SKATOLOGY

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

NOVEMBER 2015 FALL EDITION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chair's Column

Scott Frickel, Brown University

Testing, testing… check… check, check. Hey, is this thing on??!

Ahem…

Dear SKAT Colleagues,

Greetings, and welcome to *SKATOLOGY*. The new Publication Committee has done a fantastic job putting the fall issue together. I want to thank co-chairs Danielle Giffort and James Evans and the rest of the crew (Dan Morrison, Kelly Underman, Joseph Waggle, and Zoe Nyssa) for getting us off to another great start. We hope you enjoy it.

I'm pleased to have an opportunity this year and next to set aside time each quarter to write a few paragraphs about science, knowledge and technology as it relates to the life of our section. My intention in these columns will be to offer some reflexive commentary on how issues relating to science, technology and society affect our own scholarly practices. In these comments, I will aim to bring empirical data to bear on the questions I raise. This inaugural column takes a closer look at the broad domains of our collective research interests as a way of gauging who we are as a section.

SKAT is now 619 members strong according to the final annual count tallied in mid-October. This is an all-time high for the section. In practical terms, it means we get a little more money from ASA for section business, and it provides an additional session at next year's ASA conference – five instead of our usual four (for session titles and descriptions, see pages 16-17). More generally, the growth in membership is a strong indicator of our section's health and vitality in a year that saw most ASA sections decline in size. I thought I would take advantage of this celebratory moment to examine how our section is connected to the larger discipline and what these connections can tell us about the knowledge interests that collectively inform SKAT organizational identity and scholarship. ASA data on overlapping or "joint" section memberships tell an interesting if not entirely unfamiliar story.[1]

The first thing to note is that, as sociologists, our academic lives revolve within in a highly interconnected discipline. The "Section Matrix" tables I received from ASA offer comprehensive views of joint memberships as they are distributed across the ASA's 52 active sections in any given year. I was very surprised to see that for 2015 there are only six

empty cells in the entire 52 x 52 table (that's 0.2%). In other words, virtually every ASA section is connected via joint memberships to every other section in the discipline. This holds for 2005 and 1995 as well. Measured this way, interconnectivity among research specialties becomes visible as a general organizational feature of the discipline. It's a field that nurtures a broad range of research interests and seems to encourage internal boundary crossing. I think that's pretty cool.

Amidst all of this interconnectivity, is SKAT more or less inter-connected than other sections? Way more, it turns out, as shown in **Figure 1**. On average, SKAT members belong to nearly twice as many other sections than ASA members overall. Our section's well-deserved claims to *inter*disciplinarity, via historically close ties to Science and Technology Studies, may be rivalled by the intensity of *intra*disciplinary ties that we maintain with the rest of sociology. And over time, as SKAT grows larger, we also seem to be growing even more connected relative to the discipline as a whole.

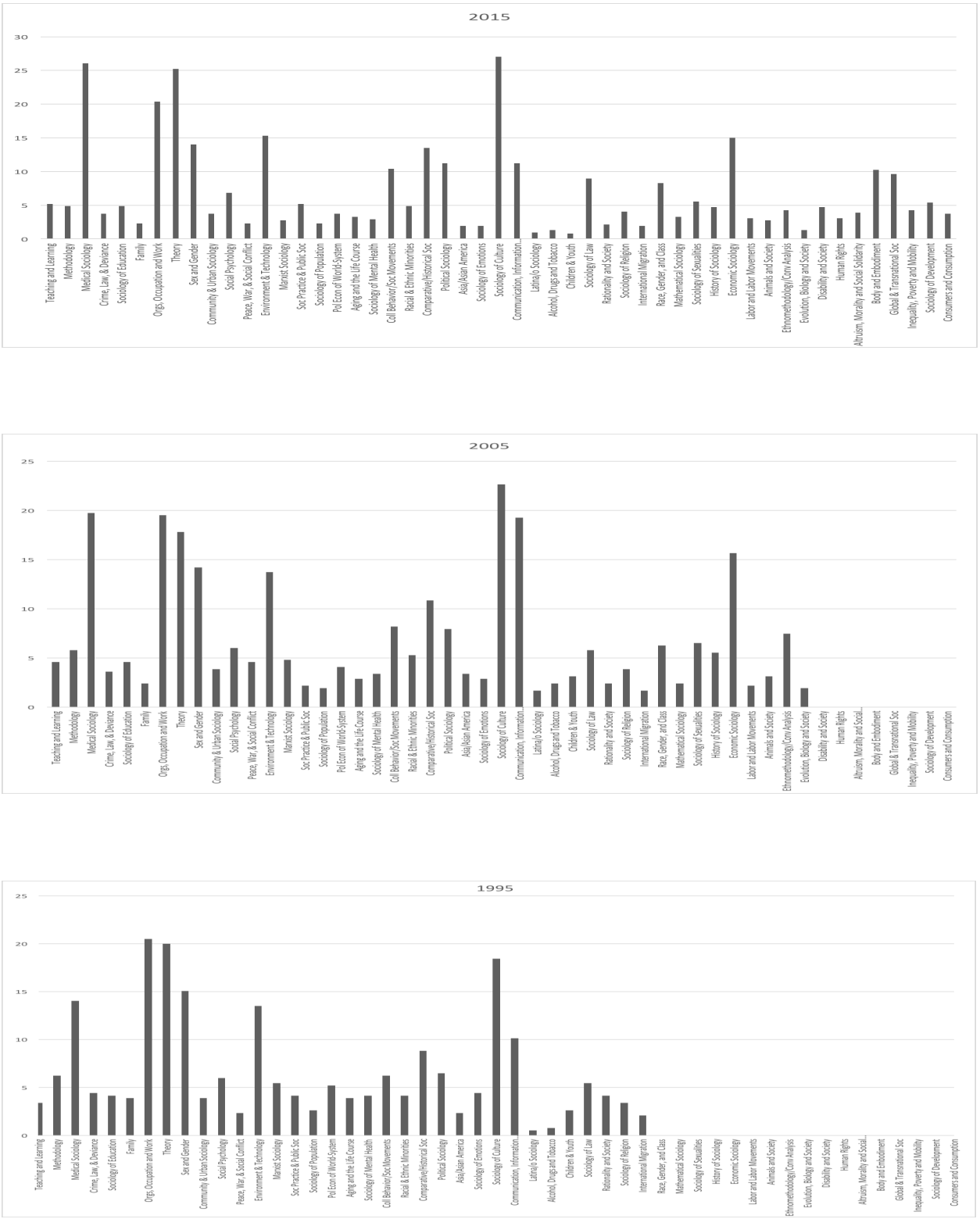
Figure 1. Average number of section memberships in SKAT and ASA

Data sources: American Sociological Association, Governance and Information Systems. "Section matrix" (1995, 2005, 2015); "Sections and ASA Membership Counts 1970 to Present" available at http://www.asanet.org/sections/SectionStats.cfm.

The three panels in **Figure 2** show how SKAT's joint memberships are apportioned across other ASA sections and give some sense of how this distribution has changed over the past three decades, from 1995 to 2005 to 2015. Explaining the inequalities apparent in the distribution is not difficult. Size matters, of course, but it is not fully predictive. Small sections cannot have larger overlaps with other sections by definition. And while it is the case that most of SKAT's largest overlaps are with some of ASA's largest sections – specifically, Medical Sociology, Sociology of Culture, Organizations, and Theory – there are other large sections that register very small overlaps with SKAT. The sections on Family and Inequality, Poverty and Mobility are two examples of this.

It can also be instructive to flip the image. What is the distribution of joint memberships relative to the size of the other (non-SKAT) section? I'll make just one comparison to illustrate. Environment and Technology is a medium-size section with 474 members, nearly 20% of whom are also members in SKAT. By contrast, the ASA's largest section is Sex and Gender with 1,157 members, among whom fewer than 8% also belong to SKAT. This

Figure 2. SKAT Research Interest Domains as Reflected by Joint Section Memberships (reported as percentage of total SKAT membership)



Data Source: American Sociological Association Membership Office. "Section matrix" (1995, 2005, 2015).

clear difference in the relative density of ties between these two sections and SKAT suggests the importance of additional factors influencing the distribution of connective ties: concordances in methodological preferences, historical connections, shared intellectual traditions, and spillover effects from intellectual and political movements all seem like good candidates for further consideration.

Another notable feature of this distribution is its relative stability over time. During the last 20 years, the "top five" positions have been occupied by just seven different sections, four of which did not leave the top (Culture, Organizations, Medical, and Theory). The same temporal stability characterizes the "next five" where eight sections regularly compete for positions 6-10. For me, the relative lack of dynamism at the top of the distribution suggests that research interests in SKAT are fairly tightly structured around a core set of substantive and topical themes. These themes mainly relate to the organization of scientific work, expertise and practices, health and biomedicine, and the history and politics of ideas. This will come as no surprise to any SKAT member who has been in the game a while. These are not the only themes that matter in SKAT, but they are and have long been our bread and butter.

What's going on at the other end of the distribution where overlaps are smallest and ties are presumably weakest? Well, by definition, not as much. But there could be more. Sections such as "Animals and Society", "Consumers and Consumption", "War, Peace and Social Conflict", or "Community and Urban Sociology" seem to have built-in topical affinities with SKAT; other sections, such as "Rationality and Society" or "Evolution, Biology and Society," offer the challenge of productive dialogue across (what I imagine to be) ideological rifts between those sections and ours. To the extent that smaller (and often younger) sections occupy the margins of sociology's intellectual space, they also represent real opportunities for organizational bridge-building. Developing such connections could add to the diversity of SKAT voices and further enrich the already lively conversations we have about the role of science and technology in society.

In my own work, I'm thinking about margins and marginality a lot, and I plan to write about this in my next column. I'd like to generate some data to motivate and ground my comments. Toward that end, I invite readers to click on the link below to complete a very brief and anonymous survey consisting of just two questions. The first question asks you to identify areas of research in your own fields of expertise that lack attention from sociology of science and STS. The second asks your opinion about why the topic receives less attention than you think it should. Be as brief or verbose as you like, but please participate. If the response rate is reasonably high, I'll be able to share some analysis with you in the next issue.

SURVEY LINK:
http://goo.gl/forms/yRXMO11MCH

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[1] Many thanks to ASA's Justin Lini for guiding me to the data and to my undergraduate research assistant, Grant Meyer, for building the charts. For those who think my interpretations stretch the rather thin data too far, *mea culpa*.

The SKAT nominations committee is seeking nominees to run for one of two Council seats for a three-year term beginning September 2016. Self-nominations welcome. Please send names and email addresses to Jennifer Fishman, jennifer.fishman@mcgill.ca, by **December 15, 2015**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW ARTICLES

Broer T., and M. Pickersgill. 2015. "Targeting brains, producing responsibilities: the use of neuroscience within British social policy. "*Social Science & Medicine*, 132(5): 54-61. Link: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277953615001665>

Broer T., and M. Pickersgill. 2015. "(Low) Expectations, legitimization, and the contingent uses of scientific knowledge: engagements with neuroscience in Scottish social policy and services." *Engaging Science, Technology, and Society*, 1(1): 47-66. Link: <http://estsjournal.org/article/view/17/9>

Cordner, Alissa. 2015. "Strategic Science Translation and Environmental Controversies." *Science, Technology & Human Values*. 40(6):915-938.

Foster, J., A. Rzhetsky, and J.A. Evans. 2015. "Tradition and Innovation in Scientists' Research Strategies." *American Sociological Review* 80:875-908, doi:10.1177/0003122415601618.

Latimer, J.E., and G.M. Thomas. 2015. "In/exclusion in the clinic: Down's syndrome, dysmorphology, and the ethics of everyday medical work." *Sociology* 49(5): 937-954.

Marx, Gary T. 2015. "Surveillance Studies" in *Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*. 2nd Edition, http://web.mit.edu/gtmarx/www/surv_studies.html.

Marx, Gary T. 2015. "Coming to Terms: The Kaleidoscope of Privacy and Surveillance" in B. Roessler and D. Mokrosinska, *The Social Dimensions of Privacy*. Cambridge University Press.

Marx, Gary T. 2014. "Genies: Bottled and Unbottled: Some Thoughts on the Properties of Information" In M. Hildebrandt and B. van den Berg, *Freedom and Property of Information: The Philosophy of Law Meets the Philosophy of Technology*. Routledge. http://web.mit.edu/gtmarx/www/genies_bottled_unbottled.html

Marx, Gary T. 2014. "You can see a lot by looking": Some thoughts on strengthening surveillance studies. http://web.mit.edu/gtmarx/www/ssn_award.html

Moore, Lisa Jean. 2015. *"*A Day at the Beach: Rising Sea Levels, Horseshoe Crabs, and Traffic Jams." *Sociology*. 49(5): 886-902.

Pickersgill M., P. Martin, and S. Cunningham-Burley. 2015. "The changing brain: neuroscience and the enduring import of everyday experience." *Public Understanding of Science*, 24(7): 878-892.

Rzhetsky, A., J. G. Foster, I. Foster and J. A. Evans. 2015. "Choosing Experiments to Accelerate Discovery." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*: Early Edition. <http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2015/11/04/1509757112.abstract>

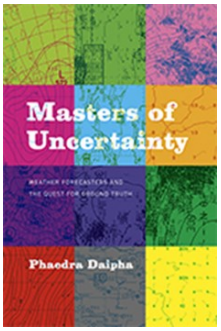
Thomas, G.M. 2015. "An elephant in the consultation room? Configuring Down's syndrome in UK antenatal care. "*Medical Anthropology Quarterly*.

Thomas, G.M. 2015. "Picture perfect: '4D' ultrasound and the commoditisation of the private prenatal clinic. "*Journal of Consumer Culture* .

Waggoner, Miranda R. and Tobias Uller. 2015. "Epigenetic Determinism in Science and Society." *New Genetics and Society* 37(2): 177-195.

NEW BOOKS

Daipha, Phaedra. 2015. *Masters of Uncertainty: Weather Forecasters and the Quest for Ground Truth*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.



In *Masters of Uncertainty*, Phaedra Daipha develops a new conceptual framework for the process of decision making, after spending years immersed in the life of a northeastern office of the National Weather Service. Arguing that predicting the weather will always be more craft than science, Daipha shows how forecasters have made a virtue of the unpredictability of the weather. Impressive data infrastructures and powerful computer models are still only a substitute for the real thing outside, and so forecasters also enlist improvisational collage techniques and an omnivorous appetite for information to create a locally meaningful forecast on their computer screens. Intent on capturing decision making in action, Daipha takes the reader through engrossing firsthand accounts of several forecasting episodes (hits and misses) and offers a rare fly-on-the-wall insight into the process and challenges of producing meteorological predictions come rain or come shine. Combining rich detail with lucid argument, *Masters of Uncertainty* advances a theory of decision making that foregrounds the pragmatic and situated nature of expert cognition and casts into new light how we make decisions in the digital age.

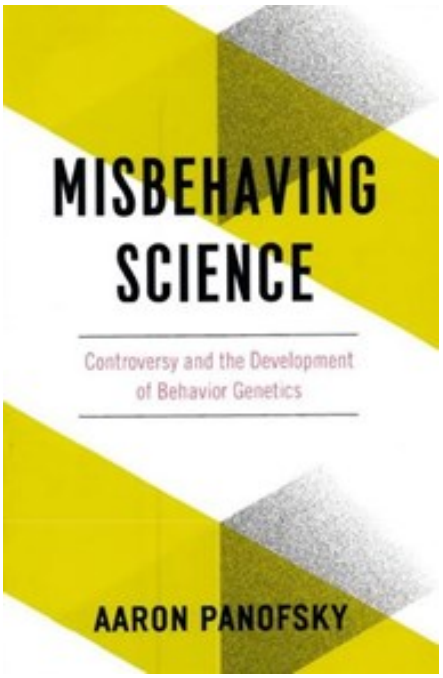
PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Adele Clarke (UCSF), 4S Bernal Awardee for 2012, was honored by receiving the 2015 Reeder Award for Career Distinction from the Medical Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association.

Elise Paradis (PhD, Stanford 2011) started a new job at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, the University of Toronto.

Dr. **Martyn Pickersgill**, University of Edinburgh, was promoted this summer to Wellcome Trust Reader in Social Studies of Biomedicine.

INTERVIEW WITH AARON PANOFSKY



SKAT Publications Committee member Dan Morrison interviewed Aaron Panofsky about his new book, *Misbehaving Science: Controversy and the Development of Behavior Genetics*, published in 2014 by the University of Chicago Press. Panofsky is an Associate Professor with the Institute for Society and Genetics and the Lufkin School of Public Policy at UCLA. The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Morrison: Your book focuses on controversy in the field of behavior genetics. Why focus on this field?

Panofsky: I started to study behavior genetics for several reasons: one of which are the teachers I've had. I studied at NYU, and Dorothy Nelkin was one of my teachers. Dorothy was interested in how narratives about genetics are affecting the way people discuss social problems. Another teacher was Troy Duster, who studied the framing assumptions of genetics and behavior, and the scientific claims made about behavior and their effects, in even subconscious ways, for our social policies in terms of human potential. My third teacher was Craig Calhoun, one of the most important interpreters of Bourdieu. In this project, I combined the substantive interests of Dot and Troy with the theoretical, methodological, and analytical approaches from Craig.

There seemed to be a deep set of furrows in the way we talk about this field sociologically. I was trying to use the field approach from Bourdieu to break out of those furrows. One furrow was: Let's look substantively at the science itself and about the basic concepts of behavior genetics. How is it defining behavior? How is it trying to link behavior to genes? In this line of research, people analyze the substantive constructions and intellectual components of behavior genetics, and submit them to some kind of criticism. Troy Duster and others have done this work. And there was Nelkin's approach, which looked at the way science is taken up in the culture and how scientists present it to the public, the "social implications" way of looking at behavior genetics and its cultural effects.

Another set of furrows is how politicized the conversation about it was. You were a partisan on either side. You could be a supporter of behavioral genetics, and you thought that they did good, neutral science that was being subjected to an unwarranted level of scrutiny, and that the scientists were just doing their research as objective scientists and the people opposing them had a politically left agenda. Those people had PC objections based on social egalitarianism.

Then you had people like Richard Lewontin and others who said that this whole approach to studying genetics, nature, or behavior is fundamentally reactionary, politically conservative, if not in the motivations, then in the gestalt. This whole paradigm is one about certifying the status quo, justifying and legitimating inequality, social control. They would say we are left leaning, but these behavioral geneticists are doing right wing science regardless of their personal political choices. I wanted to find a way out of what I took to be those two sets of furrows. On the one hand, the polarization of the field into left and right, on the other the methodological polarization. We could either look at the science itself or the implications—the cultural effects. For me, Bourdieu's field

theory was a way of mediating between both those sets of polarizations and trying to take the fact of polarization as the object of study rather than aligning with one or more of those poles. What I wanted to understand was: how did this set of deep furrows come to structure the debate? That doesn't seem characteristic of all ways of debating science.

Field analysis allowed me to look at the level of social organization: What is it about the scientists' relationships and the historical way those relationships are built upon each other that leads to these polarizations in how we understand behavioral genetics?

Morrison: How does your book contribute to the sociology of scientific knowledge?

"The basic lesson of behavior genetics and misbehaving science is that science liberated from structure leads to knowledge in shackles"

Panofsky: One of the main contributions of the book relates to scientific controversies. Controversy studies have been a mainstay of the sociology of scientific knowledge (SSK) from the beginning. Those scholars were interested in the way that controversy was analytically useful as a moment to understand when the authoritative social order of science breaks apart and has to be reconstituted. It's in these moments where the processes that construct credibility and consensus get established. In that sense, my book is another entry into controversy studies. But there is something funky about behavior genetics. The field has always been controversial. In the tradition of SSK, controversies are breaches that are unusual and have to be repaired. Behavioral genetics is in permanent crisis. The field has been intellectually productive even though, since the 1950s and 1960s, there has been fundamental disagreements about whether it's possible to talk about the genetic inheritance of behavior.

At each point in time, there is a debate between behavior genetics and others about the fundamental concepts and whether or not something like the idea of heritability even makes sense. And that debate about heritability never gets resolved, yet the field remains productive. From the perspective of SSK, you would expect the controversy to be repaired, or the field dies. Here we have a place where controversy is never repaired yet the field continues to progress.

I also use controversy in a Bourdieusian framework. In his field theory, the field represents a struggle among scientists to accumulate scientific capital, and also a competition to define scientific capital. For Bourdieu, what gives fields their history is the set of struggles and forces through which the terms of capital are defined. What I take controversies to be, then, are moments among scientists to redefine the struggles and forces that organize scientific capital and scientific fields. Each controversy is not necessarily a substantive controversy we think of as associated with behavior genetics—for example, the controversy over homosexuality. The controversies I focus on are ones where the logic of the field gets reorganized.

The history I give is a palimpsest, a set of layers reorganizing the field. So this is another way I redefine how sociologists of science approach controversy as moments of thinking about how the practical logic of a scientific field changes.

Continued on page 22

ASA Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology

Minutes, Section Business Meeting
Chicago, IL | August 22, 2015

1. Welcome

Section Chair Steve Epstein brought the meeting to order. Epstein acknowledged the incoming and outgoing members of the SKAT council. Four council members were thanked for their service: Mathieu Albert, Jill Fisher, Casey Oberlin , and Elizabeth Sweeney. Monica Casper (past chair) has now completed her service to SKAT as well. Epstein welcomes new members of SKAT council: Ruha Benjamin, Catherine Bliss, Michael Halpin (student member), and Alka Menon (student member) and to new chair-elect, Alondra Nelson.

2. Award Presentations

A. Hacker Mullins Student Paper Award presented by Jill Fisher.
Thirty-three submissions received. Honorable mention to Jason Turowetz, University of Wisconsin-Madison, "The Interactional Production of a Clinical Fact in a Case of Autism" (published in *Qualitative Sociology*)
The award was presented to Natalie Aviles for her paper published in *Social Studies of Science*, "The Little Death: Rigoni-Stern and the Problem of Sex and Cancer in Twentieth-Century Biomedical Research."

B. Star Nelkin Article Award presented by James Evans.
There were two honorable mentions: Brian Uzzi, Satyam Mukherjee, Michael Stringer, and Ben Jones' paper entitled "Atypical Combinations and Scientific Impact" published in *Science*; and Marion Fourcade and Kieran Healy's paper entitled "Classification Situations: Life-Chances in the Neoliberal Era." Published in *Accounting, Organizations, and Society.* The award was presented to the winner: Carrie Friese for her paper in *Current Anthropology* entitled "Realizing Potential in Translational Medicine: The Uncanny Emergence of Care as Science."

C. Robert K. Merton Book Award presented by Jennifer Fishman.
The award was presented to Owen Whooley (University of New Mexico) for his book *Knowledge in the Time of Cholera: The Struggle over American Medicine in the Nineteenth Century* (University of Chicago Press, 2013).

3. Treasurer Report

Jennifer Fishman, Secretary-Treasurer, asked to have the minutes approved. The minutes were approved without any changes.

She reported that the finances are in good health. We are spending about what we are taking in. This year we received $2512 from ASA. We spent $1862 on the reception, $350 on the student award and $117 on award plaques, which gives us a surplus of $183. We also have a carryover balance of $2184 from previous years.

We will have enough money to once again host a nice SKAT reception in Seattle next year.

4. Chair Report

A. Three proposed changes to Hacker Mullins Prize: (1) One submission as primary author per person; (2) the graduate student must be primary author on the submission and the nomination must include a statement from the faculty member on the paper attesting to the student's role as primary author.

B. Reminder about the afternoon SKAT sessions at 2:30 pm and 4:30 pm and 6:30pm reception at Exchequer

5. Nominations Committee Report

Mathieu Albert reported that there were 5 slots to fill. The committee received many nominations and successfully filled the slots for the coming year. There will be two council member slots to fill for the coming year.

6. Membership Committee Report

Steve Epstein read Aaron Panofsky's report: Membership is above 600 members, so we get another session at the meetings next year. This is an important level and we will need to make sure that we keep our numbers up above 600 in the next year.

7. Mentoring Committee Report

Scott Frickel reported that there were multiple avenues made available for faculty-graduate student interaction in the last year. 29 pairs of mentor-mentee were generated. The SKAT reception this evening is touted as the main venue for get-togethers

8. Publications Committee Report

Elizabeth Sweeney reported that the newsletter was successfully published 3 times this year and that she received positive feedback about the content, especially the original content. She thanked the members o the Publications Committee for their hard work over the last year.

Chair Steve Epstein officially handed the reins over to the new SKAT section chair, Scott Frickel.

Announcements for next year's section activities:

Committee Service Volunteers

Anyone who is interested in volunteering should get in touch with Scott or sign up on the sheets circulating around the room.

Sessions for next year's ASA meeting

We will have 4 sessions of our own plus one session organized with Bodies and Embodiment. There will also be one thematic Session on Social Movements- Science, Technology, and Social Movements- for next year's meeting as well.

Scott solicited ideas for sessions for next year:

Science and Religion
Transnational Science
Science in Public Arenas
Information Technology
New Horizons in Science and Biomedicine
Environmental Knowledge
Open Topics

New Business:

1) Following on the success of SKAT pre-workshop. . .
Question about how to plan new events like the pre-conference, and to capitalize on the momentum.

2) Suggestion for the roundtables: Devoting one of the roundtables to "SKAT 101" to bring new members to the field, maybe even assign readings ahead of time to discuss. This would create the ability for others to move into the field and use it for their own work.

Thanks to Steve Epstein for sharing these pictures from the SKAT section reception! We will post more pictures from ASA 2015 to our new SKAT section website, which is coming soon!

2015 SKAT AWARDS

2015 HACKER-MULLINS GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER AWARD

This year we received 33 submissions for the Hacker-Mullins Graduate Student Paper Award. It was exciting to read the wide variety of research that current graduate students are undertaking in the sociology of science, knowledge, and technology. Especially impressive was the fact that a third of the submissions were for papers that had already been published, which illustrates the extent to which graduate students are publishing and getting their innovative work out to sociology and STS audiences.

The committee recognized one submission as an Honorable Mention. That paper was Jason Turowetz's "The Interactional Production of a Clinical Fact in a Case of Autism," which was published in *Qualitative Sociology* in March 2015 (Volume 38, Issue 1, pp. 57-78). In this impressive paper, Turowetz painstakingly illustrates how a child's diagnosis is made through the interaction between clinicians, children, and parents. Using the methods of ethnomethodology and conversation analysis, Turowetz argues that storytelling functions as a means to frame a child's behavior – emphasizing certain aspects of the child's cognitive function while downplaying others – through the diagnosis of autism. Turowetz is currently a doctoral student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Natalie Aviles with Jill Fisher (Photo Credit: Steve Epstein)

The winner of the 2015 Hacker-Mullins Award was Natalie Aviles' paper "The Little Death: Rigoni-Stern and the Problem of Sex and Cancer in Twentieth-century Biomedical Research," which was published in *Social Studies of Science* in June 2015 (Volume 45, Issue 3, pp. 394-415). Aviles mobilizes a sociological lens to examine the historical establishment of the causal link between sexual activity and cervical, penile, and anal cancers. Today there is medical certainty that these cancers are caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV), but the question about their cause began in the first part of the 19th century when Italian research Rigoni-Stern observed different rates of cervical cancer in nuns (assumed to be abstinent) and married women (assumed to be sexually active). Aviles traces the historical search for an explanation for this association through research on tissue damage, virology, epidemiology, and molecular science. What Aviles illustrates through this examination of these diverse scientific trajectories is that "originator narratives," or anecdotes of venerated scientific ancestors (here Rigoni-Stern), are used to make meaning out of contemporary work and situate the significance of their findings. Of course, the stories that are told often have to be manipulated, so that the dots between the past and present can form the desired picture. This article provides a detailed analysis that makes an important contribution to historical and sociological work on cancer research. Aviles is currently a doctoral student in Sociology and Science Studies at the University of California-San Diego.

Thanks so much to Mariana Craciun, Elise Paradis, Laura Stark, and Steven Epstein (ex officio) who served with me on this year's award committee.

—Jill Fisher

2015 STAR-NELKIN PAPER AWARD

The 2015 Star-Nelkin award went to "Realizing Potential in Translational Medicine." *Current Anthropology* 54.S7 (2013): S129-S138 by Carrie Friese. The committee was comprised of myself (James Evans), Daniel Breslau, Carol Heimer, Janet Vertesi, and Steven Epstein.

Carrie Friese with James Evans (Photo Credit: Steve Epstein)

In "Translational Medicine", Professor Carrie Friese shows how advances in animal care within model organism research can improve the ability to translate findings from model rats to human clinical settings. This flies in the face of historical trends to separate the work of animal husbandry, typically shunted off to technicians and veterinarians, from tests on the analytic animal used by scientists to reveal significant patterns for mammalian biology and human medicine. Reintegrating care into science, Friese changes the orientation from scientist to animal, and contradicts the conception that all model rats, mice or other any other model are the same. Better care increases their individual potentialities and their difference from one another, making for "better" publishable findings, more relevant for translation to medicine. While there were many excellent papers nominated for the Star-Nelkin award, Friese's beautifully written paper made the most direct contribution to the STS community and literature, "uncannily" linking issues of animal care, husbandry and ethics to those of scientific experimentation and objectivity. In summary, her case reveals that advances in "objective science" hinge on technologies of "animal care."

The committee also awarded honorable mentions to two exceptional and impactful papers of high relevance to the SKAT community and members. The first was by Brian Uzzi, Satyam Mukherjee, Michael Stringer, Ben Jones for Uzzi, "Atypical combinations and scientific impact." *Science* 342.6157 (2013): 468-472. In this paper, the authors discover that combining novel journals (and ideas) in new papers has the greatest impact only when those papers also have more traditional combinations of sources and ideas. Moreover, they show how teams function not to decrease convention, but increase novelty, and so are associated with this impact.

The second is Marion Fourcade and Kieran Healy's "Classification situations: Life-chances in the neoliberal era." *Accounting, Organizations and Society* 38.8 (2013): 559-572. This article explores how economic classifications resulting from processes like credit scoring and actuarial techniques create stratifying consequences. By splitting and sorting individuals according to new data and emergent criteria, these algorithms influence life-chances, potentially more than historically important classifications like race and class.

Beyond those articles we were able to recognize formally, however, the remaining 23 nominated articles represent a scholarly treasure trove, which reflects the enormous creativity, diversity and impact of recent SKAT research. As you can see in the list below, these were published in outlets ranged from *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and *Nature* to *Social Studies of Science* and *Science, Technology and Human Values* to *American Journal of Sociology, Qualitative Sociology* and beyond. Methods ranged from ethnography (e.g., Menchik 2014), case study (Almeling and Waggoner 2013), and historical analysis (e.g., Stark and Campbell 2014) to large-scale but sensitively interpreted citation studies (Siler et al 2015). Through these articles, the committee was collectively struck by the power of SKAT perspectives to address many of the most pressing issues in modern society, from genomic profiling and nuclear risk to society's engines of innovation.

—James Evans

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2015 STAR-NELKIN PAPER AWARD

Abend, Gabriel, Caitlin Petre, and Michael Sauder. "Styles of Causal Thought: An Empirical Investigation1." *American Journal of Sociology* 119.3 (2013): 602-654.

Almeling, Rene, and Miranda R. Waggoner. "More and Less than Equal How Men Factor in the Reproductive Equation." *Gender & Society* (2013): 0891243213484510.

Anderson, Warwick. "Objectivity and its discontents." *Social Studies of Science* 43.4 (2013): 557-576.

Angelo, Hillary. "Bird in hand: How experience makes nature." *Theory and Society* 42.4 (2013): 351-368.

Bhatt, Wasudha. "The Little Brown Woman Gender Discrimination in American Medicine." *Gender & Society* 27.5 (2013): 659-680.

Bliss, Catherine. "Translating Racial Genomics: Passages in and Beyond the Lab." *Qualitative sociology* 36 (2013): 423-443.

Cech, Erin A. "Culture of disengagement in engineering education?" *Science, Technology & Human Values* 39 (2014): 42-72.

Cech, Erin A. "Embed social awareness in science curricula." *Nature* 505.7484 (2014): 477-478.

Darling, Katherine W., et al. ""What Is the FDA Going to Think?" Negotiating Values through Reflective and Strategic Category Work in Microbiome Science." *Science, Technology & Human Values* (2014): 0162243914545405.

French, Martin. "Gaps in the gaze: Informatic practice and the work of public health surveillance." *Surveillance & Society* 12.2 (2014): 226-242.

Gray, Garry C., and Susan S. Silbey. "Governing Inside the Organization: Interpreting Regulation and Compliance1." *American Journal of Sociology* 120.1 (2014): 96-145.

Hermanowicz, Joseph C. "The culture of mediocrity." *Minerva* 51.3 (2013): 363-387.

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The winner of the 2015 Robert K. Merton Book Award will be profiled in our Spring 2016 newsletter.

2016 CALL FOR AWARDS

ROBERT K. MERTON BOOK AWARD

Deadline: February 1, 2016

The Science, Knowledge, and Technology Section invites nominations (including self-nominations) for the 2016 Robert K. Merton Book Award. The award is given annually in recognition of an outstanding book on science, knowledge, and/or technology published during the preceding three years (2015, 2014, or 2013). Single or multi-authored works are eligible, but not edited volumes. The winner, who should be a member of SKAT during the year in which the award is given, will be honored at the ASA Annual Meetings in Seattle (August 20-23, 2016) and will receive a plaque. The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2016. Books should be received from authors or publishers no later than March 1, 2016. The committee members and their mailing addresses are listed below. Nominations or requests for more information should be sent to the committee chair, Laura Stark, at laura.stark@vanderbilt.edu.

Committee:
Copies of nominated books should be received by all committee members by March 1, 2016

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Vanderbilt University
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Assistant Professor Department of Sociology
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MSC05 3080 1915 Roma NE Ste. 1103
Albuquerque NM 87131

Scott Frickel (ex officio)
Maxcy Hall Brown University
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Providence, RI 02912

HACKER-MULLINS STUDENT PAPER AWARD, 2016

Deadline: March 15, 2016

The Science, Knowledge and Technology Section invites submissions for the 2016 Hacker-Mullins Graduate Student Paper Award. The winner will be honored at the ASA meetings in Seattle (August 20-23, 2016) and will receive a plaque. The award also comes with a $350 prize. The deadline for submissions is March 15, 2016. Self-nominations are welcome. To be eligible, an author or co-author must be a student at the time of submission. Each student may submit only one paper in which they are the primary author. On papers co-authored with faculty members, a paper is eligible if the graduate student of the paper is the primary author and the non-student author must attest to the student's primary role in the design, execution, and writing of the paper. Published and unpublished papers of no more than 10,000 words are accepted (excluding references); if published, the article must have been published no earlier than 2014. This year's committee members are Erin Leahey (Chair), Tim O'Brian, Mariana Craciun, Uri Schwed, and Scott Frickel (ex officio). Please send the nominated paper and a brief nominating statement in one PDF document, via email, to Erin Leahey at leahey@email.arizona.edu.

STAR-NELKIN PAPER AWARD

Deadline: March 15, 2016

The Science, Knowledge, and Technology Section invites nominations for the 2016 Star-Nelkin Paper Award. In 2011, our newest award was renamed in memory of Susan Leigh Star and Dorothy Nelkin, each of whom contributed in numerous ways to our field. SKAT welcomes nominations of published articles that advance the field of sociology of science, knowledge, and technology. To be eligible, an article's earliest date of publication in a scholarly journal (whether online or in print) must have been in 2014 or 2015. The winner will be honored at the ASA meetings in Seattle (August 20-23, 2016) and will receive a plaque. Self-nominations are welcome. Nominated articles must be received no later than March 15, 2016. Please send brief nominating statements and copies of nominated articles in PDF format to all members of the selection committee, listed below, via email:

Committee:

Mary Frank Fox (chair) (mary.fox@pubpolicy.gatech.edu)
Jill Fisher (jill.fisher@unc.edu)
Carrie Friese (c.friese@lse.ac.uk)
Elizabeth Sweeney (elizabethsweeney@comcast.net)
Scott Frickel (ex officio) (scott_frickel@brown.edu)

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL NOMINEES MUST BE REGISTERED MEMBERS OF THE ASA TO BE CONSIDERED FOR SECTION AWARDS

REFLECTIONS ON SKAT25

Steve Epstein, Northwestern University

On August 21, 2015, about 150 members of our section—that is, more than one out of every four SKAT members—convened in downtown Chicago and devoted an entire day to presenting scholarly work, eating, mingling, schmoozing, eating, discussing ideas, eating, and celebrating the history of SKAT at our section's first pre-conference. Since then many people have told me it was by far the high point of their ASA experience this year. I don't think they were just being nice: I think many of us sensed that the event brought out the best in us. Both the intellectual spark that makes SKAT such a lively place to be, and the sense of connection that has made ours such an inviting and nurturing community, were very much on display.

Past Chair Steve Epstein welcomes section members to SKAT25
(Photo Credit: Kenneth Rhem)

Current and Past SKAT Chairs
(Photo Credit: Kenneth Rhem)

Eight former section chairs were present as we took stock of our history and also imagined the further "skatification" of U.S. sociology. The conference included two plenary sessions, parallel sessions that involved 62 separate presentations, poster sessions, and lunchtime "thematic table" discussions. The intellectual quality was high, and morale was even higher.

Things got off to a bang with the wonderful video that Janet Vertesi edited, drawing on recorded video and audio reflections submitted by former chairs Tom Gieryn, Mike Lynch, Lowell Hargens, Susan Cozzens, Monica Casper, Kelly Moore, Daniel Kleinman, Karin Knorr-Cetina, and Joan Fujimura, along with myself. If you missed the video—or just want a reminder of SKAT's unique history of "personalities" (!!)—you'll find a link on the soon-to-be released, revamped SKAT section website, or in the meantime just go here: https://vimeo.com/137319267. Incidentally, anyone who has ever wondered about that funny acronym of ours should be especially sure to check out the video!

The plenary presentations by Ruha Benjamin, Monica Casper, Adele Clarke, Tom Gieryn, Sheila Jasanoff, Amit Prasad, Michael Rodríguez-Muñiz, and Janet Vertesi were of particularly high quality, and there are plans afoot to gather many of them together in the form of a theme issue of a journal. I'm hopeful that capturing these manifestos and interventions in a more permanent fashion will be a way to keep the intellectual firepower of the pre-conference burning and spread the ideas beyond the bounds of our section.

Morning plenary presentation with Adele Clarke, Amit Prasad, Tom Gieryn, Ruha Bengamin, and Steve Epstein
(Photo Credit: Kenneth Rhem)

For me SKAT25 was my "swan song" at the close of two years as section chair, and frankly it was a labor of love. But, collectively, we're all deeply indebted to everyone who worked to

make the pre-conference possible. I particularly want to acknowledge and thank two groups. The planning committee—Mathieu Albert, Daniel Breslau, Claire Decoteau, James Evans, Anne Figert, Marion Fourcade, Kelly Moore, Casey Oberlin, Elise Paradis, and Janet Vertesi—met by videoconference on multiple occasions to decide on the format of the event, assist in raising funds, select speakers, and put together the program. And the local host committee consisting of doctoral students from Northwestern and the University of Illinois at Chicago—Kellie Owens, Robin Bartram, Danielle Giffort, Jaimie Morse, Christopher Robertson, Ari Tolman, and Kelly Underman—deserve significant credit for the smoothness with which the day's activities unfolded. Special thanks go to Danielle Giffort for laying out the printed program, and "special, special" thanks to Kellie Owens, who chaired the local host committee, created and maintained the SKAT25.com website, and bore overall responsibility for many of the logistical aspects of the conference. Finally, Kenneth Rhem, a professional photographer, captured the event for us without charge. You'll find some of his photos in this issue of the newsletter, and more of them will appear on the section's website.

Lunchtime "thematic table" discussions
(Photo Credit: Kenneth Rhem)

SKAT25 Plenary Session
(Photo Credit: Kenneth Rhem)

Fundraising was also important to the success of the conference. Thanks to generous contributions from Northwestern University, the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois at Chicago, Loyola University, and Vanderbilt University, we were able to host an event that was free for section members and that did not draw on any of the section's own (limited) funds.

Afternoon plenary speakers: Scott Frickel (moderator), Michael Rodríguez-Muñiz, Shelia Jasanoff, Monica Casper, and Janet Vertesi
(Photo Credit: Kenneth Rhem)

Pre-conferences held on the day before the start of the ASA annual meeting certainly pose burdens and complicate everyone's busy schedules. And they have proliferated in recent years: this year we competed against four or five other worthy activities. Yet for many of us they offer a kind of sustenance that's a very welcome alternative and supplement to the diffuse enormity of the annual meeting. I'm looking forward to our section's next one!

Steve Epstein
Past Chair

Current Chair, Scott Frickel, concludes SKAT25
(Photo Credit: Kenneth Rhem)

SKAT SESSIONS AT ASA 2016

SKAT ROUNDTABLE SESSION

Organizer: Alondra Nelson, alondra.nelson@columbia.edu

OPEN TOPICS IN SOCIOLOGY OF SCIENCE, KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY

Organizer: Michael Rodriguez-Muñiz, mrodriguezm@uchicago.edu

This session invites papers on any topic related to the sociology of science, knowledge and technology.

INVITED SESSION: POLITICS AND PRACTICES OF DIGITAL KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

Organizer: Janet Vertesi, jvertesi@princeton.edu

How do digital systems and practices intersect with, produce, and reproduce particular ways of knowing? This panel addresses contemporary intersections between digital studies and the study of science, knowledge and technology. We ask, whose ways of knowing are built into these systems, with what privilege and scope, and which ways are left out? How do the practices of digital knowledge production encode or enact systematic distinctions, categorizations, hierarchies and inequalities? Examining computational systems and artifacts from databases to algorithms, from labor politics to expertise, we return to the core questions of the field to discuss what it means for our research, our theories, and our methods when the sociology of science, knowledge and technology goes digital.

SCIENCE AT THE MARGINS

Organizer: Logan Williams, will2734@msu.edu

Margins take many meanings in contemporary society, but most of these signify relationships of inequality between centers and edges or peripheries. Such relationships help describe geographical, social, and intellectual spaces as well as account for the social and symbolic power of those things, people, and processes that occupy marginal positions. We invite submissions that reflect on the theoretical and empirical significance of "the margins" and marginality in the practice and organization of science and technology.

WHAT WOULD BOURDIEU DO? NEW APPROACHES TO FIELD STUDIES IN SCIENCE, KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY

Organizer: Gordon Gauchat, gauchat@uwm.edu

Fields and field theory are gaining renewed attention in various areas of sociology, including STS. This panel highlights recent applications of field theory to science studies and theoretical work on the dynamics of scientific and technological fields, broadly construed. All methodological approaches are welcome, including quantitative studies of networks, public opinion surveys, bibliometrics, and organizational analysis.

BODIES AND SEXUALITIES IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES

Co-sponsored with the Section on Bodies and Embodiment

Co-Organizer (SKAT): Katie Hasson, khasson@usc.edu

We invite submissions that examine how science and technology are central to the everyday expressions of embodied practices. How has scientific research shaped social understandings of embodied experiences? How have technologies (medical, communication, surveillance, "camouflaged") been used to organize, facilitate, enhance, track, or prevent bodily practices? Overall, what does the study of science and technology bring to the study of bodies?

INVITED THEMATIC SESSION: SCIENCE, MOVEMENTS AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY

Organizer: Scott Frickel, scott_frickel@brown.edu

In contemporary society political conflict increasingly centers on claims of scientific fact or uncertainty and these "knowledge politics" often have visible, broad and contradictory consequences for social inequality and social change more generally. This thematic session will consider the ways in which politicizations of scientific knowledge inside and outside the academy specifically shape efforts by social movements to confront and reduce social inequality. Invited panelists will consider power relations within and across the science/society divide as they influence the organization of social protest and resistance and alter distributions of social advantage and disadvantage in four socially consequential domains: environmental justice, gender and sexualities, biology and race, and genetics and disease. To date, scholars have paid insufficient attention to theorizing and studying the relationship between science, movements, and social inequality. Presentations on this panel will move those interconnections into the foreground.

Moderator: Steven Epstein
Panelists: Ruha Benjamin, Catherine Bliss, Phil Brown, and Tom Waidzunas

The 2016 Call for Papers and Online Submission System is now open. The submission deadline is January 6, 2016 at 3:00pm EST.

Another contribution of the book is in the use of Bourdieu. Bourdieu has been controversial in the sociology of science and science studies, including conflicts with Latour. Bourdieu talks so much about the relative autonomy of scientific fields and the way that scientific struggles represent conflicts over scientific capital. What I try to show is that as an analytic tool, field theory helps us understand a lot about the actions of actors in behavioral genetics, and it could be a useful tool for a lot of other people who are interested in science. You don't have to accept the ideal typical descriptions of science in Bourdieu to deploy his analytic framework successfully.

My story about behavioral genetics shows that the actions of behavior geneticists and permanent controversies are linked to the fact that behavioral genetics does not look like other scientific fields. Behavioral genetics is fragmented; the status hierarchies are ambiguous; the behavioral norms are not well enforced. In Bourdieu's ideal typical description, scientists must compete with each other when defining good science. In behavior genetics, the scientists appeal to other authorities, but they do not appeal to the public; they appeal to other scientific fields. The competition among behavior geneticists is low key, but they do compete for recognition in other scientific fields. This list of features from the ideal field helps us understand why it is organized in this way and why we see both permanent controversy and persistence as a field.

In chapters 5-7, I show that controversy is a strategy for the accumulation of scientific capital by some behavior geneticists. By being controversial, even notorious, some behavioral geneticists accumulate scientific capital. By wielding controversy, being self-consciously controversial with their scientific neighbors, people in this field create upward status mobility by publicizing transgressions. Behavioral geneticists are transgressing the norms of other scientific fields, such as socialization science. Very self consciously, they use the style of scandal and transgression to elevate themselves in their struggle for scientific capital.

Morrison: How does your book use Bourdieu's fields, and expand upon his ideas?

Panofsky: One of the messages is that field theory can be very helpful for people who are interested in science. One place where Bourdieu has been used is the new political sociology of science. What they are talking about is how science is related to other fields of power, such as law and politics. These are macro contexts for science, and it's super important. Yet I still think field theory is useful for understanding science itself and how it works.

"People in [behavioral genetics] create upward status mobility by publicizing transgressions."

Field theory helps us think about action at a distance. For example, in behavioral genetics, we can't understand behavioral genetics without understanding how psychologists who study human twins with pen and paper exams are in the same field with animal researchers who breed mice and put them in mazes. Early in the formation of the field, those two groups were intimately tied, but moved further apart over time. They still influence each other, however. To this day, animal behavior geneticists continue to lament their lack of connection to human behavioral geneticists and feel discredited by those who have dabbled in race and race research.

Morrison: Are there other misbehaving sciences?

Panofsky: In the book, I talk about behaving and misbehaving sciences. There are other fields that seem to sit in the same territory, but have pulled themselves back from the brink. They are in the same dangerous territory but have better policed their boundaries. Neuroscience has done this much better than behavioral genetics; mainstream genetics has put a lid on this problem better.

Other fields seem to have this problem of permanent controversy, such as climate science. Despite the consensus of scientists, they have not been able to control the discourse around climate change and occasionally that has led them to blur the norms of scientific conduct. There is obviously a lot going on in this area. Nutrition science is also a site of continual controversy over what constitutes a healthy diet or healthy eating. You can think about the ways scientists have had difficulty creating consensus in the field, partly due to the nutrition and exercise industries. These fields may have similar dynamics.

In the conclusion, part of what I discuss in behavior genetics is its destructuring as a scientific field. For many reasons that I describe in the book, it's disorganized. The normative order that scientists work in is anomic. I think this destructuring of science is a potential problem, and we should be thinking about it. Social forces that tend towards the destructuring of science, the inversion or the dismantling of professional honor codes among scientists is dangerous for science. For example, interdisciplinarity: Jerry Jacobs' book *In Defense of Disciplines* makes this point, too. Interdisciplinarity is potentially dangerous because it could destructure science—there is no coherence and credentialing for those who would be in the interdisciplinary conversations.

Morrison: What I really like about the book is the fundamental sociological message. Things like creativity, innovation, careers, cooperation, norms, values, and progress in science rely on structures: mutually agreed upon rules of the game that guide and sanction action.

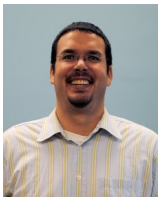
Panofsky: That's exactly it. Bourdieu's framework helps us talk about this in ways that other science studies frameworks are lacking. I'm interested in reviving that work, and I think that's one of the main purposes of the SKAT section and why SKAT members will be able to debate me in what I have to say about this, even if you don't care about behavior genetics.

Morrison: What lessons can you share about either the process of writing the book or about the field of behavior genetics now that the book is out?

Panofsky: I'm pleased with the book, but I am not pleased with how long it took to write! In the process of writing the book, I learned a lot about how to structure the narrative of the book about controversies rather than controversy as an abstract principle. One funny thing: even though I explicitly said I did not want a double helix on the book, the designers placed a very abstract version on the cover. They made it handsome, elegant, and it's an abstract graphic that actually conveys a lot about what's going on in the book. I really like it.

An Author-Meets-Critic session for *Misbehaving Science* is currently in the works for the 2016 Pacific Sociological Association Meetings. More details are forthcoming!

Aaron Panofsky is an Associate Professor with the Institute for Society and Genetics and the Lufkin School of Public Policy at UCLA.



Dan Morrison is a Research Fellow at the Center for Biomedical Ethics and Society at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and a member of the SKAT Publications Committee.

ASA Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology

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