

SKAT 25:
NEW DIRECTIONS AFTER A
QUARTER-CENTURY OF THE SOCIOLOGY
OF SCIENCE, KNOWLEDGE, AND TECHNOLOGY

**A mini-conference organized by the Science,
Knowledge, and Technology Section of the
American Sociological Association**



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***We are grateful for generous support from
the following co-sponsors:***

- Northwestern University (the Department of Sociology, the Science in Human Culture Program, the Medical Humanities & Bioethics Program, and the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences)
- The Morris Fishbein Center for the History of Science and Medicine at the University of Chicago
- Loyola University, Chicago (the Department of Sociology and the College of Arts and Sciences)
- The University of Illinois at Chicago (the Department of Sociology and the Institute for the Humanities)
- The Vanderbilt Program in Medicine, Health & Society

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:30-9:00	Continental breakfast
9:00-9:30	Welcome, introduction, and recognitions
9:30-11:00	Plenary Panel 1: Looking Backward and Forward
11:00-11:30	Break with refreshments
11:30-1:00	Parallel sessions “A”
1:00-2:15	Lunch with “thematic table” discussions
2:15-3:45	Parallel sessions “B”
3:45-4:15	Break with refreshments
	Poster presentation begins
4:15-5:45	Plenary Panel 2: Looking Outward and Inward
5:45-7:00	Reception and poster viewing

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

8:30 - 9:00 am

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Room: Atrium

9:00 - 9:30 am

WELCOME, INTRODUCTION, AND RECOGNITIONS

Room: Canning

9:30 - 11:00 am

PLENARY SESSION 1: LOOKING BACKWARD AND FORWARD

Room: Canning

Chair: Steve Epstein, SKAT Section Chair

Panelists: Adele Clarke, Tom Gieryn, Amit Prasad, and Ruha Benjamin

In this panel, senior scholars will reflect on the birth of the section and the trajectory of the field, ending with what excites them most now. Less senior scholars will reflect on work that has inspired them and where they would like to see the field head. Participants will consider the following questions in particular: What have been the main contributions of the sociology of science, knowledge, and technology over the past 25 years? What do we gain through our unique concatenation of science, knowledge, and technology as topics of sociological analysis? Without seeking to prescribe any fixed agenda, what are the various potential directions in which our scholarship might lead in the coming years?

11:00-11:30 am

BREAK WITH REFRESHMENTS

Room: Atrium

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

PARALLEL SESSIONS A

Precaution and Prediction

Room: Canning

Session Chair: Sheila Jasanoff

Scott Frickel and Elizabeth Fussell, “Ignorance in-the-making and after-the-fact: Spatial analysis of a regulatory knowledge gap”

Ryan Hagen, “Acts of God, Man, and System: Science, Technology and the Construction of Disaster”

Phaedra Daipha, “Towards a Sociology of Organizational Decision Making in Action”

Raoul Lievanos, “Within the Master’s House: Cumulative Impact, Precaution, and Contradictory State Spaces in Environmental Justice Policy”

Populations and Pandemics

Room: J

Session Chair: Anne Figert

Laura Senier, “The Honest Brokers of Evidence-Based Medicine: Public Health’s Role in the Reconfiguration of Medical Knowledge”

Adam Green, “HIV, MSM and the Science of Sexual Risk”

Alexis MacLennan and Neil Greene, “Who is in the Herd?: Biosociality, Immunity, and Vaccination Debates.”

Fithawee Tzeggai, “Experimenting on the Poor: The Political Conditions and Consequences of Randomized Assignment in 1980’s Welfare Program Evaluation Research”

The Dynamics of Interdisciplinarity

Room: L North

Session Chair: Tom Gieryn

Rick Welsh, Suzanne Thornsbury, Molly Woods, and Scott Reynolds, “Scientists’ Views on Transdisciplinary Research: With Special Reference to Climate Change Research”

David LePoire, “Social Change in National Laboratory Science Groups: From Discipline Silos to Organizational Collections”

Robert Osley-Thomas, “The Failing Practical Arts and the Resilient Liberal Arts at The Double Facing University: Academic Department Closures 1975-2010”

Laurel Smith-Doerr, Jennifer Croissant, Itai Vardi, and Timothy Sacco, “Epistemic Cultures of Collaboration: Coherence and Ambiguity in Interdisciplinarity”

Science, Sex and Sexuality

Room: L South

Session Chair: Monica Casper

Jonathan Banda, “‘Sex without fear’: Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV and the New Subject of Risk”

Stefan Vogler, “How Does the State Know Sexuality? Toward a Civic Epistemology of Sex.”

Xochitl Mota-Back, “Expertly Framed: How Evidence Came to Dominate the ‘Sex Ed’ Debate”

Jamie Budnick, “What We Ask About When We Ask About Sex: Measuring Non-heterosexual Behavior and Identity in Survey Research”

Biosociality

Room: M

Session Chair: Adele Clarke

Melissa Creary, “Sickle Cell Disease in Brazil: A Case for Biocultural Citizenship”

Emily Allen Paine, “Queering the clinic: a comparative study of two LGBTQ health social movements”

Kelly Moore, “War Games: Treadmills, Contemporary Exercise and the Militarized Self”

Gareth Martin Thomas, “‘Hands-Off Work’: How Professionals Routinize Prenatal Screening for Down Syndrome in the Clinic”

Epistemic Cultures

Room: N

Session Chair: Daniel Kleinman

Fran Osrecki and Christian Dayé, “Against the Grain: Why Transferring STS Principles into Studies of Social Sciences & Humanities Will Turn Out to be Difficult”

Mike Reay, “Public Epistemic Culture in America Today: Reconciling Commodified Collective Knowledge with Individual Ignorance”

Shreeharsh Kelkar, “When New and Old Experts Collide: Computer Science, MOOCs and the Study of Learning”

Misha Teplitskiy and Von Bakanic, “Do Peer Reviews Predict Impact?: Evidence from the American Sociological Review, 1977-1982”

Academic Networks

Room: P

Session Chair: Mary Frank Fox

Eliza Evans and Daniel McFarland, “Interdisciplinarity and Faculty Careers”

Weihua An, “Using ERGMs and SAOMs to Study Scholarly Networks”

Ellen Foster, “Margins of the ‘Makers movement’: Exploration of Tactics toward Knowledge Production and Community-Building”

Diogo Pinheiro and Julia Melkers, “Friends in High Places? The impact of institutional prestige on the networks of academic scientists”

Disciplinary Structures / The Structure of Disciplines

Room: Q

Session Chair: Sydney Halpern

Pete Aceves, James Evans, and Jacob Foster, “Inequality all the way down? Dynamics of attention in 20th century physics”

Thomas Krendl Gilbert and Andrew Loveridge, “A Comparative Social Morphology of Scientific Judgment in Theoretical Physics”

Jacob Habinek, “The emergence of the life sciences field: interdisciplinary networks and discipline formation in German biology, 1750-1890”

Mark Robinson, “The Glittering History of Translational Medicine: Crises of Scientific Innovation, Leaky Biotechnology Markets, and the Soteriology of Innovation”

1:00 - 2:15 pm

LUNCH WITH 'THEMATIC TABLE' DISCUSSIONS

Room: Atrium

After retrieving your box lunch, please join the table of your choice for informal discussion on a theme that interests you. (Once a table fills up, please find your way to an alternative—but no doubt equally fascinating—table discussion.) We encourage you to share ideas about where the field is, or should be, heading in relation to your theme. For the benefit of all, please summarize some of the key points of your group discussion using the poster-size paper and markers that will be made available at your table. The volunteer staff will collect the posters at the end of lunch, and the posters will all be available for viewing during the afternoon break and the late afternoon reception.

1. Experts, publics, and novel forms of expertise
2. Transnational flows of science, knowledge, and technology
3. Genders, sexualities, and technoscience
4. Work and engineering
5. Network analysis and scientometrics
6. Environment, politics, and publics
7. SKAT studies in health, biomedicine, and genetics
8. Race and technoscience
9. SKAT studies of the social sciences, arts, and humanities
10. Epistemic cultures in science and beyond
11. Virtual worlds and realities
12. The role of place and space in knowledge production
13. Risk and technoscience
14. Standards and standardization
15. Big data, machine learning, and algorithms
16. Deliberation, participation, and democracy
17. Science, markets, and valuation

2:15 - 3:45 pm

PARALLEL SESSIONS B

Scientific Constructions of Race

Room: Canning

Session Chair: Alondra Nelson

Jonathan Schreiner, “Hopes and Expectations: The Impact of DNA Ancestry Testing on Identity”

Aaron Panofsky, “Troy Duster, Social Theorist?”

Alka Menon, “Doctor Knows Best: The Expertise of American and Malaysian Cosmetic Surgeons”

Sunmin Kim, “Different Kind of Quantification: Franz Boas and Assimilation of Bodies”

Food Futures

Room: J

Session Chair: Kelly Moore

Ashley Colby Fitzgerald, “Structures and Meanings in Subsistence Food Production”

Aya Kimura, “Fukushima nuclear disaster and citizen science: who can be a ‘citizen’ in ‘citizen science’?”

Guy Schaffer, “The smell of the future: utopian feelings and community design in the case of BK Rot”

The Biopolitics of Genetics

Room: L North

Session Chair: Ruha Benjamin

Mallory Fallin, Owen Whooley, and Kristin Barker, “The Criminalization of the Brain: Neurocriminology and the Exclusion of the Social Cause of Crime”

Martine Lappe, “Environment Epigenetics, Interdisciplinarity, and Method in the Sociology of Science, Knowledge, and Technology”

Amber Nelson, “The biopolitics of behavioral genetics: Stories of gene-environment interactions and the geneticization of teen angst”

Ramya M. Rajagopalan, “Precision medicine in the 21st century: Big Data, Evidence, and Expertise”

Quantification and Categorization

Room: L South

Session Chair: Michael Rodríguez-Muñiz

Kirsten Gardner, “Diabetic Numbers: Making Sense of Measurements”

Zachary Griffen, “Historicizing Human Capital: Economic Knowledge and the Instability of Categories”

Daniel Hirschman and Emily Bosk, “Formal Devices for Making Selection Decisions, Revisited”

Jaimie Morse, “Documenting Mass Rape: The Emergence and Implications of Medical Evidence Collection Techniques in Armed Conflict”

New Methods for SKAT?

Room: M

Session Chair: Michael Lynch

Jacob G. Foster, Andrey Rzethsky, and James A. Evans, “Tradition and Innovation at Scale: Studying SKAT with Big Data”

Patrick Grzanka and Jenny Dyck Brian, “Intersectionality and Science, Knowledge, and Technology Studies”

Laura Stark, “Social life of contracts: Legal transactions as social interaction in studies of science, knowledge & technology”

Stephen Wallace, “‘Evidence is so over-rated’: the social agencies of privilege and consensus in evidence”

The Globalization of Scientific Work

Room: N

Session Chair: Amit Prasad

Sharla Alegria and Cassaundra Rodriguez, “The Long Shadow of Immigration Policy: ‘Appropriate work’ and Wage Inequality in U.S. Tech Work”

Eram Alam, “Brown Skin, White Coats: Foreign Medical Graduates Negotiate Expertise, 1965-1975”

Siri Suh, “When abortion doesn’t count: the transnational politics of evidence in Senegal’s post-abortion care program”

Confidence in Science

Room: P

Session Chair: Stephen Zehr

Michelle Goldenberg, “Scientific Knowledge in the Public Sphere: Perceptions of Academic Scientists”

Charles de Souza, “Whither Demarcation Criteria?”

Joseph Waggle, “What science means: New directions for studying the science-policy interface”

James Evans and Misha Teplitskiy, “How Firm is Sociological Knowledge? Reanalysis of GSS findings with alternative models and out-of-sample data, 1972-2012”

Situated Production

Room: Q

Session Chair: Janet Vertesi

Anna Guevarra, “Simulations of Care: Dis/embodied Labor, robotic technology, and the Politics of Innovation in South Korea”

Joseph Klett, “Listening for the Line Between Subjectivity and Objectivity in Audio Engineering”

Steve Sacco, “Analyzing Production Networks: How Changes in Industrial Production Can Inform the Sociology of Technology.”

Alexander I. Stingl, “The Digital Coloniality of Power and Integrative Interdisciplinarity: Embodied spaces, technological zones, cultures of cognition.”

3:45 - 4:15 pm

BREAK WITH REFRESHMENTS

POSTER PRESENTATION BEGINS

Room: Atrium

4:15 – 5:45 pm

PLENARY 2: LOOKING OUTWARD AND INWARD

Room: Canning

Chair:

Scott Frickel, SKAT Section Chair-Elect

Panelists:

Monica Casper, Sheila Jasanoff, Janet Vertesi, and Michael Rodríguez-Muñiz

In this panel, participants will consider two sets of relationships: that between the sociology of science, knowledge, and technology and the interdisciplinary worlds of STS; and that between the sociology of science, knowledge, and technology and the rest of sociology. Participants will consider the following questions in particular:

- What is the place of SKAT in relation to the increasingly diverse arenas of STS scholarship?
- What is the place of science/knowledge/technology studies in relation to other sociological subfields, such as sociological theory, the sociology of culture, political sociology, sociology of race and ethnicity, sociology of gender, sociology of sexuality, etc.?
- What is the public agenda of SKAT, and what roles can or should SKAT scholars play through intervening in public debates?

5:45 - 7:00 pm

RECEPTION AND POSTER VIEWING

Room: Atrium

INVITED PANELIST BIOS



Ruha Benjamin is an Assistant Professor in the Department of African American Studies at Princeton University, and a Faculty Associate in the Program on the History of Science, the Center for Health and Wellbeing, the Program on Gender and Sexuality Studies, the Program in Global Health and Health Policy, and the Department of Sociology. She specializes in the interdisciplinary study of science, medicine, and biotechnology; race-ethnicity and gender; health and biopolitics; and the sociology of knowledge. Ruha is the author of *People's Science: Bodies and Rights on the Stem Cell Frontier*, which examines the tension between innovation and equity in the context of state investment in stem cell research and against the backdrop of medical experimentation on subordinate social groups. She is working on a second project, *Provincializing Science: Mapping and Marketing 'Difference' After the Genome*, which investigates the scientific and popular uptake of genomics in South Africa, India, and the United States. And finally, Ruha is experimenting with science fiction as a site of sociological knowledge and praxis--*Black to the Future: An Imagination Incubator* includes courses, workshops, and publications that explore how the arts, activism, and scholarship can be integrated to construct alternative social realities. For more info: www.ruhabenjamin.com and <https://blacktothefuture.princeton.edu>; and on Twitter @ruha9.



Monica J. Casper is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Professor of Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Arizona. She is also an affiliated faculty member in the School of Sociology and in African Studies. Her scholarly and teaching interests include gender, race, bodies, reproduction, health, sexuality, disability, and trauma. She has published several books, including the award-winning *The Making of the Unborn Patient: A Social Anatomy of Fetal Surgery* and most recently, *The Body: Social and Cultural Dissections*, with Lisa Jean Moore. Her co-edited volume *Critical Trauma Studies* is forthcoming from NYU Press, and her manuscript *Abbreviated Lives: The Quiet Politics of Infant Mortality* is under contract with UC Press in its "Reproductive Justice" series. She is founding co-editor of the NYU Press book series "Biopolitics: Medicine, Technoscience, and Health in

21st Century,” as well as a managing editor of *The Feminist Wire* and editor/publisher of *TRIVIA: Voices of Feminism*. Her creative nonfiction and fiction has been published in a variety of journals, and she was recently nominated for a Pushcart Prize. More information can be found at www.monicajcasper.com.



Adele E. Clarke is Professor Emerita of Sociology & History of Health Sciences at UC, San Francisco. Her research has centered on the reproductive sciences and technologies such as contraception and the Pap smear, biomedicalization and scientific practice. In 2012, Professor Clarke was awarded the Bernal Prize from the Society for Social Studies of Science, and in 2015 the Reedler Award from the Medical Sociology Section of ASA. She authored *Disciplining Reproduction* (California, 1998), *Situational Analysis* (Sage, 2005), and co-edited *The Right Tools for the Job* (Princeton, 1992), *Biomedicalization* (Duke, 2010) and *Situational Analysis in Practice* (Left Coast Press, 2015). She is also a co-editor of a festschrift *Boundary Objects and Beyond: Working with Susan Leigh Star* (MIT, 2015).



Tom Gieryn is Rudy Professor of Sociology Emeritus at Indiana University Bloomington, where he also served as Vice Provost for Faculty & Academic Affairs from 2009-15. He earned his BA from Kalamazoo College in 1972, and his PhD from Columbia University in 1979 (under the guidance of Robert K. Merton). Tom was president of SKAT in 2001, when he was also selected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and chosen to be a member of the Sociological Research Association. Tom introduced the concept of “boundary-work” in a 1983 ASR article and expanded his analysis of it in *Cultural Boundaries of Science* (University of Chicago Press, 1999), which was awarded SKAT’s Merton Book Prize that same year. His second book is moving along well: *Truth-Spot: How Places Lend Credibility to Beliefs and Claims*.



Sheila Jasanoff is Pforzheimer Professor of Science and Technology Studies at the Harvard Kennedy School. A pioneer in her field, she has authored more than 100 articles and chapters and is author or editor of a dozen books, including *Controlling Chemicals*, *The Fifth Branch*, *Science at the Bar*, and *Designs on Nature*. Her work explores the role of science and technology in the law, politics, and policy of modern democracies, with particular attention to the nature of public reason. She was founding chair of the STS Department at Cornell University and has held distinguished visiting appointments in the US, Europe, and Japan. Jasanoff served on the Board of Directors of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and as President of the Society for Social Studies of Science. She has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Sarton Chair of the University of Ghent, and an Ehrenkreuz from the Government of Austria. She holds AB, JD, and PhD degrees from Harvard, and an honorary doctorate from the University of Twente.



Amit Prasad is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of the South Asian Studies Program at University of Missouri-Columbia. His research focuses on transnational and postcolonial aspects of science, technology and, medicine. In his first book, *Imperial Technoscience: Transnational Histories of MRI in the United States, Britain, and India* (MIT Press, 2014), he explored cultures of science as shifting products of transnational histories and political-economies, rather than static articulations of national identities and cultures. For the last two years he has been conducting ethnographic study of an embryonic stem cell therapy clinic in Delhi, India. Patients from more than 45 countries have received treatment at this clinic in the last one and a half decades. Prasad explores how stem cell therapy at this clinic challenges accepted biomedical, ethical, legal, and cultural norms and practices and thereby forces us to reexamine national and international policies and discourses that we commonly take for granted. Presently, he is writing a book based on his study of stem cell research in India that is tentatively titled, *Miracle or Science: Hope and Healing in an Embryonic Stem Cell Therapy Clinic in India*.



Michael Rodríguez-Muñiz is a Provost's Postdoctoral Scholar at the University of Chicago in the Department of Sociology. Michael recently completed his PhD in Sociology at Brown University. His research interests include the sociology of knowledge and culture, race and ethnicity, science and technology studies, political sociology, and ethnographic and qualitative methodologies. His dissertation, entitled *Temporal Politics of the Future: National Latino Civil Rights Advocacy, Demographic Knowledge, and the "Browning" of America*, investigates the politicized and affectively charged construction, circulation, and consumption of demographic projections and narratives. In 2016, he will join Northwestern University as an Assistant Professor in Sociology and Latina and Latino Studies.



Janet Vertesi is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Princeton University, where she specializes in the sociology of science, technology, and organizations. She has studied planetary scientists and NASA's robotic space missions as an ethnographer for nine years. Her book, *Seeing Like a Rover: How robots, Teams, and Images Craft knowledge of Mars* (Chicago, 2015) examines imaging in organizational context on the Mars Exploration Rover mission; her published papers in *Social Studies of Science* have won prizes at SKAT and at 4S; and she is co-organizer of the *digitalSTS* community. Vertesi holds a Ph.D. in Science & Technology Studies from Cornell University and M.Phil in History and Philosophy of Science from University of Cambridge. She is affiliated with Princeton's History of Science program, is a Fellow of the Princeton Center for Information Technology Policy and is an advisory board member of the Center for Data & Society.

SKAT25 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Steve Epstein, Chair

Mathieu Albert

Daniel Breslau

Claire Decoteau

James Evans

Anne Figert

Marion Fourcade

Kelly Moore

Casey Oberlin

Elise Paradis

Janet Vertesi

SKAT25 LOCAL HOST COMMITTEE

Kellie Owens, Chair

Robin Bartram

Danielle Giffort

Jaimie Morse

Christopher Robertson

Ari Tolman

Kelly Underman

INTERNET ACCESS

NETWORK = NMHCONF

PASSWORD = Seminar2014
(all case sensitive)

Program Design: Danielle Giffort

Prentice 3rd Floor Conference Center



*** Room J is located on the second floor to the left of the elevators.**