

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

Fall 1998.

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

## From the Editors

Thank you for your support! At the ASAs in San Francisco, the discussions at the business and Council meetings, sessions, and in the hallways were productive for the Section in many ways, not the least of which for us has been the very positive feedback about the newsletter. We will be continuing with a three-issue series (Fall, Winter, Spring), and continuing to provide timely news and reviews. We are also seeking to expand the newsletter as a vehicle for *substance and discussion* as well as news, and in that light are 'commissioning' remarks from colleagues, and welcoming open contributions from the membership, faculty and student, toward this end. If you have reports about data sets, websites, video resources, works in progress and forthcoming books, reports of conferences, or manifestos and position pieces, we welcome 250-500 word contributions to the newsletter. Submit contributions directly to either of us by our deadlines of 2/15 and 5/15 for the Spring and Summer editions.

Jen Croissant  
 Franz Foltz

## From the Section Chair

San Francisco was a great success, thanks in large part to Tom Gieryn who organized a first-rate program. All the sessions were lively and well-attended, despite us being in the \*second\* hotel, for the umpteenth time (perhaps this could be grist for a "politics of place" session?). The sessions worked, of course, only because of the ability of the session organizers to solicit and select great papers, so special thanks to Adele Clarke and Monica Casper who put together our joint session with SSSI; to Steve Zehr for the panel on What's Next in Science Studies; to Mary Frank Fox for the session (joint with Sex and Gender) on Gender, Knowledge and Science?; and to Tom, again, for the session on Material Culture. I also want to thank Kathryn Henderson for putting together the Roundtables, which continue to be a very important part of the program. If you missed any of the sessions, you missed a lot, and if you missed them all, well, what can I say... Whatever maybe happening to STS in the so-called "Science Wars", it is clear that the sociology of science, knowledge and technology is alive and flourishing.

Though the sessions are the most visible of the section's activities at the ASA there is a lot of organizational work that goes on behind the scenes. I therefore want to thank Anne Figert, Elaine Draper, Stephen Hilgartner, and Lisa Moore, outgoing Council members, for all the work they have done for the section. I want particularly to thank Anne Figert who, as Secretary- Treasurer, has had far more than the normal onerous work of the job to do during that last few years. During my illness she kept track of the organizational issues that needed attending to and generally kept the section on track. Thanks Anne. Fortunately we are not losing the services of our Newsletter editors Jen Croissant and Franz Foltz who have continued to do great work. We welcome to council Diane

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## 1998 SKAT Council Meeting Minutes

### Anne Figert, Secretary Treasurer.

(Edited, along with the business meeting minutes, for brevity.)

I. Peter Whalley called the SKAT Council Meeting to Order and welcomed both existing and new council members. Council Members Present: Jennifer Croissant, Elaine Draper, Steven Epstein, Anne Figert (Sect/Treasurer), Tom Gieryn (Chair Elect), Kelly Moore, Laurel Smith-Doerr, Peter Whalley (Chair). Invited Guests/Incoming Council Members: Jason Owen-Smith, Diane Vaughan, and Steve Zehr

II. Anne Figert then gave the Secretary-Treasurer's report, which included information on the treasury and membership. The council discussed ways to increase membership in order to reach the 400-member mark so that we can have three sessions at next year's meeting. The budget for 1998-99 year was discussed and passed:

#### Net Assets:

12/31/97	\$ 953.10	(reflects \$484.57 spent on 1997 reception)
3/31/98	\$ 2,642.10	(includes a gain of \$1665.00 for yearly section allocation and minus \$342.09 for newsletter expenses)
6/30/98	\$ 2,316.42	(includes an expense of \$361.59 for newsletter)

#### Pending costs:

\$200	for student award
\$375	for newsletter
\$600	for reception at ASA

**Membership:** Membership remains steady although perilously close to the 400 member limit needed to support three SKAT sponsored sessions at the Annual Meetings.

7/15/97	380 members
7/24/98	360 members
9/30/97	400 members

### III. Reports from Standing Committees

#### A. Nominations Committee.

Steve Epstein was the chair of this committee and reported on his efforts to get people to run for office. Peter Whalley then announced the winners of the election: Mary Frank Fox (Sect/Treas), Jason Owen-Smith (Student member) Diane Vaughan (Council) and Steve Zehr (Council).

Vaughan, Steve Zehr, Jason Owen-Smith (student representative), and Mary Frank Fox, Secretary-Treasurer. Congratulations to all of them. We have already put them to work!

Although ASA scheduling requirements meant we had to hold our reception the night before section day, it was still a great place to meet old friends and welcome new people. Both the Council and the Business meeting strongly reaffirmed the value of a SKAT-only reception as a place to get together. I hope next year in Chicago the schedule will be friendlier and we can organize another great reception to give everybody a chance to relax and socialize.

On the theme of next year's conference, I want to mention not only the section sessions that Tom Gieryn has put together and which are announced elsewhere in the newsletter, but three other regular sessions from the upcoming "ASA Call for Papers", which fit the sections' interests: "The Sociology of Knowledge and Intellectuals" being organized by Judith Stacey, "Sociology of Science" organized by Sandra Hanson, and "Technology, Computers, and Society" organized by Susan Cozzens. Regular session organizers have the luxury of being able to ask for additional slots if they need it, so they offer more opportunities than section sessions. This is fortunate because next year we will only be able to have three section slots, one of which is taken up by Roundtables and the Business meeting. This is because our numbers fell short of the magic 400 necessary for four sessions. By a dint of last-minute efforts we managed to get to 390 by September 30 but it was a case of too little too late. Steve Zehr is this year's membership chair and I know he is planning an active recruiting drive, so do all you can to help him. Why not donate memberships to students who are already ASA members and rope in your colleagues. How could they not be interested in Science, Knowledge and Technology?

Peter Whalley

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## B. Publications Committee

Jennifer Croissant talked about the newsletter, which will be published three times in 1998. She asked for input about the format and production schedule. Council members were laudatory and thanked Jennifer and Franz Foltz for editing the newsletter. Anne Figert raised the issue of whether or not SKAT wants to produce and mail their own newsletter or continue with using the ASA to mail/send. Upon Jennifer Croissant's recommendation, Council voted unanimously to continue the existing production arrangements and time schedule.

## C. Awards Committee:

The announcement of this year's awards is listed below. The discussion of a new SKAT award for distinguished contribution to the field of Science, Knowledge and Technology was tabled so that all members at the Business meeting could discuss it.

## **IV. New Council Business**

### A. 1999 Program

Tom Gieryn asked for ideas about session topics for next year's meeting in Chicago. Ideas included culture and technology, sociology of knowledge, and bodies and biomedicine.

### B. 1999 Reception

Peter Whalley raised the issue about the costs of receptions at the ASA. He and others noticed that many sessions were co-sponsoring receptions. Council members discussed whether or not we should try to contact other sections to co-sponsor next year and which sections to contact. They identified Environment and Technology as a possible section to talk with. Further discussion was tabled until the business meeting.

### C. Organizational Issues

Peter Whalley asked if we want to reconsider asking the Chair-Elect to create the program two years in a row and whether or not this is too much of a burden on one person. Council members didn't see anything wrong with the existing structure and no action was taken.

D. 1998-99 Standing Committee Composition is listed on the final page of the newsletter, with other council contact information.

## **V. Other Business**

Anne Figert and Peter Whalley reminded officers of the ASA Section Officer and Section Orientation meetings and of the need to staff the Information Table on Sunday. The meeting was then adjourned.

## **1998 Business Meeting**

President Peter Whalley opened the meeting by welcoming people. There were 33 members present. He then announced the new Council representatives/officers (Mary Frank-Fox, Jason Owen-Smith, Diane Vaughan and Steve Zehr). He then thanked out-going council members for their service (Elaine Draper, Anne Figert, Steve Hilgartner and Lisa Moore).

### **Committee reports:**

A. Secretary/Treasurer Anne Figert presented her report on the SKAT treasury and membership and elections (see above).

B. Ed Hackett then announced the 1998 SKAT Award winners (citation printed below). The co-winners of the 1998 Robert K. Merton Award are Joan Fujimura for Crafting Science and Steve Shapin for A Social History of Truth. The Hacker-Mullins graduate student paper award was given to Jason Owen-Smith. Ed Hackett then presented Jason with a \$200 check for the student award.

C. Jennifer Croissant reported on the newsletter. She encouraged submissions of works in progress, personal news, and any book or movie reviews.

### **1998 Budget**

Peter Whalley presented a draft of the 1998 budget for the section that had been approved by the council. He asked for ideas for spending. There was a motion from the floor to put money in the budget for postage/printing costs to spend on recruiting past members to renew their membership. This motion and a motion to approve the budget passed unanimously.

### **New SKAT Award**

Peter Whalley reminded members that the 1997 SKAT Council decided that there was merit to creating a new award for scholarly contribution to the field of science, knowledge and technology studies in sociology. On the advice of the SKAT Council, the requirement that the person be a member of the American Sociological Association was passed unanimously. The motion to restrict

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award winners to SKAT section members also passed with the restriction that award winners could become SKAT members in the year they win the award. The issue of naming the award for an individual was raised. The motion that the award be named the SKAT section award for Distinguished Scholarship in the field of Science, Knowledge and Technology Studies was passed.

### **Program Issues for 1999 Meetings**

Tom Gieryn will be in charge of the 1999 SKAT program in his position as President-Elect. Tom asked for ideas for session topics and raised the possibility of a co-sponsored session with the Organizations, Occupations and Work section.

### **1999 SKAT reception**

Peter Whalley raised the issue discussed in Council about the possibility of co-sponsoring the 1999 reception with another section in order to reduce exorbitant costs asked for by the hotels. Discussion varied. Some members felt that we should co-sponsor with a like minded section such as Environment and Technology. Other members felt that it was not in the best interest of the section to co-sponsor. A motion was made from the floor that we have a SKAT only reception with wine/beverages and without the food to reduce the costs. This motion was passed.

The meeting was then adjourned after no new business or issues were raised.

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### **1998 Section Awards**

The SKAT awards committee is pleased to award the **Robert K. Merton Book Award** to Joan Fujimura for Crafting Science, and to Steven Shapin for A Social History of Truth. The committee found it difficult to choose the best of a fine set of books and found it impossible to choose between these two excellent volumes. So the committee chose not to choose, but to award the prize jointly this year.

Joan offers a seamless blend of science, history, and social analysis that brings the reader into the craftwork of science while keeping the broader social and historical context in clear sight. Complicated scientific and social ideas are conveyed with extraordinary grace and lucidity. Steve employs the tools of history and the spirit of sociology to examine the moral foundations of science. The work is historically sensitive, theoretically deep, and beautifully crafted. Both are works of subtlety and mature judgement that make fundamental and enduring contributions to studies of science and technology.

The **Sally Hacker-Nicholas Mullins** award for the best graduate student paper goes to Jason Owen-Smith of the University of Arizona for "The Social Organization of Scientific Skepticism." This work stood apart from other excellent graduate papers in its analytic precision, theoretical scope, and imaginative use of empirical method.

Note: Jason Owen-Smith presented his work at a roundtable at this year's meetings, as is our SKAT custom. Joan Fujimura and Steven Shapin will be presenting their work next year at a SKAT session or roundtable.

### **1999 Nominations**

**Robert K. Merton Professional Award.** SKAT invites nominations (including self-nominations) for the Robert K. Merton Professional Award. This award is given annually in recognition of scholarly achievement, represented by a book or body of work concerning science, knowledge, and technology published during the preceding five years. The awardee, who should be a member of SKAT during the year in which the award is given, will be honored at the ASA meeting in August 1999. The deadline for nominations is April 1, 1999. For each nomination, please send a brief letter identifying the work(s) to be considered, their publisher(s) (presses or journals), and any supporting materials that would help the committee understand the contribution (for example, published book reviews). Please send materials to Edward J. Hackett (address below).

**Hacker-Mullins Graduate Student Award.** SKAT also invites nominations (including self-nominations) for the Hacker-Mullins Award. The \$200 award is given to a graduate student for a published article or unpublished paper concerning science, knowledge, and technology that was completed during the preceding 12 months. Students are especially encouraged to nominate their own papers for this award. The award will be presented at the 1999 August ASA meetings. The deadline for nominations is June 1, 1998. Please send a copy of the work to: Edward J. Hackett, Department of Sociology, Box 872101, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-2101, email: ehackett@asu.edu

## VARIOUS SKAT INFORMATION

### Calls for Nominations

**Section Council Nominations:** This is an open call for nominations or self-nominations for SKAT section offices. We will be filling the positions of Chair-Elect and two council members. For more information or to send nominations, contact Steven Epstein at [sepstein@ucsd.edu](mailto:sepstein@ucsd.edu).

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**SKAT SESSIONS: ASA '99 Chicago, IL**  
Tom Gieryn, Chair Elect and Program chair, announces the following section sessions. All sessions are open submissions. Procedures and deadlines will be announced with the ASA Call for Papers.

**Bodies and Biomedicine.** Organizer: Stefan Timmermans, Department of Sociology, Mail Stop 071, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA 02454-9110. Phone: 781-736-2634; Fax: 781-736-2653. Email: [Timmermans@binah.cc.brandeis.edu](mailto:Timmermans@binah.cc.brandeis.edu)

### Organizations, Work, and Technical Knowledge.

Organizer: Kelly Moore, Department of Sociology, Barnard College, Columbia University 10027. Phone: 212-854-3039; Fax: 212-854-7491. Email: [km104@columbia.edu](mailto:km104@columbia.edu). This session is co-sponsored with the Section on Organizations, Occupations, and work, counted as part of the SKAT allotment.

**SKAT Roundtables.** Organizer: Kathryn Henderson, Department of Sociology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-4351. Phone: 409-845-9706; Fax: 409-862-4057. Email: [hendrsn@acs.tamu.edu](mailto:hendrsn@acs.tamu.edu). Roundtables will be scheduled for 1 hour, followed by the SKAT business meeting.

Please check the ASA Call for Papers for details. There is often a regular session on the Sociology of Knowledge, and the Environment and Technology, Medical Sociology, and Organizations, Occupations, and Work Sections often have open-submission sessions of interest to SKAT members.

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### Book Notes—Kelly Moore, Columbia.

Over the next few months—indeed, by the time this publication reaches you—a dozen interesting new books on science, technology, and knowledge will be published. Instead of providing discussions of the themes of these books, in this edition of the newsletter, only titles, authors and publishers are provided; in the next edition, an essay on the major themes and ideas in these and several other books published over the last year will be appearing.

#### From MIT Press:

Kathryn Henderson: On Line and On Paper: Visual Representations, Visual Culture, and Computer Graphics in Design Engineering (December 1998)

The Intellectual Appropriation of Technology: Discourses on Modernity, 1900-1939, edited by Mikael Hård and Andrew Jamison (November 1998)

A History of Modern Computing. Paul Ceruzzi (December 1998)

The Shape of Actions: What Humans and Machines Can Do. Harry Collins and Martin Kusch. (January 1999)

From Barbie to Mortal Kombat: Gender and Computer Games. Edited by Justine Cassell and Henry Jenkins. (December 1998)

#### From Routledge:

Adele E. Clarke and Virginia L. Oleson, editors.  
Revisoning Women, Health and Healing: Feminist Cultural and Technoscientific Perspectives (November

1998). The volume includes chapters by Donna Haraway, Emily Martin, Rayna Rapp, Patty Lather, Denise Segura and Adela de la Torres, Marjorie DeVault, Sharon Traweek, Ruth Behar, Francoise Verges, Anne Balsamo, Valerie Hartouni, Patricia Hill Collins, Beth Richie, Sheryl Burt Ruzek, Jennifer Terry, Nancy Fugate Woods, and by the editors.

Cyberdemocracy: Technology, Cities, and Civic Networks, edited by Roza Tsagarousianous, Damian Tambini and Cathy Bryan (November 1998)

Cyberspace Divide: Equality, Agency and Policy in the Information Age Society, edited by Brian D. Loader.

Cyborg Babies: From Techno-Sex to Techno-Tots, edited by Robbie Davis-Floyd and Joseph Dumit.

The Machine in Me: An Anthropologist Sits Among Computer Engineers. By Gary Lee Downey.

From the University of California Press:  
Silicon Second Nature: Culturing Artificial Life in a Digital World, by Stefan Helmreich (November 1998).

From the State University of New York Press:  
Capitalizing Knowledge: New Intersections of Industry and Academia, edited Henry Etzkowitz, Andrew Webster, and Peter Healey.

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## From the Members

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### Buzzword Bingo--that craze that's sweeping the academic world!

Kelly Moore, Columbia.

Buzzword Bingo is a game that everyone can play at any professional academic meeting! It's fun and promotes solidarity. It has no other redeeming social value. Here's how to play: one person, the "Buzz Master" takes suggestions from friends and colleagues and peruses current journals in the field to create a list of twenty of the year's most popular buzzwords. The Buzzword Master then makes up bingo cards (4x4 grids) with sixteen of those twenty words randomly placed on the card. As game players attend sessions, they place an "x" over each buzzword that they hear. As in Scrabble, players need not have the faintest idea what any given buzzword means.

#### Rules:

- 1) All players must have a sense of humor.
- 2) It is poor form to leap out of your chair and yell "Bingo!" in the middle of a presentation. It is best to wait and discretely inform your fellow players or Buzz Master.
- 3) You must keep track of the sessions you attend, and of which speakers used each buzzword.
- 4) There are no limits on the number of buzzwords you may "collect" on your card at any given session; in fact, this past year's winner at the ASA collected 6 of his 16 words at one session.
- 5) You may collect buzzwords at non-standard activities, including the plenary, presidential address, etc., as long as they are part of the official ASA program. This means that you may not use a reunion with graduate school pals to collect words, but a Section reception is fair game. Buzzwords may be spoken in formal talks or in informal conversation, or written down on handouts or overheads.
- 6) Because the game may end at any time, any winning player must inform the Buzz Master via telephone when she or he has covered her card. In turn, the Buzz Master will inform all the other players that the game is over. Or, you can play for second and third place.
- 7) For obvious reasons, you cannot count your own use of buzzwords.
- 8) There are many variations on the game, including Team Buzzword Bingo, Buzzwords By Section (in which players must only attend sessions sponsored or co-sponsored by a particular section). Before you assume that it would be easy to figure out which Sections use the most buzzwords, note that our winner did best in the Organizations, Occupations, and Work and Social Movements sessions!
- 9) Prizes are up to the players, but of course to promote group solidarity in the Durkheimian tradition, prizes should be in the form of a collective celebration involving food and/or drinks.

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### Careers of Life Scientists: Dimensions, Causes, and Implications of Recent Trends.

Mary Frank Fox, Georgia Tech.

With a charge to analyze trends in the training and early careers of life scientists, the Committee appointed by the National Research Council recently released its report Trends in the Early Careers of Life Scientists (Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 1998). In its recommendations, the report urges the life-science community to "constrain the rate of growth in the number of graduate students [so that] there is no further expansion in the size of existing graduate-student education programs in the life science, and no development of new programs, except under rare and special circumstances" (p. 5).

By numbers of indicators, life sciences in the U.S. have been a phenomenal success. The research enterprise is large and vigorous, funded in 1997 with over \$32 billion for health-related research and development from the federal government, private foundations, and industry; and \$5 billion for agricultural and environmental research from government and private support. Investment in life-sciences has produced results leading to new strains of disease-resistant and high yield crops of plants, methods of managing sustainable resources for future generations, understanding of the molecular basis of numerous

diseases resulting in the elimination of some and containment of others, knowledge about the arrangement of genes and behavior of biological macromolecules.

Underlying the structure of this scientific enterprise is an uninterrupted flow into the field of highly trained, skilled, and motivated young persons, who, as graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, do most of the experimental work. Among cohorts of newly minted doctoral holders, the expectation has been that, following a period of training, they would be able to pursue their own scientific ideas in permanent positions. The premise, in return, rests upon continuous expansion of independent research positions — and signs are, that premise is eroding. The rapid growth of academic science positions occurring in the 1960s and 1970s slowed down, but the growth of numbers of Ph.D. recipients did not. The generation of life scientists trained in the last 10 years are finding it increasingly difficult to find permanent positions using their research training.

In brief, the data are these: Since 1987, the number of doctorates awarded in the life sciences by US universities has risen 42% from about 5000 annually in the mid 1980s to more than 7600 in 1996. However, the number of life scientists holding faculty positions at research universities has increased only 2.6 percent a year; industry appointments have risen 7 percent each year; and employment in government laboratories has grown only modestly. In consequence, five or six years after receiving their doctorates, up to 38% of life scientists are unable to establish themselves in independent research positions, and, instead, are holding post-doctoral fellowships, nonfaculty jobs in universities, are employed part-time, or working outside of science. In 1973, the comparable proportion was only 11%.

What about “alternative careers” for the current supply of life scientists? Doctoral recipients in science have been recently encouraged to consider positions in law, finance, or journalism, for example. But the committee finds that opportunities in these areas are fiercely competitive; they often require special preparation or certification; and none makes full use of the hard-earned research skills of scientists. Tellingly, in 1995, only 7 percent of life science Ph.D.s held full-time positions outside of academia, industry, or government nine or ten years after receiving their degrees.

Basic to both the problem — “over-supply” of life science Ph.D.s — and the struggle for solutions — including curtailed Ph.D. production — are established “stakes in the status quo.” Federal funding for life-

science research is expected to continue to grow, and graduate students and post-doctoral fellows have been the groups conducting the experimental work in laboratories, supported by research funding to principal investigators. Growth in research funding, however, does not ensure that trends in obtaining permanent jobs will improve and “potential conflicts of interest can arise between trainers and trainees” (p. 6). The quality of training that students receive as research assistants has little or no surveillance from funding agencies. Thus, in another recommendation, the committee encourages “all federal agencies that support life-science education and research to invest in training grants and individual graduate fellowships” (p. 6) as preferable for doctoral education. No evidence exists that career outcomes of students supported by training grants exceed those of students supported by research grants; but because training grants are subject to stringent review of the training process themselves, they offer pedagogical advantages.

In addition, in order to promote informed decisions about careers, the committee recommends that “accurate and up-to-date information on the career prospects in the life sciences and career outcome information about individual training programs be made widely available to students and faculty.” Further, as one antidote to the protracted intellectual dependence of postdoctoral fellows upon the research projects of their supervisors, the committee recommends that public funding agencies establish and annually award some 200 career-transition grants to promising fellows, giving them “financial independence to begin new scientific projects of their own design in anticipation of obtaining fully independent positions” (p. 7).

The study was funded by the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the Burroughs-Wellcome Fund, and the National Research Council. The committee members are: Helen Astin (UCLA), William Brinkley (Baylor College of Medicine), Mary Dell Chilton (Novartis Biotechnology), Michael Cummings (Marine Biological Lab/Woods Hole), Ronald Ehrenberg (Cornell), Mary Frank Fox (Georgia Tech), Kevin Glenn (Searle), Pamela Green (Michigan State University), Sherrie Hans (Pew Charitable Trusts), Arthur Kelman (NC State), Jules LaPidus (Council of Graduate Schools), Henry Riecken (University of Pennsylvania), Paula Stephan (Georgia State), and Shirley Tilghman, Chair (Princeton).

Copies of Trends in the Early Careers of Life Scientists are available from the National Academy Press, 202-334-3313, or 800-624-6242; <http://www.nap.edu>.

## **A National Institutes of Health Data Resource**

Laurel Smith-Doerr, University of Arizona

For my dissertation data, I obtained permission from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences in Bethesda, MD to photocopy universities' applications for graduate training grants. Universities are required to submit information of various kinds about their programs, departments, faculty, and students to the NIGMS for these institutional research grants. I culled material on the careers of former students and postdocs, and created a database of PhD career paths. Many other Institutes that are part of the NIH also have training grants, such as the National Cancer Institute. There are 26 divisions in the National Institutes of Health, and about 200 PhD granting universities in the life sciences in the U.S., many of which have some kind of NIH training grant. The NIH began the training grant program in the 1960s, and requires information on former students of university programs from 10 years before the application dates (which are renewed about every 3-5 years).

As examples of the kind of information available from the NIGMS training grant data source, one can readily create the following variables: university location, areas of study covered under one training grant (i.e., molecular biology and biochemistry), number of and names of faculty on the training grant, and name, background, and employment position of current and former graduate students and postdocs in the university programs supported by the grants. Also, the source of students' funding--whether they received training grant support or other kinds of funding--is available.

The data are on paper rather than computer, and are somewhat buried within application materials. An important lesson from my dissertation data gathering experience, however, is that there are rich, unexploited resources of government data available with a bit of work on the interested researcher's part. Those interested in more details on NIH data can contact me through e-mail: [ldoerr@u.arizona.edu](mailto:ldoerr@u.arizona.edu).

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### **Research Opportunities/Calls for Papers/Grants & Fellowships**

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“Got to be the coolest fieldwork in the world right now.”

A research group at **NASA Ames Research Center** has opportunities for university faculty members and graduate students to conduct qualitative social research. The focus of the group is field study of work practices in scientific, technical, and educational settings. Potential research topics include the following: Laboratory work and microscopy; Research collaborations across disciplines and disciplines; Organizational learning; Information technology development; Work practices modeling and simulation.

NASA Ames Research Center is located near Mountain View, CA, about forty miles south of San Francisco. It is a world-class center for R&D of information technologies, a NASA-wide leader in air traffic control and human factors research, and a lead center in astrobiology. Other possible locations include cities all over the US and the world. There are paid fellowships and unpaid positions available. Contact: Jon Guice, Ph.D., NASA Ames Research Center, Mailstop 269-2, Moffet Field, CA 94035 USA. Email: [jon@ptolemy.arc.nasa.gov](mailto:jon@ptolemy.arc.nasa.gov)

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#### **ECOLOGY, POLITICS, AND PERFORMANCE:**

An International conference at Lancaster University will take place from the 14-16 July 1999. Prior to and following that event, there will also be a number of

long-term projects from January-September 1999. Background and information on the conference and projects: This exploration of the interface between performance and the environment began as a collaboration between the Department of Theatre Studies and the Centre for the Study of Environmental Change at Lancaster University in 1997. In a time when rapid technological and cultural change is disrupting many received boundaries - between nature and artifice, private and public, aesthetic and ethical, knowledge and politics - this is an attempt to generate new understandings and modes of engagement. A major three day conference exploring three thematic strands with international performers and speakers will take place at Lancaster University on the 14th-16th July, 1999. The conference is conceived as an open ended conversation, a crafted space in which the cognitive, epistemological and sensory boundaries of ecology, politics and performance can be stretched, moulded and explored in new ways. Either side of the conference, long-term collaborations, projects, performances and educational programmes will take place between scientists, academics and performance practitioners from January 1999 to September 1999.

To receive more information, or become part of our conference mailing list, please contact Kate Lamb at CSEC. Offers of papers, performances and workshops will also be welcome. Kate Lamb, CSEC, Bowland Tower East, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YT, United Kingdom. Telephone: +44 (0)1524 592658 Fax: +44 (0)1524 846339. Email: [dolly@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:dolly@lancaster.ac.uk)



## **COURSE ON THE POLITICAL, AGRICULTURAL AND ECOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF GENETIC ENGINEERING AND BIOTECHNOLOGY**

and funding opportunities for study at Schumacher College, an international centre for ecological studies based in England. **IN SEARCH OF TECHNOLOGICAL RESPONSIBILITY: Agriculture, Biosafety, and Democracy:** Course dates: 10-29 January 1999. Taught by Christine von Weizsaecker, Tewolde Berhan G Egziabher and Wes Jackson

This three-week residential course examines the challenges of genetic engineering and biotechnologies and their effects on politics, economics, culture, food, farming, and biodiversity in general. It will consider the intended and unintended consequences of human attempts to restructure the nature of our world, which is resulting in the reduction of diversity. It will address questions such as: Who is responsible? How do science and technology, administrations and legislators, and industrial and agricultural players interact with each other? How do we handle the processes of labeling, patenting, liability and biosafety? These issues will be explored in the context of both highly technological countries and the developing world, and participants will look at research into alternative and sustainable agriculture methods based on the way nature's ecosystems have maintained stability over millions of years.

SCHUMACHER COLLEGE is an international centre for ecological studies which welcomes course participants from all over the world. The short residential courses are led by thinkers and writers with an international reputation for the significance and originality

of their work, such as Fritjof Capra, Stephanie Mills, Thomas Moore, Christine and Ernst von Weizsaecker, David Orr, Wes Jackson, Wangari Maathai, and Humberto Maturana. Courses take place in a supportive learning community designed to live out ecological values. Through interdisciplinary studies, Schumacher College aims to explore the foundations of the new world view. A unified residential education offering physical work, meditation, aesthetic experience and intellectual inquiry creates a sense of the wholeness of life. At the College, people find refreshment, and often new direction. They find that they have touched a source of inspiration and are reminded that there are others who share their deepest values about life and its meaning.

For details, contact: The Administrator, Schumacher College, The Old Postern, Dartington, Totnes, Devon TQ9 6EA, UK; Tel: +44 (0)1803 865934; Fax: +44 (0)1803 866899; Email: [schumcoll@gn.apc.org](mailto:schumcoll@gn.apc.org); Web: <http://www.gn.apc.org/schumachercollege/>

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**The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**, Scholars in Health Policy Research Program has two-year research fellowship opportunities, targeted at recent doctoral recipients and junior faculty. While the deadline for this year's competition will be past as this newsletter goes to print, for information on future programs, contact: The Scholars in Health Policy Research Program, Boston University School of Management, 595 Commonwealth Avenue, Room 546B, Boston, MA 02215-1704. Phone: 617-353-9220; Fax: 617-353-9227, email: [rwjf@bu.edu](mailto:rwjf@bu.edu).

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## **Call for Papers**

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**Jennifer Croissant**, SKAT newsletter co-editor, as co-editor of the SUNY Series in Science, Technology, and Society is soliciting manuscripts on dimensions of university-industry interactions for an edited collection. We are looking for empirical work, qualitative or quantitative, which also advances theoretical understanding of science, technology, and society. Send inquiries (name, contact information and 2 page abstract) by February 1, 1999. We are seeking quality works of no more than 10,000 words (not including bibliography). Completed manuscripts will be required by June 1, 1999. Authors with complete manuscripts, sole-authored or edited collections, in areas of interest to the STS series are encouraged to contact J. Croissant, and James Peltz at SUNY Press.

**Current Perspectives in Social Theory** invites submissions for Volume 20, 2000. *Current Perspectives in Social Theory* is an annual publication dedicated to publishing significant articles across the spectrum of perspectives within social theory, conceived of in a broad and interdisciplinary way. To submit a manuscript, send five copies and a one-page abstract to: Professor Jennifer M. Lehmann, Editor, *Current Perspectives in Social Theory*, Department of Sociology, 741 Oldfather Hall, The University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68588-0324. Deadline for submissions is January 31, 1999. Any manuscript received after January 31, 1999 will not be considered for the 2000 volume.

**Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences** is a new scholarly journal devoted to historical, sociological, philosophical, and ethical aspects of the environmental sciences, of the sciences of mind and behavior, and of the medical and biomedical sciences and technologies. Proposals for

3,000-4,000 word review essays are also welcome. For more information, contact: Nicholas Jardine, Editor, University of Cambridge, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Free School Lane, Cambridge CB2 3RH, UK. Fax: +44(0)-1223-334554.

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## Employment Announcements

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**Science and Technology Studies. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.** Department of Science and Technology Studies invites applications for a tenure-track position open at the assistant professor level. Completed PhD preferred. The ideal candidate should have a research interest in the history of information technology, and should be able to teach introductory U.S. history courses as well as advanced undergraduate courses in the history of technology. The candidate is also expected to be able to contribute to the graduate programs in STS and to work well in an interdisciplinary environment that includes the humanities and social sciences at the department level as well as the natural sciences and engineering disciplines in Rensselaer's new multidisciplinary, undergraduate program in information technology. Some combination of the following research and teaching interests is also desirable: material culture, technology and design, law and policy, and values and professional ethics. The department has a full range of STS degree programs from BS to PhD. Rensselaer is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and encourages applications from women and members of minority groups.

The Department of Science and Technology Studies also invites applications for a tenure-track position open at the assistant professor level. Completed PhD preferred. The ideal candidate should have a research interest in social studies of health and medicine, and should be able to teach the introduction to sociology and advanced undergraduate courses in the sociology of medicine. The candidate is also expected to be able to contribute to the graduate programs in STS and to work well in the department's interdisciplinary humanities and social sciences environment. Some combination of the following research and teaching interests is also desirable: environmental health, technology and design, law and policy, information technology, and quantitative research methods. The department has a full range of STS degree programs from BS to PhD. Rensselaer is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and encourages applications from women and members of minority groups.

**For either position:** Send CV, the names of three references, and one example of work to John Schumacher, Chair STS Department Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Troy, NY 12180-3590. Screening will begin November 1, 1998, and will continue until the position is filled. Applications received after November 1, 1998, cannot be guaranteed full consideration. Starting date is August, 1999.

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**Stanford University** seeks to make a tenure-track appointment in Science and Technology Studies at the assistant-professor level, to begin in September 1999. Candidates will be considered in the following fields: anthropology, economics, political science, and sociology. Applicants will be expected to teach courses at both the graduate and undergraduate levels in Science and Technology Studies. The successful candidate's primary appointment will be in the appropriate department. He or she will also be an active participant in Stanford's interdisciplinary Science, Technology, and Society Program. Please send letter of application, C.V., three letters of recommendation, description of sample courses, and a short writing sample by December 1, 1998 to: Chair, Science, Technology, and Society Search Committee, Attn: Department of [Anthropology, Economics, Political Science, or Sociology] (choose one), Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305

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**The Milken Institute**, a not-for-profit nonpartisan economic think tank, is hiring at all levels to staff its newly forming technology research team. Our technology studies effort will be broad, encompassing both contemporary and historical inquiry into technological change in both developed and developing countries. We seek to understand technology and its relationship to labor markets, demand change, M&A activity, socio-economic status, and global economic development. Our research — grounded in serious scholarship — is presented in publications for technical and general audiences; at conferences and seminars; and to the broader public via op-eds, audiovisual, and electronic media. We are a resource for economic and public policy research and analysis, and a center for

advancing discussion of economic issues. We offer excellent research support. Please send inquiries to: Roger Ehrenreich, The Milken Institute, 1250 Fourth Street, Santa Monica, CA. Fax: 310-998-2625.

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**The University of North Carolina** at Chapel Hill, Department of Anthropology, intends to hire a sociocultural or historical anthropologist specializing in research on science, technology, and society. The position is tenure track, with expectation of hiring at the Assistant Professor level starting Fall semester 1999. Please send a narrative statement of teaching and research interests, a curriculum vitae, and the names of four referees by 11 December 1998 to Chair, STS Search Committee, Department of Anthropology, CB #3115, UNC, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3115. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. EOE/AEE.

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**Science and Technology Studies: The Honors College at the University of Oklahoma** invites applications for two tenure-track positions at the rank of assistant professor. Candidates' research and teaching interests should be in one of the following areas: 1) Science studies or the history, sociology, or philosophy of science with an emphasis on the United States; 2) Technology and its relationship to society or culture with an emphasis on information technology. The Honors College is interested in candidates who are committed to interdisciplinary teaching and research. Ph.D. must be completed by the time of appointment, August 1999. Teaching experience and a record of scholarly activity are preferred. Send dossiers, including c.v. and three letters of reference to Dean Steven M. Gillon, Search Committee, Honors College, The University of Oklahoma, 1300 Asp Avenue, Norman, Oklahoma 73019-6061. Applications will be reviewed beginning October 15 and the search process will continue until the positions are filled. The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. The University has a policy of being responsive to the needs of dual career couples.

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**The School of Information Science and Technology (IST) at The Pennsylvania State University** invites applications for full-time tenure-track positions, with rank to be determined on the basis of qualifications and experience. Senior rank will be considered for applicants with recognized national and international stature. Faculty members will have an opportunity to participate actively and contribute

significantly in the formative stages of this exciting new School and its program. Anticipated starting date is August 1999.

The School is a new academic unit that has the status of a college within the University. The School will offer a baccalaureate program for the first time in Fall 1999 and will introduce a graduate program in Fall 2000. IST is an interdisciplinary program intended to offer students an integrated curriculum covering a wide range of knowledge and skills in information science and technology. Students will learn the general principles that govern the creation, organization, application, and structure of information, as well as the implications of information science and technology in law, ethics, and social policy. Subjects will include, but not be limited to, such diverse topics as computer applications in non-technical and technical areas, basic hardware and software concepts, data management and retrieval, telecommunications and information policy, and multi-media applications. A non inclusive list of application domains include engineering, the social sciences, environmental sciences, agriculture, geography, health, and business. Close interaction and collaboration with traditional and existing programs will be encouraged, and strong partnerships with industry and government are already developed and expected to increase significantly.

Candidates should hold a doctorate degree. The discipline of a candidate's education is not as important as having strong interest and experience in computer applications within that discipline. Qualifications include a strong interest in and commitment to teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Candidates should also have research interests in areas consistent with the information orientation of the School and have the potential to obtain and direct funded research projects.

Screening of candidates will begin on January 2, 1999. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled. A full curriculum vitae, a one page statement of professional interests, and the names, addresses, and phone/e-mail addresses of three references should be submitted to: Chair, Faculty Search Committee, School of Information Science and Technology, 303 Old Main, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802

Penn State is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Inquiries may be directed to: Dean R. Snow, Professor and Head, Department of Anthropology, The Pennsylvania State University, Telephone: (814) 865 2509, Fax: (814) 863 1474, E-mail: drs17@psu.edu

## **FACULTY POSITION IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY**

Science, Technology, and Society Program  
Penn State University.

A 3-5 year fixed-term, Assistant Professor position is available in one of the nation's first Science, Technology, and Society Programs, starting in the Fall of 1999. The STS program at Penn State is seeking a talented, energetic scholar to teach core interdisciplinary courses at the undergraduate level. The applicants should have completed a Ph.D. degree and have outstanding teaching ability. Demonstrated scholarly achievements are expected in one or more of the following areas: environmental studies, science and/or technology studies, science and technology policy, and the design of technology. The selected candidate should

anticipate working collegiately with faculty and visiting scholars from many different disciplines and countries. Candidates should send an application letter, a resume, and the names, addresses, and telephone numbers, of three references to: Chair, Faculty Search Committee, Science, Technology, and Society Program, Pos #: C-3891, 133 Willard Building, University Park, PA 16802. Screening will begin February 15, 1999, and will continue until a selection is made. Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity and the diversity of its workforce.

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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

Peter Whalley, Pwhalle@luc.edu

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### Secretary/Treasurer

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### Committees

Membership: Chair, Steve Zehr, Tom Gieryn  
Jason Owen-Smith

### Nominations:

Chair, Steven Epstein, Laurel Smith-Doerr, Diange  
Vaughan

### Awards:

Chair, Ed Hackett, Kelly Moore, Jason Owen-Smith

### Publications:

Jennifer Croissant, Franz Foltz, Kelly Moore

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*Newsletter:* Please send announcements and news to either of the editors. You may contribute electronically (please do not encode files), by regular post, or fax. Please submit news items for Winter edition by February 15; for the Summer edition by May 15.

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