

## FROM THE EDITORS

Hello from your editors! First, a brief update on membership: as of 4/97 we are up to 353 members. We will have an updated report at the meetings, but according to **Monica Casper**, membership committee chair, ASA staff will run another count which should reflect an additional increase between April and July. We have until Sept. 30 to hit 400, which would give us another session at next year's meetings. We only need 47 more members to reclaim our lost program session!

Also in this issue we have the first of what we hope will be a long series of articles and items directly from section members. Mary Frank Fox has given us a brief report of a new curricular initiative at Georgia Tech. And while the *program* is exemplary, we would like to encourage section members to model the *report* of projects and programs as well!

Speaking of programs, Peter Whalley reports below on the 1997 annual meeting activities. We have included a listing of section sessions, as well other sessions likely to be of interest to SKAT members. The details of times and room locations will be in your preliminary program, but we thought it worthwhile to list all of the SKAT-relevant things in one place. It looks to be an intellectually fascinating program, and an enriching social calendar as well. We hope to see you at the various section sessions, and especially at the business meeting. We would be happy to discuss your ideas for the most effective use of the newsletter either at the business meeting, or in informal settings. Safe summer travels and see you in Toronto?!

Jennifer L. Croissant,  
Franz A. Foltz

## 1997 ASA PROGRAM NOTES

**Peter Whalley, Program Chair Says: Arrive early!!!** You are just going to have to come early to Toronto this year! SKAT is on the first day, giving you all the excuse you need to stretch out your trip to such an exciting city. The theme of this years' formal SKAT sessions might well be called "reaching out".

The session that **Josephine Beoku-Betts** and **Mary Frank Fox** have put together with the section on Sex & Gender has a decidedly diverse focus, looking at not only at gender, race and ethnic diversity in American science and engineering but, fittingly enough in Toronto, looking at cross national comparisons as well.

The panel on Technology, Expertise, and Political Protest, organized by **Kelly Moore**, reaches out in a different way, to issues of property rights in knowledge, expertise and social activism in the broader society. I've long felt that many other areas of sociology could benefit from the insights developed by work done in our section--in what arena's aren't knowledge, skill and expertise of critical importance?--and it is good to see this broader focus. This doesn't mean, however, that we should lose our traditional interests in scientific knowledge and practice.

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Unfortunately, however, a last minute membership shortfall meant that we couldn't have an hoped for session on visualization in science. Perhaps next time.

One favorable side-effect of being restricted to two formal sessions, however, was that **Judy Perrolle** was able to assemble an excellent collection of round tables. I want to draw your particular attention to the one being given by **Renee Anspach** and **Diane Vaughan**, last year's joint Merton award winners, where they will discuss their work. We hope this will continue to be a regular feature of SKAT sessions.

For those of you who have overlooked round tables in the rush of meeting events, I can only say that some of my best ASA experiences have been at round tables, both those I've attended and those I've given. They provide an opportunity for serious conversation that is often missing from formal sessions. Thank you to all the session organizers, it is they who put the program together and do all the work

**A plug for next year and the need for new members..** Despite the virtues of round tables it would still be nice to have three formal sessions as well. We are currently running about fifty members short of the magic 400 necessary to get three sessions so I would urge everyone to recruit somebody before or at the meetings. Section membership is cheap, especially for students, so round some friends up. We now have an excellent newsletter to offer and no-one can argue that the themes of the section are not centrally relevant to all areas of social inquiry! Bring friends along to the reception, we won't check membership cards but, like public radio, we might subject them to a recruiting drive!

**Business meeting:** As incoming chair of the section I particularly want to invite everyone to this year's business meeting. As every

sociologist of knowledge knows, this is where the real intellectual work gets done! I know that to many of you, particularly to students or those new to the ASA, business meetings may seem to be boring events where insiders discuss the minutia of section business, but they are also places to get to know others, to have a genuine say in how the section should develop, a place where you can influence future years' programs, suggest ways of networking, etc. They are also good places to volunteer to get the work of the section done. We need people to volunteer to write sections of the newsletter, review books, help with program development, liaise with other sections and organizations, build networks, make waves, organize parties, let your imagination run!

**Party!Party!** And last but certainly not least, we are having a reception/party. Yet another opportunity to meet and be met. Since much (most?) of the interesting conversation at ASA takes place away from the formal sessions (SKAT sessions are always the outstanding exceptions of course) please come and eat the section's food. Especially graduate *students*. Don't think you won't know anybody. Think of it as an opportunity: as my then Kindergarten age son did on his first day at his new school: "Dad, I'll be all right, there will be twenty-five other kids who'll have the chance to get to know me." We'll be waiting!

**Thank you Karen.** I also want to take this opportunity to thank Karen Knorr for her past four years of service to the section; the first two as program chair and the last two as chair, particularly since it has all been done from a base across the Atlantic. It's easy to say that electronic communications have rendered distance irrelevant but, as those who have tried it know, not yet, not yet! Thanks Karen.

-- *Peter Whalley*, Loyola University, Chicago.

## TORONTO SKAT SECTION SESSIONS:

***Technology, Expertise, and Political Protest,***  
organized by Kelly Moore (Barnard)

1. Amy Crumpton: VPI, "Environmental Justice, Expertise, and the EPA: Instituting a People's Epidemiology."
2. James Rule and Lawrence Hunter, SUNY-Stoney Brook, "Towards Property Rights in Personal Data."
3. Todd Schroer, University of Nebraska-Lincoln "Advancing Communications Technology and the White Supremacist Movement."

Discussion: Steven Epstein, University of California-San Diego.

***Sociology of Science Knowledge and Technology Refereed Roundtables,***  
organized by Judith A. Perrolle, (Northeastern University)

### **Table 1.**

- \* "Attitudes About Science" Eugene S. Uyeki and Lani Holland, Case Western Reserve
- \* "The Women's Movement and the Participation of Women in Science and Engineering in the United States," Donna M. Hughes, University of Rhode Island
- \* "Tools and Toys: Gender Differences in Attitudes Toward Science and the Use of Technology", Von Bakanic and Ida Winfield, College of Charleston
- \* "Can Girls be Scientists? Discrepancies between Self-Concepts and Perceptions of Science," James Daniel Lee, Indiana University at Bloomington

### **Table 2.**

- \* "Towards a Theory of Environmental Technology," David A. Sonnenfeld, Washington State University
- \* "Scientific Support v Political Power: The Northern Spotted Owl and Old Growth Dispute," Gloria Tomko Beckly, Central Washington University

- \* "The Social Construction of Energy and Energy Use," Kenneth R. Zimmerman, Oklahoma Corporation Commission
- \* "Cancer at Point Hope, Alaska: Descriptions of the 'Truth'," Nelta Edwards, Arizona State University

### **Table 3.**

- \* "Influence of State Policy and Managed Care Environment on Maternity Care Practices," Heather Hartley, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- \* "Gender, Medicine, and Technology: The Social Construction of Expectant Fatherhood," Kristi Williams and Debra Umberson, University of Texas at Austin
- \* "Making Science's Subjectivity Invisible: The Struggle for Objectivity in the Case of DNA Fingerprinting," Linda Derksen, University of California, San Diego
- \* "Science and Participatory Politics: On the Effects of Scientization Processes on Political Mobilization," Gili S. Dori, Stanford University

### **Table 4.**

- \* "Collaborative Science: Cooperation, Organization and Knowledge Production in Academic Research Groups," Jason D. Smith and Gordon Abra, University of Arizona
- \* "Automated Material Culture Supports: Help or Hindrance in Technological Design Work," Kathryn Henderson, Texas A&M University
- \* "Reconsiderations of Scientific Contexts and Scientific Lives," Anna Neumann, Michigan State University
- \* "Redefining Organizational Work: Part-Time Technical Professionals," Peter Meiksins, Cleveland State University, and Peter Whalley, Loyola University of Chicago

### **Table 5.**

- \* "(En)Gendering Confusion: Biologists' Use of the Terms Sex and Gender," G. A. Pearson, Albion College, Albion, MI

- \* "Gender and Sociological Discourse: 1895-1965", Von Bakanic and Ida Winfield, College of Charleston
- \* "The Making of the Postwar American Sociologies," A. S. Chen, The University of California, Berkeley
- \* "Symmetry, Convergence and the Other Modern Dimension," Bart Simon, University of California at San Diego

**Table 6. 1996 Merton Book Awards**

Renee R. Anspach's "Deciding Who Lives: Fateful Choices in the Intensive Care Nursery"  
 Diane Vaughan's "The Challenger Launch Decision: Risky Technology, Culture, and Deviance at NASA"  
 Discussant: Peter Weingart, University of Bielefeld

**Gender, Science, and Technology**

(co-sponsored with the *Section on the Sociology of Sex and Gender*), organized by Mary Frank Fox (Georgia Tech) and Josephine Beoku-Betts (University of Georgia).

1. Sandra Hanson & Elizabeth Palmer Johnson. Catholic University. "Expecting the Unexpected: African American Women in Science."
2. Mary Wyer. North Carolina State University, Raleigh. "Mixed Messages and Missing Women: Women and the Doctorate in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering."
3. Rosemary Wright. Fairleigh Dickinson University. "Cross-National Similarities in the Progression of Women in Computing."
4. Chia-ling Wu. University of Illinois. "Women, Medicine, and the State: The Demise of Midwifery in Taiwan."

**CAREERS AND TRANSITIONS: SWS PLENARY PANEL,**

Monday 8/11, 12:30-2:15pm. Toronto Colony Hotel, SWS Suite. What are the critical adjustments in transition from graduate student to professional? What is needed to move into academic administration, as well as back to a faculty position? What is it like to work as a sociologist in a government agency, and how does it compare with work and organizational life in academia? How do you move effectively between academic and more policy-oriented audiences and arenas? Find out about the challenges, organizational environments, requisite skills, and more, of transitions in careers in this special SWS plenary event. Mary Frank Fox, Professor of Sociology, Georgia Tech School of History, Technology, and Society moderates a discussion with:

1. Lori Sudderth, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Rutgers University, on 'graduate to professional.'
2. Caroline Hodges Persell, Professor and former Chair, Sociology, NYU, on 'in and out of academic administration.'
3. Phyllis Moen, Director, Bronfenbrenner Life Course Center, Cornell, former Director, Sociology Program, NSF on 'academia and government - to and fro.'
4. Ronne Steinberg, Professor Sociology and Director of Women's Studies, Vanderbilt, on 'academic and policy arenas.'

**OTHER SESSIONS OF INTEREST:**

**Sociology of Science,**

Lowell Hargens (Ohio State).

Panel 1: Social Dimensions of Objectivity.

Discussant: Tom Gieryn

1. Jennifer Croissant "Notes Toward a Sociology of Objectivity"
2. Stephan Fuchs "The Social Structure of Objectivity"
3. Linda Derksen "Making Science's Subjectivity Invisible: The Struggle for Making Objectivity in the Case of DNA Fingerprinting"

Panel 2: Sociological Analysis of the Life Sciences,

Discussant: Adele Clarke

1. Laurel Smith-Doerr "The Emergence of the Biotechnology Industry and the Changing Labor-Market for Biomedical PhDs"
2. Sydney Halpern "Research Ethics and Public Audiences in Twentieth Century American Medical Science"
3. Walter W. Powell and Jason D. Owen-Smith "Commercialism in Universities: Life Sciences Research and the Interface with Industry"

## Technology and Society,

Loren Lutzenhiser (Washington State).

1. Ann Marie Wood "Dazzling Innovations, Irrefutable Results: The Presentation of Molecular and Behavior Genetics in the Popular Press"
2. Hee Jee Bak "Biotechnology, Pure Milk, and Luddites: Politics of Technology"
3. Stefan Timmermans "Where are the Survivors of Resuscitative Efforts: On the Phenomenology of Technological Anomie"
4. Eszter Hargittai "Holes in the 'Net': The Internet and International Stratification"

## Sociology of Knowledge and Intellectuals,

Charles Camic (U Wisconsin-Madison).

Panel 1: Intellectuals in the House of Power.

Discussant: Daniel Kleinman

1. J. Borocz "Reaction as Progress: Economists as Intellectuals"

2. G. Eyal "Anti-Politics and the Spirit of Capitalism"

3. E. Townsley "Academics and the U.S. Government in the 1960s: The Myth of Liberal Influence"

4. M. Goldman "Learning to be Green: The Politics of Environmental Knowledge Production at the World Bank."

Panel 2: Intellectual Life in 20th-Century America. Discussant: Harvey Goldman.

1. J. Goldfarb "The Eclipse of the Public: Lippman and Dewey on the Intellectuals and the Public"

2. G. Jaworski, "Pitirim A. Sorokin's Disavowal of Georg Simmel"

3. A. Tsay and M. Lamont "Disciplinary Cultures in Transition: Evaluation of Merit in American Higher Education"

4. Bernard Barber "The Reality of High and Low Culture."

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## BOOK NOTES

Because of space and time constraints, we have foregone a full review section. However, for the fall edition we would like to again be able to give a summary list of new and forthcoming books of potential interest to section members, as well as continue conversations about the most influential, "top ten," or most promising works.

Know of a recently published or forthcoming book that you would like to have summarized here? Please send me (Kelly Moore) the title, author, and date of publication (for published books), or a copy of the manuscript (for forthcoming books) before or at the 1997 ASA meeting in Toronto. Self-submissions are welcome. We also

encourage reviews (500-1000 words) of new books or collections of books of interest to members *from* members, and we will help to organize a review-response format from pairs of authors and critics, as well.

Good news for those teaching courses on science and technology: Sherry Turkle's *Life on the Screen* will be available in paperback in September 1997, while Steven Epstein's superb *Impure Science: AIDS Activism and the Politics of Knowledge* (1996: University of California Press) is available in paperback and cloth. Finally, Springer-Verlag is *still* looking for someone to write a (the?) book about the science wars and the *Social Text* affair.  
-- Kelly Moore (km104@columbia.edu).

## CALLS FOR PAPERS/CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Society for Social Studies of Science**  
Annual meeting will be in Tucson, AZ, from October 22-26, 1997. The preliminary program and registration information are available on-line at (<http://www.u.arizona.edu/~jlc>) or in print from Jen Croissant, University of Arizona.

**SECOND CALL FOR PAPERS: The Future Location of Research in a Triple Helix of University-Industry-Government Relations.**  
New York City and Purchase, New York, 7-10 January 1998. A new ground for science and technology policy is required with the end of the Cold War and the closing of the gap between basic and applied research. Traditional roles and relationships of organizations that support and conduct research are changing even as new players enter the arena. What are the implications of the emergence of cooperative R&D agendas formulated by multiple actors?

The Triple Helix extends the model of economic co-evolution between new technological developments and their cognitive and institutional (selection) environments with the sociological dynamics of reflection on the distributed character of structure/action contingency relations. University-industry-government relations shape and reproduce networks of communication: new research agendas are constructed on the Internet, at cooperative research centers, in virtual research institutes.

The distribution of research locations is a key factor in this knowledge-based economy since it conditions the site of future economic development, wealth creation, and appearance of jobs in old and new firms. Universities are increasingly involved in product development, while within industry questions are raised about what should be located within the firm, between firms, or among firms, universities, and government laboratories. Is there a role for the corporation in conducting basic research or is that task best left to academia and government? What is the role of government given the need for technological innovation in national and regional development? As the university crosses traditional boundaries in developing new linkages to industry, it devises formats to make research, teaching, and economic development compatible. What is the feedback of the

network on the intellectual substance and the reproduction of (inter-)disciplines? Do interdisciplinary science-technologies develop at the interfaces? How is the role of the university as a source of independent expertise affected by these changes?

The spiral model of innovation captures the evolution of multiple linkages at different stages of the capitalization of knowledge. Evaluation criteria, mapping methods, foresight and assessment techniques can be reconceptualized and further developed with reference to this Triple Helix.

We call for papers on these issues. Paper abstracts (two or three pages) to be submitted before June 1, 1997. Final program date: October 1, 1997. Manuscripts received before October 1 will be refereed before the conference. See for the theme paper: *EASST Review*, Vol. 25 (1996, Nr. 4), pp. 20-25 or <http://www.chem.uva.nl/sts/loet/theme.htm>.

Program Committee: Guus Berkhout (Netherlands Society for Technological Sciences and Engineering, Delft), Stephen Hill (UNESCO, Djakarta); Okyay Kaynak (Mechatronics, Bogazici University, Istanbul); Richard R. Nelson (Public Policy Research, Columbia, New York); Helga Nowotny (Wissenschaftsforschung, Vienna); Jean-Jacques Salomon (CNAM, Paris); Hebe Vessuri (IVIC, Caracas); Peter Weingart (Sociology, Bielefeld); Dorothy Zinberg (Kennedy School, Harvard, Cambridge MA).

Scientific Committee: Rosalba Casas (UNAM, Mexico City), Yuko Fujikagi (NISTEP, Tokyo), Terry Shinn (CNRS, Paris), Kostadinka Simeonova (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia), Judith Sutz (University of the Republic, Montevideo), Andrew Webster (Anglia University, Cambridge UK).

For further information contact convenors:

Henry Etzkowitz  
Science Policy Institute, Social Science Division,  
State University of New York at Purchase,  
735 Anderson Hill Road,  
Purchase, NY 10577-1400, USA.  
Tel. (+1) 914 251 6600; fax: 914-251-6603.  
E-mail: [spi@interport.net](mailto:spi@interport.net)

or

Loet Leydesdorff  
Department of Science & Technology Dynamics,  
Nieuwe Achtergracht 166,  
1018 WV Amsterdam, The Netherlands.  
Tel. (+31) 20- 525 6598; fax: 525 6579.  
E-mail: l.leydesdorff@mail.uva.nl

For conference information and registration,  
contact:

\* Triple Helix Conference Secretariate, Valencia  
Wallace, Social Science Division, SUNY at  
Purchase, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase NY  
10577-1400, USA Tel: +1- 914 251 6600; Fax:  
+1- 914 251 6603 Email:  
helix@brick.purchase.edu

**Science & Society: The Technological Turn,**  
Tokyo, Kyoto, and Hiroshima, Japan, March 16-22,  
1998. Chair of the Organizing Committee Professor  
Yoichiro Murakami (Vice Chair for CSTP, OECD)

announces an international conference on Science,  
Technology, and Society. The basic theme is the  
examination of the reality and problems of  
technological change on society, with session  
themes such as network assessment of science, post-  
colonial studies and international relations,  
implications of STS for science education, human  
resources, STS and peace, cultural studies, and  
public awareness of science and technology.  
Suggestions for sessions or themes should be  
submitted by March 15, 1997. Paper abstracts are  
due August 31, 1997. For more information, please  
contact the Conference Office, c/o Professor Shin-  
ichi Kobayashi, Graduate School of Information  
Systems, University of Electro-Communications, 1-  
5-1, Chofugaoka, Chofu City, Tokyo 182, Japan.  
Fax: 81-424-85-9843, email sts@kob.uec.ac.jp. The  
unverified web site is [http://hostcinf.shinshu-  
u.ac.jp/stsconfjp.html](http://hostcinf.shinshu-u.ac.jp/stsconfjp.html).

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## SKAT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

We will be announcing the results of section elections at the meeting in August. Peter Whalley will be assuming the duties of Section Chair. New Section Officers, Council members, and committee configurations will also begin their terms. If you would like to participate in future elections, please contact members of the nominations committee. Or, please consider joining as an at-large member to various committees, to help with the administration of the section. This would be particularly useful if you are considering future election to Council. But in any case, if you have concerns about specific activities, or other issues you would like to see the section address, please bring these up to members of committee or Council, and **attend the business meeting**. For brevity in this issue we have listed only electronic addresses, although we will print full information about new section officers and council organization in the next issue.

### Outgoing Chair

Karin Knorr-Cetina, knorr@post.uni-bielefeld.de

### Chair-elect

Peter Whalley, Pwhalle@luc.edu

### Secretary Treasurer

Anne E. Figert, afigert@luc.edu

### Council

Jennifer Croissant, jlc@u.arizona.edu

Tia DeNora, denora@taff.cardiff.ac

Kelly Moore, km104@columbia.edu

Thomas Schott, tschott+@pitt.edu

Elaine Draper (310) 392-2116

Steve Hilgartner, shh6@cornell.edu

### Student Representative:

Laurel Smith-Doerr, ldoerr@aruba.ccit.arizona.edu

**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. For the fall edition, materials should be submitted by October 15, 1997.

Jennifer L. Croissant  
CSTS/MSE, Bldg. 12  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, AZ 85721  
phone: 520-626-7110  
fax: 520-621-8059  
jlc@u.arizona.edu

Franz A. Foltz  
Interdisciplinary Studies  
133 Lane Hall, VPI  
Blacksburg, VA 24601  
phone: 540-231-8472  
fax: 540-231-7013  
ffoltz@vt.edu

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## ARTICLE

### WOMEN, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY: LINKING ISSUES.

Mary Frank Fox, Georgia Tech.

Over the past decade, numbers of programs have been established to enhance the participation and performance of women, and to reduce gender (as well as racial) disparity, in science and engineering. These have included programs focussing upon mentoring, financial aid, advisement and counseling, and peer support. But until now, no curricular program on women, science, and technology has existed for students.

The new *Women, Science, and Technology (WST) Curricular Minor Program* at Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) does what no other program has done: it links certain science and technology issues to those more traditionally associated with women's and gender studies. The WST Program was developed by faculty in Georgia Tech's School of History, Technology, and Society, and School of Literature, Communication, and Culture, in collaboration with faculty and administrators across Colleges of Science, Engineering, Computing, and other units. WST is a curricular minor for students in science, engineering, social science, and humanities -- whether men or women -- who are intersted in connections between gender, science, and technology, and the social processes of science and engineering.

The WST program has been shaped by three aims: First, WST addresses values associated with scientific culture and the ways in which science and engineering are affected by relations between men and women (as well as relations between racial groups). The curriculum addresses such issues as: (1) the history of women in science and engineering; (2) organizational influences affecting the

participation and performance of women in science and technology careers; (3) women and the organization and management of science and technology; (4) the gendered impact of science and technology policy. Second, in a practical sense, WST is designed to deal with social factors affecting the career opportunities that women (and men) are likely to find within science and engineering professions. The implications of the WST minor are significant for women who will work in science and engineering; for men and women who will work together in these fields; and for others who need and want to learn about scientific and engineering personnel in society. The WST minor provides knowledge and understanding for college graduates who will confront an ever more complex world.

Third, the WST program aims to integrate teaching and research on gender, science, and technology, and to serve the interests of undergraduate students not only in the curriculum but through their involvement in research projects and initiatives. The Program has been awarded a grant from the Georgia Tech Foundation, which supports student research partnerships with WST faculty.

The faculty coordinators, Carol Collatrella, Anne Balsamo, Steven Vallas, and myself, believed that this is the right time for WST. And Georgia Tech has been an enabling place: counsel, collaboration, and support have come from faculty and administrators across colleges. Moreover, students have responded to WST as knowledge vital to the 21st century and their role in it. In doing so, they amply fulfill the aims envisioned.