

Table of Contents

1. Letter from Chair
3. New Articles
4. New Books
- Member Appointments
5. Calls for Papers
6. Job Announcements
11. Section Info



From the Section Chair: “A Profound Anti-Intellectualism”

One need only observe the Republican primary to notice that science is not important to those debating each other. The candidates have, for example, framed evolution as just a theory with some holes in it, climate change as a bogus claim designed to garner research dollars, and data on birth control and reductions in abortion as manipulated feminist politics. While technology appears favorably in one candidate’s quest to colonize the moon, collectively the primary debates have not offered a set of campaign strategies geared toward enhancing our understanding of the world.

Don’t get me wrong: as a critical STS person, I certainly don’t believe that science is the only way to comprehend the world. Epistemological fundamentalism is as problematic as any other kind of fundamentalism. But science (or rather, Science) is a significant form of knowledge and currently is the most influential with respect to education, policy, and culture in the Global North and much of the Global South. To ignore it, as the Republican candidates (and some Democrats) seem to be doing, is both dangerous and stupid. As much as we in the STS community seek to engage in and with science, often critically, we also

recognize that scientific knowledge is a key mechanism through which we (all of us) create social reality and truths about our bodies, lives, and environments.

From the Section Chair

I suspect that the Republican candidates' cavalier dismissal of science is symptomatic of a larger cultural problem, namely the insidious anti-intellectualism that dominates the United States. From massive cuts in public education, to the "dumbing down" of popular culture, to corporatization of universities, to an ever-diminishing "commons" for critical thought, this is not a country that embraces what intellectuals have to offer. (With the occasional exception of popular biologists and historians.) Indeed, intellectualism is almost uniformly derided as snobbery, being out of touch, or worse. What intellectuals do, whether in literary studies or ethnic studies or sociology or any other "soft" discipline, is frequently misunderstood as elite philosophizing or mere politics. Never mind that our ideas are based on careful research and rigorous analysis. That is, on data.

It may seem strange for an avowedly feminist critic of science and technology to advocate for more respect for science. But I am not suggesting that science is God, deserving of all our tax dollars and exempt from public or critical accounting. Nor I am suggesting that science should be our only tool for comprehending and explaining our existence. I am, however, arguing that we need to expand our conceptual and political understanding of science to also include a defense of intellectualism in the most capacious sense of the term. Let us advocate for intellectualism not as an ivory-tower exercise, but rather because ideas and critical thinking matter to how and why we intervene in the world.

Monica J. Casper, Arizona State University



New Articles

Blute, Marion and Paul Armstrong. 2011. "The Reinvention of Grand Theories of the Scientific/Scholarly Process." *Perspectives on Science*. 19(4): 391-425.

Busch, L. 2011. "Climate Change: How Debates Over Standards Shape the Biophysical, Social, Political, and Economic Climate." *International Journal of the Sociology of Agriculture and Food*. 18(3):167-180. Available free at: <http://ijsaf.org/archive/18/3/busch.pdf>

Erickson, Shelley K. 2012. "Women PhD Students in Engineering and a Nuanced Terrain: Avoiding and Revealing Gender." *Review of Higher Education*. 35(3).

Losh, S.C. and B. Nzekwe. "Creatures in the Classroom: Preservice Teacher Beliefs about Fantastic Beasts, Magic, Extraterrestrials, Evolution and Creationism." *Science & Education*, 2011, 20 (No. 5-6:) 473-489.

Losh, S.C. and B. Nzekwe. "The influence of education major: How diverse Preservice teachers view pseudoscience topics." *Journal of Science, Education and Technology*, 2011, 20 (October): 579-591.

Losh, S.C. "Age, Generational, and Educational Effects on American Adult Public Understanding of Science." Invited chapter in M.W. Bauer, R. Shukla and N. Allum (eds.), *The Culture of Science-How does the Public relate to Science across the Globe?* NY: Routledge: 2012, 55-75. September 2011.

Schleifer, David. 2012. "The Perfect Solution: How Trans Fats Became the Healthy Replacement for Saturated Fats." *Technology and Culture* 53.1 (2012): 94-119.

Sonnert, Gerhard and Mary Frank Fox. 2012. "Women, Men, and Academic Performance in Science and Engineering: The Gender Difference in Undergraduate Grade Point Averages." *The Journal of Higher Education*. 83:73-101.

New Books

Berman, Elizabeth Popp. 2012. "Creating the Market University: How Academic Science Became an Economic Engine." Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Hamilton, L.C. 2011. "Do You Believe the Climate is Changing? Answers from New Survey Research." Durham, NH: Carsey Institute, University of New Hampshire. <http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publications/IB-Hamilton-Climate-Change-National-NH.pdf>

Nelson, Alondra. 2011 Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight Against Medical Discrimination. Minnesota University Press.

Wailoo, Keith, Alondra Nelson, and Catherine Lee. 2012. Genetics and the Unsettled Past: The Collision of DNA, Race, and History. Rutgers University Press.

Member Appointments

Bliss, Catherine. Howard Hughes Medical Institute Postdoctoral Fellow at Alpert Medical School and the Cogut Center for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Brown University.

Hackett, Edward (Arizona State University). Editor of Science, Technology, & Human Values, effective Summer 2012.

Morrison, Daniel. Assistant Professor of Sociology at Pepperdine University, CA.



Technoscience as Activism

Calls for Papers

June 27-29, 2012, Hosted by the Triple Helix, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York

Submission Deadline: March 15, 2012

For submissions and additional Information: <http://www.3helix.rpi.edu/?p=2102> This conference seeks new approaches to interweaving social justice and science/technology. This conference will highlight ways to provoke engineers, social scientists, and the educators of future thinkers into considering new and innovative methods of merging social and technical dimensions of science and engineering research, teaching and practice.

We are accepting 250-word abstracts for presentations made by individuals, to be placed into themed panels. We are also looking for hands-on workshop format presentations or activities to be done in groups by people with a variety of technical and social expertise. Workshop sessions can be submitted by individuals or groups. Limited travel reimbursement may be available.

Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)

October 17-20, 2012, Copenhagen Business School, Frederiksberg, Denmark

Deadline for Abstracts: March 18, 2012

Held jointly with European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST)

“Design and Displacement – Social Studies of Science and Technology.”

We invite papers that address the dynamics and interrelationships between science, technology and society. Papers which address the conference’s theme ‘Design and Displacement’ are especially relevant, but papers on any topic in STS are welcome.

Submit Paper and Session proposals now. All details at:

<http://4sonline.org/meeting>

Program Director, National Science Foundation Science, Technology and Society Program

Job Announcements

Duties include:

- Allocating program resources to maintain a balance of support to meet the field's needs;
- Assessing trends and opportunities in the field with assistance of advisory panel;
- Pursuing affirmative action and EEO goals in selection of reviewers, panelists, and grantees;
- Representing the program to the scientific community and the public;
- Facilitating the transfer of funds from other agencies;
- Establishing contacts and maintaining active involvement in the program field through participation in meetings and conferences and by undertaking other relevant activities;
- Pursuing a personal scholarly agenda, with results presented at professional meetings and published in academic journals, as workload permits;
- Participating in interagency meetings, coordinating groups, special task groups, staff meetings and site visits;
- Interview and recommend selection of support staff.

Applicants must have a Ph.D. or equivalent experience in a scientific discipline supported by NSF. In addition, applicants must have six or more years of successful research, research administration, and/or managerial experience pertinent to the program of interest. Ideal candidates will also have expertise in the social studies of science, science policy, and/or ethics in science.

Closing Date: 02/29/2012

USAJOBS Link: <http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/308181400>

You may also contact Kelly Moore kmoore@nsf.gov or Fred Kronz fkronz@nsf.gov for more information.

Department of Sociology, University of Alabama in Huntsville

Job Announcements

The Department of Sociology invites applications for two tenure-track positions, both at the Assistant Professor level, beginning August 2012. Ideal candidates will be serious educators and scholars—that is individuals who are capable of excellent teaching in a variety of areas and whose research indicates significant potential for peer-reviewed publication in our discipline. In general, we value broadly trained sociologists, and all faculty teach Introduction to Sociology. For Position A we are seeking a quantitative sociologist who can teach undergraduate statistics. Substantive areas of specialization are open but we are particularly interested in candidates who could teach Environmental Sociology, and/or other areas that effectively complement the teaching areas of the department faculty and fit the needs of our program.

For Position B we seek someone who can teach sociological theory. Areas of specialization are open, but in this case we are particularly interested in candidates who can also teach either Sociology of Science and Technology, Sociology of Medicine, Social Stratification, or other areas that effectively complement the teaching areas of the department faculty and fit the needs of our program. A Ph.D. in Sociology is generally required by appointment date. The regular teaching load is three courses per semester. Applications should include Curriculum Vitae, contact information for three references, (including name, address, phone number and email address), and transcripts. These should be sent via email (preferably) to mitch.berbrier@uah.edu or via regular mail to Mitch Berbrier, Chair, Department of Sociology, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL 35899. Deadline for complete applications is March 1, 2012. The University of Alabama in Huntsville is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action institution, and minorities are encouraged to apply.



PhD Scholarship at the Spanish National Research Council, Madrid

Job Announcements

The Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness will offer a PhD scholarship for 4 years, with expected start date of September 2012. The scholarship (FPI) is associated to the research project "Organization and Policies of Promotion in the Context of Academic Careers" at the Institute of Public Goods and Policies (Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), Madrid).

Aim and scope

The objective of the scholarship is to support a doctoral thesis carried out in the context of the project. The project analyzes the organization and policy of academic promotion, both in Europe and in the US. It aims to contribute to the current debate on the role of promotion systems for academic institutions and for stimulating national research excellence. The doctoral researcher is expected to contribute to the development of the project.

Only graduates with university degrees obtained after January 1, 2008 are eligible. Applicants are expected to have completed a degree (Bachelor or Master) that allows enrollment in a PhD program before September 2012. The successful candidate is expected to have enrolled in a doctoral program in economics, management, political science, sociology, etc. in a Spanish university by September 2012. (Note that the Spanish National Research Council does not grant PhD titles.).

The call is open to nationals of all countries. Proficiency in English is required and intentions to learn Spanish if it is not the mother tongue.

Contact information for applicants:

Economics or Management backgrounds: Dr. Natalia Zinovyeva (Natalia.Zinovyeva@cchs.csic.es)

Sociology, Political Sciences, Public Policy and other backgrounds: Prof. Laura Cruz-Castro (Laura.Cruz@csic.es)

Madrid, February 1st, 2012



Tenure-track job in STS at Stevens Institute of Technology

Job Announcements

Science & Technology Studies, Assistant Professor

Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NJ

The College of Arts & Letters (CAL) at Stevens Institute of Technology seeks applicants for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position for a program in Science, Technology and the Humanities (STH) beginning fall 2012. Candidates must hold a Ph.D. in a field relevant to Science & Technology Studies including, but not limited to, Sociology of Science; History and Philosophy of Science and Technology; Public Policy; Science, Technology and Society, etc. A record of research and scholarship is a must.

While the area of specialization for this position is open, strong preference will be given to candidates whose scholarly work engages emerging issues in areas such as energy and natural resources policy; information and communications policy for the digital age; sustainable global development; innovation policy for fields such as biotechnology, nanotechnology, etc. Most important, the successful candidate will demonstrate an ability to work in a dynamic and interdisciplinary environment and a willingness to work collaboratively and collegially across the Institute. Duties include teaching six courses per academic year, academic advising, thesis supervision, student recruiting, and ongoing curricular development.

Candidates interested in applying should prepare an application that includes a current C.V., cover letter, and the names of three referees and submit online at: <http://www.apply2jobs.com/Stevens>.

Preference will be given to applications received by March 15, 2012. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled. All applications must be submitted electronically through the HR website.

Questions may be addressed to: STS Search Committee, College of Arts and Letters, Stevens Institute of Technology, Castle Point on Hudson, Hoboken, NJ 07030; or electronically to CAL@stevens.edu. Stevens Institute of Technology is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The University Paris Est Marne-la-Vallée (UPEMLV), France

Job Announcements

The position will start on September 2012, and is open to French scholars with HDR and “qualification”, as well as to non-French candidates without “qualification” currently teaching as readers or full professors in a university.

Applicants will have a solid record of research, peer reviewed publications at international level, and teaching experience in the field of science and technology studies and/or organization studies. Experience of public and/or private technical and/or scientific organizations is expected.

Application forms can be downloaded from the Galaxie national website where completed files have to be uploaded (we can help!) between February 23 and March 27.

Selection interviews between April 3 and May 25.

Audi Endowed Professorship

For Entrepreneurial Activity, Global Responsibility & Sustainability.

Zeppelin University

The university has recently established the interdisciplinary European Center for Sustainability Research (ECS) for which an Endowed Chair is to be filled, focussing on sustainability research from a social science or cultural studies perspective.

Invitations to the University will be scheduled for April 2012. Applications including a two-page exposé on future research and teaching activities and other customary documents must be submitted solely in digital form by February 29, 2012, to: anja.lesche@zeppelin-university.de

The members of the appointment committee will happily answer any questions, and can be contacted via Ms. Anja Lesche:

Zeppelin University gGmbH | Am Seemooser Horn 20 88045
Friedrichshafen | Tel. +49 7541 6009 1300 | Email contact: anja.lesche@zeppelin-university.de

Newletter Info

Have items for the next issue of the SKAT newsletter?
Please send them to: skatpubcomm@gmail.com. Also, be sure to follow the SKAT-ASA listserve for all the latest announcements: SKAT-ANNOUNCE@listserv.asanet.org.

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Sabrina McCormick (mccor124@msu.edu)

Marion Fourcade (fourcade@berkeley.edu)

Aaron Panofsky (apanofsky@socgen.ucla.edu)

Publications Committee:

Dan Morrison (dan.morrison@vanderbilt.edu)

PJ Rey (Chair) (pjrey.socy@gmail.com)

Elizabeth Sweeney (elizabethsweeney@comcast.net)

Logan D. A. Williams (ldawilliams@gmail.com)