

FROM THE EDITORS

This should arrive with spring, and your editors hope that this edition of the SKAT Newsletter finds section members in good spirits. Spring is perceived as a time of growth and renewal. On that theme, we would like to encourage members to take care of ASA and section renewals, and to contribute to the growth of the Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology. Monica Casper, as membership chair for the section, discusses this at length on the next to last page of the newsletter. At the least, the section would like to 'recapture' the session that we lost from the annual meetings by stabilizing membership above the 400 mark. We would also like to encourage growth and diversity in our intellectual community. So, make sure that your renewals are in order, encourage colleagues to join the section (especially now that we have a tangible benefit in this renewed, improved, expanded, informative and otherwise sexy newsletter), **and consider giving a gift of ASA and SKAT section membership to your students, especially those graduating.** They will appreciate the information about section activities, and perhaps the chance to network. For students going onward to sociological practice or other fields, this will provide a chance to stay 'with it' in sociology, and keep them updated on news of the field. Finally, the editors would like to thank all of the contributors to the newsletter, especially the regular contributors, and those who have sent announcements. If section members have editorials they would like to contribute, or ideas for a regular 'column,' please feel free to contact either of us.

Jen Croissant and Franz Foltz.

SECTION AWARDS

Sally Hacker-Nicholas Mullins Student Award is offered annually by ASA-SKAT to the graduate student with the best published or unpublished paper completed in the past twelve months. The winner will receive the award during the SKAT business meeting at the Annual meeting in Toronto in August, 1997. The deadline for nominations is *June 1, 1997*. A letter of nomination must accompany the paper, and should be sent to: Stephen Hilgartner, Chair, SKAT Awards Committee, Department of Science and Technology Studies, Cornell University, 632 Clark Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853. E-mail: shh6@cornell.edu.

1997 Robert K. Merton Award is for a book or body of work over the past 5 years. The awardee should be a SKAT member during the year in which the award is given. S/he will be presented with the award during the ASA meeting in Toronto, in August 1997, and *may* have the opportunity to

(continued on page 2)

Table of Contents

Awards Notices.....	1
ASA Program Notes.....	2
Book Notes.....	3
Places to Publish	4
Calls for Papers.....	5
Fellowships and Grants	5
On Line Resources.....	6
Syllabi	6
Membership Notes.....	7
SKAT Officers, Council, Committees, and Contacts.....	8

discuss the work the following year. Deadline for nominations is *April 15, 1997*. Nominating letters and supporting materials, such as published book reviews, should be sent to Stephen Hilgartner, Chair, SKAT Awards Committee, Department of Science and Technology Studies, Cornell University, 632 Clark Hall, Ithaca, NY, 14853. E-mail shh6@cornell.edu.

Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Nicholas Mullins Award is presented each year for an outstanding piece of scholarship by a graduate student in the general field of Science and Technology Studies. Articles, unpublished papers, and dissertation chapters of no more than 10,000 words (including references and notes) can be no older than two years at time of submission. The prize consists of a \$500 (US) check, certificate, and travel money for attending the 1997 4S annual meeting. Details for submission procedures can be found in *Technoscience*, and the deadline for contributions is June 1, 1997. Papers received after that date will be considered for the following year. Chair of the Jury is Anne Figert, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Loyola University Chicago, 6525 North Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60626-5311, fax 773-508-7099, phone 773-508-3431, email afigert@luc.edu.

We will have a more complete review of 1997 ASA SKAT activities in Toronto in the next newsletter. Sessions on the Sociology of Science have been organized by Lowell Hargens (Ohio State), and Technology and Society by Loren Lutzenhiser (Washington State). Section sessions, organized by program chair Peter Whalley (Loyola), include Technology, Expertise, and Political Protest, organized by Kelly Moore (Barnard); 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); and refereed roundtables, organized by Judith Perolle (Northeastern). The conference is scheduled from Saturday August 9 through Wednesday August 13. The SKAT "day" is Saturday, and so our sessions, and council and business meetings will be scheduled for that first day of the conference.

Laurel Smith-Doerr, University of Arizona, (lidoerr@U.Arizona.edu) student representative to SKAT Council, invites students to a coffee reception for student members and potential members of the section. This is will be a chance to contribute to the informal discussion of student issues, and to meet like-minded scholars of science, technology and knowledge. Details will appear in the summer newsletter and final program.

Newsletter: Please send announcements and news to either of the editors. Materials for inclusion in the summer pre-conference newsletter should be received by May 15, 1997. 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
235 Lane Hall, VPI
Blacksburg, VA 24601
phone: 540-231-8472
fax: 540-231-7013
ffoltz@vt.edu

BOOK NOTES

Kelly Moore

In the last edition of the newsletter, I listed books published in 1996 that would be of interest to SKAT members. I was unable to review *Impure Science: AIDS, Activism, and the Politics of Knowledge* (University of California Press, 1996) by one of our own members, Steven Epstein of the University of California-San Diego, because the book was published in November, well after the newsletter was written. This book is a must-read: it is a first-rate analysis of how credibility is generated in medical research, and more generally in scientific research. It is also a fascinating and readable (though often depressing) story about the search for the causes and cures for AIDS by its victims, potential victims, and medical researchers. *Impure Science* is likely to be popular and useful in both undergraduate and graduate sociology of science courses (it is issued in hardcover and paperback); I intend to use it in both types of courses next fall.

Following the lead of *Contemporary Sociology*, in this edition of the newsletter, Jennifer Croissant and I wanted to provide a list of the 5 most influential books in the sociology of science over the past 25 years. But rather than treating this list as authoritative, and minding the adage that controversy is the engine of intellectual development, we invite readers to comment on our suggestions, come up with their own lists, and to tell us which one book has been most influential in their own intellectual development, and why. We are interested in some area-specific contributions from the section (Science Policy, Technology Studies, Gender and Feminist Science Studies) as well as contributions to the general "Sociology of Science" discussion. Lists and comments may be sent to km104@columbia.edu or jlc@u.arizona.edu.

Nominations for the 5 Most Influential Books in the Sociology of Science 1972-1997

Bruno Latour and Steve Woolgar, *Laboratory Life*
Steven Shapin and Simon Schaffer, *The Leviathan and the Air Pump*
Andrew Abbott, *The System of Professions*
Sandra Harding, *The Science Question in Feminism*
Charles Perrow, *Normal Accidents*

(JC) The book that has been most influential to my thinking so far is Elaine Scarry's *The Body in Pain*. As the author notes in her introduction, there are three different subjects in her book: the difficulty of expressing physical pain, the political and perceptual implications that result from that difficulty, and the nature of material and verbal expressivity. The last, Scarry argues, is 'the nature of human creation.' These three subjects are related to one another as concentric circles: to be at the center of one of them is to be at the center of them all. The ineffability of pain is the innermost circle, and one goes from center to periphery in the transition from unmaking (the destruction of the world through war and torture) to making (the constitutive relations of labor and human creativity). It is a profound book, and provocative in its implications for studies of technology and material culture, and for the space it creates for considering kinds of knowledges about experience and embodiment.

(KM) The book that has been most influential on my thinking (and not written by sociologist but by a social historian) is Steven Shapin's *A Social History of Truth*. Shapin's book lucidly reveals the multiple

sources of scientific credibility (especially class position and ties to other social groups), shows how scientists kept undesirables from speaking about nature in terms other than those of the natural philosophers' making, and uncovers the moral meaning behind speaking authoritatively about nature. While the book is deeply historical--the specific time and place in which the events he analyses take place matter--all of the ideas contained in the book have applications to the present.

(KM) Most underappreciated book: *The Death of Nature*, by Carolyn Merchant

(JC) Most underappreciated author in the sociology of science: Dorothy Smith

Please direct correspondence regarding books to either:

Kelly Moore
Department of Sociology
Barnard College
Columbia University
3009 Broadway
New York, NY 10027-6598
Phone: (212) 854-3039
Fax: (212) 854-7491
E-mail: Km104@Columbia.edu

or to the editors.

New Books: The International Centre for Human and Public Affairs, announces three new publications: Contested Technology: Ethics, Risk, and Public Debate, edited by Rene von Schomberg, Coping with Deliberate Release: The Limits of Risk Assessment, edited by Ad van Dommelen, and The Social Management of Biotechnology: Workshop Proceedings, edited by Peter Wheale. For information, please contact ICHPA, Pastoor Smitsstraat 25, 5014 RH Tilburg, The Netherlands, Phone/fax: 31-13-5360751, or email R.vonSchomberg@kub.nl at Tilburg University.

PLACES TO PUBLISH

A Distinctive New Series on Issues in Higher Education: Vanderbilt Issues in Higher Education This series focuses upon understanding and improving core functions of higher education: teaching, research, and service. It concentrates not only on improved understanding of how the functions are carried out in colleges and universities, but also on their contributions to larger issues of social and economic development, and the organizational, political, psychological, and social forces that influence their fulfillment and evolution. Interdisciplinary in nature, the series especially emphasizes the perspectives of history, political science, psychology, sociology. The books will be firmly rooted in theory and empirical research, both qualitative and quantitative, as well as synthetic and interpretive scholarship. For further information, please contact Professor J. M. Braxton, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee 37203, ph: 615-322-8000, or Charles Backus, Director, Vanderbilt University Press, Box 1813, Station B, Nashville TN 37235, ph: 615-322-3585. The interdisciplinary editorial board includes Alan Bayer (Virginia Tech), Mary Frank Fox (Georgia Tech) and Lowell Hargens (Ohio State), among others.

SUNY Press Series in Science, Technology, and Society This series is devoted to general studies of science, technology, and society. We seek manuscripts that offer empirical, critical, and theoretical contributions to our understanding of the social, ethical, and value dimensions of science and technology, and of science and technology policy. The key editorial criteria are quality in scholarship and quality of presentation. Series editors are Jennifer Croissant, University of Arizona, and Sal Restivo, Rensselaer. Please send completed manuscripts or requests for publication guidelines to Zina M. Lawrence, SUNY Press, State University Plaza, Albany, NY 12246-0001. Phone: 518-472-5000, Fax 518-472-5038. The SUNY Press website is <http://www.sunypress.edu>.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

The Society for Social Studies of Science

Annual Meeting is to be held in Tucson, Arizona, October 22-26, 1997. The deadline for abstracts was March 1, 1997. For on-line information about registration, accommodations, program contents, or travel, please contact Jen Croissant's Web page (<http://www.u.arizona.edu/~jlc>).

Roeher Summer Institute on Disability

Research and Policy, August 6,7,8 1997 (just before the ASA Conference, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada). This is a two-day institute, with an optional third day of specialized intensive instruction from leading Canadian faculty. Institute Director Marcia Rioux, along with Michael Bach, Tanis Doe, and others, will lead participants through a theoretical and practical seminar on interdisciplinary approaches to disability research and policy development. It will be held at York University, with on-site residential facilities. Participants will include sociologists, educators, social workers, social policy researchers and planners, disability rights activists, and other equality seekers. Contact ROEHER@YORKU.CA further details.

The Future Location of Research in a Triple Helix of University-Industry-Government

Relations, New York City and Purchase, NY, January 7-10, 1998. A thematic paper and extended call for papers are available from Henry Etzkowitz, Science Policy Institute, Social Science Division, University of New York at Purchase, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, NY 19577-1400, USA. Phone: 1-914-251-6600. Fax: 1-914-251-6603. Email: spi@interport.net. Or contact Loet Leydesdorff, Department of Science and Technology Dynamics, Nieuwe Achtergracht 166, 1018 WV Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Phone 31-20-525-6598. Fax: 31-20-525-6597. Email: l.leydesdorff@mail.uva.nl. Paper abstracts (2-3 pages) are due June 1, 1997.

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 <http://hostcinf.shinshu-u.ac.jp/stsconfjp.html>.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Program Announcement: Science and Technology Studies Program, Division of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research, National Science Foundation.

The Science and Technology Studies (STS) program supports research and related activities that contribute to systematic understanding of the character and development of science and technology, including their cultural, intellectual, material, and social dimensions. Proposals are welcome from various disciplinary perspectives, including history, philosophy, and the social sciences. Modes of support include Scholar Awards, Grants for Collaborative Research, STS Fellowships (both Post-Doctoral and Professional Development), Small Grants for Training

and Research (SGTR), and support for Conferences and Workshops. While the SGTR grants are limited to an August 1 submission deadline, formal proposals should be sent to NSF by February 1 or August 1, with decisions announced within six months of the target dates. Standard Grants Proposal Guidelines (NSF-GPG 95-27) should be used. Forms are available from the NSF Publications Unit, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230, or requested electronically from pubs@nsf.gov. For more information, or a complete program announcement, please contact Dr. Edward J. Hackett or Dr. John Perhonis, STS Program, National Science Foundation, Room 995, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230. Tel: 703-306-1734; fax 703-306-0485; TDD 703-306-0090. Email: ehackett@nsf.gov or jperhoni@nsf.gov.

Center for the History of Physics, American Institute of Physics, offers grants-in-aid for research in the history of modern physics and allied sciences. Grants of up to \$2,500 are for reimbursement of direct expenses by those pursuing graduate degrees in the history of science, or have a record of publication in that area. Deadlines are June 30 and December 31 of each year. Please contact Spencer Weart, CHP, American Institute of Physics, One Physics Ellipse, College Park MD 20740; phone 301-209-3174; fax 301-209-0882; email sweart@aip.org

Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology invites applications for its Senior and Post-Doctoral Fellows programs. The deadlines for these fellowships, to be conducted in the Boston area, are January 1 for the academic year. For details and further information, please contact T. Kontoff, Program Coordinator, Dibner Institute, Dibner Building, MIT E56-100, 38 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA 02139; phone 617-253-6989; fax 617-253-9598; email dibner@mit.edu.

ELECTRONIC & ON-LINE RESOURCES

The following are offered as a very abbreviated list of on-line science and technology studies and SKAT-related cites. If you have a particularly interesting location or resource to share, please let us know.

ASA: <http://www.asanet.org>

General STS Listings:

<http://www2.ncsu.edu/chass/mds/stslinks.html>

Technoscience: <http://www.cis.vt.edu/technoscience/technohome.html>

4S: http://www.lsu.edu/guests/ssss/public_html

AAAS: <http://www.aaas.org>

We are currently getting the SKAT-ASA homepage in order. Suggestions are welcome!

Join the semi-official STS listserver by sending a 'subscribe' message to: sts-request@cctr.umkc.edu. Messages for the list should be sent to: sts@cctr.umkc.edu.

Finally, reviews of multimedia and electronic resources are welcome. Are there any good CD-ROMS on the history and sociology of science and technology out there? Do you know of a good video for classroom use?

SYLLABI

Stephen Zehr has edited the newest edition of the ASA's Teaching Resources Center Syllabi and Instructional Materials for the Sociology of Science, Knowledge, & Technology. The cost is for \$14.50 for ASA members, \$18.50 for non-members and \$13.05 for SKAT members. The stock number of this edition (for ordering purposes) is 343.S96. Send your request to: ASA, Teaching Resources Center, 1722 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036. This edition includes seven chapters of course syllabi covering the following topics: sociology of science; technology and society; sociology of knowledge; science, technology, and gender; environment, energy, and risk; and computerization.

AN APPEAL FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Help--Our membership is declining!

Last year around this time, we had 332 members; that number had risen to 360 at the time of the meetings in New York. Despite calls for members, we did not make the minimum of 400 needed by 10/1/96 to have three sessions at this year's meeting, leaving us with only two sessions. In October we had 384 members, but as of this month, that number had dropped to 302. Either people have not yet renewed their general ASA membership, or our SKAT members are dropping like flies. In any event, in order to maintain SKAT as a viable section of ASA, we really need to boost our membership. We have until 9/30/97 to grow; if we can reach 400, we will be back up to three sessions. But we should aim even higher, and strive to build a comfortable "cushion" so that drops in membership do not necessarily translate into a loss of sessions.

There are several ways we can increase membership. First, every member should try to sign up at least one new member; if we were all successful, that would double our membership and make us a section to be reckoned with. Second, sociology departments should buy memberships for their students to try to generate an ongoing interest in professional association. Third, former members who have lapsed should renew as soon as possible. Fourth, those of us in other sections (e.g., medical sociology, environment and technology, culture) should try to recruit members with overlapping interests. Fifth, we might want to consider staffing a SKAT table at the ASA meetings, where potential members could meet and talk with current members. Sixth, those of us involved in other professional associations (4S, ISHPSSB, etc.) can do some recruiting at those meetings.

Science, knowledge, and technology continue to be pressing issues as we approach the 21st century. We are uniquely positioned to address their implications, and it would be a shame if SKAT were allowed to dwindle away as a viable professional collective within ASA. Let's all of us do our part in rebuilding our membership and increasing SKAT's visibility. If you have any comments or suggestions about membership, you can contact me through email at mjcasper@cats.ucsc.edu.

Monica J. Casper, UC Santa Cruz

Membership Application for SKAT Section

Send To:

The American Sociological Assoc.
1722 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

From:

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

State/Country _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

email _____

_____ I want to join the Science, Knowledge and Technology (SKAT) Section. Enclosed is a check made payable to the American Sociological Association for section dues.

_____ \$10.00 for Members

_____ \$5.00 for Student members

*you must be an ASA member to join
the Section.

SKAT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Chair

Karin Knorr-Cetina
e-mail: knorr@post.uni-bielefeld.de
Phone: 49 521/106-4325 or 4326
Fax: 49 521/106-5844
Faculty of Sociology
University of Bielefeld
P.O.Box 100131, D-33501 Bielefeld
Please also contact
Gisela Diekmeier, e-mail:
diekmeier@post.uni-bielefeld.de

Chair-elect

Peter Whalley
Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology
Loyola University Chicago
6525 North Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60626-5311
Pwhalle@luc.edu

Secretary Treasurer

Anne E. Figert
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Loyola University Chicago
6525 North Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60626-5311
afigert@luc.edu

Council

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

Tia DeNora --
DENORA@TAFF.CARDIFF.AC
Dpt. of Sociology
University of Exeter
Amory BLDG. Rennes Drive
Exeter England 99 EU524
(521) 106-4325

Kelly Moore -- Km104@Columbia.edu
Department of Sociology
Barnard College
Columbia University
3009 Broadway
New York, NY 10027-6598
Phone: (212) 854-3039
Fax: (212) 854-7491

Thomas Schott -- TSCHOTT+@PITT.EDU
Dept. of Sociology
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
(412) 682-6534

Elaine Draper
P.O. Box 5219
Santa Monica, CA 90409-5219
(310) 392-2116

Steve Hilgartner --
SHH6@CORNELL.EDU
Cornell University
632 Clark Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853-2501
(607) 255-9950

Students:

Laurel Smith-Doerr

Committees:

awards Steve Hilgartner, Lisa Jean Moore
and Elaine Draper, and Stefan Timmermans

membership Monica Casper

nominations: Elaine Draper and Laurel
Smith-Doerr

publications: Jennifer Croissant, Franz
Foltz, Tia DeNora, Kelly Moore, and
Thomas Schott

program: Peter Whalley