

# ASA-SKAT: Science, Knowledge, & Technology Section

Summer 2001.

Editors: Jennifer L. Croissant, University of Arizona, Franz A. Foltz, RIT

## From the Editors

We are still looking for people to help with the newsletter. Due to changing duties within SKAT, some of the individuals that have contributed in the production of the newsletter in the past can no longer help. Thus, we need your help with some of the sections of the newsletter in order to maintain the quality of your Newsletter. We are in special need of help with the "Book Notes" section and would appreciate either individual reviews or an enterprising member taking on responsibilities for the section.

Also, we always welcome information of interest to SKAT members as well as information concerning SKAT members for the "From the Members" section.

Please don't forget our web presence, managed by Mary Virnoche and J. Maddocks.  
<virnoche@sobek.colorado.edu>  
<jmaddocks@spss.com> .

Franz and Jen

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## From the Chair

Tom Gieryn, Indiana University

"Where Are We On the Curve?"

Nobody reads Henry W. Menard anymore, or at least, they don't often admit to it. I once studied Menard's Science: Growth and Change (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1971) at the insistence of my Columbia teachers, who made certain that it was included on the reading list for my oral comprehensive in Sociology of Science. Menard (1938-1986) was a marine geologist at Scripps, who (like many successful scientists of his generation) also dabbled in issues of science policy and even science studies.

Menard's book is a riff on Derek Price's better known Little Science, Big Science (New York: Columbia University Press, 1963), and probably deserves to be brought out from its shadow. As you might expect, the Menard book is filled with logistic curves for the number of scientists in this field or that discipline, along with methodological musings on what has become three decades later "bibliometrics." One point, more than any other, has stayed with me: individual careers of scientists are profoundly shaped by the size and growth rates of the specialty they choose to study.

A fresh Ph.D. entering a field that has just grown exponentially for the previous decade or so faces (*ceteris paribus*) a relatively diminished set of opportunities (jobs, slots in journals, research grants) than one who has the good fortune to join that field just as it begins its upward trajectory. Perhaps for this reason, Menard suggests (as Price had) that specialized research fields are not likely to sustain rapid growth over long periods of time. Prudent doctoral students will see that some fields are relatively overpopulated by productive scientists only a decade or so older than they are, and

choose to concentrate elsewhere--in specialties with fewer practitioners but with an apparent abundance of unsolved non-trivial problems. What follows then? Relative, and then absolute, decline in size.

Why bring up ancient history?

Sociologists of science, please ask yourselves: Where are WE on the curve? Being a good constructivist, I suspect that answers will be contingent on where the answerer sits. A graduate student at Cornell or UC San Diego or even Columbia who will present her first-ever ASA paper at a SKAT session this August in Anaheim is likely to say (and certainly hopes!) that the sociology of science is just starting its exponential growth. I presented my first ASA paper in 1977, at the invitation of Maurice Richter of SUNY Albany, about a decade or so before SKAT was born (a paper, not incidentally, titled "Generation Differences in Research Interests of Scientists"). From here, it looks like sociology of science has--maybe--reached its zenith, or perhaps even begun its slide down the other side.

I'm not about to do a systematic nose-count, but my impression is that the number of scholars doing "sociologically-framed science and technology studies" (is that murky enough for you?) has grown fast since the late 1970s--with almost all of that growth fueled by new Ph.D.s choosing our field (rather than more senior scholars migrating in from less appealing specialties). Do the arithmetic: most of us who have constituted the meteoric (?) rise of sociology of science are still alive and kicking, writing more books and submitting more articles, applying for more grants, and (maybe desperately) hoping that we can even now get our brightest graduate students to do sociology of science.

I am not for a minute suggesting that the field has exhausted itself intellectually, theoretically, conceptually, methodological or politically. Vibrancy and creativity in the realm of ideas is the order of the day, as it was in the

mid-1970s, when there was a little explosion, of sorts. What worries me is this: Is it simply more difficult now than in the recent past for young sociologists of science to make the kind of early-career mark that translates into desirable jobs, enviable c.v.'s and, well, academic success? I do a lot of reviewing and refereeing for journals, publishers, and I write my share of recommendation letters (itself, a function of my age). And, I confess, that when I read for the first time the work of a young scholar, I sometimes yield to the easy temptation of judging it "old hat." Isn't this what Harry Collins said in "Seven Sexes?" How does that extend Donna Haraway?

It may be harder now for new recruits to stand out--intellectually, and also "professionally." Are tenure-track job openings as plentiful and cushy as they were for those of us now securely tenured in positions that allow time for research and scholarship? Is the competition for that first research grant from NSF increasingly severe, as neophytes find themselves in the same pool of applicants as Bernal Prize-winners, looking at a pie that has not grown much lately? I worry that the professional challenges facing the next generation of sociologists of science will be even greater than those who entered the field yesterday--which, I suppose, is why I do not yield to that "easy temptation" very often. Generosity, patience, mentoring and encouragement for the newcomers--from those who have become the "establishment" in spite of their transgressive roots or demeanors--will allow the field to replenish itself.

And not even Bruno will last forever.

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### From the Members

Your newsletter co-editor, Jennifer Croissant has just been promoted to Associate Professor, with Tenure, at the University of Arizona. She will also be on sabbatical for the 2001-2002 academic year.

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## At the 2001 Meetings

### SESSIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SKAT SECTION FOR THE 2001 ASA MEETINGS

Chair-Elect Joan H. Fujimura.

The following are the SKAT sponsored sessions for this year's ASA Meeting. We have a particularly large number of sessions this year due to co-sponsoring a session with the Section on Sex and Gender. Hope to see everyone this year.

Session 1 Sponsor: Sex and Gender Section, co-sponsored with Science, Knowledge, and Technology Section

Session 1: "Gender, Science, and Technology"

Organizer/Presider: Mary Frank Fox, Georgia Institute of Technology

1. Joan Fujimura, Institute for Advanced Study/Princeton  
Sex and the Gene
  2. Jennifer Ruth Fosket, University of California-San Francisco  
Constructing "High-Risk Women." The Development, Standardization and Practices of a Breast Cancer Risk-Assessment Tool
  3. Jutta Allmendinger, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich  
Organization and Ascription: Structural Characteristics of Academic Personnel Selection and Their Consequences for the Employment of Women
  4. Patricia Campion and Wesley Shrum, Louisiana State University  
The Status of Women in the Research Systems of Developing Countries: Gender Differences in Asia and Africa
- Discussion: Harriet Hartman, Rowan University
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Session 2: "Critical Inquiries into Race, Biology, and Medicine"

Organizer/Presider: Steven Epstein, UCSD

1. Michael J. Montoya, Stanford:  
Bioethnic Conscriptions: Biological Capital and the Genetics of Type 2 Diabetes
  2. Jennifer Reardon, Cornell University:  
Turkey, Human, Black, White: Managing Identity in American Genomics
  3. P. Rafael Hernandez-Arias, Brandeis:  
Racial and Ethnic Categories in Medical Research: Undefined and Un-operationalized, Why do they Matter?
  4. Steven Epstein, UCSD:  
Managing Difference in Pharmacology Research: Race vs. Gender
- 

Session 3: "Science and Technology in Organizational Context"

Organizer: Diane Vaughan  
426 McGuinn Hall  
Boston College  
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467-3807  
tel: 617-552-4645  
fax: 617-552-4283  
email: [dvaughanbc@aol.com](mailto:dvaughanbc@aol.com)

1. Karin Knorr Cetina and URs Bruegger, University of Bielefeld  
Transparency Regimes and Management by Content in Global Organizations: The Case of Institutional Currency Trading

2. Nalini P. Kotamraju, University of California, Berkeley  
Web Design Skill and the Reinvented Worker

3. Juan D. Rogers, Georgia Institute of Technology  
A Sociology of Computer Communication Protocols: Internet Protocols as a Technological Solution to Social Problems

4. Charles Thorpe, University of California, San Diego  
Organizational Change in the Los Alamos Implosion Program

5. Marc J. Ventresca, Northwestern University, Amin Panjwani, Northwestern University, Jenny Korn, Northwestern University, William N. Kaghan, University of Washington, Jane Sakson, Sakson and Taylor, Seattle  
Electronic Business Models as Boundary Objects: Translating Complex Technological Activity into Stable Artifacts

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Section 4: "SKAT Roundtables"

Organizer: Jennifer L. Croissant, University of Arizona; Kathryn Henderson, Texas A&M

Refereed Roundtables:

1. Computing and Education  
*Jennifer Croissant*, University of Arizona  
Discourses of Technology In Educational Standards: A Preliminary Report

*Gary Huang*, CSR, Inc.  
Computer Use at Home and at School: Does it Reduce Achievement Gaps?

2. Health Care Practice and Policy  
*Paul Millar*, Alberta, Canada  
Non-Paternity and Social Policy

*Amy Steinbugler*, Temple University  
Women's Agency in Doctor-Patient Relationships

*Yoshio Nukaga*, Cornell University  
New Genetic Diagnosis and Medical Pedigrees: The Development of Combination Work in Genetic Counseling and Research

3. Disciplinary Change and Commercialization of Science  
*Anthony Vigorito*, Ohio State University  
Biotechnology and the Industrial Colonization of Science: A Preliminary Report

*Gili Drori*, Stanford University  
The Changing Nature of Tertiary Education: Cross-National Trends in Disciplinary Enrollment, 1965-1990

4. Gender and Institutions in Science  
*Semya Hakim*, St. Cloud State  
Gendered Institutions: Implications for Women in Science

5. Cyberspace and Women's Action  
*Jenny Ungbha Korn*, Northwestern University  
The Importance of History and Hyperlinks: Framing the Online Abortion Debate within Organizations of Color.

*Marnie Enos Carroll*, University of Colorado, Boulder  
Women's Cyberspaces: (Web)Sites of Community and Resistance

6. IT and Organizations,  
*C. N. Le, Fiona Thompson, Anthony Cresswell, Sharon Dawes* SUNY Albany  
Carpooling on the Superhighway: Information Technology and Interorganizational Knowledge-Sharing Networks in the Public Sector

David Lyon  
Surveillance as Social Sorting: Computer Codes and Mobile Bodies

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SKAT Business Meeting

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**Session 5: Whither Sociology of Science and Technology? Contemporary Theories and Methods**

Organizer and Presider: Joan H. Fujimura, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, and University of Wisconsin, Madison

1. Michel Callon  
Title to Be Announced
2. Tom Gieryn and Rachael Barlow,  
Termite Tubes and Kitchen Spice-Racks:  
Laboratories as Cognitive Scaffolding

3. Karin Knorr-Cetina  
Where the Action is: The Coming of a  
Postsocial Knowledge Society
4. Michael Lynch  
The epistemography of epistemics:  
Science & Technology Studies as an  
emergent (non)discipline
5. Knut H. Sorensen  
Do politics have artifacts? Political  
constructions of sustainable technologies

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## Book Notes

*We are looking for either a new book review editor, or seek voluntary submissions of reviews of new works. Graduate students are encouraged to submit reviews.*

**New from SUNY Press:** J. Croissant and S. Restivo, eds. Degrees of Compromise: Industrial Interests and Academic Values probes the convergence of for-profit business collaborations with higher education. Interdisciplinary in scope, the collection questions the effects of commercialization activities on undergraduate student values, graduate education practice and ethics, research autonomy, institutional prestige, and scientific values such as objectivity. Included are theoretical frameworks, empirically motivated studies of faculty work, philosophical analyses of the professional status of faculty in higher education, ethnographic explorations of technology transfer, laboratory design, scientific work, and graduate education, and a quantitative assessment of patenting and its relationship to institutional prestige and resources.

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## New on the Web

Do you or your students need a free user-friendly guide to virtual resources in history & philosophy of science, technology and medicine? If so you can now find one at: <http://www.humbul.ac.uk/vts/hps/index.htm>.

This is the recently launched on line tutorial 'Internet for History and Philosophy of Science' prepared by James Sumner, a PhD student at the University of Leeds, as one of 29 new such 'virtual training suites' supported by the Resource Discovery Network for HUMBUL in a wide range of disciplines. A complete list of these suites with hyperlinked gateways can be found at <http://www.vts.rdn.ac.uk/>

The complete range humanities suites - including specialist tutorials for History and for Philosophy - can also be accessed at <http://www.humbul.ac.uk/vts/>

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## Research Opportunities/Call for Papers & Reviewers/Grants & Fellowships/Upcoming Events

### Technology Grant News

<http://www.technologygrantnews.com> is for nonprofits, towns & cities and schools and universities. It's a publication 4 times a year. In this issue there are listings for free training subscriptions and professional development training from a variety of technology funders. There are also grants here for education, literacy, digital divide, digital government, community access, digital libraries, electronic publishing, museum with technology-based exhibits, information technology research, computing, biotechnology, technology application and inventor awards, teaching the math and science of technology, steppingstones to technology for children with disabilities, women and economic development, environment, conservation, and partnerships funding. There are grants covered for global nonprofits & emerging technology outreach as well. It features technology grant programs available for both U.S. national and international applicants.

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### SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES OF SCIENCE. GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS FOR 2001 ANNUAL MEETING.

The 4S Council has received a small grant from the U.S. National Science Foundation to support graduate student travel to the 4S Annual Meetings in Cambridge, Massachusetts, October 31-November 4. The application deadline is July 15, 2001. Contact Professor Kim Fortun, at [fortuk@rpi.edu](mailto:fortuk@rpi.edu) for more information.

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### TECHNOTOPIAS: Texts, Identities, and Technological Cultures

An Interdisciplinary Conference, The Department of English Studies, The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, July 10-12 2002.

GUEST SPEAKERS: Colin MacCabe, Harry Collins, and Bryan Turner. The University of Strathclyde is a world leader in science and engineering yet, like many similar institutions, it maintains a strong commitment to the humanities. In societies that seem to place increasing emphasis on the application of technology and scientific knowledge this kind of commitment is sometimes seen as irrelevant. For humanities departments this situation raises new questions of identity, within both university faculties and cultural discourse itself. In the light of this situation the aims of Technotopias are to:

- Investigate the complex historical and contemporary interplay between the humanities and technology.
- Address the impact of technologies upon the formation of physical and cultural identities.
- Consider historical and contemporary representations of technology.
- Reflect upon the place of the arts within modern academia.

To realize the interdisciplinary nature of this conference we invite papers from all fields of literary and cultural criticism, as well as the scientific and technological disciplines, at both post-doctoral and post-graduate levels.

**SUGGESTED TOPICS INCLUDE:** Literatures of technology: historical contexts. Frontiers of the imagination: Science and Fiction. (Post) modern texts / (post) industrial spaces. Technologos: technology and the word. The science of Angellica: gender and technology. Culture, technology, and the body. Technologies and the self. New media, old academe. Paradigms of utility in academia.

Abstracts of 200 words for a 20 - 30 minute paper by 31 March 2002 by  
E-mail or post to: [technotopias@strath.ac.uk](mailto:technotopias@strath.ac.uk).  
Stephen Jones, Technotopias Organising Committee, Department of English Studies, University of Strathclyde, Livingstone Tower, 26 Richmond Street, Glasgow, G1 1XH. Tel: 0141 548 3529 (Tues-Thurs 10am-4pm). Fax: 0141 552 3493. <http://www.strath.ac.uk/ecloga>

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### **Call for Papers: Special Issue on**

**Women's Health**, Edited by Alice J. Dan and Sue V. Rosser. *Women's Studies Quarterly* is seeking submissions for a special Spring/summer 2003 issue on Women's Health. The issue will focus particularly on the impact that women's studies and feminism have had (or not had) on theory, practice, curriculum and pedagogy, as well as the participation of women in medicine and the health care professions. The editors invite feminist critiques and essays on the philosophy and history of women's health in mainstream and alternative medicine; transformation of the medical and allied health curriculum, including bibliographies, syllabi, feminist pedagogy and laboratory techniques; the place of women's health in women's studies curricula; and papers on co-curricular programs and institutional strategies for integrating women-centered and feminist approaches into medicine, nursing, and other health care professions.

International, interdisciplinary, and co-authored papers by individuals from different perspectives are particularly encouraged, as is work from diverse feminist perspectives. Also

welcome are personal narratives, oral histories, and literary expressions about women's health. The diverse factors affecting women's lives, including race/ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, age, ability status, etc. should be considered in writing all articles.

Send a disk and three copies of manuscripts to: Professor Sue V. Rosser, Dean of the Ivan Allen College, 781 Marietta St., Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia 30332, or Professor Alice J. Dan, Center for Research on Women and Gender, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1640 W. Roosevelt Rd., Rm 503, M/C 980, Chicago, Illinois 60680. Deadline for submissions is **October 1, 2001**. Queries should be made in writing to either Alice J. Dan [alicedan@uic.edu](mailto:alicedan@uic.edu) or to Sue V. Rosser [<sue.rosser@iac.gatech.edu>](mailto:sue.rosser@iac.gatech.edu)

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### **Editorship of *Social Studies of Science*.**

The journal *Social Studies of Science* invites bids for the journal Editorship, with transfer from the journal's current Editor, David Edge, to be completed by September, 2002.

A Task Force has been appointed to coordinate bids and to assist the process, led by Lucy Suchman and including Anni Dugdale, Aant Elzinga, Rob Hagendijk and Clark Miller. A decision on the new Editorship will be taken by the journal's Collaborating Editors and Editorial Advisors, in consultation with Sage Publications Ltd., at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science in Cambridge, Massachusetts in November, 2001.

Candidates for the Editorship of the journal should send expressions of interest, requests for details on preparation of a bid, and any other inquiries to Lucy Suchman, [l.suchman@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:l.suchman@lancaster.ac.uk) [<mailto:l.suchman@lancaster.ac.uk>](mailto:l.suchman@lancaster.ac.uk). Expressions of interest should be received by June 30, 2001.

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## Employment & Fellowship Notes

The ASA (<http://www.asanet.org>) has the *Employment Bulletin* on-line, as well as annotated links to other employment listings and job-search aids.

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## SKAT Officers and Committees

### Chair

THOMAS GIERYN (01)  
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### Chair-elect/Program Chair

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### Secretary/Treasurer

Mary Frank Fox, [mf27@prism.gatech.edu](mailto:mf27@prism.gatech.edu)

### Council (Term Ends)

Trevor Pinch (03), [tjp2@cornell.edu](mailto:tjp2@cornell.edu)  
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Sydney Halpern (02), [shalpern@uic.edu](mailto:shalpern@uic.edu)

### Student Representative:

Jason Owen-Smith, [jsmith@U.Arizona.EDU](mailto:jsmith@U.Arizona.EDU)  
(01)

### Committees (Contact the Chairs to Volunteer)

Membership: S. Zehr.  
Nominations: D. Vaughn, Chair.  
Awards: Kelly Moore, Chair.  
Publications: Jennifer Croissant, Franz Foltz.  
James Maddocks (Web), Mary Virnoche (Web).

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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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