

Asia-Pacific STS Network News

Members Newsletter: September 2015

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From the Convenor – Jerome Whittington

Greetings APSTSN Members!

The network has been busy as usual and this edition of the Newsletter is packed full of new publications and country news from around the region. Three books by APSTSN members have been published recently, and we've listed a bevy of STS-related postdoc opportunities as well as upcoming conference events.

The Biennial Conference 2015, organized by Co-Convenor Wenling Hong, is just around the corner and registration is now underway. Expect over 130 participants and keynote talks by Tadashi Kobayashi, Helen Verran and Kuei-Tien Chou. Papers from all aspects of STS will be presented. With the recent explosion in Tianjin, the organizers could not have chosen a more appropriate theme—Disasters, Controversy and Public Engagement.

Kiran Pienaar at Curtin University has taken over the APSTSN communications portfolio and members can follow the network now on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). The Newsletter will be semi-annual (twice a year) for now to lessen the administrative burden. Send interesting tidbits to Kiran to share on social media!

Lastly, please update your email address and membership! See below for details, and see you in Kaohsiung in a month!

APSTSN Biennial Conference 2015

The upcoming 2015 APSTSN conference in Taiwan will have over 130 participants from 9 countries. We are all very excited about the event and working to provide you with a wonderful academic and social experience in Taiwan. The conference is held in conjunction with the East Asia STS (EASTS) conference. More details of the conference are given below.



2015 Asia-Pacific Science, Technology & Society Network Biennial Conference

DISASTERS, CONTROVERSIES AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

1st~4th October 2015, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Held in conjunction with the annual conference of East Asia STS (EASTS)

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

- 1) Tadashi Kobayashi (Professor, Osaka University, Japan)
 - Topic: National Energy Policy After Fukushima and the Aftermath: Did Deliberative Opinion Poll Work Well?
- 2) Helen Verran (Professor, Indigenous Knowledge and Governance, Charles Darwin University, Australia, and Professor II, University of the Arctic, Norway)
 - Topic: Indigenous Governance and Modern Nation State Governance. What Can Thinking Through STS Contribute?
- 3) Kuei-Tien Chou (Professor, National Taiwan University, Taiwan)
 - Topic: Cosmopolitan Approach of Trans-boundary Risk Governance in East Asia

To assist us with the preparation for the conference, we encourage members to register early. Please visit <https://apstsn.tw-sts.org/registration> to register.

We will have a special STS Fair for participants to showcase their practical STS work, featuring more than 31 tables of STS work and goods for sale from the indigenous post-disaster support group (to be held on the afternoon of 3rd October).

The banquet will be held outdoors with a Transformer truck-stage. We have invited renowned folk singer Lin Sheng Xiang to perform. Taiwan Terrior, a winemaker devoted to

using Taiwanese grapes will provide wine for our banquet. If you like, you can also get tickets on site (950 TWD for Banquet).

Presenters and audience members (excluding student audience members) will receive a Taiwanese style schoolbag with the conference logo. Perfect for your STS style! It will be available for purchase, and would make a great gift for your STS friends who cannot make the conference.

We are working to provide an STS PAPAGO booklet for your self-guided tour to visit STS-related sites in Kaohsiung City. We have also teamed up with a quality travel agency to provide select self-paying one-day tour programs of the Kaohsiung vicinity and other parts of Taiwan.

If you are interested in booking a tour before or after the conference, please see [https://apstsn.tw-sts.org/travel and tour](https://apstsn.tw-sts.org/travel_and_tour).

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APSTSN on Social Media

Dr Kiran Pienaar, based at Curtin University's National Drug Research Institute (Melbourne, Australia), has taken over the communications portfolio for APSTSN. Kiran's research interests include posthumanist and feminist approaches to materiality, HIV, concepts of addiction, and the politics of health and illness. Members may contact her directly with questions regarding network communications at: Kiran.pienaar@curtin.edu.au.

As part of an effort to increase our profile and build networks across the region, we're very pleased to announce that APSTSN now has a dedicated Facebook page and Twitter account. To receive regular updates on our activities, information on conferences, events, publications, and calls for papers, please 'Like' the APSTSN [Facebook](#) page and follow us on [Twitter](#) – we'll follow you back! If you'd like to alert us to items of interest via Twitter, simply include the APSTSN username (@apstsn1) in your Tweet and/or post to our FB page.

Membership: [Join or Update Your Membership](#) to stay linked in to STS scholarship in the Asia-Pacific region. As always, we encourage you to invite interested colleagues to join the network and contribute to our activities. The online APSTSN membership form can be found here.

[Join the APSTSN Email List](#) to post and receive job announcements and more.

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Upcoming Events

FORUM ON “THE FUTURE OF WORK”

Government House, Sydney, Australia, 15 September 2015

The Royal Society of New South Wales, together with the four national Academies, is organising this forum. The forum will explore the issue of how automation and ICT is influencing the workplace, and how numerous existing white-collar jobs will be eliminated over the next 20 years, and the outcome of the forum will be further disseminated in one or more public RSNSW Conversations.

Further details: www.royalsoc.org.au/meetings_and_events/rsnsw_forum_2015.htm

SIXTH CONFERENCE ON NEW MATERIALISMS

Transversal Practices: Matter, Ecology and Relationality

Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne, Australia. 27-29 September 2015

This conference will feature a keynote by feminist STS scholar Karen Barad. Day registration is available. Further details: <http://www.newmats2015.net/>

STS MAKING AND DOING

Denver, Colorado, USA, 11-15 November 2015

The Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)'s STS Making and Doing initiative aims at encouraging 4S members to share scholarly practices of participation, engagement, and intervention in their fields of study. It highlights scholarly practices for producing and expressing STS knowledge and expertise that extend beyond the academic paper or book. By increasing the extent to which 4S members learn from one another about practices they have developed and enacted, the initiative seeks to improve the effectiveness and influence of STS scholarship beyond the field and/or to expand the modes of STS knowledge production. The STS Making and Doing Awards formally acknowledge and celebrate distinctive achievements in practices of STS making and doing. It recognizes 4S members who have demonstrated scholarly excellence in formulating, enacting, and sharing theoretically-informed practices of participation, engagement, and intervention in their fields of study. The STS Making and Doing program is organized as part of the 4S annual meeting. Selected presentations will be displayed at an exhibition during the meeting.

Further details: www.4sonline.org/meeting/sts_making_and_doing_call_for_submissions

HISTORY OF SCIENCE IN NEW ZEALAND, 2015 CONFERENCE

Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, 23-24 November 2015

2015 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. 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 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. In 1983, The Royal Society of New Zealand and the Alexander Turnbull Library ran a conference In Search of New Zealand's Scientific Heritage. In the more than 30 years since this date there have been significant research and publications into New Zealand's science history but there is still much to explore. The 2015 anniversaries invite a renewed focus on New Zealand's science history and provide momentum leading up to 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.

Further details: <https://sciencernr.wordpress.com/2015/03/30/call-for-papers-finding-new-zealands-scientific-heritage/>

SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY – SHOT 2016

23-27 June 2016, Singapore

Further details: www.historyoftechnology.org/features/annual_meeting/Singapore_2016.html

INTENSIVE SUMMER COURSES

Science Dialogue Theory and Practice (SCOM6030 & SCOM3030)

Where: Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

These co-taught undergraduate and graduate courses will provide a detailed exploration of the role of science dialogue in relation to contemporary science debates and science and technology governance. As well as providing a theoretical understanding informed by Science and Technology Studies, the courses will provide the skills to plan, design and run science dialogue. They will also provide opportunities to learn and practice skills needed to participate in and facilitate dialogue. Courses will be taught by Dr Wendy Russell. Classes Monday 18 January 2016 to Friday 22 January 2016.

Further details: <http://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/course/SCOM6030> &
<http://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/course/SCOM3030>

CALL FOR PAPERS

Special Issue on “Critique and Complicity: STS and Global Health”, *Science Technology Studies*

Deadline: September 15, 2015

Further details: <http://sciencetechnologystudies.org/authors> &
[http://www.4sonline.org/site/profession/critique and complicity sts and global health](http://www.4sonline.org/site/profession/critique_and_complicity_sts_and_global_health)

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Upcoming STS Appointments

IPRH–ANDREW W. MELLON POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN BIO-HUMANITIES, 2016-18

The Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities (IPRH) at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign is starting an initiative focused on the Bio-Humanities. As part of this initiative, IPRH has two 2-year post-doctoral positions. If you know of any recent or soon-to-be PhDs working in this area, please encourage them to apply. The fellowships are open to scholars in all humanities disciplines, including the humanities inflected social sciences. A full description, eligibility requirements, terms, and application guidelines can be found at <http://www.iprh.illinois.edu/fellowships/mellon/postDoc.html>

Application deadline: November 6, 2015

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW

A Postdoctoral Research Fellow is required to work on a 3 year research project ‘Carbon Reductions from Composting Food Waste for Food Production – Fitting Recycling Models to Urban Forms’

Where: Faculty of Health, Arts and Design, Swinburne University of Technology, Australia

Application deadline: November 6, 2015

Further details: <https://swinjobs.nga.net.au/publicfiles/swinjobs/jobs/c4ef9bb0-64c9-4b1e-8ffc-a4f800f0b6bf/PD%20research%20fellow%200.6.pdf>

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2016-17, IAS-STIS IN GRAZ, AUSTRIA

Application deadline: December 31, 2015

Further details: <http://www.sts.aau.at/ias/IAS-STs>

AUSTRALIA GOVERNMENT'S ENDEAVOUR SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS 2017

Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships are internationally competitive, merit-based scholarships provided by the Australian Government that support citizens of the Asia-Pacific, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas to undertake study, research and professional development programmes in Australia and for Australians to undertake these programmes overseas. The Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships build Australia's reputation for excellence in the provision of education, support the internationalisation of the Australian higher education and research sectors and offer high-achieving Australians opportunities to increase their knowledge and expertise in their field. Applications for the 2017 round are expected to open in April 2016. Applicants are encouraged to check the Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships website closer to April 2016 for further information, applicant guidelines and eligibility criteria. Further details: <http://internationaleducation.gov.au/Scholarships-and-Fellowships/Pages/default.aspx>

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Country News

AUSTRALIA

Dr. Radhika Gorur (Director, the Laboratory of International Assessment Studies, Australia. Web: www.international-assessments.org) has moved to a new assignment and updated her email address: radhika.gorur@deakin.edu.au.

JAPAN

Forecasting and Society: Social and Political Dimensions of “the Science of Forecasting”

Aiko Hibino (aiko.hibino@gmail.com) would like to introduce their new research project, entitled Forecasting and society: social and political dimensions of “the science of forecasting”, which is supported by the Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (Category A) in Japan. The project will be for four years beginning from this year. Based on the idea that forecasts have tremendous influence upon our society, making individuals and institutions perceive things in a certain way and also forcing people to make decisions using information derived from the forecasts, our goal is to identify characteristics of the science of forecasting, its impacts upon our society and societal influences upon the science. Since the science of forecasting has penetrated into various issues, such as earthquakes, climatic changes, food risks, markets and population projection, the project invites the participation of researchers from various disciplinary backgrounds including sociology, anthropology, and communication studies and earthquake seismology.

Investigators:

Tomiko Yamaguchi (PI)

Takao Akiyoshi, Nobumichi Ariga, Hironori Ayabe, Masato Fukushima,
Koichi Hasegawa, Takashi Hashimoto, Takehiko Hayashi, Aiko Hibino,
Kazuki Koketsu, Masako Oki, Michio Murakami, Katsuya Takanashi,
Keichiro Tahara, Mai Suzuki, Katsuya Yamori

Further Details: <http://forecastingresearch.weebly.com/> The English site will be up soon.

SINGAPORE

Nanyang Technological University (NTU)

In 2015, two new postdoctoral research fellows with STS research interests joined NTU. Dr Lijing Jiang conducts research on the history of the modern life sciences in China, and is a postdoc with the Humanities, Science and Society (HSS) Cluster. Dr David Sadoway is currently engaged in research on underground urbanism as a postdoc in the Division of Sociology.

In May 2015, Assistant Professor Lisa Onaga organized a workshop, "Crafting Life and Locating Gender in East Asia: A Writing Workshop", in conjunction with a public lecture by Professor Phillip C. Brown, entitled "The Dam that would not Die: Experts, Democratization, and Local Priorities in Post-War Japan", co-sponsored by the HSS@NTU Cluster.

National University of Singapore (NUS)

National University of Singapore hosted two relevant workshops. A workshop on "International Medical Travel and the Politics of Transnational Mobility in Asia" took place in August 2015 at Asia Research Institute, with support from Monash University, Australia. A workshop on "Infrastructures: Provocations toward Interdisciplinary Dialogue" took place in August 2015 at National University of Singapore.

Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)

Lyle Fearnley was hired as Assistant Professor in the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences. He conducts research on avian influenza and veterinary services in China.

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Member Publications

NEW BOOKS

[Interrogating Conceptions of “Vulnerable Youth” in Theory, Policy and Practice](#), edited by Kitty Te Riele and Radhika Gorur. Sense Publishers/ Springer, Rotterdam, 258 pages.

Summary: Young people who are considered ‘vulnerable’ or ‘at risk’ are a particular target of various policies, schemes and interventions. But what does vulnerability mean? *Interrogating Conceptions of “Vulnerable Youth”* explores this question in relation to various policy fields that are relevant to young people, as well for how this plays out in practice and how it is experienced by young people themselves. What makes this book unique is that most authors had the opportunity to jointly explore these issues during a two-day workshop, and their chapters are informed by their cross-agency and cross-discipline discussions, making for a nuanced and thoughtful set of contributions. This collection is highly recommended for researchers and research students in the social sciences, as well as professional staff working in youth policy and youth services, in government departments and in NGOs.

[Testing for Athlete Citizenship: Regulating Doping and Sex in Sport](#), by Kathryn E. Henne. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick USA, 2015, 246 pages, ISBN: 9780813565910.

Summary: Incidents of doping in sports are common in news headlines, despite regulatory efforts. How did doping become a crisis? What does a doping violation actually entail? Who gets punished for breaking the rules of fair play? In *Testing for Athlete Citizenship*, Kathryn E. Henne, a former competitive athlete and an expert in the law and science of anti-doping regulation, examines the development of rules aimed at controlling performance enhancement in international sports. As international and celebrated figures, athletes are powerful symbols, yet few spectators realize that a global regulatory network is in place in an attempt to ensure ideals of fair play. The athletes caught and punished for doping are not always the ones using performance-enhancing drugs to cheat. In the case of female athletes, violations of fair play can stem from their inherent biological traits. *Testing for Athlete Citizenship* combines historical and ethnographic approaches to offer a compelling account of the origins and expansion of anti-doping regulation and gender-verification rules. Drawing on research conducted in Australasia, Europe, and North America, Henne details how race, gender, class, and postcolonial formations of power shape these ideas and regulatory practices. *Testing for Athlete Citizenship* makes a convincing case to rethink the power of regulation in sports and how it separates athletes as a distinct class of citizens subject to a unique set of rules because of their physical attributes and abilities. To place an order, please refer to the Rutgers University Press website; use a discount code 02AAAA11 for 20% off online orders.

[Hope in Health: The Socio-Politics of Optimism](#), by Alan Petersen. Palgrave Macmillan, 2015, 192 pages, ISBN: 9781137210593.

Summary: The language of hope permeates contemporary health and healthcare. It is believed that patients who are hopeful are more likely to recover, and health professionals endeavour to 'instil' or 'manage' hope in patients. The rhetoric of hope is extensively employed in marketing medical tests, treatments and devices. Despite this focus on hope in health, sociologists and other social scientists have failed to offer a systematic analysis of the discourses of hope and related practices. This book is the first to explore the socio-politics of hope in the contexts of health and healthcare. It highlights the significance of technological promise in contemporary conceptions of hope, making reference to examples such as stem cell treatments, medical testing, personal risk management, the use of self-tracking devices, and anti-ageing treatments and longevity research. The book concludes by arguing for scholars to take more seriously the significance of 'hope' in the contexts of health and healthcare.

RESEARCH PAPERS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Das, A.K. (2015). ["Mapping of University Presses in India: Pattern of Knowledge Production and Dissemination"](#), *Annals of Library and Information Studies*, 62(2), 57-67.

Das, A.K. (2015). ["Skills Development for SMEs: Mapping of Key Initiatives in India"](#), *Institutions and Economies*, 7(2), 120-143.

Harris, A and Guillemin, M. (2015). ["Notes on the Medical Underground: Migrant Doctors at the Margins"](#), *Health Sociology Review*, 24(2): 163-174. DOI: 10.1080/14461242.2014.999403.

Harris, A. (2015). ["Autophony: Listening to Your Eyes Move"](#), Casenotes, Somatosphere.

Kowal, E and Petersen, A. (2015). Guest edited special issue ["Sociology of Bio-Knowledge at the Limits of Life"](#), *Journal of Sociology*, 51(1).

Marks, N. and Russell, A.W. (2015). ["Public Engagement in Biosciences and Biotechnologies: Reflections on the Role of Sociology and STS"](#), *Journal of Sociology*, 51(1): 97-115. In special issue on Sociology of Bio-Knowledge at the Limits of Life.

Petersen, A and Wilkinson, I. (2015). Guest edited special issue ["The Sociology of Hope in Contexts of Health, Medicine and Healthcare"](#), *Health*, 2015, 19(2).

Pienaar, K. (2014) "(Re)Reading the Political Conflict over HIV in South Africa: A New Materialist Analysis", *Social Theory & Health* 12(2): 179-196.

Pienaar, K. (2015). ["Claiming Rights, Making Citizens: HIV and the Performativity of Biological Citizenship"](#), *Social Theory & Health*, early online, doi:10.1057/sth.2015.26

Pienaar, K., Fraser, S., Kokanovic, R., Moore, D., Treloar, C., and Dunlop, A. (2015). ["New Narratives, New Selves: Complicating Addiction in Online Alcohol and Other Drug Resources"](#), *Addiction Research & Theory*, early online, DOI:10.3109/16066359.2015.1040002.

Plimmer, B., He, L., Zaman, T., Karunanayaka, K., Yeo, A.W., Jengan, G., Blagojevic, R., & Yi-Luen, E.D. (2015). "New Interaction Tools for Preserving an Old Language", presented in Conference 33rd Annual ACM conference on Human factors in Computing Systems (CHI) ACM, Korea.

Whittington, J. (2016). "[Modernist Infrastructure and the Vital Systems Security of Water: Singapore's Pluripotent Climate Futures](#)", *Public Culture*, 28(2).

Whittington, J. (2016). "[The Terrestrial Envelope: Fourier's Geological Speculation](#)", In: *The Cultural History of Climate Change*, eds. Bristow and Ford. Routledge.

Zaman, T., Winschier-Theophilus, H., Yeo, A.W., Ting, L. C., Jengan, G. (2015). "[Reviving an Indigenous Rainforest Sign Language: Digital Oroo' Adventure Game](#)", *Proceedings of International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development*, 15-18 May 2015, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

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Submissions: Email Newsletter Editor Anup Kumar Das: anupdas2072@gmail.com

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