

ASIA-PACIFIC STS NETWORK (APSTSN)

Members Newsletter: January-March 2010

FROM THE CONVENOR – RICHARD HINDMARSH

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2010. Thankyou again to those who participated in the inaugural conference — *Our Lands, Waters, Our Peoples* — in Brisbane 23-25 November 2009 to make it very successful as our first major event bringing together members of Asia-Pacific STS communities (in Australasia, East and Southeast Asia, and the Oceania). A conference report was posted out recently, but if you missed it, you can find it under 'Network News' at the APSTSN website at www.esr.cri.nz/AsiaPacificSTSNetwork. Again, thanks to the ESR for hosting the APSTSN website.

As an addendum to the conference report, in addition to the two **special journal issues** underway generated by the conference:

- 'Transitioning toward sustainable water futures in Australasia: the role of social knowledges in socio-technical change', *International Journal of Water*, (editors and contributors Richard Hindmarsh, Dena Fam and Cynthia Mitchell; other contributors include Bob Frame and Shona Russell; Benita Wakefield and Tai Stirling; Kumi Abeysuria; Brent Collett, Ruth Nettle and Mark Paine; Betsan Martin, Tabatha Wallington, Cathy Robinson and Brian Head; and, Nicole Thornton, Jo Chong and Andrea Turner.
- *New Genetics and Society* Special Indigenous Edition – 'Our Land, Our Waters, Our People' (editor Jessica Hutchings, *New Genetics and Society*, including Debra Harry, Maui Hudson, Annabel Ahuriri-Driscoll, Karen Cronin, Paul Reynolds, Mahina-a-rangi Baker, Linda Smith, Sarah-Jane Tiakiwai, Mere Roberts, and Murray Hemi
- Another is now being canvassed, tentatively called: 'Digitisation and the reconfiguration or transformation of existing knowledge systems'. Christopher Rowe is exploring possibilities.

Since the conference our membership has grown from 86 to 116, and looks set to steadily grow.

Since becoming Convenor in December 2009 alongside Tomiko Yamaguchi as Co-Convenor, we have been busy organising a number of APSTSN activities, including four accepted sessions to the 2010 4S conference in Tokyo; workshops before and after the conference; a new Steering Committee (SC) and a new International Advisory Board (IAB). In addition, our past (and first) Convenor (and co-founder) Karen Cronin (who is now an IAB member) organised, with Bob Frame, an APSTSN workshop on climate change and sustainability science in Wellington, NZ, on the 8 March, which followed on from the Brisbane conference panel on the same topic.

Sadly, we also lost Bevan Tipene-Matua in a tragic diving accident, and again, following the commemoration notice sent out to members by email on 18 March, we send our condolences to his family and acknowledge Bevan's very valuable contribution to the APSTSN and note his many friendships with APSTSN members.

Our news items are now detailed.

APSTSN STEERING COMMITTEE 2010

CHAIR: Richard Hindmarsh, Griffith School of Environment, Griffith Univ., Australia (APSTSN Convenor)

DEPUTY CHAIR: Tomiko Yamaguchi, Dept of Sociology and Anthropology, International Christian University, Japan (APSTSN Co-convenor)

APSTSN COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Haidan Chen, Center for Science, Technology and Society, Zhejiang University, China

Bob Frame, Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd, Lincoln, Aotearoa New Zealand

Cecilia Lim, Dept of Philosophy, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Nicola Marks, School of English Literatures and Philosophy, University of Wollongong, Australia

Wen-ling Tu, Dept of Public Policy and Management, Shih-Hsin University, Taiwan

Tomiko Yamaguchi, Dept of Sociology and Anthropology, International Christian University, Japan

APSTSN INDIGENOUS REPRESENTATIVE

Mere Roberts, University of Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Fan Chen, Professor and Director of the Research Center for Science, Technology and Society, Northeastern University, China; President of the Chinese Association for Science, Technology and Society

Karen Cronin, Science Leader (Science, Technology and Society), Environmental Science and Research, Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand

Peter Glasner, Professorial Research Fellow, Cesagen, Cardiff University, United Kingdom

Herbert Gottweis, Professor, Dept of Political Science, University of Vienna, Austria; Director, Life-Science-Governance Research Platform

Venni Krishna, Professor, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore; Science Policy, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Ian Lowe, Emeritus Professor, STS, School of Science, Griffith University, Australia; President of the Australian Conservation Foundation

Aroha Te Pareake Mead, Chair IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy; Poukairangi (Rangahau), Associate Dean (Maori Research), Victoria University of Wellington, Aotearoa NZ

Hideto Nakajima, Professor, Dept of History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Science & Technology, Tokyo Institute of Technology; President of the Japanese Society for Science and Technology Studies

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY EVENT, WELLINGTON, AOTEAROA NZ 8 MARCH 2010

*A brief report by **Karen Cronin** as part of her thanks to the participants and sponsors.*

Kia ora, I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in the workshop we held yesterday in Wellington, and in particular to thank our speakers for their contributions. I would also like to acknowledge our sponsors in Landcare Research and ESR. Thanks also to the Climate Change Research Institute at Victoria University of Wellington for your valued support.

We had a very interesting day with over 50 participants from business, government and science. There were a number of extra people who wanted to come or who asked us to run this as a video conference around NZ or repeat it in Auckland! All the presentations are being loaded on to the Asia Pacific STS Network website now and should be up now. See www.esr.cri.nz/asiapacificistsnetwork. Thanks to Christine Jenca and Virginia Baker from ESR for all their work in organising this event.

The Science Media Centre arranged an online media briefing this morning, in which our keynote speaker Prof Ian Lowe [and I] presented short versions of our papers yesterday. Then there was a very interesting discussion with journalists from around the country on the issues of climate science, risk fatigue, public perception, business and science, science and policy and social change. We managed to bring in many of the points made by other speakers at the workshop too! You can listen to this on line at:

<http://www.sciencemediacentre.co.nz/2010/03/09/climate-change-and-risk-fatigue-what-can-science-do/>

We wanted this event to be a forum to look at the wider landscape of climate change research and sustainability science - and to encourage future discussion. One such initiative is already being planned by the NZ Climate Change Centre, managed from NIWA (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research), to focus on social science and climate change. We look forward to supporting that and to continuing the focus on how social scientists and biophysical scientists can work together.

We designed this event to be an STS workshop – looking at science and technology in its social context. In that regard, I think we had a very successful discussion and it was a boost for our newly established Asia Pacific STS Network. So thank you again for your support. Please do have a listen to the audio clips on the SMC website. And do come back to me if you have any further thoughts on what we have achieved and where we need to go next.

2010 APSTSN MEETING

The 2010 APSTSN meeting is being held at the 35TH 4S Annual Meeting 25-29 August 4S 'STS in Global Context' (jointly held with the Japanese Society for Science and Technology Studies)

The APSTSN will be holding an APSTSN dinner (separate to the 4S Conference dinner) and a business meeting, in addition to its four sessions now accepted (on 5 April).

Postgraduate travel grants: are available to apply for at: http://www.4sonline.org/meeting/travel_grants

The four sessions and participants (presenters' details only) are:

Engaging Publics/Engaging Technoscience in the Asia-Pacific region I: Environmental Sustainability Transitions

Chairs: Richard Hindmarsh and Wen-ling Tu

- Public engagement in high-tech development: A critical review on technoscience governance in Taiwan; Wen-ling Tu, Shih-Hsin University, Taiwan
- Myth management: Sustainability technologies in New Zealand; Bob Frame (Landcare NZ), Alison Collins, Shona Russell, Alison Greenaway
- Addressing conflict, legitimacy and community engagement around wind energy and environmental sustainability transitions in Australia; Richard Hindmarsh, Griffith University, Australia
- Public participation in solid waste disposal: A comparative study of two case studies in China; Huiduan Ma, Fan Chen, Northeastern University, China

Engaging Publics/Engaging Technoscience in the Asia-Pacific Region II: Indigenous Knowledges

Chair: Jessica Hutchings

- The in-between: Subjectivities, identity and positioning of Maori scientists in Maori knowledge traditions; Sarah-Jane Tiakiwai (University of Waikato, New Zealand), Linda Smith, Maui Hudson, Murray Hemi, Mere Roberts
- Supergrans and nanoflowers: reconstituting images of gender and race in the promotion of biotechnology and nanotechnology in Aotearoa New Zealand; Jessica Hutchings, New Zealand Council of Educational Research, Karen Cronin
- After 'geopiracy': New paths for confronting the challenges posed by the digital merge of scientific and traditional knowledges; Oscar A. Forero, Cesagen, UK
- Koia i piri, Koia i mau ART values of ngŷrara and GE risk analysis; Mahinarangi Baker, Ngati Raukawa, Te Ati Awa and Ngati Toa, New Zealand.

Engaging Publics/Engaging Technoscience in the Asia-Pacific Region III: Techno-Life Sciences

Chairs: Tomiko Yamaguchi and Karen Cronin

- Greater control or no control of nutritional choices: Food safety debates on functional foods; Tomiko Yamaguchi, International Christian University, Japan
- Localities and temporalities in stem cell research: Dynamics of expectation in the UK and Australia; Nicola Marks, University of Wollongong, Australia
- Professionalization and globalization of synthetic biology: Images, rhetoric and cross cultural challenges; David Mercer, University of Wollongong, Australia
- Engaging the public's imagination: Fantasy in the media within the Australian stem cell/cloning debate; Casimir Macgregor, Macquarie University, Australia
- Bounders, boundary riders and unbounded liberals: Towards a typology of scientists' practices of engagement with society; Karen Cronin, Environmental Science and Research, New Zealand

Local and Shared Knowledges at the Intersection of Science, Technology and Environment

Chair: Tabatha Wallington

- Shared knowledge for shared responsibility? Civic epistemology and the new political spaces of environmental governance in Australia; Tabatha Wallington, Cathy J. Robinson and Bruce Taylor, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Australia
- Green energy localized: The innovation of local knowledge in the case of micro hydro power system in Taiwan; Hung-Jen Yang, National Yang-Ming University, Taiwan
- Democratic potentials of UN climate change conference host government websites?; Catherine Candano, National University of Singapore
- Getting to zero: 100% renewable energy by 2020; Adam Lucas, University of Wollongong, Australia

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 A fuller outline of the workshop is attached.

APSTSN AUSTRALIA–JAPAN WORKSHOP POLITICS OF LIFE AND PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP 30-31 AUGUST 2010, TOKYO

This workshop follows the 4S meeting and is an initiative of Richard Hindmarsh and Tomiko Yamaguchi as the organisers. It is placed within the broader project: **'The politics of life: science, technology, citizenship?'** The project was formulated at the formative workshop meeting December 2008, Victoria University at Wellington, that saw the APSTSN established. It follows collegial interest in undertaking a 'west-east' cross-cultural comparative investigation on the possibilities of, and constraints on, citizens' involvement in 'steering' what new technologies and scientific innovations are developed, how they are used, why and when, and especially focuses on analysis and understandings of emergent practices for public engagement and civic inclusion in debate, risk management and decision-making.

It builds on an earlier Australia-NZ special journal issue project (published in *New Genetics and Society*, September 2008) organised by Richard and Rosemary Du Plessis that specifically looked at the life sciences, which, in turn, was informed by the **'politics of life'** concept that refers to technology fields and scientific innovations that lie in a conjunction of dynamic policy areas defining the manipulation or reordering of life, which are controversial and where traditional governance is under increasing challenge, such as energy, environment, health, agrifood, health and the life sciences.

It is hoped this initiative leads to a **broader Asia-Pacific discussion** facilitated by the APSTSN. The initial bilateral focus became especially firmed up with the discovery of a funding support available through the Australia-Japan Foundation (AJF, which only funds Australian and Japanese researchers) that was available to apply for workshop costs. Our application also applies for a second workshop in Brisbane in early 2011. To improve the chances of funding success from the AJF contribution was also sought from the organisers' institutions. We received support to cover accommodation and catering from the Social Science Research Institute, International Christian University, Tokyo, and the Centre for Governance and Public Policy Griffith University, Brisbane. In addition, we entered into the stiff competition for a grant from Japan's premier science funding agency, the **Japan Society for the Promotion of Science**, and subsequently won a prestigious JSPS Invitation Fellowship for Research in Japan (short-term) which fully-funds Richard to visit Tomiko's institution for a two-week research stint which includes the workshop as a key component.

The selected participants and their working titles (with some also being presented at 4S) are:

Japan

Tomiko Yamaguchi (International Christian University, Tokyo): Greater control or no control of nutritional choices: Food safety debates on functional foods

Go Yoshizawa (University of Tokyo): New technology assessment

Aiko Hibini (University of Tokyo): Interpreting 'don't know' answers in a questionnaire survey on public perceptions of biotechnology

Nozomi Mizushima (University of Tokyo): Ethics consultation in the midstream: Implications for science governance from 'within'

Australia

Richard Hindmarsh (Griffith University, Brisbane): Addressing conflict, legitimacy and community engagement around wind energy and environmental sustainability transitions

Tabatha Wallington (CSIRO, Brisbane): Shared knowledge for shared responsibility? Civic epistemology and the new political spaces of environmental governance in Australia

Mark Stranger (University of Tasmania): Tasmania: island, state, biobank

Peta Cook (University of Tasmania): Should we proceed? An analysis of the Australian public consultation documents on xenotransplantation

Kate Seear (Monash University): Exploring public engagement strategies in nanotechnologies

Anni Dugdale (University of Canberra): Patient organisations and consumer health organisations in an era of techno-citizenship

OTHER NEWS

RECENT OR FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Yamaguchi, T. & Suda, F. Changing social order and the quest for justification: GMO controversies in Japan, *Science Technology Human Values* Online First, published 27 October, 2009, forthcoming in 2010 in print.

Yamaguchi, T. & Hibino, A. (eds.) 2009. *Emerging Technology: Sociological Approaches to Frontiers in Science and Technology* [published in Japanese; *Houga suru Kagaku-Gijyutsu; Sentan Kagaku-Gijyutsu eno Shakaigakuteki Approach*]. Kyoto, Japan: Kyoto University Press.

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Anne Parkinson was awarded her PhD (March 2010, supervisors Richard Hindmarsh and Jo-Anne Ferreira, Griffith School of Environment, Griffith University, Australia)

THE LOST STAKEHOLDER: A Case Study of Risk and Trust Perceptions held by Canola Farmers in NSW and the Implications for Policy Making in the Area of Biotechnology, Environment and Agriculture

The argument of this thesis is that Australian farmers as central stakeholders in the genetically modified (GM) crop debate have to date been inappropriately marginalised throughout the policy process, and need to be better included for reasons of 'good governance' and better policy outcomes. This argument reflects the view that current GM policy in relation to agriculture is not reflexive or inclusive enough, with government increasingly confronted by a crisis of legitimacy as a result of growing public mistrust. As a consequence, the case is made for GM policy and regulatory process to better adhere to democratic ideals of inclusion in Australian policy making, especially with regard to controversial issues of high risk and hazard. That position would incorporate active and inclusive public participation, address risk and trust more coherently, and recognise farmers as valuable stakeholders in such decision-making.

CONFERENCES

EPIC conference taking place after 4S annual meeting in Tokyo

Extend your stay in Tokyo and attend EPIC 2010, August 29-September 1. EPIC is the premier international forum bringing together artists, computer scientists, designers, social scientists, marketers, academics and advertisers - and others! - to discuss recent developments and future advances around ethnographic praxis. Find more information under Events below, or the full call for papers, visit

<http://www.epiconference.com/epic2010>.

SHARING POWER: A NEW DEVELOPMENT PARADIGM

January 2011, Whakatane, New Zealand

www.ceespsharingpower.org

POSITIONS

A casual Research Assistant position is open in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Technology Sydney. The ideal applicant will have some experience as an RA, and background knowledge or interest in one or more of the following (1) molecular biology, biotechnology, environmental science or related field; (2) political economy or ecological economics especially in relation to biotechnology and 'sustainability'; (3) Science and technology studies.

This project will appraise current visions of 'the emerging bioeconomy'. It will analyse the foregrounding of commercial biotechnology as a new frontier of economic growth and as the agent of bioeconomic transformation for ecological reform, and the claim that life itself must be profoundly transformed, engineered and commercialised at the molecular scale, in order that life at the ecosystemic and biospheric scale can be maintained. The centrality of biofuels and biomass inputs to the bioeconomy invites analysis of the global biophysical flows of the bioeconomy, i.e. the conflicting demand on land for Northern energy security vs. Southern food security. The research will evaluate the politics of these transformations. Contact: Jeremy Walker: jeremy.walker@uts.edu.au

PLEASE SEND NEWS ITEMS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IN 2-3 MONTHS TIME TO:

r.hindmarsh@griffith.edu.au