

# APSTSNetwork News

## Members Newsletter: March 2011

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### FROM THE CONVENOR – *Richard Hindmarsh*

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2011. The exciting news of course is that the 2<sup>nd</sup> **APSTSN Conference organisers** are now calling for papers with the deadline the 1 April, as the only deadline, with abstracts notified of acceptance late April/early May. Our hosts at **Northeastern University, China**, have a fine line-up of keynote speakers, who are profiled in the attached *Conference Newsletter 1*, which we ask you to disseminate. The conference drivers Prof Chen Fan and Dr Ma Huiduan have given excellent support for the APSTSN since the Wellington workshop Nov 2008 that established it. In later floating their interest in holding a conference downstream, talks between our first convenor Karen Cronin and Prof. Chen and Dr Ma led to their announcement at the inaugural APSTSN 2009 Brisbane conference that they would hold the 2011 conference. So here we are. With over 165 members, I look forward to seeing you at the conference, our first one in Asia.



That said, in January on a research trip to **Taiwan** I was also well hosted by the Taiwan STS Society, which came into being about the same time as the APSTSN but with more lead-in time. I was invited to keynote two very interesting workshops on risk communication and governance, and on science communication, and met many Taiwanese STS scholars, with some 20 so far joining the APSTSN. We are very pleased that Professor Chung-hsi Lin, President of the Taiwan STS Society, has accepted our invitation to join the APSTSN International Advisory Board. Thank you for the warm hospitality and to our Taiwanese steering committee member Assoc. Prof. Wen-ling Tu for hosting the visit, and her very helpful group of research assistants who were excellent guides and helpers. On the way home, to Brisbane, I visited **Singapore** with an invitation seminar and also met many STS scholars there, with some, not already members, joining. Thank you also for the warm hospitality and to our Singapore steering committee Assoc. Prof. Cecilia Lim for hosting the visit.

Mid- month, I am a keynote speaker to the 2011 International Symposium on Offshore Wind Energy Technology (Gwangju City, Korea), speaking on policy issues, especially in relation to place, participation and many social and other impacts of offshore wind for better siting procedures. While in **Korea** I am also presenting an invitation seminar at Seoul National University by Prof. Sangook Hong (who I met at the 4S/JSSTS conference), head of the HPS program, with a strong STS contingent.

We are also excited that our first **Philippines** member has joined with some scholars from the STS program at the University of the Philippines interested in attending the 2011 conference. At the same time in Australasia, new members keep steadily joining, so overall, we look to a robust and interesting 2011 in moving towards an increasingly regional character of an Asia-Pacific network.

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### APSTSN STEERING COMMITTEE (SC) NEWS

#### **Dr Nicola Marks** (University of Wollongong): **Communicating Science in Delhi**

In Nicola's capacity as the Australian member of the APSTSN SC, she attended the 11th International Conference on Public Communication of Science and Technology: '**Science Communication without Frontiers**', New Delhi, India 6-10 December 2010 (<http://www.pcst-2010.org/>). Nicola was funded by the National Enabling Technologies Strategy, Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research – DIISR, Australia), which had identified a need for better networking between social scientists engaged mainly in scholarly work on public engagement theory, and science communicators engaged mainly in science communication practice. Nicola was engaged to foster better future communications and collaborations between these two groups.

*Nicola reports:* On 6 December 2011, on a cold and smoky night, I landed at Delhi's Indira Gandhi airport. After a day discovering the hustle and bustle of New and Old Delhi and attempting (very poorly) to haggle with scarf and jewellery vendors, I attended the conference, which was .very

interesting. Delegates came from around the world (including the Asia-Pacific region) and included communication and science PhD students, senior communication practitioners and academics, as well as scientists who had recently started exploring their role in communication. Presentations covered varied topics, ranging from the role of electronic information stations about silk farming in rural India to the changes in participatory practices in European policy. Many papers had a strong focus on education, but some were also concerned with empowerment as well as seeking innovative forms of science communication that deal with feelings as well as facts (through opera for instance).

A number of delegates expressed the need for more theoretically informed science communication and some members of the APSTSN have already been in contact with science communicators, in particular the Australian Science Communicators (ASC) community. The next Public Communication of Science and Technology conference will be Florence, Italy (co-organised by Prof. Massimiano Bucchi) and promises to be extremely enjoyable. In the mean time, those of us interested in public engagement and science communication can work on better links with science communication practitioners.

On another note we plan to release our **APSTSN Strategic Plan** in the very near future for members' discussion and ratification. With so many activities on over the last couple of months this has taken longer than expected for the Steering Committee to process. Hopefully, this will occur before Richard goes to Korea; if not, shortly after his return in late March.

### **TAIWAN NEWS**

*Jeng-Horng Chen (Associate Professor, Dept. of Systems & Naval Mechatronic Eng. & Chief of Collection Division, NCKU Museum) reports—*

The present STS Teaching projects for universities supported by Ministry of Education enter the last year. There are totally eight programs and four courses in eleven universities this year. There will be new 4-year teaching projects supported by Ministry of Education about civil competence. It will support STS related topics in Taiwan. The project office is run by several members of Taiwan STS Association who have been conducting STS teaching project in the past three years, together with a leader from another teaching project. The new project involves some STS related topics, such as professional ethics, science competence, democracy competence, media/communication, and even aesthetics competence. In addition to National Yang Ming University's STS Institute and National Tsing Hua University's STS program in Institute of History, there are several STS-related centers in Taiwan, including National Cheng Kung University's STM Center, National Chiao Tung University's STS Center, National Central University's STS Center, Kaohsiung Medical University's STM Center, and most recently the National Cheng Kung University's STS focus.

### **INDIGENOUS NEWS**

*APSTSN Steering Committee Member Dr Mere Roberts (University of Auckland) reports—*

#### **A. Cross cultural dialogue & decision making workshop**

Rotorua New Zealand 14 December 2010

Several presentations were made at this workshop based on recently completed Government funded projects. One of these investigated Maori perceptions of the effects of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) on culture and traditions. Three reports from this project are available (from [mere.roberts@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:mere.roberts@auckland.ac.nz)) based on each of the objectives:

- (1) identification of key perceived effects of GMO<sup>1</sup>s on Maori;
- (2) the relative importance of these effects across a range of GMO applications;
- (3) development of a framework for incorporating cultural risk assessment and values into a decision making process for use in GMO applications.

Another presentation by Phil Wilcox ([phil.wilcox@scionresearch.com](mailto:phil.wilcox@scionresearch.com)) and Julia Charity of Te Aroturuki, a pan-tribal group of Maori scientists, described a web-based toolkit based on their paper 'A Values-based process for cross cultural dialogue between scientists and Maori', published in the *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand* 38 (3): 215-227).

A third presentation by Maui Hudson (maui@waikato.ac.nz) reported work in progress on developing dialogue principles and processes to facilitate science-indigenous knowledge exchange and innovation. This project (called Te Hau Mihi Ata) involves a team of Maori researchers led by Professor Linda Smith of the University of Waikato.

The final presentation concerned a new project on 'Innovation, risk and decision-making' presented by Karen Cronin (Environmental & Scientific Research; karen.cronin@esr.cri.nz). It aims to identify international best practice for decision-making and how it can be adapted to Aotearoa/NZ to include the integration of cultural and scientific dimensions.

## **B. Indigenous GIS (Geographic Information Systems) workshop**

Kilauea, Hawaii, 7-11 Feb. 2011

The aim of this workshop was to discuss issues relating to current forms of "cultural mapping" and explore possibilities for innovative technological solutions designed to overcome perceived inadequacies. One case study is intended in Australia involving a University/ Indigenous community partnership. (For further information contact mere.roberts@auckland.ac.nz)

## **AUSTRALIA NEWS**

**Alan Petersen** (Prof. Monash University, Australia) was (i) recently appointed to the National Enabling Technologies Strategy Stakeholders Advisory Council, and (ii) offered a 3 year (2011-14) appointment to the Gene Technology Ethics and Community Consultative Committee of the Gene Technology Regulator. This is located in the office of Hon Catherine King, Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Aging. The Committee focuses on ethical, consultation and risk communication issues relating to GMOs.

**Nicola Marks:** The Social Innovations network (University of Wollongong) awarded \$5,000 seed-funding to the *Social aspects of life sciences network* established by Nicola Marks and colleagues from around the university, including David Mercer. The network aims to facilitate interactions between people interested in studying biological or medical sciences using humanities and qualitative approaches.

## **REGIONAL EVENTS**

### **Indian Multidisciplinary Conference on the ELSI of Human Genomic Research**

**Peter Glasner** (Professorial Fellow, Cardiff University, and member of the APSTSN International Advisory Board) was invited to attend a groundbreaking seminar in Bangalore in November 2010 by the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla and the National Institute of Advanced Studies in Bangalore. Seen as a preliminary 'conversation' between Indian scientists, social scientists and ethicists, the focus was on issues and concerns arising from the rapid development of human genomic research in India in recent years. Peter was joined by several other international speakers from Holland (Professor Bijker), South Africa (Dr. Tsotsi), and the US (Professor Glenn) to discuss these issues with leading Indian practitioners, and to facilitate a continuing dialogue under the auspices of NIAS to address a range of growing problems arising from the complexities faced by Indian political, economic, legal and cultural institutions within the global context. Proceedings are expected to be published in leading journals in both the natural and social sciences, and in a conference book, and future meetings are being planned.



**Workshop on "ASIAN BIPOLEIS: Biotechnology and Biomedicine as Emergent Forms of Life and Practice" at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore: 6-8 January 2011**

Singapore and the Asian region are currently at the epicentre of developments in biotech/science/medicine with new and newly developed science centres being embedded within the ever-encroaching sprawl of urban space. With dramatic population and economic growth in the region these trajectories promise to have global impact and offer a fertile research area for STS researchers. Such developments indeed provoke new questions about the historical trajectories, policy impact and features of such centres, questions dealt with at the recent workshop ASIAN BIPOLEIS: Biotechnology and Biomedicine as Emergent Forms of Life and Practice. The workshop was the first of three under a three-year project of the same name funded by the Ministry of Education (Singapore) and National University of Singapore (NUS) grants.

ASIAN BIPOLEIS was co-organised by the Asia Research Institute STS Research Cluster and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences STS Cluster, both at NUS. Over fifty local and regional scholars participated and the workshop attracted twenty-one presentations and seventeen full draft papers centred on biotechnology, bioscience and biomedicine in Singapore and the Asian region. The workshop paper sessions reflected the interdisciplinary and regional convergences of the project, with contributions from Singapore, China, India, Japan, Korea, Thailand and Vietnam from STS scholars specialising in anthropology, computing, critical theory, design, history, philosophy and sociology. The third day of the workshop, a panel session, was held at the Genome Institute of Singapore reflecting ongoing engagement with Asian labs and institutes through the project. The work presented will be reported in special issues or sections of three leading journals to be published in 2011 and 2012.

For more information on the project visit: <http://www.asianbiopoleis.com>.

### **MEMBER PUBLICATIONS**

**Ayre, Margaret** and Verran, H. 2010, 'Managing Ontological Tensions in Learning to be an Aboriginal Ranger: Inductions into a Strategic Cross-Cultural Knowledge Community', *Learning Communities: International Journal of Learning in Social Contexts*, 1, 2-18. Online at: [http://www.cdu.edu.au/centres/spil/journal/LC\\_JournalVol1\\_2010.pdf](http://www.cdu.edu.au/centres/spil/journal/LC_JournalVol1_2010.pdf)

**Ayre, Margaret** 2010. 'What is an innovation learning community?', *Learning Communities: International Journal of Learning in Social Contexts*, 2, 115-124, Online at: [http://www.cdu.edu.au/centres/spil/journal/LC\\_Journal\\_Issue2\\_2010.pdf](http://www.cdu.edu.au/centres/spil/journal/LC_Journal_Issue2_2010.pdf)

**Harris, Anna** 2011. In a moment of mismatch: Overseas doctors' adjustments in new hospital environments. *Sociology of Health and Illness* 33 (2) (*Early View*)

**Kera, Denisa** 2010. Bionetworking over DNA and biosocial interfaces: Connecting policy and design, *Genomics, Society and Policy* 6(1): 48-61. See: <http://www.hss.ed.ac.uk/genomics/V6N1/Keraabstract.html>

**FIRST SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUE FROM THE APSTSN NETWORK**  
(from the late Nov. Victoria University of Wellington 2008 workshop)



East Asian Science, Technology and Society: An International Journal

Volume 4, Number 4, 2010

An issue on Engaging Publics /Engaging Science in Australia, Japan and New Zealand  
Guest Editors: Richard Hindmarsh, Rosemary Du Plessis and Karen Cronin

**Introduction**

**Engaging Across Boundaries—Emerging Practices in ‘Technical Democracy’**  
Rosemary Du Plessis, Richard Hindmarsh, and Karen Cronin 475

**Discussing Nascent Technologies: Citizens Confront Nanotechnology in Food**  
Tomiko Yamaguchi 483

**The “Citizen Scientist”: Reflections on the Public Role of Scientists in Response to Emerging Biotechnologies in New Zealand**  
Karen Cronin 503

**Difficult Data: Boundary Dynamics, Public Engagement and Bridging Technologies in a Science/Policy Controversy**  
Virginia Baker, Jefferson Fowles, and David Phillips 521

**Wind Farms and Community Engagement in Australia: A Critical Analysis for Policy Learning**  
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**Many Minds, Common Sense and Genetically Modified Food: A Role for Q Methodology**  
Amanda Wolf 565

**Facilitating Public Participation in Toxic Waste Management Through Engaging ‘The Object of Politics’**  
Stephen Anthony Healy 585

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Tomiko Yamaguchi: International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan

Virginia Baker: Environmental Science and Research, Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand

Jefferson Fowles: LyondellBassel Industries, Rotterdam, Netherlands

David Phillips: Care Trust, Dorset, UK

Amanda Wolf: Victoria University of Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand

Stephen Healy: University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

**REVIEWS**

Wyatt, D. 2010. Book Review: *Genetic Suspects: Global Governance of Forensic DNA Profiling and Databasing* **Richard Hindmarsh** & Barbara Prainsack (eds.) Cambridge University Press 2010: *Genomics, Society and Policy* 6(1): 73-77. See:  
<http://www.hss.ed.ac.uk/genomics/documents/Wyattbookreviewfinal.pdf>

**CONFERENCES**

**The 3rd Annual meeting of Taiwan Science, Technology and Society Association**

National Yang Ming University, Taipei, Taiwan, May 21 and 22.

The main topic is *Civil Competence of Science and Technology in a Risk Society*

Topics submitted so far include medical care policy, environmental policy, proper technology, expert and lay knowledge: For more details see: [www.tw-sts.org](http://www.tw-sts.org)

**The 1st STS-Ocean-Industry Conference**

STS Center in College of Ocean Engineering

National Kaohsiung Maritime University (NKMU)

Kaohsiung City, Taiwan 10 June 2011.

Abstract deadline: **13 March, 2011**

Contact: Dr Wen-ling Hong: [wlhong@mail.nkmu.edu.tw](mailto:wlhong@mail.nkmu.edu.tw)

### ANT-E Call for abstracts

To support a thematic session for the Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Conference 2-5 November, 2011 Cleveland OH

In December 2010, at the invitation of Thomas Berker and NUST, a small group of researchers, from around the world, gathered in the winter wonderland of Trondheim Norway, to share a passion for Actor-Network Theory and the usefulness and insights it can provide to understanding the many facets of 'Energy'. And so it was that ANT-E was formed. You are invited to submit an abstract for a paper to support the ANT-E session proposal "Energy, energy, energy: Production, systems, consumption and alternatives – it's all about [actor] networks!". Abstracts should be written around one of the themes of the attached proposal as follows: Transmission and mediation; Transformation; Distribution. Selected abstracts will be used to accompany the session proposal to be submitted to 4S by **31 March 2011**.

Abstracts should be 250 words and generally comply with 4S guidelines. Please identify the intended theme of your paper and email to [graham.j.lucas@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:graham.j.lucas@newcastle.edu.au). Abstracts will be reviewed by ANT-E and we will keep selected papers up to date with the proposal submission.

**Theme 1: Focus on transmission and mediation** From raw materials through to the production and generation of energy and energy systems, actor-network theory readily lends itself to the study of energy systems as a translational linked process. The role of many nodes in the network which are traditionally viewed as intermediaries may now be viewed as active mediators exerting influence on network development.

**Theme 2: Transformation** ANT allows a unique interpretation of how links are established, stabilised, destabilised and perhaps under some circumstances destroyed and replaced by new ones. This theme focuses on the construction and transformation of current networks as well as those of newer "alternative" networks (e.g. renewable energy, electric and non-traditional fuel vehicles, distributed generation, community and off-grid power).

**Theme 3: Distribution** Beginning from a purist scientific assumption that energy cannot be 'produced' or 'consumed' but only 'transformed', the seemingly clear-cut division between production, distribution and consumption of energy dissolves into a chain of transformations. How can historical, sociological and cultural analyses of energy production and consumption incorporate this observation?

### STUDENT PRIZES

**2011 National Museum of Australia Student Prize for History of Australian Science or Australian Environmental History**



The National Museum of Australia and the Australian Academy of Science through its National Committee for History and Philosophy of Science **invite submissions** for the 2011 National Museum of Australia Student Prize for the History of Australian Science or Australian Environmental History.

The prize will be awarded for an essay based on original unpublished research undertaken whilst enrolled as a student (postgraduate or undergraduate) at any tertiary educational institution in the world.

The Prize will be a certificate and \$2,500: Closing date for submissions: Friday **25 March 2011**.

See: <http://ceh.environmentalhistory-au-nz.org/2010/09/national-museum-of-australia-student-prize-2011/>

## AUSTRALIAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM: SCIENCE TO POLICY

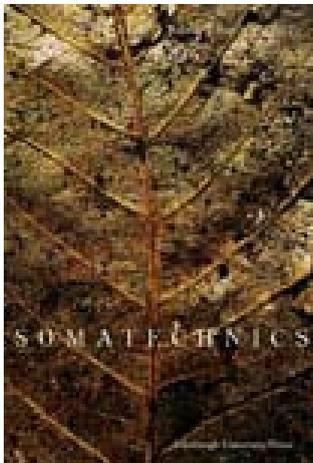
### Peter Cullen Trust Leadership Program 2011 - Call for Applications (Australia)

After a highly successful inaugural 2010 Leadership Program, the Peter Cullen Water & Environment Trust is proud to announce that **the 2011 Science to Policy Leadership Program is now open for applications**. This Program focuses on building leadership and communication skills specifically geared to bringing about positive change in water management in Australia. The program selects attendees who are highly motivated, knowledgeable and skilled people who can continue the work of Peter Cullen.

The 2011 *Science to Policy* Leadership Program is comprised of two hands-on sessions, consisting of experiential learning. These focus on developing leadership and communication skills that will enable river and catchment scientists, policy makers and other key stakeholders to effectively participate in, and influence, policy and political agendas.

Download the application pack from [www.petercullentrust.com.au](http://www.petercullentrust.com.au). **Applications must be received by 5pm: 31 March 2011.**

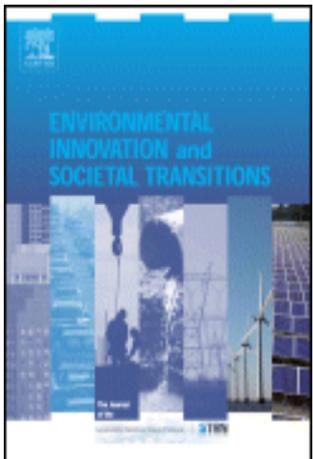
## NEW JOURNALS



*Somatechnics* presents thoroughly multi-disciplinary scholarship on the body, providing a space for research that critically engages with the ethico-political implications of a wide range of practices and techniques. The term 'somatechnics' indicates an approach to corporeality which considers it as always already bound up with a variety of technologies, techniques and technics, thus enabling an examination of the lived experiences engendered within a given context, and the effects that technologies, technics and techniques have on embodiment, subjectivity and sociality.

*Somatechnics* seeks contributions that present innovative examinations of the interplay between bodily being and the technological context in which it occurs. The journal publishes articles and special issues on topics such as the (soma)technics of racialization, 'terror', movement, spatialization, size(ing), reproduction, consumption, gender, medicine, information, gaming, film, nation, globalization, ecology, bioscience, law, sexuality, family, education, health, visibility and ancestry.

See: <http://www.eupublishing.com/journal/soma>



The journal offers a platform for reporting studies of innovations and socio-economic transitions to enhance an environmentally sustainable economy and thus solve structural resource scarcity and environmental problems, notably related to fossil energy use and climate change. This involves attention for technological, organizational, economic, institutional and political innovations as well as economy-wide and sector changes, such as in the areas of energy, transport, agriculture and water management. The journal aims to tackle the most difficult questions, dealing with social, economic, behavioural-psychological and political barriers and opportunities as well as their complex interaction. The journal is multidisciplinary in spirit and methodologically open, and invites contributions from a broad range of disciplines within the social, environmental and innovation sciences.

See: [http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws\\_home/724359/description#](http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/724359/description#)

## RESEARCH POSITIONS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

### Postdoctoral Fellowships 2011 - Nanyang Technological University

Deadline: 31 March 2011

<http://cohass.ntu.edu.sg/Research/postdoctoral/Pages/Information.aspx>

The College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, invites applications for up to 12 postdoctoral fellowships for the Academic Year 2011. The College comprises 3 Schools: Humanities and Social Sciences; Art, Design, and Media; and Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information.

This year, up to 9 fellowships will be available at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Areas include: History - History of Science, Technology, Medicine and Business: Cross-disciplinary research on the history of science, technology, and medicine, and/or business history, particularly in the context of modern and contemporary Asia. Supervisor: Prof Liu Hong

Please contact: School of Humanities and Social Sciences: Associate Professor Rebecca Ang, Associate Chair (Research) Email: VD-HSS-RES@ntu.edu.sg Tel: (65) 6316-8733

### National University of Singapore - 3-month Visiting (Senior) Research Fellowships

Deadline: April 01 2011

[https://www.h-net.org/jobs/job\\_display.php?id=42175](https://www.h-net.org/jobs/job_display.php?id=42175)

Applications are invited for 3-month Visiting (Senior) Research Fellowships at the Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore to commence in October 2011, January and April 2012. Interested applicants should have at least a PhD with a few years of postdoctoral research experience. Applicants are invited to indicate which of the ARI clusters they would like to be affiliated with. Areas of Research Focus include:

The **Science, Technology, and Society** cluster explores techno-scientific institutions, practices, and knowledge-making regimes within Asian societies and cultures. The newest of the ARI research clusters, and thus still building critical mass, we are particularly interested in topics relating to biotechnology/bioscience/ biomedicine and society; interactive and digital media; Asian techno-scientific cultures; interactions between Asian sites or projects and those elsewhere, and science & technology policy. By "Asia" we mean South, East, and Southeast Asia, but are particularly interested in projects with the potential to cross these sub-regional boundaries. Methodologically we are open to a range of approaches, including historical, sociological, anthropological, geographical, and media or cultural studies based initiatives.

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**PLEASE SEND NEWS ITEMS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER TO: [r.hindmarsh@griffith.edu.au](mailto:r.hindmarsh@griffith.edu.au)**

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