

# SKATOLOGY

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASA SECTION ON SCIENCE,  
KNOWLEDGE, & TECHNOLOGY

JULY 2015

SUMMER EDITION

## Chair's Column

Steve Epstein, Northwestern University

**Question:** What do all of the following have in common: *leaky biotechnology markets; sex without fear; interdisciplinary careers; academic department closures; a regulatory knowledge gap; sickle cell disease in Brazil; gymnasia as laboratories; Malaysian cosmetic surgeons; Franz Boas; the transgenic papaya; the smell of the future; the criminalization of the brain; the geneticization of teen angst; documenting mass rape; commodified collective knowledge; the social life of contract; simulations of care; and experimenting on the poor?*

**Answer:** These are just some of the topics of the papers that our fellow section members will be presenting at the parallel sessions at "SKAT 25: New Directions after a Quarter-Century of the Sociology of Science, Knowledge, and Technology." I am thrilled by the outpouring of enthusiasm for our pre-conference on August 21, as evidenced by the line-up of more than 60 paper presentations as well as the registration of more than 150 attendees. And I am impressed, as always, by the range of topics that can be made grist for the mill of SKAT-inspired analysis. In addition to these talks, we will also hear plenary presentations, as a distinguished group of scholars at different career stages—Adele Clarke, Tom Gieryn, Amit Prasad, and Ruha Benjamin in the morning and Monica Casper, Sheila Jasanoff, Janet Vertesi, and Michael Rodríguez-Muñiz in the afternoon—reflect on the history and future of SKAT and its relation to other fields. This will be a memorable event in the life of our section, and I look forward to seeing you there! (<http://www.skat25.com>)

Yet the pre-conference is just the beginning of our activities in Chicago! After SKAT 25, be sure to stick around and join us for a jam-packed day of events on August 22, the first official day of the ASA meeting. These include our **three section-sponsored paper sessions**, our **roundtables**, our **business meeting/award ceremony**, and our **reception** (at Exchequer, 226 S. Wabash, 6:30-8:30 pm on August 22). Please look for further details about all of these activities elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter.

At the close of the business meeting, after we discuss section business and present the Merton Prize, the Hacker-Mullins Award, and the Star-Nelkin Award, I will pass the metaphorical gavel to **Scott Frickel**, who will then become Chair of the section. (At the same time, **Alondra Nelson** will become Chair-Elect.) So, as my time as Chair draws toward the end, let me take a moment in my final "Chair's Column" to express my thanks



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chair's Column	1
ESTS Journal Launch Interview	3
Interview with Tom Waidzunus	6
SKAT Awards	8
SKAT Election	9
Announcements	10
SKAT25 Schedule	14
SKAT at ASA 2015	20
Section Officers and Committees	23

to the many individuals who have toiled on behalf of the section this past year. These include:

- **The Nominations committee:** Mathieu Albert (Chair) and Erin Leahey
- **The Membership committee:** Aaron Panofsky (Chair), Jill Fisher, and Alex Stingl
- **The Publications committee:** Elizabeth Sweeney (Chair), Whitney Boesel, Danielle Giffort, Patrick Grzanka, Bridget Harr, Kirk Jalbert, and Dan Morrison
- **The Mentoring/Socialization committee:** Scott Frickel (Chair), Casey Oberlin, and Elizabeth Sweeney
- **The Merton Book Award committee:** Jennifer Fishman (Chair), Mary Frank Fox, Sara Shostak, and Ben Sims
- **The Star-Nelkin Article Award committee:** James Evans (Chair), Carol Heimer, Daniel Breslau, and Janet Vertesi
- **The Hacker-Mullins Student Paper Award committee:** Jill Fisher (Chair), Laura Stark, Elise Paradis, and Mariana Craciun
- **The SKAT 25 Mini-Conference Organizing committee:** Steve Epstein (Chair), Mathieu Albert, Daniel Breslau, Claire Decoteau, James Evans, Anne Figert, Marion Fourcade, Kelly Moore, Casey Oberlin, Elise Paradis, and Janet Vertesi
- **The SKAT 25 Local Host committee:** Kellie Owens (Chair), Robin Bartram, Danielle Giffort, Jaimie Morse, Christopher Robertson, Ari Tolman, and Kelly Underman

Finally, in addition to thanking our Secretary-Treasurer Jennifer Fishman and the entire SKAT Council for all their work, I want to call special attention to those whose term in office ends after this year's ASA meeting: Mathieu Albert, Jill Fisher, Casey Oberlin, and Elizabeth Sweeney. I'm grateful for their service over the past several years.

It should be apparent that the success of our section is very much a collective product. I'm grateful to have worked with such dedicated and competent people. Many thanks to all!

See you in Chicago in August!

Steve Epstein

### SKAT MENTORING PROGRAM

This year 29 graduate students and 25 faculty are participating in the SKAT mentoring program, which continues to grow in numbers and vitality. In Chicago, mentee/mentor pairs will have opportunities to meet informally at the SKAT mini-conference on August 21 and again the next day at the ASA SKAT reception (Aug. 22). Following the reception, program participants are encouraged to continue the conversation at dinner at a nearby restaurant (details to come).

## *Engaging Science, Technology, and Society – Journal Launch*

### **Interview with Founding Editor Daniel Kleinman**

Earlier this year, the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) launched its first open access journal, *Engaging Science, Technology, and Society* (ESTS), selecting Daniel Kleinman as its inaugural editor. Specifically described as an “open access academic publication,” ESTS promises to provide a venue in which scholars of science, technology, and society, as well as scholars from a broad range of other fields, can engage with each other in discussions that are not only “relevant and accessible” to scholars of STS but also to the practitioners, policy-makers, and activists that can translate the outcomes of those discussions into action. Publications Committee Chair [Elizabeth Sweeney](#) had the opportunity to interview Dr. Kleinman (a former chair of the SKAT section) to learn more about the development and motivation driving the realization of a genuinely open venue for critical engagement.

**ES:** According to the “Journal History” page of the journal’s website, [estsjournal.org](#), the original concept for the journal emerged in 2013 from a collective recognition of the need for a more accessible and progressive forum for scholars of science, technology, and society. As the founding editor of *Engaging Science, Technology, and Society*, how have you further developed this original concept of an open access academic publication for the Society for Social Studies of Science?

**DK:** While recognition of the need for and value of a new open access online STS journal came from the 4S Publication’s Committee and the Society’s Council, I developed the vision for the journal, in consultation with the 4S leadership and later with Katie Vann, who is the managing editor of *Engaging Science, Technology, and Society*. Four observations guided my ideas for the journal. First, lots of scholars do STS-relevant research but don’t call their work STS. These people should be publishing in our journal. Second, research done by STS scholars has potential relevance to public debate and civic discussion, but this work is typically not part of these broader engagements. ESTS should be a journal where scholars can publish work of public relevance and where we might promote the broad circulation of this work. Third, sometimes jargon is necessary to convey STS-relevant ideas. However, as much as possible and without compromising analytical rigor, work published in our new journal should be readable by a broad audience. Finally, the academic world is changing. We should use the highly flexible format of an open access online journal to encourage publication beyond traditional 6000 word-plus research articles, and we should invite innovation among our contributors in terms of the structure and organization of work submitted. On our website, we outline seven varieties of contribution. ESTS is not only a place to publish traditional research articles, but also a venue for circulating pieces we call *Critical Engagements* and work we refer to as *Considering Concepts*. The former are 1000 word essays that engage an important public issue from a broadly STS perspective. Think of these as long-form journalism or opinion pieces. The latter are intended to be short pieces where authors develop a single concept and provide an example of its application. We also encourage scholars to be in touch with us about their own ideas for new ways to present STS scholarship. There are opportunities to create links within articles to films, photographs, and other means of conveying information. Scholars have approached us about publishing *Thematic Collections*, including one that will involve a collaboration between STS scholars and activists.

**ES:** Although peer-reviewed scholarly articles will serve as one genre of work featured in the journal, ESTS promises to not only be a “site of experimentation with new forms of writing and publication,” but

also a site for scholarly work that “takes risks” and effectively challenges the status quo of how we understand and perceive various issues. How would you explain your motivation for developing a journal that itself takes risks and is defined by questioning and challenging established theories, concepts, and norms? What do you hope can be achieved with such an approach?

**DK:** We are at a rare moment in higher education. Established curricula and degree structures are being questioned. Nearly everyday we hear of new approaches to teaching and learning. Budgets for research are being slashed, and some politicians are questioning the value of tenure and research that is not directly connected to clear economic benefit. Many of the attacks on higher education are deeply troubling, but this moment of substantial instability is also an opportunity. It is a chance to think about why we do what we do and how we do it. In this context, *ESTS* offers scholars and, frankly, writers and researchers who are not academics, a place to present their work in ways that traditional journals with institutionalized formats and expectations do not. In terms of contributions to the journal, I am not willing to dismiss anything out of hand, and I hope *Engaging* will be a hothouse of innovation in terms of the way research is presented and the kind of research that is represented. As to highly touted STS theories and concepts, I hope we receive work that rigorously challenges that scholarship, and I hope too that such submissions will prompt lively debate.

***“ESTS offers scholars and, frankly, writers and researchers who are not academics, a place to present their work in ways that traditional journals with institutionalized formats and expectations do not.”***

—Daniel Kleinman

One point of clarification: although we intend to publish in a set of genres well beyond traditional research articles and be a place for scholarly experimentation, the widely accepted double-blind peer review process will be at the core of how we assess submitted work. Not just traditional research articles, but our other submissions, including pieces that fit the *Considering Concepts* category and shorter pieces for our *Critical Engagements* section, will be subject to rigorous double-blind peer review.

**ES:** As an open access publication, *Engaging Science, Technology, and Society* strives to reach a “wide array of audiences from STS scholars and undergraduate students to science and technology practitioners, policymakers, and activists.” What particular advantages and opportunities facilitated by the open access model do you foresee this journal further developing or expanding?

**DK:** One important advantage is that work published in *ESTS* is not behind a pay wall. That means that high school students who stumble onto the journal will be able to download articles and so will students, scholars, and interested readers from across the globe who aren’t able to pay for access to traditional scholarly journals or, for that matter, news publications. It would be really cool if the work in our journal attracted the attention of journalists, policymakers, and activists. Again, they wouldn’t need a password to read the work.

**ES: The journal is designed to follow the Diamond Model of Open Access Publishing. Can you explain what this means and how it works to improve or enhance the publication process?**

**DK:** I wasn't involved in the decision to follow the Diamond Model, but I support it. The idea was coined by Christian Fuchs and Marisol Sandoval (*see* <http://www.triple-c.at/index.php/tripleC/article/view/502>). The model views academic knowledge as a common good. Thus, our journal is not about making a profit by selling articles, but about making them freely available. Another important aspect to the Diamond Model is that *ESTS* is free not only to readers, but to authors as well. We don't charge "author processing fees." Free access for readers is not built on the backs of authors. This approach seeks to maximize access and discussion.

**ES: Within the focus and scope description of the journal, it's stated, "The centrality of science and technology in social life means there is a vital space for scholars of science, technology, and society to intervene in meaningful ways in discussions of the most crucial issues of the day," with *ESTS* intended to serve as a "vibrant venue for these conversations." Can you elaborate in what sense you anticipate scholars being able to "intervene in meaningful ways"? Do you foresee these discussions having a role in the larger public policy discussions of the day?**

**DK:** So—in my responses to your other questions I've addressed these questions to a degree. I'm sure many in the STS community won't agree with me, but I don't think what we do as scholars is worth very much if the only people we talk to are one another. STS scholars work on issues that really matter in the lives of people across the globe. My dream is that *ESTS* prompts those who submit to the journal to write in a way that their work will be of interest to and maybe even of use to those who are affected by the phenomena they study. We will promote new work via Twitter and other means, and with luck people beyond our community will learn about it and read it.

One more thing: one potential advantage of an online journal is that publication can happen quickly. We don't have to wait until we have an issue's worth of articles, because we will have one rolling "issue" per year and publish work as it is ready. Although for various regulatory reasons we must wait to launch our first set of articles until we have a critical mass of papers ready to go, once our first batch is published, we will publish work as it is ready. Authors and readers won't have to wait months or years to see the newest STS scholarship. And—on the editorial end, we are trying to speed the time from submission to publication, pushing the review process so that papers don't languish for months before reviewers provide feedback.



**Daniel Lee Kleinman** is Professor of Community & Environmental Sociology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.



**Elizabeth M. Sweeney** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of Cincinnati.

## Sexual Orientation and the Sociology of Science: An Interview with Tom Waidzunus

Tom Waidzunus' first book, *The Straight Line: How the Fringe Science of Ex-Gay Therapy Reoriented Sexuality*, will be published by the University of Minnesota Press in November 2015. In anticipation of the release of this groundbreaking study, **Patrick Grzanka** talked with Waidzunus about his project and about the place of sexuality in SKAT-related fields.

**PG: What initially drew you to your project?**

**TW:** While searching for a dissertation topic, I attended an author-meets-critics panel at the 4S conference in Vancouver for Jenny Reardon and her book, *Race to the Finish*, which explored the technoscientific construction of race categories through the human genome diversity project. While this piqued my interest in the measurement of human difference, I noted that there had been a great deal of research in STS on the social construction of race and gender, especially concerned with critiquing essentialism as in Steven Epstein's *Inclusion*. I wanted to extend these threads to the topic of sexual orientation. Initially, I had considered a project comparing scientific measurement of sexual orientation prior to the decision to remove "homosexuality" from the *DSM* in 1973 and after, but learned that there were struggles over reorientation therapies that remained, especially surrounding the work of Dr. Robert Spitzer and his ex-gay study.

**PG: Your book takes you from the history of psychology to in-depth interviews to fieldwork in Africa. Can you describe your methodological approach and why you ultimately chose a multi-site project?**

**TW:** My loosely Foucauldian methodological approach is drawn from Steven Epstein's work in *Impure Science*, following the credibility struggles of key claimants and social movement advocates embroiled in scientific controversy. This required participant observation at key conferences, interviews with key claimants and social movement leaders, and content analysis of scientific and activist literature. While my dissertation focused on struggles over conversion therapies in the United States, by 2009 it was becoming apparent that reorientation advocates were building transnational networks, facing blocked opportunities in U.S. professional associations. The publicity surrounding the role of Exodus International and other ex-gay activists in the formation of the Anti-Homosexuality Bill drew my attention to Uganda and led to a postdoc in the Northwestern Science in Human Culture Program. While still following the actors in credibility struggles, this provided an opportunity to consider the social construction of sexual orientation science in dramatically different national contexts.

**PG: Obviously, so-called "conversion" and "reparative" therapies are scientifically unfounded and outright dangerous. But your work complicates how we understand mainstream psychology's objection to these therapies. Can you explain how you arrived at your critique of psychologists who were purporting to protect sexual minorities from reparative therapy by cultivating an essentialist ontology of sexual orientation?**

**TW:** In addition to drawing on the sociology of social movements, the book brings together approaches from science studies and queer theory—fields with similar constructionist roots. While a queer theory critique of reorientation therapies can be advanced against heteronormative essentialism, these same principles can be utilized to raise questions about any essentialisms, including those that are pro-gay. Essentialist views do not take into account the role of sciences in what Ian Hacking calls "looping effects" of human kinds, simultaneously shaping and measuring ways of being human. In the conclusion, I propose that gay rights could be justified without resorting to essentialist ontologies that impose strict fixed binaries onto human lives, but

might instead be modeled on the protection of religious freedom, more accepted as a fluid trait, and these rights could be built through cross-cultural dialogue rather than appealing to absolutes.

**PG: Though there is a substantial body of research on gender that is considered central to SKAT-type concerns, much less work has attended specifically to sexuality. From your perspective, why is sexuality important to the sociology of knowledge, science, and technology?**

**TW:** I believe we are only beginning to understand how central heteronormativity is to professional and epistemic cultures within science and technology fields. Hierarchical binaries (e.g., straight/gay) shape opportunities for knowledge construction and are part of the cultural factors that shape credibility of claims and claimants. However, the study of the intersection of sexuality and knowledge production might attend further to the dangers of the reification of biological differences independent of culture that we see in areas of race and gender in contemporary biomedical regimes.

**PG: In this sense, your project is making an important intervention into the literature on sexuality and science. What are the leading edges of sexualities work in STS and SKAT-related fields?**

**TW:** Much of the work in this area has focused on reproductive sexualities and practices, and in my work I have been trying to expand this focus. To go further, one only need to look to Gayle Rubin's essay "Thinking Sex" and the "Rethinking Sex" follow-up symposium to think about the range of sexual expressions that might be studied through an STS lens. Recent calls for expanding the focus in sexuality studies have included turning to global processes, intersections between sexualities and political economy, and considering how to theorize desire at the intrapsychic level, and I believe that these emphases are important when considering the sexualities work within STS and SKAT. Moreover, examining biomedical attributions of health and pathology in the body and mind regarding all things sexual is a key frontier in this area. To aid in conceptualizing various knowledge regimes and biomedicalization processes in the domain of sexualities, Steven Epstein and I have theorized the concept of "technosexual scripts" in our recent piece in *Social Studies of Science* on the history of the phallometric test, and this might be useful to consider how technologies and sexual subjectivities are mutually constitutive.

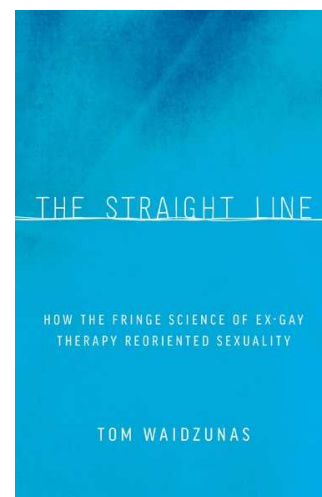
**PG: What are your next steps? Where is your research headed?**

**TW:** Currently, I am working with my colleague Erin Cech at Rice University on the workplace experiences of LGBTQ persons in STEM fields, including our current project on this topic at NASA. We are also involved in research facilitating SafeZone trainings in virtual communities of practice for STEM educators, and we are hoping to conduct nationwide work on workplace experiences for LGB persons in STEM, and later on transgender. Following this work, I hope to extend my work on the science of sexual orientation to the area of sex offender treatment.



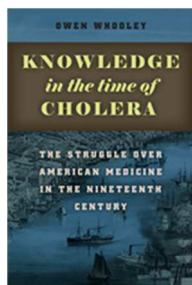
**Tom J. Waidzunus** is an assistant professor of sociology at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA, where he is also affiliated with the Women's Studies Program.

**Patrick R. Grzanka** is an assistant professor of psychology and affiliate faculty in American Studies and Women's Studies at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. His first book, *Intersectionality: A Foundations and Frontiers Reader*, was published by Westview Press in 2014.



## SKAT 2015 AWARDS

We're delighted to announce the SKAT section 2015 award winners, who will be recognized at our section's Business Meeting on Saturday, August 22 at 11:30am!



### Robert K. Merton Book Award

**Winner:** Owen Whooley, University of New Mexico

*Knowledge in the Time of Cholera: The Struggle over American Medicine in the Nineteenth Century* (University of Chicago Press, 2013)



### Star-Nelkin Paper Award

**Winner:** Carrie Friese, London School of Economics and Political Science

"Realizing Potential in Translational Medicine: The Uncanny Emergence of Care as Science," *Current Anthropology* 54 (2013): S129-S138.

### Honorable mention:

Brian Uzzi (Northwestern University), Satyam Mukherjee (Datascope Analytics), Michael Stringer, and Ben Jones (National Bureau of Economic Research)  
"Atypical Combinations and Scientific Impact," *Science* 342 (2013): 468-472.

### Honorable mention:

Marion Fourcade (UC Berkeley) and Kieran Healy (Duke University)  
"Classification Situations: Life-Chances in the Neoliberal Era,"  
*Accounting, Organizations and Society* 38 (2013): 559-572.



### Hacker- Mullins Student Paper Award

**Winner:** Natalie B. Aviles, University of California, San Diego

"The Little Death: Rigoni-Stern and the Problem of Sex and Cancer in Twentieth-Century Biomedical Research" (published in *Social Studies of Science*)

**Honorable Mention:** Jason Turowetz, University of Wisconsin-Madison

"The Interactional Production of a Clinical Fact in a Case of Autism" (published in *Qualitative Sociology*)

## SKAT 2015 ELECTION



**Chair-Elect:**  
**Alondra Nelson**  
Columbia University  
(two-year term)



**Council Member:**  
**Ruha Benjamin**  
Princeton University  
(three-year term)



**Council Member:**  
**Catherine (Rina) Bliss**  
University of California-San Francisco  
(three-year term)



**Student Representative:**  
**Alka Menon**  
Northwestern University  
(three-year term)



**Student Representative:**  
**Michael Halpin**  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
(two-year term)

## NEW ARTICLES

Albert, Mathieu, Elise Paradis, and Ayelet Kuper. 2015. "Interdisciplinary Promises versus Practices in Medicine: The Decoupled Experiences of Social Sciences and Humanities Scholars." *Social Science & Medicine* 126: 17-25.

Fox, Mary Frank. 2015. "Gender and Clarity of Evaluation Among Academic Scientists in Research Universities." *Science, Technology, & Human Values* 40.

Merriman, Ben, and Santiago J. Molina. 2015. "Variable Conceptions of Population in Community Resource Genetic Projects: A Challenge for Governance." *New Genetics and Society*.

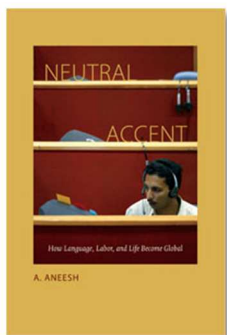
## NEW BOOKS

**Abramson, Corey M. 2015. *The End Game: How Inequality Shapes Our Final Years*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.**

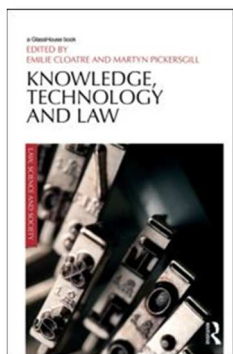


*The End Game* investigates whether persistent socioeconomic, racial, and gender divisions in America create inequalities that structure the lives of the elderly. Abramson argues that studying the experience of aging is central to understanding inequality, in part because this segment of the population is rapidly growing. But there is another reason. The shared challenges of the elderly—declining mobility and health, loss of loved ones and friends—affect people across the socioeconomic spectrum, allowing for powerful ethnographic comparisons that are difficult to make earlier in life. *The End Game* makes clear that, despite the shared experiences of old age, inequality remains a powerful arbiter of who wins and who loses in American society.

**Aneesh, A. 2015. *Neutral Accent: How Language, Labor and Life Become Global*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.**

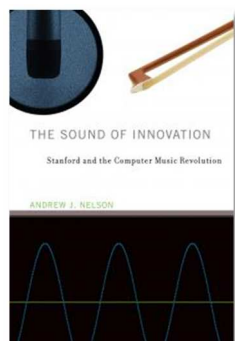


In *Neutral Accent*, A. Aneesh employs India's call centers as useful sites for studying global change. In his interviews with call service workers and in his own work in a call center in the high-tech metropolis of Gurgaon, India, Aneesh observed the difficulties these workers face in bridging cultures, laws, and economies: having to speak in an accent that does not betray their ethnicity, location, or social background; learning foreign social norms; and working graveyard shifts to accommodate international customers. The work of call center employees in the globally integrated marketplace comes at a cost, however, as they become disconnected from the local interactions and personal relationships that make their lives anything but neutral.



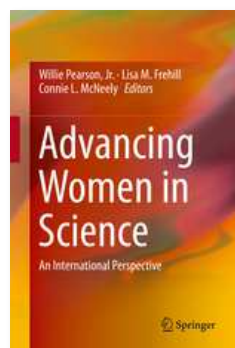
Cloatre, Emilie, and Martyn Pickersgill, eds. 2015. *Knowledge, Technology and Law*. London: Routledge.

*Knowledge, Technology, and Law* charts the important interface between studies of law, science, and society, as explored from the perspectives of socio-legal studies and the increasingly influential field of science and technology studies. It brings together scholars from both areas to interrogate the joint roles of law and science in the construction and stabilization of socio-technical networks, objects, and standards, as well as their place in the production of contemporary social realities and subjectivities.



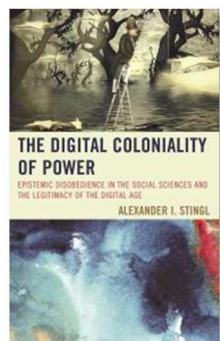
Nelson, Andrew. 2015. *The Sound of Innovation: Stanford and the Computer Music Revolution*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

In the 1960s, a team of Stanford musicians, engineers, computer scientists, and psychologists used computing in an entirely novel way: to produce and manipulate sound and create the sonic basis of new musical compositions. This group of interdisciplinary researchers at the nascent Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA, pronounced "karma") helped to develop computer music as an academic field, invent the technologies that underlie it, and usher in the age of digital music. In *The Sound of Innovation*, Andrew Nelson chronicles the history of CCRMA, tracing its origins in Stanford's Artificial Intelligence Laboratory through its present-day influence on Silicon Valley and digital music groups worldwide.



Pearson, Willie, Lisa M. Frehill, and Connie L. McNeely, Eds. 2015. *Advancing Women in Science: An International Perspective*. Springer International Publishing.

*Advancing Women in Science* examines both the role of gender as an organizing principle of social life and the relative position of women scientists within national and international labor markets. Weaving together and engaging research on globalization, the social organization of science, and gendered societal relations as key social forces, this book addresses critical issues affecting women's contributions and participation in science. Also, while considering women's representation in science as a whole, examinations of women in the chemical sciences, computing, mathematics, and statistics are offered as examples to provide insights into how differing disciplinary cultures, functional tasks, and socio-historical conditions can affect the advancement of women in science relative to important variations in educational and occupational realities.



Stingl, Alexander I. 2015. *The Digital Coloniality of Power: Epistemic Disobedience in the Social Sciences and the Legitimacy of the Digital Age*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

In *The Digital Coloniality of Power*, Stingl illustrates that it is possible that classrooms, free speech on internet, and the inequalities in the production and distribution of a new form of social capital – digital cultural health care capital – can be subjected to a decolonial perspective along a sociological line of inquiry, if sociologists allow for relations with other disciplines and scholarship to be integrative conversations.

---

## PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

---



**Martyn Pickersgill**, Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow in Edinburgh Medical School, is the recipient of a five-year Wellcome Trust University Award in Society and Ethics. Titled “Beyond Diagnosis? Novelty, Need and the Normative in Twenty-First Century Psychiatry,” the project starts this summer and will involve fieldwork in the United States and the United Kingdom. Martyn was also recently awarded the Henry Duncan Medal for social science by the Royal Society of Edinburgh.



**Abigail Saguy** was promoted to Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles.

---

## CALL FOR PAPERS

---

**States of Surveillance: New Directions and Empirical Projects**  
**Surveillance Studies Center, University of Kansas**  
**October 1st and 2nd, 2015**

The purpose of the symposium is to push the boundaries of our current knowledge and explore new ways of thinking about and studying surveillance and privacy. Our goal is to bring together scholars from diverse disciplinary backgrounds to exchange ideas and propose new partnerships and projects related to social monitoring. Topics may include: technology and policing, big data and privacy, citizenship and democracy after Snowden, wearable technologies, etc.

Please submit a 200 word abstract including author name(s), university affiliation, and contact information via email to: [ssrc@ku.edu](mailto:ssrc@ku.edu) by **August 15th, 2015**. Please put “2015 SSRC Symposium” in subject line.

The meeting will begin with welcoming remarks and a keynote address by Dr. Alessandro Acquisti on Thursday, October 1st at 7:30pm, followed by the symposium on October 2nd. Participant presentations will each be approximately 15 minutes in length with an additional 10 minutes for Q&A. Following the final workshop session, a reception and dinner for all symposium participants will be held at 6:00pm on October 2nd.

Please visit <http://ipsr.ku.edu/SSRC/conference> for more information.

**Call for Papers**  
**Special Issue of *New Solutions* on**  
**Social Science Environmental Health Collaborations**

**Guest Editors: Phil Brown, Northeastern University and Julia Brody, Silent Spring Institute**



This special issue will contain papers from the May 21-22, 2015 conference on Social Science Environmental Health Collaborations, held at Northeastern University, as well as other articles responding to this call for papers. We invite papers that address how social scientists and environmental health scientists collaborate in research, activism, and social policy.

Social scientists have long played a role in studying the impacts of environmental health threats, including ethnographic studies of communities contaminated by hazardous waste or harmed by oil spills or chemical releases. In recent years, social scientists have collaborated with environmental health scientists on biomonitoring and household exposure monitoring, and have played important roles on National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Environmental Justice and Community-based Participatory Research grants and in NIEHS centers – Superfund Research Program, Children’s Environmental Health Center, Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Core Centers. These collaborations have previously been addressed at the 2012 “Social, Psychological, and Economic Impacts of Hazardous Waste Sites” conference at Brown University led by the NIEHS Superfund Research Program, and by presenters at several NIEHS Partnerships in Environmental Public Health conferences. The 2015 conference at Northeastern University marked the maturity of these types of collaborations, and this special issue will document that maturity and help move to further levels of development.

We are open to a variety of styles, including research reports, case reports, historical analysis, and theoretical/analytical pieces.

*New Solutions* is a journal of occupational and environmental health policy, published by Sage Publications. Articles will undergo the regular review process for the journal. This issue will be Vol. 26, Number 3, published in October 2016. Articles should be submitted no later than **December 1, 2015**, through the regular submission portal <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/new>. Manuscript guidelines are available at: <http://www.sagepub.com/journals/Journal202402/manuscriptSubmission>. Authors who want to discuss potential contributions may contact the guest editors at [p.brown@neu.edu](mailto:p.brown@neu.edu) or [brody@silentspring.org](mailto:brody@silentspring.org).



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

**August 21, 2015, 9:00 am to 7:00 pm**

**Prentice Women's Hospital 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Center  
250 E. Superior St., Chicago, IL 60611**

On August 21, 2015—in our section's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, and on the eve of the ASA's annual meeting in Chicago—the SKAT Section will hold a one-day mini-conference (its first ever) on the downtown Chicago campus of Northwestern University. The mini-conference is open to SKAT members and all others interested in social and cultural studies of science, knowledge, and technology. Because the SKAT "section day" in 2015 is the first day of the annual meeting (August 22), ASA members who attend the mini-conference will be able to enjoy two back-to-back days of focused activities, including the sessions sponsored by the section on August 22. We therefore encourage section members to arrive in Chicago a day early. The mini-conference venue is a short distance from the ASA conference hotels and is accessible from them by public transportation or taxi.

### CONFERENCE PROGRAM

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

## PLENARY 1: LOOKING BACKWARD AND FORWARD

Chaired by Section Chair Steve Epstein

**Confirmed speakers:** 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?

## PLENARY 2: LOOKING OUTWARD AND INWARD

Chaired by Section Chair-Elect Scott Frickel

**Confirmed speakers:** 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?

## PARALLEL SESSIONS A

### Disciplinary structures / The Structure of Disciplines

Room: Canning

**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"

### Academic Networks

Room: J

**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"

### The Dynamics of Interdisciplinarity

Room: L North

**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

**Jonathan Banda**, "'Sex without fear': Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV and the New Subject of Risk"

**Stefan Vogler**, "Civic Epistemology and the Identity/Practice Distinction: How the U.S. State Knows Sexuality"

**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"

### Precaution and Prediction

Room: M

**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"

### Epistemic Cultures

Room: N

**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"

### Biosociality

Room: P

**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**, "The Militarization of the Body: Gymnasia as Laboratories for Everyday Wars"

**Gareth Martin Thomas**, "'Hands-Off Work': How Professionals Routinize Prenatal Screening for Down Syndrome in the Clinic"

### Populations and Pandemics

Room: Q

**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."

## PARALLEL SESSIONS B

### Scientific Constructions of Race

Room: Canning

**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

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

**Brian Dick**, “Papaya Problems: The Public-Sector Origins of the Transgenic Papaya”

**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

**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

**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

**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

**Sharla Alegria and Cassaundra Rodriguez**, "The Long Shadow of Immigration Policy: 'Appropriate work' and Wage Inequality in U.S. Tech Work"

**Kathrin Zippel**, "Traveling Abroad, Coming Home: Ambivalent Discourses on the U.S. Role in Global Science"

**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"

### **Situated Production**

Room: P

**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. Stigl**, "The Digital Coloniality of Power and Integrative Interdisciplinarity: Embodied Spaces, Technological Zones, Cultures of Cognition."

### **Confidence in Science**

Room: Q

**Michelle Goldenberg**, "Scientific Knowledge in the Public Sphere: Perceptions of Academic Scientists"

**Fithawee Tzeggai**, "Experimenting on the Poor: The Political Conditions and Consequences of Randomized Assignment in 1980's Welfare Program Evaluation Research"

**Charles de Souza**, "Wither 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"

# SKAT AT ASA 2015



## **Bodies & Sexualities in Science & Technology Studies**

***Co-Sponsored with the Section on Sociology of the Body and Embodiment***

**Sat, August 22, 8:30 to 10:10am**

**Session Organizers:** Katie Hasson and Elise Paradis

**Presider:** Elise Paradis

### **Presenters:**

Shelley K. White and Valerie R. Leiter, "Regulatory Scripting: Embodied, Scientific, and Medical Knowledges on Vaginal Mesh"

Krista Mary Smith Sigurdson and Adele Clarke, "Safety and Scarcity in the Production and Distribution of Banked Donor Milk"

Martine Danielle Lappe, "The Maternal Body as Environment in Autism Science"

Jody Ahlm, "Respectable Promiscuity and Cybercarnality; Or, 'Never show your face on pictures with your naughty bits'"

Yu-Ling Huang, "The Making of Bio-political Knowledge: Fertility Studies in Early Cold War Taiwan"

## **Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology Roundtables**

**Sat, August 22, 10:30 to 11:30am**

**Organizer: Catherine Bliss**

**Table 01.** Structures of Science

**Table 02.** Science and Governance

**Table 03.** Classification Work

**Table 04.** Paradigms and People

**Table 05.** Constructing Nature

**Table 06.** Legitimizing Knowledge

**Table 07.** Mobilizing Expertise

**Table 08.** Interdisciplinary Research

**Table 09.** Metaphors in Science and Society

## **SKAT Section Business Meeting and Award Ceremony**

**Sat, August 22, 11:30-12:10**

**Chaired by Steve Epstein**

## **The Politics of Knowledge: Technoscientific Dimensions of Political Life**

**Sat, August 22, 2:30 to 4:10pm**

**Session Organizer:** Steven Epstein

**Presider:** Janet Shim

**Discussant:** Scott Frickel

### **Presenters:**

Patrick Carroll, "Water, Technoscience, and Regimes of Governance in California"

Alondra Nelson, "Janus DNA: Race and Reconciliation after the Genome"

Kelly Moore, "Wellness and the Embodied Normalization of Neoliberalism"

Judy Wajcman, "Pressed for Time: How Technological Acceleration Came to Signify the Zeitgeist"

## Topics in Science, Knowledge, and Technology Studies

Sat, August 22, 4:30 to 6:10pm

Session Organizer and Presider: Jill A. Fisher

### Presenters:

Dilshani Sarathchandra, "Risky Science?: Assessing and Negotiating Risks in University Bioscience"

Claire Laurier Decoteau and Paige Lenore Sweet, "Psychiatry's Little Other: DSM-5 and Debates over Psychiatric Science"

Bryce J. Bartlett, "New Ways to Die in the Age of Biomedicalization: Changes in Cause of Death Classification Rules"

Kellie Owens, "Too Much of a Good Thing? American Midwives and the Positive Side of Strategic Ignorance"

Jaime McCauley, "Citizens, Experts, Politics, and Policy: Exploring Goals and Motivations of Volunteer Water Quality Monitors"

### ASA 2015 SKAT RECEPTION

6:30-8:30 pm on August 22

Exchequer, 226 S. Wabash



### UPCOMING CONFERENCE:

#### 4S ANNUAL MEETING

Denver, Colorado, November 11-14

Sheraton Downtown

Early registration ends August 9

Visit <http://www.4sonline.org/meeting>



## SKAT OFFICERS, 2014-15



**Chair:**

Steven Epstein, Northwestern University  
[s-epstein@northwestern.edu](mailto:s-epstein@northwestern.edu)



**Council Member:**

James Evans, University of Chicago  
[jevans@uchicago.edu](mailto:jevans@uchicago.edu)



**Chair-Elect:**

Scott Frickel, Brown University  
[scott\\_frickel@brown.edu](mailto:scott_frickel@brown.edu)



**Council Member:**

Erin Leahey, University of Arizona  
[leahey@email.arizona.edu](mailto:leahey@email.arizona.edu)



**Past Chair:**

Monica Casper, University of Arizona  
[mjcasper@email.arizona.edu](mailto:mjcasper@email.arizona.edu)



**Council Member:**

Mary Frank Fox, Georgia Tech  
[mary.fox@pubpolicy.gatech.edu](mailto:mary.fox@pubpolicy.gatech.edu)



**Secretary-Treasurer:**

Jennifer Fishman, McGill University  
[jennifer.fishman@mcgill.ca](mailto:jennifer.fishman@mcgill.ca)



**Council Member:**

Laura Stark, Vanderbilt University  
[laura.stark@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:laura.stark@vanderbilt.edu)



**Council Member:**

Mathieu Albert, University of Toronto  
[mathieu.albert@utoronto.ca](mailto:mathieu.albert@utoronto.ca)



**Graduate Student Representative:**

Casey Oberlin, Grinnell College  
[oberlink@grinnell.edu](mailto:oberlink@grinnell.edu)



**Council Member:**

Jill Fisher, University of North Carolina  
[jill.fisher@unc.edu](mailto:jill.fisher@unc.edu)



**Graduate Student Representative:**

Elizabeth Sweeney, University of Cincinnati  
[sweeneem@mail.uc.edu](mailto:sweeneem@mail.uc.edu)



ASA Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology

## SKAT COMMITTEES, 2014-15

### Nominations:

Mathieu Albert, Chair  
([mathieu.albert@utoronto.ca](mailto:mathieu.albert@utoronto.ca))  
Erin Leahy

### Membership:

Aaron Panofsky, Chair  
([apanofsky@socgen.ucla.edu](mailto:apanofsky@socgen.ucla.edu))  
Jill Fisher  
Alexander Stingl

### Publications:

Elizabeth Sweeney, Chair([sweeneem@mail.uc.edu](mailto:sweeneem@mail.uc.edu))  
Danielle Giffort  
Patrick Grzanka  
Bridget Harr

### Mentoring/Socialization:

Scott Frickel, Chair ([scott\\_frickel@brown.edu](mailto:scott_frickel@brown.edu))  
Casey Oberlin  
Elizabeth Sweeney

### Merton Book Award:

Jennifer Fishman, Chair  
([jennifer.fishman@mcgill.ca](mailto:jennifer.fishman@mcgill.ca))  
Mary Frank Fox  
Sara Shostak  
Ben Sims  
Steve Epstein (ex-officio)

### Star-Nelkin Article Award:

James Evans, Chair ([jevans@uchicago.edu](mailto:jevans@uchicago.edu))  
Carol Heimer  
Daniel Breslau  
Janet Vertesi  
Steve Epstein (ex-officio)

### Hacker-Mullins Student Paper Award:

Jill Fisher, Chair ([jill.fisher@unc.edu](mailto:jill.fisher@unc.edu))  
Laura Stark  
Elise Paradis  
Mariana Craciun  
Steve Epstein (ex-officio)

### SKAT 25 Mini-Conference Organizing Committee:

Steve Epstein, Chair ([s-epstein@northwestern.edu](mailto:s-epstein@northwestern.edu))  
Mathieu Albert  
Daniel Breslau  
Claire Decoteau  
James Evans  
Anne Figert  
Marion Fourcade  
Kelly Moore  
Casey Oberlin  
Elise Paradis  
Janet Vertesi

### SKAT 25 Local Host Committee:

Kellie Owens, Chair  
Robin Bartram  
Danielle Giffort  
Jaimie Morse  
Christopher Robertson  
Ari Tolman  
Kelly Underman