

CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER 1 (August 2009)

Asia-Pacific Science, Technology & Society (STS) Network Conference 23-25 November 2009

Griffith University, South Bank, Brisbane, Australia

FOR CONFERENCE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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Please register to attend or present at:

<http://www.griffith.edu.au/conference/asia-pacific-science-technology-society-network-conference-2009/>

Abstracts should reach the organisers by 15 September 2009 for the early bird registration deadline of 5 October 2009

The 2009 Asia-Pacific Science, Technology and Society Network Conference (where STS studies typically explore the social, cultural, political and ethical issues raised by science and technology) brings together researchers in STS studies in the Asia-Pacific region (East Asia, Southeast Asia & Australasia near the Pacific Ocean plus Oceania states) for critical discussions about regional S&T developments, and to encourage stronger STS networking and collaborations in close proximity.

The conference website is now attracting many hits, with abstracts and registrations beginning to flow in. We're lucky to have very attractive conference facilities on Brisbane's South Bank, with walks available along the riverfront, the nearby botanical gardens, and the popular café strip.

The draft program shows a rich program regarding the important themes of environment, culture, indigenous, life sciences, citizenship and governance. The program also features special panels on emerging technologies and media; technoscience engagement and citizenship; and sustainability and climate change adaptation, with more on the way. We invite you to submit abstracts and help us achieve strong impact from this forum on the many important questions and topics being addressed.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Ian Lowe,

emeritus professor of science, technology and society, Griffith University, and president of the Australian Conservation Foundation

Keynote presentation:

Science, Technology and Sustainable Society?

Yuko Fujigaki,

associate professor, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Tokyo, Japan

Keynote presentation:

Public Participation and Science

Communication: Japanese Contexts and Case Studies

Wenling Tu,

associate professor, depart. of Public Policy and Management, Shih-Hsin University, Taiwan

Keynote presentation:

Technology Risks and Citizen Participation: Taiwan's Struggle towards Environmental Democracy

Herbert Gottweis,

professor, depart. of Political Science University of Vienna, and director Life Science Governance Research Platform

Keynote presentation:

Explaining Hwang-Gate: South Korean Identity Politics between Bio-Nationalism and Globalisation

KEY SPONSORS

Centre for Governance and Public Policy, Griffith University, Brisbane
Griffith Asia Institute

The Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (IUCN)

Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR Wellington, New Zealand)

Centre for Asia Pacific Social Transformation Studies (University of Wollongong)

Catherine Waldby,

associate professor and international research fellow, depart. of Sociology and Social Policy, Sydney University

Keynote presentation:

Clinical Labour: Tissue Donors and Research Subjects in the Bioeconomy

Bevan Tipene-Matua,

NZ researcher, teacher & regulator in the social and cultural implications for Maori & indigenous peoples of biotechnology and genetic science

Keynote presentation:

The Impact of Spiritless Science on Indigenous Spiritual Traditions and Communities

SPECIAL PANELS (two are featured here)

Technoscience Engagement and Citizenship: Regional Perspectives

Interactive Chair: Peter Glasner,
professorial fellow, Cesagen, Cardiff University, UK

Panellists

Yuko Fujigaki (see above)

Tu Wenling (see above)

Bevan Tipene-Matua (see above)

Another to be confirmed

Time and Date

11:00-12:30, Wed 25 November 2009

Questions for discussion include

- *What do we understand by technoscience engagement and citizenship?*
- *Cite an example of technoscience engagement from your country. How did this represent good practice? What enhancements are still required in your view?*
- *What commonalities or differences can we see in approaches to technoscience engagement and citizenship in countries of the Asia Pacific region?*
- *How might enhanced engagement practices inform public participation and policy formulation, around the major current issues in our region?*

'Responsibility' in Mediating Debates on Emerging Technologies

Interactive Chair: Anna Salleh,
University of Technology, Sydney

Panellists

Joan Leach, University of Queensland

Georgia Miller, Friends of the Earth

Alan Petersen, Monash University

Fern Wickson, University of Bergen

Craig Cormick, Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

Time and Date

13:30-15:00, Tues 24 November 2009

Questions for discussion include

- *What is the significance of framing and story-telling in shaping debates about new technologies?*
- *How should scientific uncertainty surrounding the impacts of new technologies be dealt with?*
- *Alarmism: When and how should concerns about possible technological risks be raised?*
- *What possibility is there for 'upstream' public engagement in technological developments?*
- *What are some useful directions for the media (and others involved in constructing public discourse) to have a greater impact on democratising science and technology?*

Conference International Visiting Scholar & Dinner Speaker: Peter Glasner

Peter Glasner is Professorial Research Fellow, ESRC Centre for the Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics (Cesagen) at Cardiff University, undertaking research on current developments in post-genomics (particularly the rise of proteomics) and stem cell technologies in India and the UK. He is an Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.