples?

[Back to top](#)

What Is A Network?

In this and coming editions of the newsletter, we will feature a short commentary from an APSTSN member on the question – what is a network? Contribute your thoughts on the role of APSTSN in building the academic community in Asia-Pacific. What does APSTSN mean to you? What would you like for it to be? Send us your submission of 150-300 words! This one is from Convenor Jerome Whittington.

Since organizing the Biennial Conference in 2013 and now as the Convenor for APSTSN, I've had the chance to reflect on what it means to have a network of educators and researchers spanning the whole of Asia-Pacific. The network means a lot of things to different people, which is exactly what a network is supposed to do. For me, it means the chance to explore exciting, multidisciplinary research on topics close to my heart, as well as to discover new perspectives and research I didn't know about before. We all know that networks are great when they work well, but as STS scholars we also know that networks require work and maintenance, and present certain challenges. Put simply, if a network isn't used, it will disappear.

Communication is the heart of any network, and APSTSN has four main types of communication. The website provides a stable platform for members and a public face for the network. The email list, apstsn@googlegroups.com, lets members communicate directly with each other and post announcements. The regular newsletter delivers updates from members and different countries in the region, and is a chance to tell people what you're up to. Most prominently, the Biennial Conference is your best chance to really engage with researchers from across the Asia-Pacific. Here's a diagram:



From a process perspective, it isn't really about these particular technologies – rather, they technologies create an uneasy typology of how academics communicate transnationally. Giving a conference paper on your research mostly makes sense with an audience of professional peers, and having an international audience of scholars can provide a refreshing perspective. Likewise, a newsletter bringing periodic updates from another hemisphere, or an email with a job posting you might not have heard about, are unobtrusive tools for accessing or building different relationships. Thinking about typologies like this also lets us imagine variations. What would happen if APSTSN were to host a Youtube channel with 10 minute talks by members about their research? Who would be the audience – other members? Or, say, policy makers or the public? Which public? Different processes create different versions of the network.

[Back to top](#)

Toyko: International Symposium on Roles, Responsibility and Social Imaginary in a Risk Society

Report by Professor Tomiko Yamaguchi (Senior Associate Professor of Sociology, International Christian University, Tokyo)

An international Symposium on the theme of “Roles, Responsibility and Social Imaginary in a

"Risk Society" was held at International Christian University in Tokyo, Japan on July 17th and 18th, 2014. The event included Luc Boltanski, Professor of Sociology at the Ecole des Hautes en Sciences Sociales in Paris, and Anthony Elliott, Professor of Sociology from the University of South Australia, as keynote speakers. Professors Masato Fukushima from the University of Tokyo and Giorgio Shani from International Christian University were featured as discussants of the two keynote addresses. Professors Boltanski and Fukushima explored the notion of two views of reality and the importance of recognizing the difference between the two realities in understanding risk. Professors Elliot and Shani discussed the privatization of social imaginaries beyond risk. The keynotes were followed by six papers by STS scholars who shared their studies of the everyday experience of people when facing risk and uncertainty.



The presenters of the papers shared insightful case studies from Japan and Korea, grounding their discussions within theoretical concerns such as the ways in which "scientific" data are used by lay people when facing risk and uncertainty; lay people's strategies to understand, manage and/or avoid risk; the social bases and drivers of particular risk responses; and the consequences of these risk responses for individuals, groups and communities. Three of the papers formed a thematic session focused on the risk experience of lay people connected with the Fukushima nuclear accident and the ripple effects of that accident on Japanese society. The two-day symposium was well attended on both days, attracting people from diverse disciplinary backgrounds and from various parts of the world, demonstrating that STS concerns are highly relevant and important in understanding risks and uncertainties, even though biophysical inquiry often seems to dominate the discourse, particularly in the public policy arena.

[Return to top](#)

Buenos Aires: 2014 Society for Social Studies of Science Meeting

Report by Sulfikar Amir (Nanyang Technological University)

The 2014 Society for Social Studies Annual Meeting was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It was a joint meeting between 4S and Sociedad Latinoamericana de Estudios Sociales de la Ciencia y la Tecnología (ESOCITE). The meeting was attended by around 700 participants. The majority are STS scholars from Latin America. Held in Intercontinental Hotel located at the heart of Buenos Aires, the meeting went very well. During three and half day, there were about 188 sessions organized by different groups of STS scholars on a large variety of topics. The main theme of this year meeting is focused on "Critical Participation", an emerging approach within the STS scholarship that encourages STS scholars' engagement in a wide array of practices. This is strongly demonstrated in the opening plenary entitled "The STS Making and Doing" in which 30 speakers gave a presentation in 3 minutes. The marathon plenary session is a new, and unique way of sharing how STS scholars from different regions and disciplinary fields engaged in the practice of making and doing. Such practice will be granted more recognition in the 2015 Annual Meeting in which a new program called "The STS Making and Doing Award" will be organized for the first time. So stay tuned.



Photo Credit: Anon. The editorial board meeting of EASTS, taken in Cafe Tortoni. From the left: Brian Wynne, Les Levidow, Michael M. J. Fischer, Sean Hsiang-Lin Lei, Nelly Oudshoorn, Jia-Shin Chen, Chia-Ling Wu, Yuko Fujigaki, Wen-Hua Kuo, Sulfikar Amir. Steven G Epstein left earlier. More pictures from the meeting can be seen here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/34842408@N00/sets/72157646475041298/>

[Return to top](#)

Sydney: Graduate master class with Nikolas Rose

On August 25 the Biopolitics of Science Network and the NBOT jointly hosted a post-graduate master class with Professor Nikolas Rose, Director of the new Department of Social Science, Health and Medicine at King's College London. The class was attended by a cross-disciplinary group of advanced post-graduate students from the University of Sydney. Participating graduates came from Law, English, Sociology and Social Policy, History and Philosophy of Science, Gender and Cultural Studies, and the Centre for Values, Ethics and the Law in Medicine (VELiM). They presented work on the social, legal and political aspects of biomedicine and health, including work on: Australian's attitudes, knowledge and experiences of direct-to-consumer personal genome testing (DTCPGT); Testimony and the Brain; Issues in the representations of intellectual disability in political and governmental discourse; and Neuropolitics and the conceptualisation and diagnosis of ASD in an Australian drug trial. See http://sydney.edu.au/arts/biopolitics_science/master_class.shtml.

[Return to top](#)

Upcoming Events

International Conference on Data Sharing and Integration for Global Sustainability (SciDataCon 2014)

Where: Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

When: 2–5 November 2014

The Conference will be organized by the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) and the World Data System (WDS), interdisciplinary committees of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and hosted by Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi. Conference Theme: “Data Sharing and Integration for Global Sustainability”, SciDataCon 2014 will feature four main tracks: (A) Dynamic Planet, (B) Global Development, (C) Transformations Towards Sustainability, and (D) Data Science and Services.

Further Details: <http://www.scidatacon2014.org/>

Third International Conference on Creativity and Innovations at Grassroots

Where: Indian Institute of Management (IIMA), Ahmedabad, India

When: 15-19 January 2015

Giving voice, visibility and velocity to creativity and innovative potential of common people at grassroots has been the key goal of inclusive development. Honey Bee Network has emerged as a committed new social movement in support of knowledge rich, economically poor people. In order to enrich the ecosystem for inclusive and empathetic innovations, the Third ICCIG will pool the insights from the ground and global playfields of ideas, institutions and initiatives. Twenty five years ago, Honey Bee Network started to raise the voice for collaboration between formal and informal sectors, respect for local/indigenous knowledge for conservation of biodiversity and associated knowledge system, sharing of benefits through ethical supply chains and recognizing, respecting, rewarding local communities and individual

innovators and traditional knowledge holders. Today, the concern for inclusive innovation has become much more widespread but the voice of the knowledge rich, economically poor people and the youth is still not heard adequately. Earlier Tianjin Declaration was issued in 2007 in a cooperative research program between IIMA, Honey Bee Network and Tianjin University of Finance and Economics and Ahmedabad Declaration issued at the end of Second ICCIG at IIMA. The Third ICCIG invites young (in body and/or mind) scholars, academics, corporate leaders, policy makers, activists, administrator, local community representatives, organizational leaders, various social and cultural networks engaged in empowerment of local creativity, public and private initiatives for making society more fair and just in dealing with various segments.

Call for Papers & Further Details: <http://www.iccig.org/>

History of Science in New Zealand, 2015 conference

Where: Victoria University of Wellington

When: 23-24 November, 2015

Next year is a significant year for New Zealand science history: it is 150 years since James Hector arrived in Wellington to set up many of our national science organisations; and 100 years since Ernest Marsden arrived in Wellington to join Victoria College.

In 1865 Hector was appointed head of the New Zealand Geological Survey, with his responsibilities eventually including the Colonial Museum, Colonial Observatory, Meteorological Service, Colonial Botanic Gardens, and the New Zealand Institute. In 1915, Marsden arrived in New Zealand to be professor of physics at Victoria College, now University. He stayed in this position for seven years then, in 1926, was appointed head of New Zealand's Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, a position he held until 1946.

Victoria University is pleased to announce an academic conference to celebrate these anniversaries focusing attention on New Zealand's science history and building momentum for the Royal Society of New Zealand's 150th anniversary in 2017 and the 250th anniversary of the arrival of the first European scientists in 2019.

<http://sciencernr.wordpress.com/2014/06/03/history-of-science-in-new-zealand-2015-conference/>

Society for the History of Technology – SHOT 2016

Where: Singapore

When: 2016, date TBA

Stay tuned:

http://www.historyoftechnology.org/interest_groups/asia_network/shot_in_singapore_2016.html

[Back to Top](#)

Country News

Aotearoa New Zealand

Ronlyn Duncan is the author of a recent article: Duncan, R. (2014) "Regulating agricultural land use to manage water quality: The challenges for science and policy in enforcing limits on non-point source pollution in New Zealand", *Land Use Policy*, 41:378–387. www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264837714001239

Australia

Professor Catherine Waldby was a keynote speaker at the *Critical Sociology: Current Issues and Future Challenges* conference, convened by the Institute for Social Research (the Frankfurt School) and Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main, June 23 – 25. Her keynote, 'Production and Reproduction in the Bioeconomy', tracked the extent to which the biology of reproduction has been adapted as a mode of production in contemporary bioeconomies. The paper addressed the taylorisation of animal reproduction over the course of the 20th century and the application of this technical repertoire to humans from 1970's onward; and the social reordering of reproduction and its relation to labour markets over the same period.

On July 14-15 the Sydney University Network for Bodies, Organs and Tissues (NBOT) held an international workshop on Tissue Banking. The event provided a forum for discussions of moral, ethical and regulatory issues relating to the access and control of human tissues. Speakers included visiting scholar Dr Jane Kaye, the Director of the Centre for Law, Health and Emerging Technologies (HeLEX), Department of Public Health, University of Oxford, with her paper 'Dynamic Consent: Engaging Participants in Biobank Research'. Other papers discussed issues such as: perceptions of the Australian general public (as potential donors) towards biobanks; the role HREC in the exchange of specimens; commercial egg banks; public perceptions towards biobanks; and knowledge, beliefs and decisions of pregnant Australian women concerning donation and storage of umbilical cord blood.

In addition to the graduate master class With Nik Rose described above, the Biopolitics of Science Network and the NBOT also co-hosted a public lecture by Professor Nikolas Rose on 26 August 2014, as part of the Sydney Ideas lecture series. His lecture, entitled *Mental life in the metropolis: urban brains, urban lives and the embodiment of urbanicity*, reflects on ongoing historical questions of urban life, mind and body. How does the experience of urban living get under the skin? How do different forms of urban life shape body and soul, mental life, mental health, mental distress? Following an exploration of some historical transactions between the social and the vital in urban existence, he considers some recent work in the neurosciences and its potential, and its problems, for a revitalized sociology of urban experience. For more information see http://sydney.edu.au/arts/biopolitics_science/special_events.shtml.

Richard Hindmarsh and Rebecca Priestley have a book in development titled *The Fukushima Effect: Nuclear Histories, Representations and Debates*. Draft chapters are being received and more information will be provided in future newsletters.

Kiran Pienaar has recently completed her PhD thesis and supplied the dissertation title: *The Making of HIV/AIDS in South Africa: An Ontological Politics of Disease* (2014) PhD thesis: Monash University, Melbourne, Australia.

She also has a new article out, and has included the following abstract: Pienaar K. (2014) (Re)reading the political conflict over HIV in South Africa: A new materialist analysis. *Social Theory & Health*, 12(2): 179-196.

Abstract: This article recasts a critical moment in the history of HIV/AIDS in South Africa: the struggle over the science of HIV that emerged under former South African President Mbeki (1999–2008). It compares how the Mbeki administration and prominent South African AIDS organisation, the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) responded to the dominant scientific model of HIV/AIDS. Contrary to existing research, which presents the government and TAC's positions as polarised, this article draws attention to some important commonalities in their understandings of HIV. I argue that both parties were doing the 'boundary-work' of science (Gieryn, 1995, p. 404): tussling over the demarcation between science and non-science in order to assert the 'truth' about HIV/AIDS. In so doing, they constitute HIV as a biologically self-evident disease possessed of intrinsic attributes. The article draws on science studies and new materialist scholarship to query this conventional view and its presumption that disease is a static object that precedes political processes and practices. It argues instead that disease is made through politics and it traces some significant political practices that have contributed to making HIV/AIDS in South Africa in specific, sometimes damaging ways.

And Ian Lowe has sent an impressive list of 2014 publications completed to date:

Lowe, I. (2014), Energy, in D. Lindenmayer, S. Dovers and S. Morton [eds], *Ten Commitments*, 2nd edition, CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood

Lowe, I. (2014), Wild law embodies values for a sustainable future, in M. Maloney & P. Burdon [eds], *Wild Law in Practice*, Routledge

Lowe, I. (2014), Causal Layered Analysis, Climate Change and Limits to Growth, in S. Inayatullah [ed], *Causal Layered Analysis Reader II*, Tamkang University

Lowe, I. (2014), Reflections on the Fenner Conference, in J. Goldie & K. Betts [eds], *Population, Resources and Environment*, CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne: 183-191

Lowe, I. (2014), Population policy, in L. Orchard & C. Miller [eds], *Australian Public Policy*, Policy Press, Bristol

Lowe, I. (2014 Introduction, "Clear and Simple" to A. Hay [ed], *Best Australian Science Writing 2014*, Black Ink, Melbourne, which is in press. Richard Hindmarsh's edited Routledge volume on the Fukushima-Diachi disaster, to which I wrote the Foreword, is now being re-released as a paperback.

Ian Lowe in association with Prof. Alan Petersen at Monash University and Prof. Susan Dodds at the University of Tasmania, *A Framework for Impact Assessment* (2014) a report for the Australian Department of Industry, Science and Innovation.

Japan

Aiko Hibino is the lead author on a recent book chapter: Hibino, A., Kobori, T. and Takeyasu, K. (2014) 'A short story of AFM in Biology', Takeyasu, K.(eds.) *Atomic Force Microscopy in Nanobiology*, Pan Stanford Publishing, 1-12.

Singapore

Singapore member Catherine Candano has a book chapter coming out: Candano, C. (2014) "Democratic Potentials of UN Climate Change Conference Host Government Websites", In S. Baum, & A. Mahizhnan (Eds.) *E-Governance and Social Inclusion: Concepts and Cases* (pp. 97-126). Hershey, PA: IGI Global. DOI:10.4018/978-1-4666-6106-6.ch007. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4018/978-1-4666-6106-6.ch007>.

Axel Gelfert's co-edited volume has been released:

Studies in History and Philosophy of Science Part C: Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences. Volume 44, Issue 2 (June 2013) Special Issue "Philosophical Perspectives on Synthetic Biology", ed. Gabriele Gramelsberger, Tarja Knuuttila & Axel Gelfert.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/13698486/44/2>

Includes articles by Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent ("Discipline-building in synthetic biology"), Adrian Mackenzie ("Synthetic biology and the technicity of biofuels"), Kathrin Friedrich ("Digital 'faces' of synthetic biology"), Axel Gelfert ("Synthetic biology between technoscience and thing knowledge"), Tarja Knuuttila & Andrea Loettgers ("Basic science through engineering? Synthetic modeling and the idea of biology-inspired engineering"), Nina Samuel ("Images as tools. On visual epistemic practices in the biological sciences"), and others.

Jerome Whittington's edited *Climate Transformations*, a special issue of the Political and Legal Anthropology Review, has been accepted for publication but probably won't be in print until 2016. It includes papers on carbon dioxide and its various ontologies, including [Carbon as a Metric of the Human](#) by Whittington.

Thailand

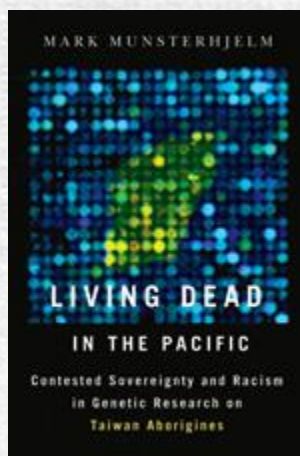
Sustainability experiments appraisal workshops in India and Thailand
Eindhoven University of Technology (Netherlands), together with the Institute for Environmental Studies (Netherlands), Jadavpur University (India) and Chiang Mai University (Thailand) recently organized two stakeholder workshops in Kolkata (November 2013) and Chiang Mai (May 2014). The workshops are part of an ongoing research project (funded by the Dutch science foundation NWO) on applying and adapting transitions theory to rapidly emerging Asian economies, with a particular focus on the concept of 'sustainability experiments'. Before the workshops, major efforts have gone into constructing a database of experiments with sustainable urban mobility and photovoltaic electricity generation in India and Thailand. The final database includes hundreds of solar PV and urban mobility

experiments. The database, next to gathering basic information about these local initiatives, was also used to trace their transnational, networked character and to demonstrate emerging innovation trajectories in each country and empirical domain. To appraise rather than assume if and how these trajectories are sustainable (and according to whom) we used an online platform for Multi-Criteria Mapping (MCM) in both workshops. We were glad that Robert Cervero (Berkeley University), James Murphy (Clarke University), Andy Stirling (SPRU) and Fred Steward (PSI) joined us during the workshops and contributed their experiences to the discussions. Both stakeholder workshops play a crucial role in the WOTRO program, which is now entering its final year. The workshops have clearly demonstrated the diverse views on and uncertainties in the appraisal of sustainability of emerging innovation niches in India and Thailand. For instance, whilst not being the core in political and policy attention, walking and cycling innovations in urban areas scored high in comparison with, for instance, electric vehicles and alternative fuels. The appraisal of solar photovoltaic electricity experiments demonstrated that even within a single technological field substantial uncertainty exists in terms of their sustainability appraisal. The WOTRO team is currently working on producing several outputs to disseminate the results of the workshop including systematic analysis of the criteria, uncertainties and scores articulated by the stakeholders and analysis of the transnational linkages in sustainability experiments in Thailand and India. For more information, contact Rob Raven (r.p.j.m.raven@tue.nl), Anna Wieczorek (A.J.Wieczorek@tue.nl) or Bipashyee Ghosh (b.ghosh@student.tue.nl)

Outside of Region

Anup Kumar Das has a new paper about to come out: Das, A.K., (2014) India-Africa Strategic S&T Cooperation for the 21st Century: An Assessment. *African Journal of Science, Technology, Innovation and Development* (forthcoming 2014).

He is also the lead author on another article: Das, A.K. and Mishra, S. (2014). Genesis of Altmetrics or Article-level Metrics for Measuring Efficacy of Scholarly Communications: Current Perspectives. *Journal of Scientometric Research* (forthcoming). Available at <http://arxiv.org/abs/1408.0090>.



Mark Munsterhjelm's new book: [Living Dead in the Pacific: Contested Sovereignty and Racism in Genetic Research on Taiwan Aborigines](#)

“Colonized since the 1600s, Taiwan is largely a nation of settlers. Yet within its population of 23 million are 500,000 Aboriginal people. Over the past thirty years, genetic researchers have eagerly studied Taiwan Aborigines, leading to mass violations of the rights of their subjects and a troubling revival of racially configured research.

Living Dead in the Pacific examines the Taiwanese and Western genetic research of Taiwan Aborigines and the narratives that propelled it. Genetic research has permeated both the political and popular spheres as Taiwanese nationalists and Chinese nationalists argue over the significance of migration theories and as the media proliferates genetic theories on predispositions to alcoholism. As this book demonstrates, genetics serve, on the one hand, to reinforce claims to a unique national identity and, on the other hand, to reinforce anti-Aboriginal prejudices. Increasingly, genetic research on Aborigines is being integrated into biotechnology planning, both in the country and through controversial US patent applications.

Compelling and original, this book considers the impact of racism and questions of sovereignty on genetic research, detailing a history of exploitation and resistance that represents a new area of conflict facing Aboriginal people both within Taiwan and around the world.” (From: http://www.ubcpres.ca/search/title_book.asp?BookID=299174294)

As well there is a sample chapter available at:

<http://www.ubcpres.ca/books/pdf/chapters/2014/LivingDeadInThePacific.pdf>

Please note that review copies of this book are available directly from the author.