Spring 2007

ASA-SKAT

Science, Knowledge, and Technology

Table of Contents:

SKAT News

New Webmaster for our SKAT Website
SKAT has a new Webmaster. Vivian Varela of Taft Community College has graciously agreed to take over management of the SKAT website. Thank you, Vivian! Contact her at varela@taftcollege.edu. Many thanks to Ricky Leung for so capably managing the SKAT website for several years.

Hacker-Mullins Student Award
Submissions for the Hacker-Mullins Award for the best graduate student paper are due on **May 15, 2007**. Authors must be a student at time of submission. If you are a faculty member, please urge your students to submit papers for this award. Please submit your papers (or, in the case of faculty members, your students' papers) to Chair Kelly Joyce (kajoyc@wm.edu) who will distribute them to committee members Andrew Lakoff and Scott Frickel. The committee invites section members to volunteer to be an at-large member of the committee.

Robert K. Merton Professional Award
SKAT invites nominations (including self-nominations) for the Robert K. Merton Professional Award. The award is given annually in recognition of scholarly achievement, represented by a book or body of work concerning science, knowledge and technology published during the preceding 3 years (2005, 2006, 2007). Single- or multi-authored works are eligible, but not edited volumes. The awardee, who should be a member of SKAT during the year in which the award is given, will be honored at the ASA Annual Meeting. The deadline for nominations is **April 1, 2007**, and for receipt of books from publishers by **May 1**. For each nomination, please send a brief letter identifying the work(s) to be considered, their publisher(s) (presses or journals), and any supporting material that would help the committee understand the contribution (for example, published book reviews). You may self-nominate. Chair of the committee is Jason Owen-Smith (jdos@umich.edu), and members are Chris Henke, Laurel-Smith-Doerr, Daniel Breslau (at large member) and Jennifer Croissant (ex officio). Please contact Jason for more information.

SKAT Listserve
Don't forget that SKAT has a new listserve. To drop in and take part in the discussion, go to http://members.asanet.org/Forums/view_forum.php?id=27 or http://members.asanet.org/Forums/ and scroll down to Science, Knowledge, and Technology (this way you can view the many other ASA section forums).

New Books

For additional books, see "Announcements" under http://www.4sonline.org/profession/profession.htm

A. Aneesh. *Virtual Migration: The Programming of Globalization* (Duke University Press 2006).
This study examines the emerging paradigm of transnational labor practice that allows workers in India to connect to global corporations and consumers with high-speed satellite and cable links, performing a range of work activities through globally accessible data servers. Drawing on extensive field research in India, the book identifies programming code as the missing link that explains a shift from hierarchical to horizontal forms of power relations in an expanding regime of global work. In the words of Akhil Gupta, "*Virtual Migration* will be invaluable not only to students in science and technology studies but to scholars in all fields interested in the troubled politics of the global movement of capital, technology, and people."

Steven Epstein's book *Inclusion: The Politics of Difference in Medical Research* will be published in May by the University of Chicago Press. Epstein investigates how new ways of thinking about identity and difference have taken hold in biomedicine, how they took institutional form as law and policy in the United States, and how they have made their way into common sense. His work investigates the consequences of these changes for biomedical research, pharmaceutical drug development, "profiling" practices in health care, and cultural understandings of the meanings of sex and race.

Tarleton Gillespie. *Wired Shut: Copyright and the Shape of Digital Culture*.
http://mitpress.mit.edu/catalog/item/default.asp?ttype=2&tid=11124
To be released May 2007.
"While the public and the media have been distracted by the story of Napster, warnings about the evils of 'piracy,' and lawsuits by the recording and film industries, the enforcement of copyright law in the digital world has quietly shifted from regulating copying to regulating the design of technology. Lawmakers and commercial interests are pursuing what might be called a technical fix: instead of specifying what can and cannot be done legally with a copyrighted work, this new approach calls for the strategic use of encryption technologies to build standards of copyright directly into digital devices so that some uses are possible and others rendered impossible. In *Wired Shut*, Tarleton Gillespie examines this shift to 'technical copy protection' and its profound political, economic, and cultural implications."

Ross Mitchell has an edited collection of 11 essays, *Consuming Nature: The Political Ecology of Thorstein Veblen*, forthcoming later this year by Edwin Mellen Press. He has also had several recent articles published in relation to his dissertation work on the concept of "ecological democracy," including:

- Mitchell, Ross E. 2006. "Green Politics or Environmental Blues? Analyzing Ecological Democracy." Public Understanding of Science 15(4):459-480.
- Mitchell, Ross E. 2006. "Building an Empirical Case for Ecological Democracy." Nature and Culture. 1(2):149-156.
- Mitchell, Ross E. 2006. "Environmental Governance in Mexico: Two Case Studies of Oaxaca's Community Forest Sector." Journal of Latin American Studies. 38(3):519-548.

Mitchell now works at Stantec Consulting Ltd. in Edmonton, Canada as a senior environmental scientist and can be contacted at ross.mitchell@stantec.com.

Alan P. Rudy, Dawn Coppin, Jason Konefal, Bradley T. Shaw, Toby A. Ten Eyck, Craig Harris and Lawrence Busch. January, 2007. *Universities in the Age of Corporate Science: The UC Berkeley-Novartis Controversy*. ISBN: 1-59213-533-1. http://www.temple.edu/tempress/titles/1867_reg.html

As a result of widespread financial pressures, U.S. research universities increasingly stress the pursuit of funding beyond that available from government grants and contracts. Concomitantly, recent legal changes have encouraged universities to develop closer ties to the private business sector.

This book represents the most thorough review ever undertaken of a major collaboration between industry and academe. A professional evaluation team obtained authorization for unprecedented access to those associated with the landmark $25 million contract entered into by the Plant and Microbial Biology Department at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Novartis Agricultural Discovery Institute, a subsidiary of Novartis, an international pharmaceutical and agribusiness conglomerate.

This model study presents the inside story of the partnership itself, places it in the context of contemporary university-industry relationships, and provides a larger theoretical framework for evaluating such collaborations in the future. [If you are reading this book announcement, please email newsletter editor Todd Paddock at tpaddock@winona.edu and let him know.]

Charles Thorpe has published a sociological biography of the physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer. *Oppenheimer: The Tragic Intellect*, University of Chicago Press. http://www.press.uchicago.edu/cgi-bin/hfs.cgi/00/198203.ctl

Thomas Zeller. Driving Germany: The Landscape of the German Autobahn, 1930-1970
Oxford/New York: Berghahn Books, 2006. ISBN 1-84545-309-3.
http://www.berghahnbooks.com/title.php?rowtag=ZellerDriving

Book Review

Mary C. Ingram-Waters
Book Review Editor
Center for Nanotechnology in Society
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Turner, Fred. 2006. *From counterculture to cyberculture: Stewart Brand, the Whole Earth Network, and the rise of digital utopianism.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

In the science section of the February 27 edition of the *New York Times*, journalist John Tierney profiles Stewart Brand. In this particular piece, Tierney presents Brand as a long-time futurist–someone who has been at the forefront of innovative thinking since the late 1960s. Briefly, he follows Brand through his career, from his days with the *Whole Earth Catalog* to *Wired* to the Global Business Network. He ends his sweep by focusing on Brand's current project, the 10,000 year clock. In his article, Tierney references Fred Turner's book, *From counterculture to cyberculture: Stewart Brand, the Whole Earth Network, and the rise of digital utopianism*, as one of several recent academic works devoted to Brand.

Turner's book is not a biography of Stewart Brand, at least not in the traditional sense. Turner's purpose is to tell the historical story of how the techno-libertarian ideals of cyberculture (think "information wants to be free," "virtual communities" and "electronic frontier") emerged from a fusion of cybernetics theories of population systems, the 1960s psychedelic scene, the 1970s New Communalist movement, and the post-WWII military industrial complex. He does so by conceptualizing Brand as a *network entrepreneur*, borrowing sociologist Ronald Burt's term for someone who can link together different social groups in meaningful ways. Thus, Turner presents Brand the pivotal figure who brought together not only hippies and hackers but also ideologies, resources, and innovations.

Turner follows Brand through a series of professional projects: the *Whole Earth Catalog*, the WELL (Whole Earth 'Lectronic Link), *Wired*, and the Global Business Network. In each of these, Brand was either the founder or a founding member. For Turner, each of these projects constituted a "network forum" or a space where Brand could make connections between seemingly divergent social groups and their accompanying ideologies. For instance, the *Whole Earth Catalog* was marketed to a generation of people who openly mistrusted technology in the hands of large businesses and the government. However, Brand used the *Whole Earth Catalog* to reclaim technological innovations by selling them as tools for independent living within sustainable systems. In his *Catalog*, he advertised geodesic domes, farming tools, and early computers as mechanisms for freeing oneself from bureaucratic urban sprawl. [If you are reading this book review, please email newsletter editor Todd Paddock at tpaddock@winona.edu and let him know.]

Turner highlights one of Brand's particular strategies in his network forums: juxtaposition. According to Turner, Brand's use of juxtaposition was highly effective in his quest to network unrelated people and/or concepts. For example, in the *Catalog*, Brand might have one page devoted to dome living while another page outlined Buckminster Fuller's ideas on whole systems. Thus, he brought the legitimacy of Fuller to dome living–or perhaps the legitimacy of dome living to Fuller's teachings.

As a side note, I have a copy of the Spring 1987 *Whole Earth Review*, one of the *Catalog*'s later permutations, on my desk for another project. In it, we can find an article by Eric Drexler on nanotechnology, entitled, "Nanotechnics and Civilization." According to Turner, Brand endeavored to bring the words of scientists and philosophers themselves directly to his readers. Thus, the *Whole Earth Catalog* publications often featured books with excerpts or even letters from authors describing potentially revolutionary technologies or ideologies. For Brand, information, usually in the form of books, was a necessary technology.

Turner attributes much of Brand's success with his interest in applying countercultural ideals to emerging technological innovations. For Turner, Brand was an important part of how computing came to be "personal." Brand advertised early computers in the *Whole Earth Catalog*. He, along with a few others, including Larry Brilliant, took the *Whole Earth Catalog* readership into an early online forum, the WELL. There, he emphasized these countercultural values in the forms of cheap access and sustainable community structures that evolved to meet users' needs. In other words, Brand saw the WELL as site to market the product of user-generated content (the information shared between users) back to the users. This was in stark contrast to other dial-up online forums (ie. Prodigy) which were quite expensive and focused on selling users information from news organizations. His experiences with the WELL were founded in the techno-libertarianism that he promoted through the *Whole Earth Catalog*. These values carried over into other foundational forums associated with computer and informational technologies such as the *Whole Earth Software Review* (which later merged with *CoEvolution Quarterly*) and the first Hackers Conference.

This book is very engaging as it is well-written and it follows an interesting person along a path that includes LSD trips, communal living, and early models of the Internet. It would be appropriate for a number of courses including those devoted to science, technology, and society, generally, history of science (especially histories of computers, the Internet, and/or media), and sociology of science.

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Would you like to see your book reviewed here? Would you like to review a book? Or would you like to suggest books for review? Contact Mary Ingram-Waters, your SKAT book review editor at mci0@umail.ucsb.edu. You can also have your publisher send her a review copy to Mary Ingram-Waters, Dept of Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara, 93106-9430.

Spotlight On Program

MSc in Science, Culture and Communication at University of Bath

Science Studies Centre
University of Bath
Bath, United Kingdom
http://www.bath.ac.uk/ssc/

Our understanding of how scientists do their work, how scientific organizations function and of how science impacts on society have benefited greatly from the historical, sociological and ethnographic approaches that make up STS. Disciplines that study the social and institutional bases of scientific knowledge-production have also contributed to our awareness of how new knowledge develops in a social and cognitive dynamic in which communication is a central feature, and how communication about science, technology and medicine actually shape public attitudes to these activities. One of the key problems was identified by Sir Robert May, former Chief Scientific Advisor to the United Kingdom government: this is that greater public knowledge about a development such as cloning or global warming can lead to greater public skepticism, precisely because it leads to greater awareness of controversy amongst scientists and that degrees of uncertainty attach to scientists conclusions. Whereas the sociology of science can use controversy to expose the process of knowledge-making, the same feature is problematic for those seeking to convey the implications of an emerging scientific consensus. A current and vitally important example is the fact that predictions about climate change are quite properly qualified as uncertain has been turned against the science. In drawing up the recently published summary of the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change a group of some 600 scientists felt that the wording of their conclusions must leave no room for skeptics. So they excluded many predictions which–however significant they might be for the future of humanity–might be dismissed as less than certain by political leaders unwilling to accept its unpalatable conclusions.

In the UK there is now a greater emphasis on the need to teach research scientists to communicate the excitement and importance of their work. At its best such work can enliven and inform public consultation and debate. But it can also be seen as uncritical "science promotion" -- PR for science, aimed at engaging an increasingly mistrustful public. The Bath Masters in Science, Culture and Communication addresses these needs and problems by bringing together three kinds of learning: the career opportunities of practical courses on science communication and science journalism, internships giving hands-on science communication experience, and discipline-based study of the processes, institutions and cultural context of science, technology and medicine. Launched in 1998, The Masters program recruits students from a wide range of backgrounds–mainly from the natural sciences but also from communications, media and the humanities and social sciences. Our graduates tell us that although the career opportunities offered by the practical courses first attracted them to the program, it is the critical and analytical skills and the interdisciplinary perspective provided by the academic units that set them apart from others who have studied, say journalism or public relations. One graduate commented that "*The balance between theory and practice is actually the greatest strength of the program"*.

Courses in the history, philosophy, sociology and psychology of science enable students to develop an understanding of the social and cognitive dynamics of science, ranging from the role of visualization in discovery and communication to institutional processes of managing and monitoring research and the problems of communicating about risk. The units on communication theory and science in the media enable students to apply models of communication in evaluating current communications policies and practice. We want our students to develop a critical understanding of the impact of science and technology on culture and society alongside their practical communication skills. These include science writing, radio and TV production, learned in practical workshops supported by state-of-the-art digital editing equipment. The workshops are taught by practitioners who understand the changing landscape of science communication. Students can hone their

critical abilities in the MSc research thesis and apply them in the communication work they go on to do during the internship.

The importance of maintaining a critical stance was underlined by an independent assessor in a recent quality review of the MSc. Then president of the Association of British Science Writers, he wrote that "the role of a science journalist, and anyone in science communication for that matter, should include an element of critique. It is not sufficient to just report uncritically, it is essential that the media as a whole considers the quality of science done in the public name and provide a critique of that science." This is why, "as a science writer and journalist [he] found the emphasis on context of science and its communication extremely positive." Many degree programs teach journalism or communication skills, but these often focus exclusively on the practicalities of written- or broadcast media production, neglecting the question why this particular scientific breakthrough or that medical development should be communicated, or how to convey risks that may be associated with it. On the other hand, there is the risk of emphasising academic analysis drawn from particular disciplines, leaving graduates with an inadequate understanding of the political dynamics and practical pressures of everyday science communication. We believe that the communicators we train to engage with research scientists, engineers, designers and health professionals can usually do a better job than the specialist researcher armed with a few specific communication skills. [If you are reading this program description, please email newsletter editor Todd Paddock at tpaddock@winona.edu and let him know.]

Bath Science Communication graduates now work across several continents and in every area of science communication. Some are employed to help scientists communicate about research projects in Universities and a few have gone on to complete PhDs. The majority work in fields such as print- and broadcast journalism, TV film production, web-based communication, professional scientific societies such as the British Association, The Royal Institution and the Royal Society, science publishing and conferencing, museums and science centres, and science-media centres where journalists can consult qualified researchers about breaking science stories.

For more information about the program visit the Bath Science Studies Centre website at http://www.bath.ac.uk/ssc/

Spotlight On Teaching

STS at UVA

By Deborah G. Johnson
Chair, Department of Science, Technology, and Society
University of Virginia

The University of Virginia's Department of Science, Technology and Society (STS) is the only program of its kind housed within an engineering school at a national, comprehensive university. The Department focuses its research and teaching on understanding the relationships among science, technology, engineering, and society. Faculty members come from a wide range of humanities and social science disciplines including sociology, psychology, philosophy, history, literature, religious studies, and STS.

Every undergraduate student in the School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS) is required to take a minimum of four STS classes, including a two-course sequence in the senior year in which they write a senior thesis. The four courses are designed as a coherent curriculum that expands and complements the rest of the undergraduate engineering experience. The Department's mission is to ensure that engineering students at UVA become 'sociotechnical analysts.' We want our engineering students to be able to see the connections between technical and social decision-making; that is, we want them not just to understand how technology and society co-constitute, but also to readily see how decisions they make as engineers may affect the world. Department faculty believe that as a result of teaching in this program, especially teaching the senior thesis, they have acquired a unique perspective on the intertwining of technology and society.

Since the Department lives in the University of Virginia, it often thinks of itself in relation to the University's founder, Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson believed that all students should be educated in the "useful sciences," an intellectual foundation that includes a firm grasp of scientific principles, strong quantitative and communication skills, and the capacity for critical and creative thinking. This is consistent with the Department's responsibility for achieving several of the outcomes specified by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), the organization that accredits undergraduate engineering programs. The standards set in ABET's Engineering Criteria 2000 specify that all engineering students will, among other things, demonstrate: an understanding of professional and ethical responsibility; an ability to communicate effectively; and the broad education necessary to understand the impact of engineering solutions in a global and societal context. STS courses aim, thus, to provide an understanding of the relationships among science, technology and society, to develop students' critical thinking, to develop their oral and written communication skills, and their sense of professional ethics.

While the STS Department does not offer an undergraduate major, it offers several undergraduate minor degree programs: engineering business, science and technology policy, the history of science and technology, and technology and the environment.

We are currently in the process of planning for a PhD program. Our intention is to take advantage of our location in an engineering school and involve graduate students in ethnographic studies and participant observation in engineering laboratories where cutting edge research is being done.

The Curriculum

All undergraduate students in UVA's Engineering School are required to take: STS 101: Engineering, Technology and Society; at least one elective at the 200-level; STS 401: Western Technology and Culture; and STS 402: The Engineer in Society. STS 101 introduces the nature of engineering knowledge and practice; the influential role of engineering in shaping the world; and the ways in which social institutions, practices, and values influence engineers' work. For the 200-level elective, students choose from a menu of topics courses that vary every semester. Examples of these include: Utopias and Technological Society, Biotechnology and the Politics of Food, Gender, Technology, and Education, African American Science and Technology,

Environmental History, Technology and Religion, and Intellectual Property. In their senior year, Engineering students take the STS 401/STS 402 sequence. While taking this sequence, students work with an advisor in their major department on a senior thesis project. As part of STS 401, each student writes a proposal for the thesis project and in STS 402, they write the senior thesis. For both the proposal and the thesis, students are required to frame the project in its social context and address social and ethical issues related to the research they are doing. [If you are reading this teaching description, please email newsletter editor Todd Paddock at tpaddock@winona.edu and let him know.]

Science and Technology Policy Internship Program

Among the many innovative programs our department has to offer is the Science and Technology Policy Internship Program. Through this program, approximately 10 engineering students spend a summer as an intern with a policy maker, legislator, advocacy group, or others involved in technology policy. Most interns have been placed in positions in Washington, D.C. though recently we have expanded to our state capital, Richmond, VA, and this summer we will send a student to Paris.

Faculty Research

STS Faculty are engaged in a wide variety of research projects and often receive NSF support for their research. Our faculty are also quite active in professional organizations and frequently present their work at conferences and other speaking gigs.

Recent Books by UVA STS Faculty:

- Rosalyn Berne's *Nanotalk: Conversations with Scientists and Engineers about Ethics, Meaning and Belief in the Development of Nanotechnology*, Lawrence Erlbaum Press, 2006.
- Joanne Cohoon (and W. Aspray) eds., *Women and Information Technology: Research on Underrepresentation*, MIT Press, 2006.
- W. Bernard Carlson's *Technology in World History*, 7 volumes, Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Michael E. Gorman (and R.D. Tweney, D.C. Gooding, and A. Kincannon) eds., *Scientific and technological thinking*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2005.

Current NSF grants to UVA STS Faculty:

- Rosalyn Berne, *Ethics and Belief inside the Development of Nanotechnology*.
- Bernie Carlson, Ed Russell, and Jack Brown, *Rethinking Technology, Nature, and Society: A Research and Training Program.*
- Joanne Cohoon, *Collaborative Research: EXT: Mobilizing Implementation of Effective Practices to Increase Participation of Women in Computing*.
- Michael Gorman (with G. Louis), *Ethics Training for Engineers in Emerging Technologies and Fieldwork in Developing Communities.*
- Michael Gorman (with N. Swami), *NER: Identifying and Regulating Environmental Impacts of Nanomaterials.*
- Ed Russell, *The Coevolution of Dogs and Society in Nineteenth Century Britain.*

Employment and Fellowships

For additional employment and fellowships, see "Positions" under
http://www.4sonline.org/profession/profession.htm

Job Announcement
Executive Director, Council for Responsible Genetics
The Council for Responsible Genetics, the oldest non-profit organization in the United States addressing the social effects of biotechnology, is undertaking a national search for an executive director. The executive director works closely with an active board, supervises the staff, is responsible for fundraising, and acts as spokesperson and networker.

The job is located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and begins June/July 2007. The starting salary and fringe benefits will be commensurate with experience. Candidates should send a cover letter and resume to the address below. No phone calls or faxes will be accepted. Email documents to ED@gene-watch.org.

Job Announcement
Part-time Instructors in Science Studies
NYU's Gallatin School of Individualized Study seeks part time instructors to teach undergraduate interdisciplinary seminars in science studies (25 students). We are open to a range of topic areas. The proposed seminars should broadly fall under the rubric of "science and society" and should consider an aspect of science in relation to its historical, social, cultural, literary, and/or philosophic context. The professor should have a PhD (or be a senior graduate student) and have a background in some domain of science studies. Proposals may be sent to Mary Witty (mary.witty@nyu.edu) or Brad Lewis (bl466@nyu.edu). For more information on Gallatin, please see http://www.nyu.edu/gallatin/.

Fellowship Opportunity
Training in Sustainable Sciences: An Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Rural Sociology (IGPRS)
Deadline for Summer/Autumn Quarter 2007 Admission: May 1, 2007
Please share this Fellowship Opportunity with interested students. Also, pleases hare with your colleagues associated with the ASA sections you are currently involved.

Global warming, biotechnology, obesity and famine, loss of farmland, water shortages, organic and local food systems, the loss of rare animal species, fair trade coffee, deforestation, geopolitical struggles over oil and gas supplies, and desertification - these are some of the major issues of our time. They raise important questions about how we should organize the relationships between people, society and the natural resources and environments upon which they depend. The Training in Sustainable Sciences Through an Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Rural Sociology (IGPRS), a new fellowship opportunity addresses these and many other topical issues. The program will cultivate a new and diverse generation of scholars committed to and capable of a broad understanding of the four primary dimensions of food and agricultural systems: social responsibility, environmental compatibility, economic viability, and production efficiency. The goal of the master's degree fellowship is to train skilled, engaged, committed scholars who will make use of and contribute to the food and agricultural system by engaging in basic and applied interdisciplinary research and policy making and analysis. It is targeted at two primary audiences: those wishing to pursue a career in food, agricultural, and environmental sciences; and those wishing to do further academic study and research on these topics. [If you are reading this fellowship announcement, please email newsletter editor Todd Paddock at tpaddock@winona.edu and let him know.]

The fellowship opportunity is distinctive in several ways. First, it builds on the concept of the ecological paradigm, which considers the whole spectrum of approaches to food, agricultural, and

environmental systems - consisting of social responsibility, environmental compatibility, economic viability, and production efficiency. Secondly, the IGPRS makes the connections between the dimensions of the paradigm and social spheres where innovation, adoption and policy-making appear - such as production, distribution and consumption. Finally, the program is highly interdisciplinary and will expose students to ideas and practices developed in a range of subject areas rather than one alone. The Social Responsibility Initiative (SRI) invites recent undergraduate degree holders in the fields of sociology, agriculture, economics, biological and environmental sciences and other related fields to apply for a two-year master's degree fellowship in Rural Sociology focused on the interdisciplinary nature of food, agricultural, and environmental issues.

The IGPRS fellowships cover tuition, stipend ($18,000 per year), and benefits for the duration of a 2-year master's program in Rural Sociology. Academic standards must be met to maintain eligibility. Two fellowships are available for studies beginning Fall, 2007, and two Fellowships are available for Fall 2008.

Fellowships are restricted to U.S. citizens or nationals of the United States. Candidates must have completed their bachelor's degree by the time of appointment. For application materials go to the Ohio State University Graduate School admissions website at http://gradadmissions.osu.edu/.

As part of the application process, you will be asked to send your transcripts, three letters of reference, and a statement of interest in this fellowship opportunity directly to the Rural Sociology Graduate Studies Committee Chair (208 Ag. Admin. Building, 2120 Fyffe Rd., Columbus OH 43210-1067). Additional information is available about the SRI and the Rural Sociology Graduate Program by visiting: http://www.sri.osu.edu and http://www.ag.ohiostate.edu/~hcrd/rural_sociology/index.php For more information about admission to the Rural Sociology Graduate Program, contact: Professor Linda Lobao, Rural Sociology Graduate Studies Committee Chair (lobao.1@osu.edu). For additional information about the IGPRS fellowships, contact: Molly Bean Smith, Research Associate, Social Responsibility Initiative (bean.21@osu.edu).

Calls for Papers

For additional listings, see "Calls for Papers and Proposals" under
http://www.4sonline.org/profession/profession.htm

Call for Papers

8th Nordic Environmental Social Science Research Conference (8th NESS) hosted by Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR)
Oslo 18th-20th of June 2007
Abstract Deadline: 15 March 2007.
Notification of accepted papers: 30 March 2007.
Registration: 14 May 2007.
Final delivery of accepted papers: 14 May 2007.
Thematic focus is "Internationalisation of Environmental Policy: Challenges, Constraints and Opportunities." Visit our website http://www.nibr.no/content/view/full/3344 for information about workshops, program, etc and to register. Please forward this e-mail to researchers in your network.

Call for Papers
Things that Move: The Material Worlds of Tourism and Travel
19–23 July 2007, Leeds, United Kingdom
Deadline: 23 March 2007.
Whatever the prophecies of 'virtual' reality, we inhabit and move through the 'real' world of objects. Though tourism and travel are bound to concepts of time and space, they are also rooted in the material world–a tangible world of places, things, edifices, buildings, monuments and 'stuff'. The relationships we develop and share with these things varies from the remote to the intimate, from the transient to the lasting and from the passive to the passionate. Within the practices of tourism and its use (and non-use) of the material world, and, through the act of travel, objects are given meaning, status, and are endowed with symbolism and power. Objects construct, represent and even define the tourist experience. Our journeys through the world of objects generate a plethora of emotions–pleasure, attachment, belonging, angst, envy, exclusion, loathing and fear–and feed on-going discourse and narratives. Moreover, through tourism, and our touristic encounters, the material world itself is challenged and changed.

In this, our fifth annual international research conference, we seek to explore the multi-faceted relationships between tourism and material culture–the built environment, infrastructures, consumer and household goods, art, souvenirs, ephemera and landscapes. As in previous events, the conference aims to provoke critical dialogue beyond disciplinary boundaries and epistemologies and thus we welcome papers from the following disciplines: aesthetics, anthropology, archaeology, architecture, art and design history, cultural geography, cultural studies, ethnology and folklore, history, heritage studies, landscape studies, linguistics, museum studies, philosophy, political sciences, sociology, tourism studies and urban/spatial planning.

Key themes of interest to the conference include:

- Histories, mobilities, and the symbolic/political economies of tourism objects
- The dialectics of tourism objects and places / spaces
- Structures / infrastructures of international tourism–building / architecture / design for tourism and tourists
- Tourism in the museum
- Tourist art and art for tourists
- The performance of material culture in the tourism realm
- Language and the translation of objects in tourism

- The tourist souvenir - commodity fetishism and religious relics
- The tourist object as metaphor and memory
- Ownership, display and interpretation - contested pasts and presents
- Curating for tourism–collecting the worlds of the tourist
- Overcoming the material through the virtual–future realms of tourist experience
- Please submit your 300 word abstract including a title and full contact details as an electronic file to Professor Mike Robinson (ctcc@leedsmet.ac.uk) as soon as possible but no later than March 23rd 2007. More information on this conference can be found at www.tourism-culture.com.

Call for papers
Special issue of *Southern Rural Sociology* on "Environmental Issues on the Mexican-U.S. Border."
Deadline: 1 May 2007.
http://www.ag.auburn.edu/aux/srsa/pages/about.html
Southern Rural Sociology, the official journal of the Southern Rural Sociological Association, announces a call for papers for a special issue on "Environmental Issues on the Mexican-U.S. Border." The Mexican-U.S. border has experienced extremely rapid population growth and industrialization over the last half century. This 2,000-mile border is one of the most dynamic border regions in the world and represents the starkest contrast in the abutting of the first- and third-world. Over the last half century, policies such as the Border Industrialization Program (BIP) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) along with the tremendous growth of agroindustry, manufacturing, and the population in the region have affected both the local population and the quality of the environment.

We seek original research manuscripts that contribute to understanding environmental issues on the Mexico-U.S. border. We are interested in manuscripts that examine the human and structural determinants and consequences of the deterioration of the environment in this region. We define the environment broadly to include diverse topics including air quality, water quality, uses of natural resources, pesticide use, soil salinity, groundwater mining, agricultural drainage, illegal dumping, public health, emissions of pollutants, solid and hazardous waste, and environmental racism to name a few. Authors should send four copies of the manuscript along with an electronic version (preferably in MS Word) to the Guest Co-Editors of the special issue by May 1, 2007.

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Conference
Converging Science and Technologies: Research Trajectories and Institutional Settings
14-15 May 2007, FFG, Sensegasse 9, A-1090 Vienna
Short presentation on the NBIC project by Jacquelyne Luce, Zeppelin University, followed by statements by:
- Raoul Kneucker, Member of the EU High-Level Group on Converging Technologies
- Elie Faroult, DG-Research, European Commission
- Emmanuel Glenck, Austrian Research Council
- Nico Stehr, Zeppelin University

Session I: Converging Science and Technology: Meanings and Paradigms

- Brice Laurent, Harvard University. "Diverging Convergences: Competing Meanings of Science and Technology Convergence in a Local Context and Implications of Research on Public Perceptions of Converging Technologies."
- Arianna Ferrari, TU Darmstadt. "Is it All About Human Nature? The Challenges of the Metaphysical Research Programme of NBIC and the Question of an Ethics beyond Risk Assessment."
- Jan Schmidt, Georgia Institute of Technology. "NBIC Interdisciplinarity: A Framework for a Critical Reflection on Inter- and Transdisciplinarity of the NBIC Scenario."
- Monika Kurath and Mario Kaiser. University of Basel. "Identity Work in Nanotechnology; Strategies of Institutional Settings."
- Josephine Johnston, The Hastings Centre. "The Societal Dimensions of Nanotechnology: A Comparative Analysis and Critique."
- Bernd Beckert and Michael Friedewald, ITAS. "Converging Technologies. Visions and Real Developments in Science and Technology."

Session II. Converging Science and Technology–Institutional Contexts

- Karen Kastenhofer, University of Augsburg. "Converging Epistemic Cultures? Scientific Cultures of Non-Knowledge."
- Ingrid Ott and Christian Papilloud, University of Lueneberg. "Converging Institutions. Shaping Relationships between Nanotechnologies, Economy and Society."
- Gregor Wolbring, University of Calgary, Alberta. "What Convergence is in the Cards for Future Scientists?"
- Jong Simcha, University College London. "Traditional University Organization and the Emergence of New Technological Fields: Cambridge University and the Rise of Biotechnology."
- Ismael Rafols and Martin Meyer, University of Sussex, UK. "Mapping bio-nanotechnology as Dynamics of Research Specialties rather than Disciplinary and Technological Convergence."
- Viktor Rodriguez, Koenraad Debackere. University of Leuven. "Material Transfer Agreements and Policy Implications. Strategies for Research Materials in Biotechnology."

Session III. Media Representations, Public and Popular Perceptions of Converging Technologies

- Susanne Giesecke, ARCS Systems Research. "The Role of the Media in the Innovation System–the Case of Converging Technologies."
- Simone, University of Trieste. "On Boundaries, Definitions and New Fields. Converging Technologies in the Italian Daily Press 2002-2006."
- Thomas Michaud, University of Paris I, Sorbonne. "Converging Technologies in Science Fiction
- Karel Mulder, Delft University of Technology. Converging Technologies; An Analysis for Technology Assessment."
- Fionagh Thompson. "PEALS, Beauty or the Beast? Nanotechnology within Public Discussion on a new Healthcare Technology."
- Jim Whitman, Bradford University. "The Challenge to Deliberative Systems of Technological Systems Convergence."

Call for Papers

German Environmental Sociology Summit 007: International and Interdisciplinary Challenges
University of Lüneburg, Germany
November 8–10, 2007
Deadline: 15 June 2007.
German Sociological Association (DGS): Section on "Environmental Sociology"
International Sociological Association (ISA): Research Committee on "Environment and Society" RC24

Why a summit on environmental sociology?
The year 2007 is not only a special year for spies, special agents or for high-level political summits such as the G8-Summit. This year is also of special importance for the environmental community: 35 years ago the UN-conference on the Human Environment was held in Stockholm which put the natural world on the international agenda. 20 years ago the Brundtland report on sustainable development was launched, 15 years ago the UN Conference on Environment and Development was held in Rio de Janeiro and 5 years ago the follow-up meeting was held in Johannisburg. Parallel to these global political developments, which were accompanied by numerous national, inter- and transnational activities in different sectors of society–policy-making, business, civil society–environmental sociology came into being. Starting in the US in the 1970s, environmental sociology has quickly become an international endeavour, with regional and international networks and organisations, strong research and teaching in many countries around the world. Despite many forbears of environmentally relevant work in German sociology since the early days of the discipline, the institutional beginning of German environmental sociology is relatively young. It was in 1996 only that the research committee on "Sociology and Ecology" of the German Sociological Association (DGS) was established. Since its beginnings in the US and elsewhere, environmental sociology has placed emphasis on studying the dependency of social life and cultural development from its natural surroundings, and on those factors that cause environmental problems and efforts to solve these problems. Despite being a relatively young subdiscipline, environmental sociology has changed considerably in the last decades. With changing environmental and social dynamics environmental sociology has developed new conceptual approaches and its empirical diversity has increased enormously. Current trends such as global environmental change, as analyzed in international reports like the Millennium Assessment Report or the studies of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and processes of economic, political and socio-cultural globalization and transnationalization, fuelled by developments of transport, communication and information technologies, have put challenging research questions on the agenda. [If you are reading this call for papers, please email newsletter editor Todd Paddock at tpaddock@winona.edu and let him know.]

Topics of the summit 007
Against this background, the German network of environmental sociology aims to start a biennially held conference to foster exchange on current environment-related issues between German environmental sociologists and environmental sociologists from other countries as well as related (sub)disciplines such as science and technology studies, rural sociology, human geography, environmental psychology or environmental political science. In this context the summit 007 focuses explicitly on new international and interdisciplinary developments that might be of relevance for strengthening German environmental sociology–and hopefully vice versa. Therefore the conference language will be English.
Especially welcome are contributions on the following key topics, which we consider as important research areas in Germany and abroad for the coming years:

- Social Theories and the Environment
- Disaster, Risk and Adaptation

- Ecosystem Design & Management
- Sustainability, Environmental Governance and Multi-Level Decision Making
- (Global) Environmental Change, Culture and Communication

Besides paper presentations on theory and research, time will be allocated for papers on new developments in the teaching of environmental sociology, especially in international and interdisciplinary contexts. Moreover there will be time slots for structured discussions on new challenges for environmental sociology in research and teaching as well as on the successful transfer of environmental sociological expertise, e.g., to practitioners, stakeholders or policy makers. Additionally, we will invite Keynote speakers from Germany and abroad who have contributed and continue to contribute significantly to our field of research.

Confirmed Keynote Speakers:
- Joseph Huber (University of Halle, Germany)
- Arthur P.J. Mol (Wageningen University, Netherlands)
- Steven Yearley (University of Edinburgh, UK)

Participation and Papers
Based on scientific strength, creativity, and innovativeness, the organizing committee will select the papers. The conference will include 50-60 participants. Please send an abstract to one or several of the above listed themes with a maximum of 400 words no later than June 15, 2007 to:
harald.heinrichs@uni-lueneburg.de and matthias.gross@ufz.de.
The selected papers should be distributed one week in advance among the conference participants.

Location
Lüneburg is a medieval town and a vibrant university city. It is located 30 minutes by train from Hamburg in the North of Germany. It is easy to reach by plane, train, or car. More information on the city of Lüneburg you may find on the city's website: http://www.lueneburg.de/index.htm?baum_id=3221&lang=en. The conference venue is located on the Lüneburg university campus: http://www.uni-lueneburg.de/.

For further questions please contact the Organizing Committee:
- Harald Heinrichs, University of Lüneburg, Germany,harald.heinrichs@uni-lueneburg.de
- Matthias Gross, UFZ–Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Leipzig, Germany, matthias.gross@ufz.de

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Andrew Lakoff alakoff@ucsd.edu (Chair), Chris Ganchoff

Merton Award
Jason Owen-Smith jdos@umich.edu (Chair), Chris Henke, Laurel Smith-Doerr, Daniel Breslau (at-large member), and Jen Croissant (Ex officio).

Hacker-Mullins Award
Kelley Joyce kajoyc@wm.edu (Chair), Andrew Lakoff, Scott Frickel. (Note: Section at-large position is unfilled at this time).

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Newsletter
Please send announcements and news to either editor. Contribute electronically, by regular post, or fax. Deadlines are:

- Summer edition--May 15
- Fall/Winter Edition--October 15
- Spring edition--February 15

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