

APSTSNETWORK NEWS

Members Newsletter: April-May 2010

FROM THE CONVENOR – *Richard Hindmarsh*

Welcome to our second newsletter of 2010. Thanks to all of our contributors for sending in their news. Your news is very important to local and regional networking, our identity and progress as STS scholars, and potential collaborations. Please send your news as it happens to APSTSNetwork News. Make it happen and get the recognition for all your hard work! Of note is that the Steering Committee (SC) will be considering an editorial team in the near future but for the moment please send your news to: r.hindmarsh@griffith.edu.au.



We have now formed an APSTSN Events Subcommittee with Chair Tomiko Yamaguchi and other SC members Haidan Chen, Mere Roberts, Wen-ling Tu, Cecilia Lim and Richard Hindmarsh. We are especially focussing on assisting Dr Huiduan Ma and Professor Fan Chen in their organisation of the 2011 conference at Northeastern University, Shenyang, China, planned for the week of the 18-22 July 2011 as the best date that suits our various STS communities. The Events Subcommittee is currently developing APSTSN conference guidelines to guide/assist host STS communities for the annual conference.

Note that on the [APSTSN Website](#), you can now see an online mechanism for potential members, so please inform colleagues that joining our network is easy.

In memory of Susan Leigh Star (posted by *Anni Dugdale* Canberra University)

Many of us in Australia knew Leigh Star and were inspired by her both personally and through her work as an outstanding STS scholar. Most recently, Leigh Star participated in the 2009 STS mixtures project between Melbourne University, Charles Darwin University and Lancaster University and worked with Helen Verran, Michael Christie and the Yolŋu Aboriginal consultant's project. As part of this Leigh gave a webcast lecture that many of us in the STS community participated in virtually. Leigh Star made a major contribution to the Society for Social Studies of Science: see information for commemorative donations at <http://www.4sonline.org/>.

MEMBER PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS

Haidan Chen (APSTSN SC member and Center for STS, Zhejiang University, China) presented an Open Lecture at the Institute of Asian Cultural Studies, International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan, organised and hosted by APSTSN Co-Convenor Tomiko Yamaguchi, titled: 'Regenerating China: Stem Cell Politics in Transition'.

Abstract: Stem cell research brings opportunities for the states to become bio-medical players at the international arena, but at the same time poses challenges for them to govern the field. On March 2, 2009, the Ministry of Health, PRC issued the Regulations of Clinical Application of Medical Technology and defined stem cell application as medical technology, which ended the lengthy negotiation and discussion of stem cell politics between different regulatory regimes. By presenting two case studies from China, I will show how two major poles of conducting stem cell science medical applications emerge as a new biopolitical field. I argue that biopolitics in China is not a "Wild East" type of politics, but rather reflects individualized regulatory strategies by different stakeholders.

Donnie Maclurcan (University of Technology Sydney) presented a poster at the Second Conference on Economic Degrowth, Barcelona, Spain called: 'Make prosperity global: A holistic approach beyond quantitative growth' March 2010.

Alan Petersen (Monash University, Australia), reports that Prof Barbara Katz (City Univ. of New York) visited Monash University in May, supported by a grant from the Australian Academy of Humanities Science Linkage Program. While at Monash Barbara conducted 2 workshops and gave a public lecture on sex selection, bioethics, and stem cell technologies, respectively. This was designed to encourage links between Australian social science and humanities scholars working on new and emergent technologies. The events were highly successful and very well attended, the public lecture attracting a 100+ audience.

Haidan Chen reports on the 4th National STS conference in joint with Science of Science Theory & Science and Technology Policy 2010 Annual Meeting: 'Science and Technology in the Time of Globalization: Mission, Policy and Paradigm in Transition' (Hohai University, Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China, 9-11 April,

2010). 126 papers were submitted and 153 scholars from universities and institutes around China attended. Themes include: science, technology & public policy, risks in science & technology, assessment & policymaking, ethics in science & technology, public participation, environment & policymaking, and more.

MEMBER PROJECTS

Alan Petersen (Monash University, Australia) is undertaking two projects for the federal Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research: one on stem cell tourism; and a second on stakeholders' views on public engagement on nanotechnologies. The former is being undertaken in collaboration with Dr Kate Seear; the latter with Kate Seear and Dr Diana Bowman

Cecelia Lim (APSTSN SC member and National University of Singapore) reports that the National University of Singapore STS research cluster recently received an Academic Research Fund Tier 2 Grant for their project "Asian Biopolies: Biotechnology and Biomedicine as Emergent Forms of Life and Practice".

Catherine Waldby (University of Sydney) announces the launch of: 'The Biopolitics of Science Research Network', of which Catherine is the director. For more information, or if you would like to be involved you can contact: catherine.waldby@sydney.edu.au. Also see: http://sydney.edu.au/arts/biopolitics_science

2010 4S CONFERENCE UPDATE

APSTSN 4S news: our APSTSN dinner is so far scheduled for the second night of the conference on the 26 August, where we will be going to a local restaurant organised by Tomiko Yamaguchi (where we will each pay on the night). The Events Subcommittee will also be meeting with Dr Ma and Prof. Chen to discuss the 2011 conference; there will also be an APSTSN business meeting at the end of the conference on Sat 28 August which we hope all members attending 4S will come along to. If any members haven't yet notified they have had individual papers accepted outside our sessions please let us know so we can put you on our 4S APSTSN e-members list asap (email: r.hindmarsh@griffith.edu.au).

Regarding the latter, **Peta Cook** (University of Tasmania) informs us that she has an individual paper accepted (as well as being a selected participant in the 'The politics of life and participatory governance' workshop that Richard Hindmarsh and Tomiko Yamaguchi are organising after the 4S conference with 4 Japanese and 6 Australian participants as part of their collaborative project called: 'The politics of life, science, technology, citizenship?'). Peta's individual paper at 4S is titled 'The boundaries of cleanliness: animal bodies in xenotransplantation'. It is a joint effort between Peta as first author and Nicholas Osbaldiston (Queensland Univ. of Technology, Brisbane).

From individual papers to an organised session, APSTSN member **Emma Kowal** (University of Melbourne) reports that she has organised along with Amy Hinterberger, BIOS Centre, LSE, the session:

Vital Legacies: Indigenous Body Parts and the Politics of Global Knowledge Production with a brief (edited blurb) being: '... This session aims to examine entanglements between populations characterized as indigenous with the scientists who introduced these body parts into global regimes of value. Specifically, the papers will explore and extend Anderson's arguments in examination of other cases – both historical and contemporary -- where indigenous bodily substance has served as a reservoir for research ... Devoting anthropological and historical attention to the traffic of indigenous bodily substance will reveal new dimensions of ethics, citizenship, commerce, policy and social movements in the postcolonial world.'

Emma's paper is called: 'Orphan DNA: Indigenous samples, ethical biovalue and postcolonial science'.

MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

Bob Frame (APSTSN SC member and Landcare Research NZ):

Hatched: New Zealand's Future URL: <http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/services/sustainablesoc/hatched/>
Hatched is an eBook of research findings, stories and tools exploring five key areas of capacity required for New Zealand's long-term success:

- Thinking and acting for long term success - can NZ be a future maker not a future taker?
- Businesses as sustainability innovators – improving and marketing businesses' sustainability performance.
- Individuals as citizen consumers – what it takes to live sustainably.
- Facing up to wicked problems - creating solutions to complex, value laden and multi-party problems.

- The future as a set of choices - the next steps needed for NZ's long-term success.

Hatched has been written for practitioners working within the public, business and community sectors and is free to download at www.hatched.net.nz.

Paul Henman (University of Queensland) (click on the blue URL below)

[Governing Electronically: E-government and the reconfiguration of public administration, policy and power](#) (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010)

...utilizes Foucault's governmentality approach to examine the nature of contemporary, technologically facilitated government. Drawing on six detailed case studies of e-government in welfare, health and taxation, the book demonstrates that information technology is more than just a tool for politicians and policy-makers, but contributes to the very substance and reconfiguration of public administration, public policy, power and citizenship...governmental changes are analysed in terms of networks, risk, speed, complexity, power and citizenship.

Ian Lowe (APSTSN IAB member and Griffith University)

- 'Limits to growth revisited', in R. Manne & D. McKnight [eds], *Goodbye to All That*, Black Inc.;
- 'Climate change will strangle growth if we don't', in B. Gleeson & W. Steele (eds.), *A Climate for Growth*, Uni of Qld Press (with Barry Brook)
- *Why vs Why Nuclear Power*, Pantera Press;
- *A Voice of Reason*, Univ. of Qld Press.

Donnie Maclurcan

Maclurcan, D. (2010) [Social business and the limits to growth](#), The National Times.

Ariel Salleh (University of Sydney)

- (2010) 'Green New Deal - or Globalisation Lite?', *Arena*, 105.
- (2010) 'From Metabolic Rift to Metabolic Value: Reflections on Environmental Sociology and the Alternative Globalization Movement', *Organization & Environment*, 23 (2) 205-219.
- (2010) 'El Movimiento Ecofeminista y la Economia Solidaria', *Veredas*, 2010, 21.
- (2010) Interviewed: 'Embodied Materialism in Action', *Polygraph* (Special Issue on Ecology and Ideology), 22 (in press).
- (2010) 'A Strategy for the Commons', *Journal of Australian Political Economy* (Special Issue on Climate Action), 64 (in press).
- (2009) 'Dług Ekologiczny: Dług Ucielesniony' [Ecological Debt: Embodied Debt], *Biblioteka Online Think Tank Feministycznego*: <www.ekologiasztuka.pl/pdf/f0082salleh2009.pdf>
- (2009) 'Is Our Sustainability Science Racist?' www.abc.net.au/rn/ockhamsrazor/stories/2009/2702106.htm

Sulfikar Amir (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

- 'The State and the Reactor: Nuclear Politics in Post-Suharto Indonesia', *Indonesia* 89: 101-147.
- 'Nuclear Revival in Post-Suharto Indonesia', *Asian Survey* 50(2): 265-286.

CONFERENCES



Posted by Aroha Mead
(APSTSN IAB member)
and CEESP Chair)

Plans for the CEESP Conference, **Sharing Power: A New Vision for Development**, are well advanced. The dates and venue are confirmed, 11-15 January, 2011, Liberty Centre, Whakatane, New Zealand.

It is a multi-disciplinary conference that builds on the vision of, "A world where equity is at the root of a dynamic harmony between people and nature, as well as among peoples. A world of diversity, productivity and integrity of natural systems. A world in which production and consumption patterns are sustainable, and where cultural diversity is intertwined with biological diversity and both generate abundant livelihoods opportunities."

The Conference brings together scientists, economists, indigenous leaders, environmentalists, academics, policy makers in national governments and international agencies, and many others who care about the quality of heritage this generation passes on to future generations. The Conference also focuses on the need for policy and decision makers in Governments and Corporations to accommodate a greater level of inclusion of indigenous peoples and all citizens, in national and international policies on the management and governance of bio-cultural resources, and advocates the rights of mother earth - the planet. It is a partnership between two global organisations/networks - the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic & Social Policy (CEESP), and two Māori (indigenous) organisations, Te Rūnanga O Ngāti Awa (a tribal authority) and Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangī (a tribal university).

Read more...

There will be a limited number of travel grants for international participants. The Call for Contributions and Registrations will be **open mid-June**. For regular updates: www.ceespsharingpower.org

AAHPSSS, July 9-11, 2010

The 2010 AAHPSSS (the Australasian Association for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science) will take place at the University of Sydney, in the Unit for History and Philosophy of Science (New Law School building), July 9-11, 2010. See: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/aahpsss/AAHPSSS2010-conference.html> .

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Donnie Maclurcan is looking for people with STS speaking experience, under the age of 40, who might like to be considered for Australia's first, professional youth speakers' bureau: <http://uthinc.com.au>
Please contact Donnie at: donmaclurcan@gmail.com

CALL FOR PAPERS AND PARTICIPANTS

Ethnographies for a multispecies world (posted by **Thom van Dooren**, University of Technology Sydney)
This special issue of the Ecological Humanities in the *Australian Humanities Review* will bring together a group of papers that explore some of the many possibilities in an emerging field of multispecies ethnography. The core element of multispecies ethnographies is an attempt to take nonhumans seriously, as more than resources or passive backgrounds for human endeavours ... we are seeking papers that represent a definitively *multispecies* approach to ethnography; that take key critters or species as openings into encounter with a host of others, human and not. Our aim is to defamiliarise species and relationships – to complicate the stories we can tell and the stands we can take in our tangled multispecies worlds.

Deadline for submission: 30 November 2010. For further information, see:

<http://www.australianhumanitiesreview.org> / <http://www.ecologicalhumanities.org/ejournal.html>

APSTSN New Zealand–Japan Collaborative Research Meeting on Nano-foods and Deliberative Dialogue, 24 August 2010, Tokyo

Nanotechnology, Food and Deliberative Dialogue: Invitation to contribute to NZ-Japan Collaborative Research Meeting. Members of the APSTN are planning a joint Japan—NZ research meeting in Tokyo on 24 August, 2010 one day prior to the 4S meeting. This will compare recent research on public engagement in nanotechnology, particularly using dialogue. STS researchers from 2-3 research projects in each country will present and share their work. While primarily a bi-lateral meeting, members of the APSTN from other countries with an interest in these issues are very welcome to attend.

If you are currently working in this field in Japan or NZ and would like to contribute, please contact the organisers: Tomiko Yamaguchi tyamaguc@icu.ac.jp or Karen Cronin karen.cronin@esr.cri.nz.

RESEARCH POSITIONS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

HOSEI UNIVERSITY FOREIGN SCHOLARS FELLOWSHIP - JAPAN

Hosei University in Japan is offering 6-12 month visiting research fellowships for PhD students in fields including humanities, social natural sciences and engineering. WHEN: Applications due Friday June 4. SEE: <http://www.hosei.ac.jp/ic/ic-e/> CONTACT: Ms Heidi Piper x28039 <mailto:h.piper@griffith.edu.au>

PLEASE SEND NEWS ITEMS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER TO: r.hindmarsh@griffith.edu.au

FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND ONLINE FORM FOR COLLEAGUES SEE: [APSTSN Website](#)