

# APSTSNetwork News

## MEMBERS NEWSLETTER: AUGUST - OCTOBER 2010

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

The newsletter leads off with major event news with further good news about the 2011 APSTSN conference in China; and then a news wrap-up about APSTSN attendance at the 4S/JSSTS (Japan Society for Science and Technology Studies) Conference. This also introduces some important news from the Steering Committee as well as a trip that I'm making to Taiwan and Singapore in connection with our upcoming major network project. Following is news of other events and of funding support gained. While all grants are important, of particular import for the APSTSN is the small seed grant awarded by the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia to Wen-ling Tu and myself for a collaborative Australia-Taiwan project. This reinforces my focus as the current APSTSN convenor, and also my interest of course, in developing and encouraging projects with members of the APSTSN especially ones that go beyond our national borders in an Asia-Pacific regional context. That follows on from funding support this year received from Japan's premier science funding agency, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, for Tomiko Yamaguchi's and my project on the Biopolitics of life: Science, Technology, Citizenship? project; and from the 4S New Initiatives Scheme for our major network project *Mapping STS in the Asia-Pacific: Building Regional Research Capacity*. These initiatives highlight the value of the APSTSN in attracting support for cross-national and regional STS projects. In all of the funding applications for the above the APSTSN was well referred to. I encourage you to seek collaborators for research ideas and support through the APSTSN member's directory, this newsletter and our events, for collaborative national and regional projects and publications. In addition, we should think of how to harness the excellent resources of the many APSTSN researchers for a concerted effort in building our research capacity. Any ideas welcome! Next, we report on research distinctions with good news from Catherine Waldby; and members' new publications, presentations and reviews; conference roundup; positions; and finally, other news of interest including a new book cover competition.

—from the Convenor, Richard Hindmarsh

### MAJOR EVENTS NEWS

**2011 APSTSN CONFERENCE, 'STS and the New Knowledge Society: Negotiating Innovation, Risk, Trust, Culture & Development', Northeastern University (NEU), P.R. China, 19-21 July 2011.**

Planning for the 2011 APSTSN Conference—hosted by the Research Center for Science, Technology and Society, Northeastern University (Shenyang, Liaoning Province, P.R. China: <http://www.neu.edu.cn/>) (under the directorship of APSTSN IAB member **Chen Fan**)—is well underway. The Center is a leading STS center in China, and encourages good attendance from ATSPS members.

The date of 19-21 July 2011, on the advice of APSTSN Steering Committee members and key organiser **Ma Huiduan**, was considered the most facilitative one for APSTSN membership attendance.

Chen Fan heads up the NEU organising committee, which liaises with the recently formed APSTSN Conference Coordination Committee (CCC). Ma met with members of the CCC at 4S and later presented a wrap-up of progress at the 4S APSTSN Business Meeting. The key points which present a very attractive package for network members are:

**Themes** (which can be seen individually or in mixes in both topics and themes):

- Environment, energy, climate change, and sustainability
- Administration, public policy, citizenship and public engagement
- Culture
- Innovation & development
- Emerging technoscience

### Conference participation

With excellent resources attained by the NEU Organizing Committee, 100 STS scholars will be chosen for free to attend the conference (regarding accommodation, meals and registration), including 50 foreign scholars and 50 Chinese scholars. Of these, 10 PHD students will be selected from each cohort. Regarding foreign scholars, the free attendees will be chosen from APSTSN members first (dependent on some conditions, which will be announced in the near future or at the call for papers announcement: likely to be in late January 2011), by the coordination committee of the APSTSN and the organizing committee of NEU. Participants not selected for this offer will still find the registration and accommodation package attractive.



## ACCOMMODATION FOR THE 2011 APSTSTN CONFERENCE

### Venue

The conference sites will be in the NEU campus, as offered by the University. Some images below show the attractive venue which is well resourced for international conferences.



NEU FRONT ENTRANCE



NEU CAMPUS



PLENARY CONFERENCE SITE

### Field trips

Three field trips will be offered to the conference attendees (the Water Cave: natural sightseeing, the Forbidden City: cultural sightseeing, and the high technology development zone: industrial sightseeing) after the conference (dates to be confirmed).



**Visit:** [www.neusts.com](http://www.neusts.com) and click the floating sign 'Asia-Pacific Science, Technology and Society Network 2011 Annual Meeting in Shenyang China'

More details coming: inquiries: Dr. Ma Huiduan: [mahd21cn@126.com](mailto:mahd21cn@126.com)

### 2010 4S/JSSTS CONFERENCE: 'STS in Global Contexts', 25-29 August 2010

It was great to catch up with members attending the 4S/JSSTS conference (for images see: <http://www.4sonline.org/ee/4S10/>): especially at a Japanese restaurant that our co-convenor Tomiko Yamaguchi organised for the APSTSN dinner and again with another restaurant outing after the business meeting at the close of the conference. We also held the first face-to-face meeting of our Steering Committee, the minutes of which are now posted in the **new members' area** on the APSTSN website, which houses internal reports for members as well as the online members' directory. Recently, the co-convenors also posted a call for extended abstracts for interested 4S attendees for a follow-up special journal issue to the initial one now in press from the late 2008 Wellington workshop at which the APSTSN was established. The theme of the latest special journal issue proposed is similar to the first but we hope to get a wider representation (see below).

#### Stand-out quote from APSTSN participants at 4S

*'Good science doesn't necessarily mean a good society'* ~ Sarah-Jane Tiakiwai who presented in the APSTSN Indigenous Knowledges session: 'The in-between: Subjectivities, identity and positioning of Maori scientists in Maori knowledge traditions' (with Linda Smith, Maui Hudson, Murray Hemi, Mere Roberts)

### CALL FOR PAPERS: SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUE

As advised in the flier disseminated by email to 4S attendees (3/11/2010), papers are sought from APSTSN attendees at the 4S/JSSTS conference (in the first place) for a special journal issue in a reputable international journal (A level, identified after papers have been selected). The theme for this special issue is: **Engaging publics/engaging technoscience in the Asia-Pacific region**. NB: the call will be broadened to all APSTSN members if the editors (Tomiko Yamaguchi and Richard Hindmarsh) do not receive enough papers from 4S attendees. If you have misplaced the flier please contact Tomiko or Richard. Please submit *one-two page extended abstracts* for this special issue by Friday 3 December 2009 to: [ty224@cornell.edu](mailto:ty224@cornell.edu)

### DAWN AT MT FUJI



Stephen Healy and Oscar Forero, who night climbed Mt Fuji to see the sunrise. Certainly affected—lack of oxygen?

### ITADAKIMASU! (bon appétit)



Peter Glasner, Mere Roberts, Anna Harris and Karen Cronin enjoying the APSTSN 4S dinner

### PRE-4S CONFERENCE EVENT

*Nano-Dialogue and Future Foods in Asia and the Pacific: Improving Science and Society around the Introduction of Nanotechnology and Nanofoods in Japan and New Zealand* [Japan-New Zealand STS Research Workshop, Tokyo, 24 August 2010]. The workshop was well attended and productive. In addition to the **electronic proceedings** published at the APSTSN website (see:

[www.esr.cri.nz/AsiaPacificSTSNetwork](http://www.esr.cri.nz/AsiaPacificSTSNetwork)), there is a special issue of *Ethics in Science and Environmental Politics*, under development called 'Ethical imperatives of dialogue and public engagement for future food technologies: findings from New Zealand and Japan'. The special issue is being coordinated by Darryl Macer,



UNESCO Bangkok, with special guest editors Tomiko Yamaguchi and Karen Cronin.

### POST-4S CONFERENCE EVENT

The post-conference event of *The Politics of Life and Participatory Governance Workshop* (30-31 August) in Richard Hindmarsh and Tomiko Yamaguchi's project **Politics of Life: Science, Technology, Citizenship?** also went well. Scholars from Australia and Japan engaged robustly in presentations and reflective discussion. A book proposal tentatively titled *Technological Governance in the Asia-Pacific: Redesigning Citizenship Engagement* is about to be submitted. Papers are at the first stage of internal editorial review.



Tomiko Yamaguchi hosts break-out group

Co-organisers in action!



**Participants at the *Science, Technology, Citizenship?* Workshop:  
left to right**

Top: Tomiko Yamaguchi, Anni Dugdale, Richard Hindmarsh, Go Yoshizawa, Koichi Mikami

Middle: Aiko Hibino, Tabatha Wallington, Nicola Marks

Bottom: Nozomi Mizushima, Shu-fen Kao, Peta Cook, Tachi Isobe

**APSTSN BUSINESS NEWS** (report by Richard Hindmarsh with contribution from others)

The 4S/JSSTS conference provided an ideal venue for the APSTSN Steering Committee (SC) to meet face-to-face with all but one member able to attend. A Business Meeting was then held which reported on APSTSN progress to date (for full details see reports and minutes of both meetings at the new Members Only page on the APSTSN website under 'Other Items': see: [www.esr.cri.nz/AsiaPacificSTSNetwork](http://www.esr.cri.nz/AsiaPacificSTSNetwork)). The online members' directory is also now found here, and the member's password applies to the site. We again thank APSTSN co-convenor Tomiko Yamaguchi for organising the venues for the two meetings.

**(1) The APSTSN Steering Committee Meeting** at 4S discussed items facilitative to discuss face-to-face rather than by email which is the usual practice given our wide geographical constitution:

The **whole-of-network research project** (supported with a 4S New Initiatives Scheme Award of US\$15,000 (which converted into A\$15,898.25 when transferred during October to Richard Hindmarsh as the project leader and grant applicant, with the support and collaboration of the SC). Again, our sincere thanks to 4S. In discussion, it was acknowledged that this award was considered a one-off grant; an establishment grant that was unlikely to occur in the future. Again, fuller details about the project can be found in the APSTSN 4S Business Meeting and Minutes report in the Members' Only page of the APSTSN website..

Briefly, the project *Mapping STS in the Asia-Pacific: Building Regional Research Capacity* aims to provide opportunity for all APSTSN members to contribute to a 'Network Project' that builds research capacity through a regional comparative study of Asia-Pacific STS histories, approaches, areas and issues. The project involves a Network workshop in 2011 envisaged at this stage to be in late November in either Taipei or Singapore. The SC is currently developing the format for the workshop. In early January 2011, the convenor Richard Hindmarsh in association with a research trip to Taipei (and then travelling to Singapore on the return leg to Brisbane) will be discussing the hosting of the workshop and also the 2012 APSTSN Conference with both STS clusters at Taiwan and Singapore as both are interested in hosting one or the other.

**Funding issues:** The committee discussed concerns about the appropriateness of network funding applications and the need for transparency in fund distribution to the network. It was agreed that the APSTSN should not adopt as a general practice applying for funding as a network, except in the rare opportunity that an opportunity arose such as the offer of the 4S funding conditional on a network application. By association, it was agreed that we need to make it clear to network members that applying for research grants is up to the individual members and not the APSTSN on their behalf. Instead the network is an umbrella organisation facilitating and enabling the making of connections and collaborations.

**Steering Committee tenure:** please see report on the website, as noted above

**Newsletter editorial team:** It was agreed that Richard should invite network members sufficiently qualified in producing newsletters and with editorial and web design skills to form a newsletter editorial team for 2011 (**INVITATIONS NOW OPEN** if you'd like to be a part of this team: please send any applications to Richard: [r.hindmarsh@griffith.edu.au](mailto:r.hindmarsh@griffith.edu.au), as the first point of contact: applications open until 15 January 2011 at which time the SC will discuss).

**Support for Indigenous and post-grad travel support to conferences:** It was agreed that this item should be a priority of the SC

**Strategic Plan:** In relation to actions taken so far regarding convenor and committee membership selection, other establishment processes and funding opportunities, and the clarity of the core purpose and aims of the Network, the SC agreed that actions taken so far had been appropriate (given the emerging nature of the network and the uniqueness of the 4S funding for the network project mentioned above), but now there was need for better clarity and processes to be put in place with the maturing of the APSTSN and the expectation of a much broader-based regional constituency emerging that complemented existing (national) STS networks. Subsequently, the SC is working on developing a strategic plan (for want of a better name) that better clarifies organisational elements/processes and the core purpose and aims of the APSTSN for its constituent STS communities. The SC hopes to have a draft for circulation to the membership for discussion by early 2011 and later endorsement.

## (2) The APSTSN Business Meeting at 4S

In the report on the APSTSN website, members can read the Convenor's report for 2009-2010, the fuller details of the network project and some items raised in 'other business'. The report includes organisational elements put in place, benefits for APSTSN members, publication benefits and opportunities (with news of our first special journal issue, representing an initial APSTSN 'body of knowledge') now in press, event initiatives and membership news.

Regarding membership, we believe it is coming along well for a network of this kind and is steadily increasing interest, perhaps reflecting the asymmetry in the membership: first in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand (which never had an STS network before), and second in Southeast and East Asia (which has several national associations and also a sub-regional network: EASTS of the Japan, Taiwan and China networks).

From the establishment of the APSTSN, which started to kick in at the inaugural Brisbane conference in late November 2009, the membership grew to a promising 128 members at the time of the 4S conference (always alphabetically): Australasia 94 (Australia 57; NZ 37); East/SE Asia 27 (Japan 9; Singapore 9; Taiwan 5; China 4); International 7 (Sweden 1; UK 5; USA 1). Since 4S, this has increased to 135 members with additions of 2 Australian, 3 Japanese and 2 Singaporean members. Interest from Asia was especially indicated through talks that Richard (and others) had at 4S with leading STS members from Japan, Taiwan, China, Singapore and South Korea. APSTSN planned events in SE and East Asia from 2011 onwards will also attract interest as the Brisbane conference demonstrated with a now healthy Australian and New Zealand membership. I certainly look forward to meeting more, our Asian colleagues in 2011 and discussing/ promoting networking and collaboration for a healthy Asia-Pacific STS representation on regional and global stages.

## WORKSHOPS

Olivia Harvey from UNSW organised a one-day workshop in Sydney in September on *Stem cell science in Australia: Commercial opportunities, state strategies and the global bioeconomy*. Stem cell research (SCR) practitioners and social scientists discussed the future of this field, prompted by presentations on the history of SCR in Australia, on the new roles of the State in shaping research and on public views and concerns about this research. The latter paper was presented by **Nicola Marks**, University of Wollongong STS program, and Australian APSTSN SC member. One of the aims of this event was to improve relations between natural and social scientists, so hopefully further fruitful interactions are still to come.

**Vicky Macknight** reports, of a workshop organized by Melbourne University's History and Philosophy of Science Student Association (HPSSA) that was led by Helen Verran and STS scholar John Law during a recent visit to Australia. The title was 'An impromptu conversation with John Law: After method, after nature and the post-colonial'. The purpose was to get together with John Law the Melbourne people interested in problems of 'what to do' in thinking about a range of topics in STS - water, grasses, number, technology, education, etc - if we are indeed living in post-colonial times. That is, if we are 'After Method' and 'Nature' as they have been understood in dominant western scholarship. So it was STS in topic, Law's version of ANT inspired STS in approach, and Verran's post-colonial questions.

In October, **Richard Hindmarsh** in his capacity as Convenor of the APSTSN was extended special invitation to participate in the (Australian) Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) workshop contributing to the development of a community engagement framework for 'enabling technologies' (including GM and nanotechnologies). **Other APSTSN members** who participated in the multidisciplinary 'Researchers Workshop' held at the Australian Academy of Science (Canberra) were **Nicola Marks**, **Alan Petersen** and **Richard Osborn**. The framework is to be implemented by the National Enabling Technology Strategy—Public Awareness and Community

Engagement (NETS-PACE) section of DIISR. This meeting brought together those who work in science, those who practice public engagement and those who theorise it. The government is also consulting industry, publics and NGOs. In December, in her capacity as the Australian APSTSN Steering Committee member, DIISR is funding **Nicola Marks** to the *11th International Conference on Public Communication of Science & Technology* in Delhi, to help build further relationships between science communicators and academics who work on public engagement.

Nicola has also been working with colleagues in Arts and other Faculties at Wollongong University to set up a network of people interested in sciences from a sociological or humanities approach. Since the last APSTSN newsletter, the UoW Social Innovations network (SInet) funded a scoping lunch to further develop this. One key outcome of the lunch was a decision on the new network's name: *Social aspects of life sciences network*. Further updates to follow

## ONE-DAY CONFERENCE

'Re-setting Science and Innovation for the next 20 years' was a one-day conference held by the New Zealand Association of Scientists, in collaboration with the Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington on 21 October. Speakers included Hon. Dr Wayne Mapp, Minister of Research, Science and Technology; and Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister, Office of the Prime Minister's Science Advisory Committee. The latter's speech is available at: <http://www.pmcsa.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Sir-Peter-Gluckman-speech-to-NZAS-21-October-2010.pdf>. There were also 16 other speakers from government, CRIs, universities and business.

## COMPLETED PROJECTS

**Alan Petersen** completed two projects for the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR). The first, *Hopeful journeys: experiences of stem cell treatments offered outside Australia*, was undertaken in collaboration with Kate Seear, Megan Munsie and Rebecca Skinner. It involved in-depth interviews with patients and carers of patients travelling abroad for stem cell treatments. The patients were recruited via established relationships with the Australian Stem Cell Centre and various patient groups. The project aimed to gain insights into patients' treatment journeys and aftermath and is part of the authors' ongoing research on this topic. Insights gained from this project will be used to improve information available to patients and the Australian public. Information may also assist policy makers and clinical providers in developing guidelines around medical tourism. The details of the findings will be forthcoming when the report is accepted by the Minister and posted on the DIISR website. The second project:

*Communicating with citizens about nanotechnologies: Views of key stakeholders in Australia*, was undertaken in collaboration with Kate Seear and Diana Bowman. It involved in-depth interviews with 14 stakeholders, including individual scientists, individuals from industry, government and non-government organisations. The report details key stakeholders' perspectives of communication and public engagement, views on the information that must be conveyed to publics, in what form and by what means. The report also documents participants' perspectives on the meaning of both 'public engagement' and 'upstream public engagement', the challenges (if any) that they see associated with communicating with publics about nanotechnologies, and the relationship between participants' perspectives and international efforts in public engagement, as well as emerging best-practice models for public engagement. The report will be available for public access when it has been accepted by the Minister.

## FUNDING

New Singapore member **Sorelle Henricus** reports: the STS Cluster of the Asia Research Institute (ARI) at the National University of Singapore (NUS) has been awarded a substantial three-year grant from Singapore's Ministry of Education to fund the project 'Asian Biopoleis: Biotechnology and Bioscience as Emergent Forms of Life and Practice'. Led by Co-PIs Gregory Clancey and Ryan Bishop, the project will also engage overseas collaborators from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Sydney, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and the University of Edinburgh, as well as other Singapore-based institutions, such as the Genome Institute of Singapore and Singapore Eye Research Institute. Among the areas of concern and interest to the project are the origins of Asian biopoleis (bioscience cities, and bioscience in cities; the plural form of 'biopolis') and associated comparisons and policies; laboratories and social knowledge production; and new theoretical perspectives on biopoleis. It will also track networks of collaboration and influence in areas of biotechnology and the life sciences as they extend from Singapore across Asia.

**Peta Cook** has recently received an Institutional Research Grant (IRGS) of A\$8456 from the University of Tasmania for a project titled: 'The impact of xenotransplantation on altruistic organ donation rates in Australia'. Fieldwork will commence in 2011. If you know someone who has donated their own kidney or the organs of a deceased loved one (cadaver organ donation), Peta would appreciate it if you would forward them their contact details so they can find out more detail about the project or register their interest ([Peta.Cook@utas.edu.au](mailto:Peta.Cook@utas.edu.au); or 03-63243545).

**Catherine Waldby** reports that the Sydney University Biopolitics of Science Research Network, which she directs, has been awarded A\$34,000 from the Sydney University's International Office to support ECR members of the network to participate in colloquia and seminars in European locations between 2011 and 2013 who are involved in the 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'. Catherine is a participant in COST (as reported in the APSTSN newsletter June-July 2010). There will also be a Bio-objects event in Sydney, probably in the second semester of 2012. Finally, three Sydney University members of the Biopolitics of Science Research Network have won four year Future Fellowship grants for science related projects:

- *Alison Bashford* (History): Climate change and the history of environmental determinism
- *Melinda Cooper* (Sociology and Social Policy): Experimental workers of the world: the labour of human research subjects in the emerging bioeconomies of China and India
- *Catherine Waldby* (Sociology and Social Policy): The changing meaning of human eggs in fertility, assisted reproduction and stem cell research

**Richard Hindmarsh** (Griffith University) and **Wen-ling Tu** (National Chengchi University, Taipei) were recently awarded the max amount of A\$7500 from the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia's (ASSA's) International Science Linkages Bilateral Program. Grants support collaborative projects that aim to win large grants downstream. The stated objectives of the ISL Scheme, and of these ASSA ISL bilateral grants programs are: (1) to increase the uptake of leading edge research through promoting access to strategically focused, leading edge international research and participation in its conduct by Australian researchers and through increased strategic alliances between Australian and overseas researchers; and (2) to facilitate access to the global research and innovation system by supporting bilateral and multilateral relations with other countries.

Richard and Wen-ling's project is titled: *Science, Technology and Environmental Sustainability Transitions: What Role and Nature of New Participatory Approaches for the Asia-Pacific?* The project, which started in October, is conducting a comparative Australia-Taiwan exploration of the potential of new participatory approaches for citizen inclusion in debate, risk management and policy-making about the environmental sustainability of new technoscience in cross-cultural contexts, particularly with regard to GMOs, renewable energy and high-tech electronic waste. That promises to establish an important strategic bilateral alliance to address issues of common concern, strengthen a research platform for larger-scale funding to deepen research, and to contribute to Asia-Pacific dialogue on this important area. The STS context of the application and the researcher's involvement in the APSTSN strengthened it.

#### **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY** (deadline 31 December 2010)

The D. Kim Foundation for the History of Science and Technology in East Asia offers several annual fellowship awards and grants for 2010-2011. Established in 2008 the Foundation is dedicated to furthering the study of the history of science and technology in East Asia since the start of the 20th century. Comparative studies of East Asia and the West as well as studies in related fields (mathematics, medicine and public health are also welcome). The Foundation provides fellowships and grants to encourage and support graduate students and young scholars in the field; also grants (\$5000 each) for groups organising workshops. For further information visit: [www.dkimfoundation.org](http://www.dkimfoundation.org)

#### **RESEARCH DISTINCTIONS**

Congratulations to **Catherine Waldby** as a new Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.

#### **STS TEACHING AWARDS**

**Richard Hindmarsh** received a 2010 best lecturer and best course award for his course 'Environmental Politics and Policy', which features in the Griffith STS program, as nominated by high achieving students in the Griffith School of Environment.

#### **MEMBER PUBLICATIONS**

##### **NEW BOOK**

Watch out for **Alan Petersen's** new book *The Politics of Bioethics* due for publication in December 2010 by Routledge (Routledge Studies in Science, Technology and Society). Chapter titles are: Bioethics as politics; Bioethics and the politics of expectations; Engendering consent: bioethics and biobanks; Missing the big picture: bioethics and stem cell research; Testing times: bioethics and 'do-it-yourself' genetics; Governing uncertainty: the politics of nanoethics; and, Beyond bioethics: See <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415990066/>

##### **BOOK CHAPTERS**

**Gay Hawkins** (University of Queensland) has an essay in a new book called *POLITICAL MATTER: TECHNOSCIENCE, DEMOCRACY AND PUBLIC LIFE* Eds. Sarah Whatmore and Bruce Braun (U. of Minnesota Press, 2010.) Taking seriously the argument that things have politics, Political Matter seeks to develop a fully *materialist* theory of politics, one that opens new possibilities for imagining the relationship between scientific and political practices. The

contributors assert that without such a theory the profusion of complex materials with and through which we live -- plastic bags, smart cars, and long-life light bulbs, for example -- too often leaves us oscillating between fearful repudiation and glib celebration. Exploring the frictions that come from linking the work of scholars in science and technology studies and political theory, these essays spark new ways of understanding the matter of politics.

**Hindmarsh, Richard.** 2010. Biosurveillance and biocivic concerns, from 'truth' to 'trust': the Australian forensic DNA terrain. In R. Hindmarsh, B. Prainsack (eds.) *Genetic Suspects: Global Governance of DNA Profiling and Databasing*. UK: Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Ch 13: 262-87.

#### JOURNALARTICLES

**Peta Cook** (University of Tasmania)

Cook, Peta S. and Osbaldiston, Nicholas 2010. 'Pigs hearts and human bodies: A cultural approach to xenotransplantation, *M/C Journal*, 13(5), <http://journal.media-culture.org.au/index.php/mcjournal/article/viewArticle/283>.

**Jennifer Robertson** (University of Michigan)

2010 *Theory, Culture & Society* Blogspot Interview with Tomoko Tamari. September. Accessible at <http://theoryculturesociety.blogspot.com/>

2010 BBC 4 radio interview on 'Thinking Allowed' on the social and gendered applications of robotics in Japan. 4 & 8 August. Podcast accessible at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00t7fjp>

2010 *Reveille* for Anthropologists: Introduction, 'War and Anthropology.' Guest Editor, Feature on War and Anthropology. *Critical Asian Studies* 42(3): 253-261.

2010 Robots of the Rising Sun. *The American Interest*, September/October, 6(1): 60-73.

2010 Gendering Humanoid Robots: Robo-Sexism in Japan. *Body and Society* 16(2) June: 1-36.

2010 The Erotic Grotesque Nonsense of Superflat: 'Happiness' as Pathology in Japan Today. *Michigan Quarterly Review*, Winter: 1-26.

2010 Relentless Presentism: Postgender as Prehistory in Contemporary Japanese Art. In *PostGender: Gender, Sexuality and Performativity in Japanese Culture*, pp. 1-16. Ayelet Zohar, ed., Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Press.

2010 Eugenics in Japan: Sanguineous Repair. Ch. 25. In, *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Eugenics*. Alison Bashford and Phillipa Levine, eds., Oxford University Press.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

**Donnie Maclurcan** (University of Technology Sydney)

2010 Public lecture at the University of Technology Sydney, 11 November, titled: 'Life Beyond Growth' which addresses the need to shift away from the addiction to 'technofixes'.

2010 public talk at the Festival of Dangerous Ideas Soapbox in Sydney on 'taking a more critical approach to your toilet'.

A quirky title that demands explanation, as Donnie expounds:

*You probably think your toilet is a pretty handy piece of technology. It offers a quick way to remove your waste, if it was installed after 1990 it's likely to have dual flush efficiency and, if you're lucky, it has a fluffy seat that keeps you warm in winter. In fact... it's a wonder of modern design on which you'll end up spending about half a year of your entire life! ... But if we look a little more deeply into your toilet, a darker picture emerges. For starters, it's common— probably sharing its dimensions and colour with every other toilet in Australia. It was doubtlessly made by an exploited workforce on the other side of the world, pumping a whole lot of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere in the process. And, because it was created by people who thought it more dignified to sit on a throne than in the squatting position used by 'the natives', it changes your expulsion angle, increasing your chance of colon cancer, bowel disease and constipation.*

**Jennifer Robertson** (University of Michigan)

2010 Gendering (Humanoid) Robots: Robo-sexism and Retro-Technology in Japan. Keynote Lecture, International Symposium: Asian Diversity in a Global Context, Asian Dynamics Initiative, University of Copenhagen, 12-13 November 2010.

2010 Blood and Beauty: Eugenic Modernity and Empire in Japan. Invited lecture, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, 27 April.

2010 Performing Eugenics and Eugenic Performances in Japan: The Takarazuka Revue Then and Humanoid Robots Today. Invited lecture, Asian Popular Culture Symposium, Bowling Green University, 16 April.

2010 Robo-Sexism in Japan: How the Robot Got Its Gender. Invited lecture, Oberlin University, 9 April.

2010 Robo-sexism in Japan: Gendering Humanoid Robots." Asian Studies Colloquium Series, invited lecture, University of California at Santa Barbara, 11 March.

2010 "A Robot in Every Home: Images of Japanese Society Tomorrow." Invited lecture, Faculty of Humanities, Leiden University, The Netherlands, 5 February.

## REVIEWS

'Utopian technocrats and regulation of biotechnology in Australia' by Kerry Ross, review of Richard Hindmarsh's 'Edging towards BioUtopia: a new politics of reordering life and the democratic challenge' *Metascience* Vol 19. 3. November 2010. (511-514).

See the excellent review of Susan Greenhalgh's book on *Science Policy Development in China* at the Asian Review of books: <http://www.asianreviewofbooks.com/arb/article.php?article=1136>

## CONFERENCE ROUNDUP

CEESP Conference, *Sharing Power: A New Vision for Development*, 11-15 January, 2011, Liberty Centre, Whakatane, New Zealand. **Registrations are now open** at: <http://www.sharingpower.org/registration.html> Confirmed Keynote speakers include; Ashok Khosla (President of IUCN), Winona La Duke, (Ojibwe and Founding Director of White Earth Land Recovery Project), Elinor Ostrom (Nobel Laureate in Economics 2009 and CEESP member), Sir Hirini Moko Mead (Ngāti Awa and author of *Tikanga Māori: Living By Māori Values*).

SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL, CULTURAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY University of Waikato, New Zealand, 5-7 January 2011; <http://www.SustainabilityConference.com> This conference aims to develop a holistic view of sustainability, in which environmental, cultural and economic issues are inseparably interlinked. It will work in a multidisciplinary way, across diverse fields and taking varied perspectives in order to address the fundamentals of sustainability.

## POSITIONS

**Postdoctoral Research Fellow** to work in the area of cultural engagements with the environment (environmental humanities: sociology, cultural studies, cultural geography, cultural history or related areas with research interests in the broad area of cultural engagement with environmental issues). Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies, University of Queensland. Closing date 26 November 2010. See the Centre's website at [www.cccs.uq.edu.au](http://www.cccs.uq.edu.au) Further information: Professor Gay Hawkins telephone + 61 7 3346 7416: Email: [g.hawkins@uq.edu.au](mailto:g.hawkins@uq.edu.au)

## OTHER NEWS OF INTEREST

**David Mercer** (University of Wollongong) invites you to contact him if you'd like to do reviews for *Metascience* at: [dmerc@uow.edu.au](mailto:dmerc@uow.edu.au) *Metascience* is a review journal which publishes high quality, comprehensive reviews of books in the fields of history and philosophy of science, and science and technology studies (see: <http://www.springer.com/philosophy/epistemology+and+philosophy+of+science/journal/11016>)

## BOOK COVER COMPETITION

The closest entry guessing what the **image** on this book cover represents in an STS context will receive a signed complimentary book from the author. The winning entry will be published in the next newsletter with the correct answer. Entries are due by 17 December 2010: max 400 words. A blurb about this issue's book *Hatched: The Capacity for Sustainable Development* is beside the image below.



More than 30 years of scientific evidence shows the trajectory the world has pursued cannot be sustained. Developing new ways to live and do business will be the defining challenge of our age. Our last chance to hatch, or go bad. *Hatched* is an eBook of research findings, stories and tools exploring five key areas of capacity needed to chart a new trajectory for our long-term success: Thinking and acting for long term success; Businesses as sustainability innovators; Individuals as citizen consumers; Facing up to wicked problems; The future as a set of choices. *Hatched* is written for practitioners in business, government and community.

*Hatched* is one of the first true interdisciplinary case-studies efficiently explaining and demonstrating the emergent properties of sustainability science. Due to its innovative format it can be used by researchers, practitioners as well as by NGOs and ordinary citizens. Per G Berg, Professor in Landscape planning, SLU University

**NB: If you would like your book cover to feature in a future APSTSNewsletter edition and can offer a prize of at least 1 signed 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](mailto:r.hindmarsh@griffith.edu.au)**

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