

APSTSNetwork News

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER: JUNE - JULY 2010

The Newsletter of the Asia-Pacific Science, Technology and Society Network
[www.esr.cri.nz/AsiaPacificSTSNetwork]

This issue offers another news blockbuster from members around the region. It's great to see the newsletter content growing and to read all the news, reinforcing the benefits of the APSTSN. The immediate big event for about 40 of us is the upcoming 4S conference: 'STS in Global Contexts' which well invites our APSTSN panel of 3 sessions (sessions 125, 145, 166) on *Engaging Publics/Engaging Technoscience in the Asia-Pacific Region*, the associated session chaired by Tabatha Wallington on *Local and Shared Knowledges at the Intersection of Science, Technology and Environment*, and many individual APSTSN papers and organised sessions.

We look forward to seeing members at the **APSTSN dinner and business meeting**, during which we will also formally announce the 4S New Initiatives grant we have received for our network project **Mapping STS in the Asia-Pacific: Building Regional Research Capacity**, and hear about next year's 2nd APSTSN Conference being held in China. I encourage you to attend our sessions and members' individual presentations and sessions.

We also have a revamped committee. The APSTSN Conference Coordination committee (CCC) replaces the previous 'events subcommittee' and reflects more its purpose in planning and helping plan the APSTSN annual conference where the host organiser is not a member of the Steering Committee (SC). Members are drawn from the SC, with the Co-Convenor chairing the CCC. Current membership is: Tomiko Yamaguchi (chair and Japan); Richard Hindmarsh (Australia), Haidan Chen (China), Cecilia Lim (Singapore), Mere Roberts (Indigenous), and Wen-ling Tu (Taiwan). As part of facilitating the hosting of APSTSN conferences, the CCC has developed a booklet on APSTSN Conference guidelines

—*from the Convenor, Richard Hindmarsh*

2010 4S CONFERENCE UPDATE

For 4S Attendees

4S APSTSN dinner

The dinner is being held on Thursday night 26 August from 7:30 at a casual dining restaurant in Shibuya District (two stations away from the conference venue: 5-10mins). The dinner is self pay and of reasonable cost. Once we have the approximate number of attendees we will issue the details of where to meet or to go individually to the venue.

Please **RSVP by noon 19 August to Ms. Yasuyo Soyama: soyama@nt.icu.ac.jp**

4S APSTSN Business Meeting

Session 230, Saturday 28 August, 3-4.30pm Building 5/ 516: please put this in your diary!

SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUES: APSTSN PRESENTATIONS AT 4S

Within 4 weeks after 4S we'll be issuing a call for abstracts from presenters at the three APSTSN 4S sessions *Engaging Publics/ Engaging Technoscience in the Asia-Pacific Region* ([sessions 125, 145, 166](#)); and the associated *Local and Shared Knowledges at the Intersection of Science, Technology and Environment* ([session 123](#)), and any individual APSTSN papers being presented that might fit our existing summaries, which will be reworked along the same lines, for x number of special journal issues dependent on response and suitability of abstracts. High profile international journals will be targeted (for the summaries, see [program with abstracts and sessions](#)). In the first instance, editors will be drawn from the above session chairs.

UPDATED APSTSN MEMBER NOTIFICATIONS OF PRESENTATIONS: (SEE [program with abstracts and sessions](#))

Anna Harris (U.of Melbourne) *Overseas doctors in Australian hospitals: negotiating degrees of difference* ([session 126](#))

Margaret Boulos (University of Sydney) *Good eggs: young women as 'ideal' donors for stem cell research* ([session 171](#))

Kuei Tien Chou (National Taiwan University) Panel organiser: *Technology, Environment and Health Risk Governance I, II, and III* ([sessions 013, 033 and 053](#))

Stephen Healy (University of NSW) Session organiser: *Toxic Relationships? Science, Community, State in East Asia – the case of Hazardous Pollution & Waste* ([session 064](#))

[Session 066](#) *Stem cell and reproductive tourism* is chaired by Catherine Waldby (U. of Sydney) and has papers featuring:

Catherine Waldby Fertility Outsourcing: Assisted Reproductive Technology and Global Precarious Labour

Haidan Chen (Zhejiang U.), **Herbert Gottweis** (U. Vienna): *Stem Cell Treatments in China, Web 2.0, & the Ethics of Despair*
Peter Glasner (Cesagen, Cardiff U.): *Stem Cell Tourism and the Global Bioeconomy*

PRE-4S CONFERENCE EVENT

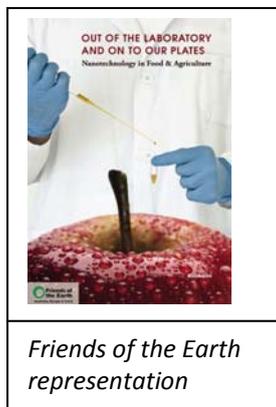
Karen Cronin reports:

Strong interest in Japan- NZ STS collaboration on nano dialogue and future food technologies

Japanese and NZ STS researchers are meeting in Tokyo on 24 August 2010 [one day prior to 4S] to share their experiences in using dialogue methods to engage scientists, policy makers and the public around future food technologies. Organised by **Tomiko Yamaguchi** and **Karen Cronin**, the workshop will feature 4 Japanese and 3 NZ presentations and provides a unique opportunity for sharing knowledge about STS strategies used to date for biotech and nanotech engagement, and developing new methods for future engagement projects. To see a copy of the programme, visit:

www.esr.cri.nz/asiapacificstsnetwork <<http://www.esr.cri.nz/asiapacificstsnetwork>

The workshop, open to Network members in both countries and the wider region, encourages cross-country research and professional networking. Total registration is limited to 25 participants: **a few places remain**. If interested in attending please contact Tomiko Yamaguchi at: tyamaguc@icu.ac.jp



The organisers hope that this event will lead to a fuller Japan-NZ research collaboration in the coming 2-3 years. Some initial funding has already been received from the International Science and Technology Linkages Fund [ISAT] administered by the NZ Royal Society. The workshop is also supported by the host institution: International Christian University, Tokyo, and UNESCO Bangkok.

POST-4S CONFERENCE EVENT

Richard Hindmarsh and Tomiko Yamaguchi report:

Updates for workshop *Politics of Life: Science, Technology, Citizenship?*

Some titles have changed and the line-up has changed a little due to a couple of members having unexpected difficulties in attending:

Japan

Tomiko Yamaguchi (International Christian U., Tokyo): *Greater control or no control of nutritional choices: Safety controversies on functional foods*

Go Yoshizawa (U. of Tokyo): *New technology assessment*
Aiko Hibini (U. of Tokyo): *Interpreting 'don't know' answers in a questionnaire survey on public perceptions of biotechnology*

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

Koichi Mikami (Graduate U. for Advanced Studies): *Configuring readers? Science communications in Japanese stem cell science*

Australia

Richard Hindmarsh (Griffith U.): *'Deep redesign' of the public inquiry for new modes of science, technology and environmental governance: Australian GM and wind farm reviews point the way*

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

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

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

Nicola Marks (U. of Wollongong): *Performances of scientific citizenship? Analysing Australian stem cell researchers' discourses*

Interesting quotes corner

Soon silence will have passed into legend. Man has turned his back on silence. Day after day he invents machines and devices that increase noise and distract humanity from the essence of life, contemplation, meditation...tooting, howling, screeching, booming, crashing, whistling, grinding, and trilling bolster his ego. His anxiety subsides. His inhuman void spreads monstrosly like a grey vegetation. ~Jean Arp

Technology presumes there's just one right way to do things and there never is. ~Robert M. Pirsig

Technological progress has merely provided us with more efficient means for going backwards. ~Aldous Huxley

Technology ... the knack of so arranging the world that we don't have to experience it. ~Max Frisch

Never trust anything that can think for itself if you can't see where it keeps its brain. ~J.K. Rowling

STS REGIONAL NEWS

CHINA

Planning for the 2011 APSTSN Conference—hosted by the Research Center for Science, Technology and Society, Northeastern University (Shen Yang, Liaoning Province, China: <http://www.neu.edu.cn/>) (under the directorship of APSTSN IAB member Professor **Chen Fan**)—is well underway. The date falls in the week 19-23 June 2011, which on the advice of APSTSN Steering Committee members and Dr Ma is the most facilitative one for our attendance. **Ma Huiduan** has now organised a host organising committee with Prof. Chen Fan the chair. It is now exchanging ideas with the recently formed APSTSN Conference Coordination Committee (CCC). Dr Ma will be presenting a draft poster of the 2011 Conference and delivering a wrap-up presentation at the 4S APSTSN Business Meeting.

AUSTRALIA

Nicola Marks has recently launched the new network: *Biosciences and Humanities Network* at the University of Wollongong; **David Mercer** is also participating. Scholars taking a qualitative or humanities approach to the study of biosciences and medicine are getting together at UoW to explore research synergies. Watch this space.

Catherine Waldby, Sydney University, is a participant in a new European Commission's COST (Collaboration in Science and Technology) €1.5 m funded program called: 'Bio-objects and their boundaries: governing matters at the intersection of society, politics, and science'. The program will bring together senior researchers, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students in a series of international workshops held from 2011 to 2013. The substantive focus of the workshops will be the global production and circulation of 'bio-objects', such as stem cells, chimera, tissue samples or GMOs.

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

STS research got a boost recently in New Zealand government research institutes. Environmental Science and Research (ESR) was just awarded capability funding to a new project exploring issues around risk perceptions, innovation and decision-making, drawing on the international STS literature and best practice in deliberative dialogue. A key issue is the interface between science and policy - and in particular, how to integrate science information and values with other non-science information and values in risk decision-making. As part of this project, ESR will be working with Landcare Research and key groups in the NZ science sector to organise a national conference on science policy studies in 2011 (**Karen Cronin**)

Landcare Research has also awarded internal funding to develop its STS capability through a project involving Mags Adams (PhD (STS), University of Lancaster), Alison Greenaway and Bob Frame to explore solutions strategies to Wicked problems that will build on previous work exploring the complex boundary between science and policy and how New Zealand may make

some connections between a range of problems of national significance such as climate change, pest management, land erosion and water governance. This will be through the development of an Environment Lab to examine qualitatively issues arising in this critical area for New Zealand's future prosperity (**Bob Frame**)

Post the successful APSTSN workshop in Wellington in March 2010 on STS, climate change and sustainability science [<http://www.esr.cri.nz/competencies/socialscienceandssystemsthinking/Pages/ClimateChange.aspx>] researchers at NIWA, ESR, Landcare Research and GNS are working with the wider social science community to organise a NZ workshop on social science and climate change. The workshop will be held in Wellington in early December 2010. Key aims are to promote the importance of social science knowledge in the climate change arena, to map out social science research priorities related to climate change and to promote transdisciplinary research. For further information on this event, contact Dr **Karen Cronin** at: karen.cronin@esr.cri.nz

INDIGENOUS

Research by Maori on Constructive Dialogue between Knowledge Systems

Among the many and diverse areas of research of relevance to Māori currently underway in New Zealand is Te Hau Mihi Ata. An all-Māori research team (Maui Hudson, Murray Hemi, Sarah-Jane Tiakiwai and Mere Roberts) led by Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith has been engaged in the project for the past three years with the aim of completion next year. The project aims to describe and facilitate processes of knowledge exchange and innovation that occur at the interface of different cultural paradigms and epistemologies, namely science and mātauranga (Māori knowledge). The genesis of the project arose out of concerns by Māori about the framing of mātauranga as relevant only in a traditional context—and in response to a new political positioning of mātauranga within the national science policy environment that encourages researchers to 'unlock' the innovation potential of Māori knowledge, people and resources. It also acknowledges the increasing involvement of Māori in the research, S&T sector and their potential role in the future utilization of mātauranga within the evolving knowledge economy.

The project builds on previous research which investigated Māori perceptions of new technologies such as the genetic modification of organisms and the impact on and acceptance by Māori of such novel biotechnologies. Te Hau Mihi Ata further explores avenues whereby mātauranga inspired understandings might encourage new avenues of scientific exploration, and seeks to develop tools and processes that facilitate such innovation. These include a 'negotiated space' wherein which constructive dialogue across cultural divides can occur; and the identification and use of "cultural cues" by Māori participants as reference points

to locate and frame new knowledge in a culturally meaningful way. One of us (Sarah-Jane Tiakiwai) will be presenting a paper: *The in-between: Subjectivities, identity and positioning of Maori scientists in Maori knowledge traditions* at the Tokyo 4S conference [editor's note: see (APSTSN) session 145). Another paper on the dialogue process and cultural cues has been accepted for publication in *AlterNatives*. (**Mere Roberts**)

SINGAPORE

Asian Biopoleis: Biotech & Biomedicine as Emergent Forms of Life and Practice

Is a project sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Asia Research Institute, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, NUS and Office of Deputy President, National University of Singapore. Nine researchers from NUS, MIT, Singapore Institute of Genome and Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi are involved in the project. The project commenced from June 2010. It traces the historical trajectories of Asian biotechnology, and how these contribute to its strong emergence at the present moment. It also trace networks of collaboration and influence in various areas of biotechnology and the life sciences, as these are developing in Singapore and on pan-Asian and global scales. Finally, its traces connections between the scientific content and context of biotechnology and biomedical initiatives and social, cultural, political and philosophical aspects.

Impacting Economy and Society: Role of Universities in Asia-Pacific

This is a networking collaborative project involving 15 STS scholars in the Asia-Pacific region, who are contributing country case studies for an edited volume to be published by the National University of Singapore Press (early 2011). It especially aims to map out the coupling of teaching/research with innovation and the forging of university-private sector links with various actors in national systems of innovation, where under the impact of globalisation, universities are being re-positioned as frontiers of innovation, as 'new knowledge sites', as most new technologies (biotech, nano, new materials, ICTs etc) are science-based (**Venni Krishna**)

MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

NEW BOOK

GENETIC SUSPECTS: GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF FORENSIC DNA PROFILING AND DATABASING

Edited by **Richard Hindmarsh** and Barbara Prainsack (UK: CUP, 2010).

Foreword: Sheila Jasanoff: 3 contributors are APSTSN members (**Richard Hindmarsh, Joanna Veth and Gerald Midgley**), and some are 4S members, e.g. Simon Cole, Michael Lynch

Australia-NZ CUP: *See attached flier*

Singapore CUP: <http://www.cambridge.org/asia/catalogue/promotion.asp?nav=view&code=A10GENETIC>
Promocode: A10GENETIC (20% discount until 31 January 2011)

Good news for Environment STSers

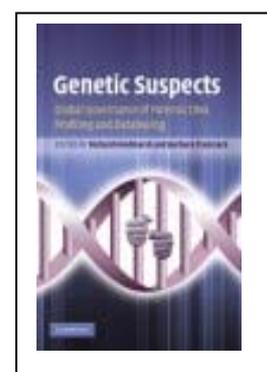
The Environment Research Cluster at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, cordially invites scholars passing through or visiting Singapore to share their research with colleagues at the Faculty. The Cluster runs a seminar series for members and guests to discuss their latest work, exchange ideas and inspire research collaboration. The Cluster was recently formed to promote and facilitate interdisciplinary research among the thirty-odd scholars at the Faculty with research interests in environmental topics. Cluster members include anthropologists, economists, geographers, historians, literary critics, philosophers, political scientists, and sociologists. Please contact seminar convener Daniel Goh at socgohd@nus.edu.sg (**Cecilia Lim**)

TAIWAN

STS scholars are at the forefront of the campaign against the Kuo-Kuang Petrochemical development project, which planned to build refineries on coastal wetlands in central Taiwan near the mouth of Jhuoshuei River, the longest river in Taiwan. Worried about the pollution and collapse of diverse wetland ecology, over 1000 scholars have endorsed the campaign.

Since last November, the Taiwan STS community has also issued a public statement about their concerns regarding the EIA disputes on the expansion project of the Central Taiwan Science Park. Last week (July 30th), the court made two injunctions in favour of farmers and environmental groups. The court decisions led to the immediate stop of the development, but the Taiwan EPA and National Science Council said they would fight against the court's ruling to 'ensure the right and interest of the developers'.

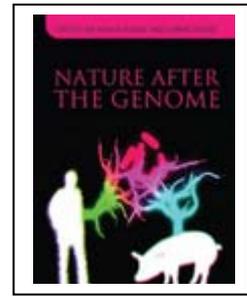
Prof. Sheila Jasanoff is coming to Taiwan in the week of Aug. 13th to present a keynote address lecture in the International Conference on Risk and Regulatory Science (see below in 'Conference Roundup'), and to participate in the workshop on *Science, Administration and Court*, to exchange her views and knowledge with Taiwanese STS scholars (**Wend-ling Tu**)



BOOK CHAPTER

Nicola Marks chapter addresses the epistemological, ontological and political implications of the various classifications of stem cells by scientists.

NATURE AFTER THE GENOME Eds: Sarah Parry and John Dupré (Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford 2010). With contributions from philosophers, sociologists and human geographers, this book takes an interdisciplinary approach to understanding 'nature' and 'natural' in our post-genomic era. Other essays focus on interspecies organisms, synthetic biology, biopharming, experimental genetics or obese bodies.



JOURNAL ARTICLES

Chandra, N. and V.V.Krishna, (2010) N. Academia-industry links: Modes of knowledge transfer at the Indian Institutes of Technology, *International Journal of Technology Transfer and Commercialisation*, 9(1-2): 53-76.

Sarma, M and V.V.Krishna. (2010). State and the software: Public policies in the shaping of the Indian software, *The Service Industries Journal* 30(1): 25-42.

Krishna, V.V. and Krisna, U. (2010) South Asia, in *World Social Sciences Report – Knowledge Divides*, International Social Science Council, Unesco Publishing, Paris

GRADUATE CORNER

Don Maisch recently graduated with a PhD in STS at the University of Wollongong for his thesis titled: “*The Procrustean Approach: Setting Exposure Standards for Telecommunications Frequency Electromagnetic Radiation*” Supervised by **David Mercer** and **Brian Martin**. Don’s thesis provides a history of the political shaping of western radiofrequency (RF) human exposure standard setting. The thesis argues that industrial and military interests have led to the lack of adequate consideration of scientific studies suggesting harmful health consequences of exposures to RF in the construction of western RF safety standards.

CONFERENCE ROUNDUP

David Mercer reports: The annual conference for the Australasian Association for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Science (AAHPSSS) was held at Sydney University, July 9-11. The conference attracted over 50 participants with a small number of well received papers on STS themes. The association elected a new President David Miller from UNSW. At the AGM there was discussion of the value in ‘growing’ constructive links with the APSTSN.

Venni Krisna presented a paper on ‘Low carbon innovation in Asia: Capacity building, technology transfer and regional cooperation’, at the *International Symposium on Science, Technology Sustainable Development- Forging a New Policy Regime for Mainstreaming Green Development*, United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Study, Yokohama, Japan, 24-25, June 2010. The conference was part of the effort initiated by UNU- IAS for forging collaborative research on climate change and innovation in Asia Pacific.

Upcoming conferences/workshops

- You can now read all the abstracts of the 4S 2010 program at: <http://www.4sonline.org/meeting>
- **Kuei Tien Chou** (National Taiwan University) reports on the *International Conference on Risk and Regulatory Science* (Institute of Applied Mechanics, International Convention Centre), 12 August 2010, with Keynote speaker Sheila Jasanoff talking on *The Prospective of East Asian STS*



AGENDA-The
International Confere

- EASST Conference 2010, *Practicing Science and Technology, Performing the Social*, University of Trento, Italy, 2-4 September 2010.
- *Innovation and Sustainability Transitions in Asia*, 9-11 January 2011, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Deadline for abstracts: 30 September
<http://www.apn-gcr.org/newAPN/news/globalChangeAnnouncements/020710/ITAPNConf>

- CEESP Conference, *Sharing Power: A New Vision for Development*, 11-15 January, 2011, Liberty Centre, Whakatane, New Zealand. Call for contributions: <http://www.sharingpower.org/about-the-conference/call-for-contributions.html>

QUIRKY NEWS

The Bio-objects book (*Bio-objects: Life in the 21st Century*: Ashgate 2011).

Bio-objects, a term that refers to the categories, materialities and processes that are central to the configuring of 'life', play a crucial role in the 21st century in which increasing knowledge of the biological is fundamentally transforming what life itself means and where its boundaries lie. New developments in the biosciences - especially through the molecularisation of life - are shaping healthcare and other aspects of our society, and the new bio-objects that enable this need to be given an integrated and sustained examination. See: <http://www.4sonline.org/workshops>

Online Exhibits

NanoFutures: <http://cns.asu.edu/nanofutures>

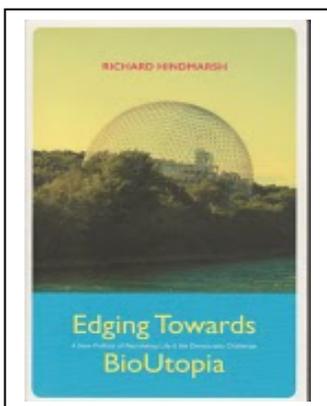
The NanoFutures experiment invites citizens, scientists and engineers, social scientists, policy makers, and others interested in nanotechnology to assess the potentials and perils of nano-enabled futures.

Book cover competition

The 2 closest entries guessing what the **image** on this book cover represents in an STS context will receive a signed complimentary book from the author. The winning entries will be published in the next newsletter with the correct answer. Entries are due by 30 September 2010: max 400 words.

For a larger image: please click on: http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_ZHCiXaY8NIQ/SSP1KZNF57I/AAAAAAAAAGg/jA1q4IDNJ5I/s1600-h/BioUtopia.jpg

A blurb about the book (*Edging Towards BioUtopia: A New Politics of Life & the Democratic Challenge*: UWAP 2008) is beside the image below.



Edging towards BioUtopia is a critical social history of the development and regulation of genetic engineering in Australia concerning experimental and later commercial release into the environment of genetically engineered organisms. The broader political context is one of organised irresponsibility and technocracy significantly influenced by a biolite advocacy coalition, countered by resistance and enduring democratic challenge from concerned scientists, bureaucrats, environmental NGOs, farmers and citizens. Significant events, representations, narratives, issues, contestations, and discursive moments that have shaped the environmental release of GMOs in Australia are mapped out and put under the analytical microscope. Overall, the book contributes to the wider dialogue of how society and governance grapples with the profound questions posed by the proposed move to a biosociety underpinned by a biotechnologically reordered nature: *the proposed BioUtopia*.

If you're interested in purchasing the book, see: <http://www.uwap.uwa.edu.au/books/current-affairs?9780980296587>

NB: If you would like your book cover to feature in a future APSTSNewsletter edition and can offer a prize of at least 1 book please send your book to Richard Hindmarsh with a detailed explanation of what the image of the book cover means.

PLEASE SEND NEWS ITEMS TO: r.hindmarsh@griffith.edu.au

FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND ONLINE APPLICATION FORM FOR COLLEAGUES:
www.esr.cri.nz/AsiaPacificSTSNetwork