

Spring 2009

ASA-SKAT NEWSLETTER

Science, Knowledge, and Technology

From the Section Chair

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Kelly Moore
Department of Sociology
University of Cincinnati

Sociologists of science are now starting to study food, examining subjects ranging from debates over specific foods, such as trans fats, “nutraceuticals,” and in-vitro meat, to questions related to the measurement of commodities through international systems like the Codex Alimentarius, which sets standards for what counts as a particular food commodity in world trade systems. Understanding those political processes and outcomes necessarily demands an understanding of cultures—the systems of ritual, symbol, and convention that shape what is taken for granted and what kinds of actions are possible. These two poles—one of production and the other of the meanings of consumption—ground my current research.

My own interest in food came from an interest in how the United States went from a country concerned in the 1960s and 1970s about the problem of the poor not having enough to eat, to a country concerned by the late 1970s about the entire population eating too much. The change in the government’s dominant concern about citizen eating can be seen among other places in the federal programs on food and nutrition. Hunger and malnutrition have taken a back seat to programs that encourage citizens to optimize health, both personally for long life and for the collective benefit of reduced public health costs.

Along with this change in the focus of federal guidelines, there are major shifts in the kind of department citizens are expected to have vis-à-vis food. Take for example, the advice on eating found in sources backed with the authority of medical science. Compared to what one might call the Psychic Glory Days of American eating in the US in the 1960s, when magazines like the American Medical Association’s *Today’s Health* printed recipes for rich, fat- and sugar-filled foods along with breezy, upbeat stories urging readers to enjoy food, so long as it was “safe” and “pure,” today’s food regimes insist that proper eating means endless monitoring, restriction, and calculation, as writers including Nikolas Rose have argued.

The poor have always fit uneasily into the generalized food regimes of the United States, for they have not been able to afford or acquire healthy and culturally appropriate food. Moreover, like Americans from other social classes, they may not be interested in following current deprivation-based food regimes. Yet not all who supposedly fail to properly participate in the science-based regime of monitoring and restriction are publicly singled out as problems. Black and Latino children and their families are the latest group to be depicted as anti-example of proper deportment, with ad campaigns accusing parents of “feeding their children to death.” While the wealthy are urged to maximize life, the poor are reminded of the nearness of death, and castigated for costing Americans untold numbers of dollars because of their present and future poor health.

Campaigns to educate people or to make more nutritious food available in poor neighborhoods perhaps overly focus on the cognitive and economic aspects of eating, without addressing other food concerns among the poor. Food that is filling and tastes good, for example, may be one of the few pleasures that the poor have, so why not eat more of it when one can? Changing children’s habits by including healthier food and local food in school lunches may be one way in. But given that some cities have begun punishing poor students whose parents don’t provide the children with enough lunch money by serving the children a cold cheese sandwich, fruit, and milk (undoubtedly meeting some minimum nutritional standard) instead of the meal other students get, it appears that socializing children into new eating habits works in complex ways.

As I write about these issues, I’m torn about the debates over the nutritionalization of food. On one hand, the reductionism of nutrition is an important component of eating; food aid programs, individuals, institutions, and governments need knowledge of what kinds of foods sustain bodies. But on the other hand, as groups like Oxfam argue, nutrients aren’t the only thing to consider when assessing the adequacy of food supplies; cultural appropriateness, regular availability, and the ability to acquire it with dignity are also critical. The scientization of food-as-commodity, through such systems as the Codex Alimentarius, and the scientization of food-as-comestible, through systems like food guidelines and labels, are likely to continue, though with uneven effects on social groups. Understanding this intersection could be one contribution the sociology of science can make to our knowledge about food in society.

Popular Media Piece of Note

A recent New York Times story described the development of a virtual “helper,” who can help users schedule appointments and carry out other kinds of tasks. Named Laura, “the system has the ability to make sophisticated decisions about the people in front of her, judging things like their attire, whether they seem impatient, their importance and their preferred times for appointments. Instead of being a relatively dumb terminal, Laura represents a nuanced attempt to recreate the finer aspects of a relationship that can develop between an executive and an assistant over the course of many years.”

This represents an interesting case of how women's roles as emotional and bureaucratic assistants become digitized. Check out the article at:

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/02/technology/business-computing/02compute.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=Microsoft%20Laura&st=cse

Congratulations to Steven Epstein!

Please join us in congratulating SKAT member Steven Epstein on winning the 2009 American Sociological Association Distinguished Publication Award for his book *Inclusion: The Politics of Difference in Medical Research* (Chicago University Press, 2007). Steve's book won the SKAT Robert K. Merton Award in 2007, so we are especially pleased that a book our section singled out has also been recognized with one of the ASA's highest honors.

Student Paper Award Submission Deadline Extended to April 15

Sally Hacker-Nicholas Mullins Student Paper Award

The section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology invites submissions for the Hacker-Mullins Graduate Student Paper Award. This award recognizes the best student paper in the area of science, knowledge, and technology. The award comes with a \$250 prize. **Submissions are due April 15, 2009.** An eligible author must be a student at time of submission. Published and unpublished works are accepted. Send one **paper copy** to each of the committee members:

Patrick Carroll (*Chair*)
Department of Sociology, UC Davis
1282 Social Sciences & Humanities
One Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616

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National Science Foundation
Directorate of SES
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Arlington, VA 22230

Last year's winner was **Martha Poon**, "From New Deal Institutions to Capital Markets: Commercial Consumer Risk Scores and the Making of Subprime Mortgage Finance." See the article, forthcoming in *Accounting Organizations and Society*.

Note: The deadline for nominations for the SKAT Robert K. Merton Book Prize has now passed.



Annual Meeting Update

104th ASA Annual Meeting August 8-11, 2009 Hilton San Francisco and Parc 55 Hotel San Francisco, CA

This year, SKAT's section activities have been scheduled for Monday August 10th, day three of the meeting. This means our Council and Business meetings will be scheduled on that day, and the reception will be 6:30 that evening. We will also have five panels on Monday the 10th: two regular sessions, two section sessions, and one roundtable. Our organizers are firming up scheduling and participation, which will be posted in our next newsletter. Thanks to the organizers for all of their on-going hard work!

SKAT Section Session on Science and Public Sociology

Organizer, Anne Figert, Loyola University

SKAT Section Session on Science, Food, and Nutrition

Organizer: David Schleiffer, Chemical Heritage Foundation

SKAT Section Session on Bodies of Technology: Population, Capital

Organizer: Jackie Orr, Syracuse University

SKAT Section Roundtables

Organizer: Chris Ganchoff, Michigan State University

Other sessions of interest include:

Session on the Sociology of Science

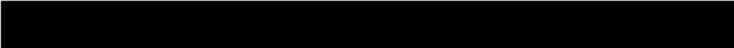
Organizer: Kelly A. Joyce, College of William and Mary

Session on the Sociology of Knowledge

Organizer: John H. Stanfield II, Fielding Graduate Student University

Session on Technology

Organizer: Kelly Moore, University of Cincinnati



News of Note to SKAT Members

Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S) 2009 Annual Meeting Submission deadline EXTENDED: March 15, 2009

2009 Annual Meeting, October 28 – November 1, Washington, DC

See www.4sonline.org/meeting.htm for submission guidelines.

Events Funding

Deadline for proposals March 31.

The 4S New Initiatives Program

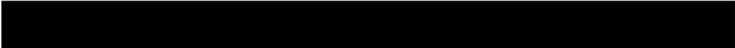
Funding is now available to 4S members for workshops or other events that support the development of Science and Technology studies. The program is designed to encourage events that supplement, but do not readily fit into, the program at our annual meetings. The first round of funding will be made available for events that take place *between* the annual meetings in 2009 and 2010. These funds are *not* available for events at the annual meetings themselves.

See http://www.4sonline.org/new_initiatives.html for further information.

Highlighted Members Publication

Jill A. Fisher, *Medical Research for Hire: The Political Economy of Pharmaceutical Clinical Trials*. Rutgers University Press. [http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/acatalog/Medical Research for Hire.html](http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/acatalog/Medical_Research_for_Hire.html)

Today, more than 75 percent of pharmaceutical drug trials in the United States are being conducted in the private sector. Once the sole province of academic researchers, these important studies are now being outsourced to non-academic physicians. According to Jill A. Fisher, this major change in the way medical research is performed is the outcome of two problems in U.S. health care: decreasing revenue for physicians and decreasing access to treatment for patients. As physicians report diminishing income due to restrictive relationships with insurers, increasing malpractice insurance premiums, and inflated overhead costs to operate private practices, they are attracted to pharmaceutical contract research for its lucrative return. Clinical trials also provide limited medical access to individuals who have no or inadequate health insurance because they offer “free” doctors’ visits, diagnostic tests, and medications to participants. Focusing on the professional roles of those involved, as well as key research practices, Fisher assesses the risks and advantages for physicians and patients alike when pharmaceutical drug studies are used as an alternative to standard medical care.



Call for Proposals/Grant Competition "Digging into Data Challenge"

The Digging into Data Challenge is an international grant competition sponsored by four leading research agencies, the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) from the United Kingdom, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) from the United States, the National Science Foundation (NSF) from the United States, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) from Canada.

This program is motivated by the opportunities that innovations in computing provide for reshaping scholarship in the social sciences and humanities. The idea behind the Digging into Data Challenge is to answer the question "what do you do with a million books?" Or a million pages of newspaper? Or a million photographs of artwork? That is, how does the notion of scale affect humanities and social science research? Now that scholars have access to huge repositories of digitized data -- far more than they could read in a lifetime -- what does that mean for research?

For more information and to submit a proposal, follow submission instructions provided at www.diggingintodata.org If you have any question or would like to learn more about CISE interests in the "Digging into Data" program, please contact Program Director Steven Griffin, sgriffin@nsf.gov, 703-292-8930.

Call for Papers International Sociological Association

The International Sociological Association will hold its quadrennial meeting in Gotheberg, Sweden in July, 2010. Research Committee 23, Science and Technology, is sponsoring some really interesting sessions:

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/rc/rc23.htm>

Paper submission opens March 15, 2009 and ends in September 2009



GROUPerspective

For this issue of the newsletter, instead of asking for one member for their perspective on a single issue, we've put together a group perspective. I asked some SKAT members if they would:

“recommend SKAT-related books or articles they would like our new President, Barak Obama to read”

with a few sentences saying why. Here are the results. (Note that the sampling method is highly unscientific.)

Thank you to Stephen Barley, Troy Duster, Mary Frank Fox, Kelly Joyce, Karin Knorr Cetina, Laura Senior, Susan Silbey, Laura Smith-Doerr, Steven Vallas, Owen Whooley, and Stephen Zehr for your suggestions.

MOST RECOMMENDED SKAT BOOK FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA:

Diane Vaughn. *The Challenger Launch Decision: Risky Technology, Culture, and Deviance at NASA*, University of Chicago Press, 1997.

“For a president trying to take control over the world largest bureaucracy, it is important that Obama understand how certain organizational and cultural arrangements within bureaucracy can lead to mistakes and blindspots. No recent work in the SKAT tradition does this more effectively than Vaughan's book, which traces, in fine detail, the disastrous decision to launch the Challenger Space Shuttle in 1986. Like any good sociologists, Vaughan eschews scapegoating individual players to show how the internal configuration of organizations make some conclusion possible and others unlikely.”

“If you are interested in how mistakes at institutions happen, then Diane Vaughan's *The Challenger Launch Decision* is the book to read. This carefully researched book illustrates how the Challenger disaster was rooted in longstanding cultural ideas and practices at NASA; it was not simply the result of a quick decision to meet a launch schedule. Vaughan's rich account shows how qualitative methods such as ethnography can contribute to the creation of policy, and that both quantitative and qualitative scholarship have a place at the policy table.”

ALSO RECOMMENDED:

Graham Allison, *Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis*

“This book shows how government agencies operate as organizations, and how these organizational processes effect technology and technology policy.”

Stephen Epstein, *Inclusion: the Politics of Difference in Biomedical Research*.

“President Obama should read this book “for two reasons: first, because it shows that policies of the federal research system are shaped by a range of social movement actors both within and outside government, and second because it shows how such policies harden into almost invisible standards and norms (once they are adopted). The way race and gender are classified in medical research have enormous impact on what we know (and do not know) about health in the United States. In his inaugural address, Obama promised, "We will restore science to its rightful place, and wield technology's wonders to raise health care's quality and lower its cost." This book would be a good place for him to start in reflecting on the role that federal agencies play in limiting what we know about health inequalities.”

Jennifer Fosket and Laura Mamo, *Living Green: Communities that Sustain* (New Society Press, forthcoming, June 2009)

“*Living Green* is a lively, enjoyable book that uses case studies to examine how people build values about health and community into green architecture and social spaces. Drs. Mamo and Fosket, two sociologists of medicine, technology, and science, dedicate two chapters to what it means to age in these communities, looking at how specific sites support or neglect the varied needs of old people. This book is a sociological page-turner; it simultaneously inspires social change, gives details about a variety of sustainable communities, and illustrates the value of sociological tools and concepts.”

Mary Frank Fox, Gerhard Sonnert, and Irina Nikiforova. “Successful Programs for Undergraduate Women in Science and Engineering: Adapting vs. Adopting the Institutional Environment.” *Research in Higher Education* 50 (forthcoming, June 2009)

“Targeted initiatives for participation/performance for undergraduate women in science and engineering are strategic research sites for understanding of gender, science, and higher education. Using a quantitative, cross-institutional, and longitudinal method, two extreme groups of programs are distinguished: those with the "most successful" and "least successful" outcomes in undergraduate degrees awarded to women in science/ and engineering. Qualitative analyses of interview data with key players in the programs in these two groups point to ways in which definitions of issues, problems, and solutions diverge (as well as converge) and thus to conceptual underpinnings that have important real-life consequences in these organizational settings of higher education. The programs that regard issues, problems, and solutions of women in science/engineering as rooted in "institutional/structural-centered," as opposed to "individual/student-centered," perspectives are associated with the most positive outcomes.”

Thomas F. Gieryn, *Cultural Boundaries of Science: Credibility on the Line* (Chicago, 1999).

“Beyond helping us understand science and its relationship to other institutions and activities, the book provides a useful way of thinking about why efforts at social, cultural, and geographical separation are so important to the actors involved and predicts the places where one is likely to run into such work.”

Donald MacKenzie, *An Engine, Not a Camera: How Financial Models Shape Markets* (MIT, 2006).

“This book is very important because it explains how a set of assumptions and models can help create the very economic situation that the assumptions and models presumed existed. It provides an important piece of the puzzle for understanding how we got to where we in today's economic mess.”

Kelly Moore, *Disrupting Science: Social Movements, American Scientists, and the Politics of the Military, 1945-1975* (Princeton, 2008).

“This book show how social movements are intertwined with science and technology developments and public perceptions of science and technology.”

Robin Osborne and Jeremy Tanner, *Art's Agency and Art History* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2007).

“The book is follow up (summary, critique and illustration) to Alfred Gall's volume *Art and Agency*. It is located at the intersection of art, technology, and object-relations theory, and of interest to us because it provides an innovative theory of agency and at the same time a new anthropological perspective on art.”

Steven Shapin, *A Social History of Truth: Civility and Science in Seventeenth Century England* (Chicago, 1994)

“The book demonstrates the importance of civility and person-to-person interaction historically in what we came to accept as scientific truth. In the contemporary context, it makes us rethink our alleged dependence on methods, models, or other techniques that produce economic, security, scientific, etc. knowledges.”

Susan S. Silbey “Taming Prometheus: Talk about Safety and Culture” (forthcoming 2009), *Annual Review of Sociology*

“As technological systems become more complex, they also become more dangerous - dangerous in terms of the physical and material hazards they create and also dangerous because we cannot fully control the systems we create and rely on. Recently, engineers and managers have suggested that we can do better to control these systems - e.g. oil rigs, nuclear power plants, banking and financial systems - by promoting safety cultures or cultures that value safety within the different organizations and systems. This article argues that (1) talk of safety culture is associated with neo-liberal economic policies, part of efforts to distribute to individuals, often the least powerful individuals, the responsibility for system accidents and malfunctions. The financialization of insurance and erosion of labor organizations has undermined institutions that had interests in promoting safety in technological systems. (2) Culture is being misunderstood and treated as if it were a manipulable cause rather than what it is: an emergent property of system dynamics that cannot be independently manipulated or controlled. (3) Finally, rather than imagining homogeneous interests, the paper argues that safety is often promoted by nurturing competing interests within organizations.”

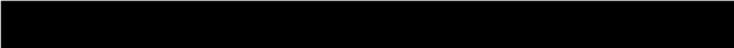
S. P. Vallas. 2003. "Why Teamwork Fails: Obstacles to Workplace Change in Four Manufacturing Plants." *American Sociological Review* 68: 223-50.

"President Barack should read this article on workplace change, for three interwoven reasons. First, because it would sensitize him to the informal cultural influences that inevitably intervene between centrally-designed aspirations and concrete organizational outcomes; second, because it shows the limits of technocratic thinking when it is too far removed from practical realities on the ground; and third, because it shows how sorely needed are plans that can engage actually existing cultures within beleaguered American industries. Perhaps this reading (and also James Scott's *Seeing Like a State*) would help the President to see that wisdom comes in many forms, many of which are uncertified, and lacking in elite-conferred pedigrees."

Keith Wailoo, *Dying in the City of the Blues: Sickle Cell Anemia and the Politics of Race and Health*, (University of North Carolina Press, 2001)

"Keith Wailoo brings to the study of disease – in this case the genetic disorder sickle cell anemia – a more integrated orientation, broader in scope – even grand in its vision. The author explicitly analyzes the history of sickle cell disease as a commodity "whose value for patients' rights advocates, molecular biologists, and clinical specialists increased rapidly as the economy of biomedical science itself changed..." (p. 9). But he has far more in mind than just the case study and trajectory of this single disorder. Sickle cell disease's trajectory as a commodity reveals, in microcosm, the general trajectory of American health care and medical research in the twentieth century. This way of viewing the history of disease will draw our attention to the ways in which disease discourse meshed with other political and economic developments in health care, including the rise of national institutions like the NIH, the appearance of genetic counseling, the emergence of disease activism, the growing cultural power of illness, the advent of managed care, and the changing political economy of health in America."

We want your perspective!
If you would like to comment on this piece or submit a short opinion essay on any SKAT-relevant topic,
please email newsletter editor
Sarah Beth Kaufman sbk251@nyu.edu



Employment and Fellowships

The University of Puget Sound is looking for a Visiting Assistant Professor of Science, Technology, and Society Program for Science, Technology, and Society (STS)

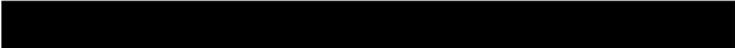
Appointment: Full-time, one-year position; begins Fall Term 2009.

Interested individuals are encouraged to submit application materials postmarked no later than 2 March 2009 to ensure consideration. To apply, submit a two-page statement of teaching experience and philosophy, a two-page description of research program, and a curriculum vitae and list of publications to hr@ups.edu. Please arrange for three letters of reference to be sent separately to:

STS Search - 1017
University of Puget Sound
1500 North Warner #1007
Tacoma, WA 98416-1007

Vanderbilt University is seeking an innovative and entrepreneurial tenure-track scholar to help build a new program in Creative Enterprise and Public Leadership. Research and teaching interests should be connected to one or more of the following areas: the economic, social, political, and cultural impact of new media and communication technology; creative industries and the organization and production of media, art, and entertainment; policy and regulatory issues in art, media, and culture; globalization and culture; and creativity and design in organizations and society. The successful candidate will be appointed to a home department appropriate to that individual's scholarship, but will be expected to teach in an interdisciplinary program of study and to participate with students and faculty in building a culture of creativity at Vanderbilt University. Interested candidates should submit a letter and c.v. electronically by March 10, 2009, to Bruce Barry, Search Chair, at connie.sinclair@vanderbilt.edu. The cover letter should address why the candidate is interested in the core ideals of the program – Creative Enterprise and Public Leadership – as well as the larger Creative Campus initiative. A brief description of these initiatives appears below. More information on the Curb Center can be found at www.vanderbilt.edu/curbcenter

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas has funding to support a graduate student—preferably at the doctoral level—interested in advancing knowledge and practice of climate change pedagogy at institutions of higher education. The student will develop a research agenda focused around climate curriculum trends and practices, measures of student learning, design of educational tools and modules, and opportunities for integration across curricula. The student will also be involved in developing and running a Climate Change Curriculum Conference at UNLV during the summer of 2010. The stipend will be \$20,000 per year (\$18,000 if a MS student). Please contact David M. Hassenzahl, Chair of the UNLV Department of Environmental Studies, at david.hassenzahl@unlv.edu for more information. Ideally, the student will have submitted all application materials to the Environmental Science graduate program no later than March 31, 2009.



Researcher at the Cellule Interfacultaire de Technology Assessment, specialized in the philosophical, ethical and social evaluation of communication and information technologies

Two-year position, beginning September 2009
<http://www.fundp.ac.be/facultes/info/recherche/cita/>

Under the direction of Prof. Philippe Goujon

Research lies within the scope of two European projects. Those projects investigate ethical governance in EU research projects with the goal of providing a framework for improved governance mechanisms that will address potential ethical issues arising from new and emerging technologies. Studying current governance arrangements in actual ICT projects (and in particular in Ambient Intelligence project) will help to produce a better understanding of the efficiency and limits of current ethics governance. This will be applied to the relevant ethical issues identified which will lead to a recommendation of successful governance arrangements that will address ethical issues in emerging ICTs before or as they arise. The recommendations for individual issues will be used to develop general policy recommendations. The researcher's work will include: Review of ICT ethics governance - Research on ICT ethics governance in current European projects - Evaluation of effectiveness of current governance arrangements - Application of suitable governance arrangements to most relevant issues identified - Evaluation of viability of suggested governance arrangements

Send CV and accompanying letter of motivation to be sent before 1st June (but the sooner is better):

Professor Philippe Goujon
E-mail : pgo@info.fundp.ac.be
Phone (Cellular) : +32 497 03 50 12
Fax : +32 81 72 49 67



Additional Announcements

Call for Papers

VIII LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND GENDER
UTFPR, Curitiba, BRASIL 05 - 09 of April 2010.

See the website: www.ppgte.ct.utfpr.edu.br/cictg/index.html

Deadline for abstracts August 31 2009

Travel Grants for Niels Bohr Library in College Park, Maryland

Grants for research in the history of modern physics and allied physical sciences such as astronomy, geophysics, biophysics, industrial physics, and optics) and their social interactions. Grants can be up to \$2,500 each. They can be used only to reimburse direct expenses connected with the work.

Applicants should suggest the persons they would interview or papers they would microfilm, or the collections at the Library they need to see. Applicants may consult the online catalog at our Website, www.aip.org/history. To apply, send by mail or email a vitae, a letter of no more than two pages describing your research project, and a brief budget showing the expenses for which support is requested to:

Dr. Greg Good
Center for History of Physics
American Institute of Physics
One Physics Ellipse
College Park, MD 20740
Phone: 301-209-3174
Fax: 301-209-0882
E-mail: ggood@aip.org

Deadlines for receipt of applications: April 15 and November 15 of each year.

The Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society invites scholars to make use of Hagley Museum and Library's research collections and our fellowship programs. A wide range of American and international topics can be explored in our printed, manuscript, and pictorial resources, which include business, economic, industrial, technological, cultural, architectural, labor, and women's history.

Research grants are designed to assist researchers with travel and living expenses while using the research collections. Stipends are for a minimum of one week, maximum of six months at no more than \$400 per week. Further information and application form can be obtained from the Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society's website: www.hagley.org/library/center/grants.html

Deadlines: 31 March, 30 June and 30 October

Call for Research Proposals
Enabling Bio-innovations for Poverty Alleviation in Asia

2009 Small Grants Competition Program

The Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, with support from Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) has launched in February 2009 a small grants competition program to tackle bio-innovation and its social and policy implications for poverty alleviation in the Asian Region. Selected research projects will be up to 12 months and will focus mainly on bio-innovations demonstrated to be directly relevant to the social phenomenon of poverty – whether alleviating, worsening or creating new forms of poverty. The scope of poverty is further narrowed down to two important areas: on poor people's livelihoods and basic health. Deadline for submission of Letters of Intent - 31 March 2009. Details of the Call for Proposal, guidelines for submission and other relevant information can be accessed at:

www.bioinnovationpolicies.ait.asia/

Tel. no: 66 2 524 5671

Fax. no: 66 2 524 6166

Email: bio-innovations@ait.ac.th

Website: www.bioinnovationpolicies.ait.asia

c/o Ms Mary Caspillo

Research Opportunity

Wikileaks has taken receipt of the complete catalog of Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports.

The CRS writes non-partisan reports on every conceivable topic addressed by Congress. All of these materials are supposed to be in the public domain but are released to the public at the discretion of members. Previously, only a very select few reports were ever made public. There is a lot of SKAT-related material here, all available for the first time. For a list of available reports and more information, visit:

http://wikileaks.org/wiki/Change_you_can_download:_a_billion_in_secret_Congressional_reports

SKAT Officers and Committees

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Newsletter Information

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

- Summer edition--May 1
- Fall/Winter Edition--October 1
- Spring edition--February 1

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