

Program on Science, Technology & Society

Harvard Kennedy School **Fall 2014** Harvard University

WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of STS,

I write with pleasure to update you on another year of exciting developments in the Program on Science, Technology and Society at Harvard. The Program's connections across the University continue to grow and thrive, especially with the Law School, the Graduate School of Design, and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS), where we continue to host the STS Circle. The Circle has expanded to a point where many of our talks are "standing room only," demonstrating the remarkable vitality of STS@Harvard.

On the research front, we have completed another extremely productive year of work on the life sciences, including the first Harvard STS Summer School on "Science and Governance at the Frontiers of Life." Jointly funded by grants from the National Science Foundation and the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion at the University of Cambridge, the one-week Summer School enabled two dozen junior scholars from the US and Europe to engage with a dozen international faculty members in examining the relations between biology and governance through STS lenses.

STS continues to work closely with the Institute for Global Law and Policy (IGLP) at Harvard Law School to develop new research and training opportunities at the intersection of law, science, and technology, particularly on the topic of expertise. This year, we jointly sponsored a lecture by Kenneth Feinberg, the renowned expert on compensation for mass torts and disasters, and a seminar with Ken Kersch, Boston College Associate Professor of Political Science, Law, and History.

Our international focus remains stronger than ever. The University of Vienna's Science and Technology Studies Department hosted the 13th Annual Meeting of the Science and Democracy Network in 2014. In 2015, the meeting will return to Harvard, continuing the pattern of alternating SDN annual meetings between the United States and Europe.

Most importantly, our research and training endeavors continue to flourish, with increasing student participation and interest in the Graduate Secondary Field in STS. In addition, I am delighted to report progress on new research grants, new publications, and new career milestones for former STS Fellows. I invite you to read more about all of these items below.

With best wishes for the new year and thanks for your continued interest and support,

Shula

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

January 31, 2015

Deadline for non-stipendiary fellowship applications

March 25, 2015

Science and Democracy Lecture with Peter Thiel

June 25-27, 2015

14th Science and Democracy Network Annual Meeting, Harvard STS Program, Harvard Kennedy School Cambridge, MA

Find out more online

<http://sts.hks.harvard.edu>

<http://twitter.com/HarvardSTS>

<http://facebook.com/HarvardSTS>



PROGRAM ON SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY

CHRIS HANSEN November 12, 2013

SCIENCE & DEMOCRACY LECTURE SERIES 2013
CHRIS HANSEN
 Lawyer, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Retired

DIS-OWNING NATURE
The BRCA Gene Patents and the Supreme Court

WITH PANELISTS
George M. Church
 Harvard Medical School and Broad Institute
Glenn Cohen
 Harvard Law School
Judy Norsigian
 Our Bodies, Ourselves
Tania Simoncelli
 Former Science Advisor, ACLU

TUESDAY
November 12, 2013
 5:00-7:00pm
 Science Center, Auditorium D
 1 Oxford Street
 Harvard University

MODERATED BY
Sheila Jasanoff
 Harvard Kennedy School

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Chris Hansen, former senior lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union, was the featured speaker in the Fall 2013 Science and Democracy Lecture, “Dis-Owning Nature: The BRCA Gene Patents and the Supreme Court.” Hansen described the tortuous road to the Supreme Court, providing insights into some of the key decisions the ACLU made in pursuing the lawsuit, such as the decision to frame a patent case in civil liberties terms in the first place, and the challenges of acquiring and presenting scientific information throughout the litigation. Hansen also evaluated the impact of the Supreme Court’s decision on subsequent cases, suggesting that the Court did not provide enough guidance to the lower courts on what might be patentable. The panelists, all contributors to the process of bringing the suit, responded with their own candid assessments of its likely impact. Tania Simoncelli (Former Science Advisor, ACLU) and Judy Norsigian (Our Bodies, Ourselves) both emphasized the importance of forming broad coalitions when dealing with such controversies, while George M. Church (Harvard Medical School and Broad Institute) and Glenn Cohen (Harvard Law School) cautioned that while the suit is a great victory in the battle over open access, the war over commercial use of genes is still in motion on both legal and technological grounds. A video of the lecture and panel discussion is available [here](#).

CRAIG CALHOUN April 15, 2014

SCIENCE & DEMOCRACY LECTURE SERIES 2014
CRAIG CALHOUN
 Director, London School of Economics and Political Science

WHAT'S THE PUBLIC FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SCIENCE?

WITH PANELISTS
David Armitage
 Lead C. Beaman Professor of History
Michèle Lamont
 Robert I. Goldman Professor of European Studies
Orlando Patterson
 Joint Co-lead Professor of Sociology

TUESDAY
April 15, 2014
 5:00-7:00pm
 Tsai Lecture Hall, CGIS South
 1730 Cambridge Street
 Harvard University

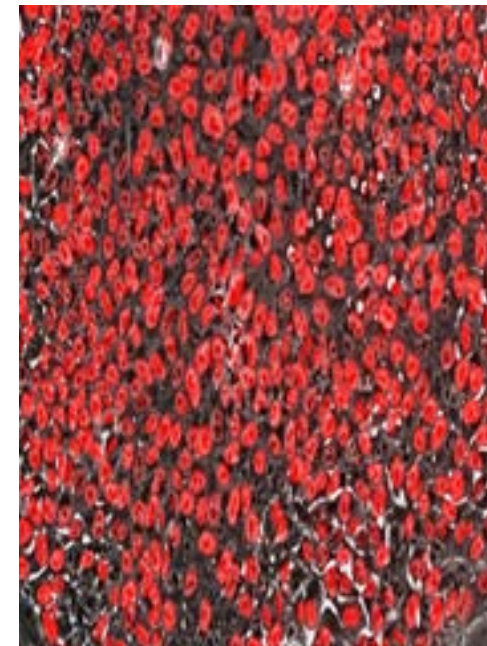
MODERATED BY
Sheila Jasanoff
 Pluribus Professor of Science and Technology Studies

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Craig Calhoun, Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science discussed the relationship between universities, academics, and various notions of the public in his Spring 2014 Science and Democracy Lecture titled “What’s the Public for Public Social Science?”—the 15th lecture in this series. Focusing primarily on the Social Sciences, Calhoun attributed the call for a public social science to a lost sense of purpose among researchers, as well as a reduced cross-disciplinary public arena within universities and less desire to link research to bigger picture questions. Acknowledging the merit of the plea for public social science, Calhoun argued that nonetheless its focus tends to be misstated: just as important as the emphasis on wider dissemination of scientific research results is the need to think how the public influences the research agendas of social scientists. The panelists, Michèle Lamont (Sociology), David Armitage (History), and Orlando Patterson (Sociology, Harvard) commented on how they see the trends described by Calhoun in their respective disciplines and echoed the call to consider the distinctiveness of the social sciences as having thinking subjects who can engage with the products of research. A video of the lecture and panel discussion is available [here](#).

STS Summer School: Science and Governance at the Frontiers of Life



During the week of July 27-August 1, 2014, twenty-five doctoral students from six countries and nineteen universities traveled to Cambridge, MA for the “STS Summer School: Science and Governance at the Frontiers of Life.” This was the third in a series of summer schools on STS and the life sciences co-organized since 2008 by the Harvard STS Program, and the first one hosted in Cambridge. Jointly funded by grants from the National Science Foundation and the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, this year’s Summer School involved a three-way collaboration between Harvard, Arizona State University (J. Benjamin Hurlbut) and the University of Wisconsin-Madison (Krishanu Saha). In the course of five packed 12-hour days, students engaged with a dozen prominent international faculty members on STS approaches to examining the complex relations between biology and governance, from the lab to law courts and beyond. Harvard faculty participants included David Kennedy (Harvard Law School) and Matthew (Willy) Lensch (FAS). The full program and list of faculty are available on the STS Program website.

Science, Identity & Ethnicity: States & Citizens in the Global Knowledge Regime

Science, Ethnicity, & Identity:
 States and Citizens in Global Knowledge Regimes
 An Interdisciplinary Symposium
 April 24-25, 2014
 Harvard University

Thursday, April 24th	Friday, April 25th
Disciplinary Perspectives on Science, Ethnicity & Identity A Roundtable Discussion 5:00pm-7:00pm William James Hall, 1550	Panel I: Law, Governance & Science of Identity Panel II: Scientific Practice and Social Relations Keynote: Nadia Abu El-Haj (Barnard/Columbia) 9:00am-5:00pm Belfer Case Study Room, S-020 CGIS

View the full program and RSVP at <http://scienceidentityethnicity.eventbrite.com>.

Sponsored by the Program on Science, Technology and Society at the Harvard Kennedy School Center for Middle Eastern Studies, the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, the Committee on African Studies, Department of Anthropology, Department of African and African-American Studies, Department of the History of Science, and the Institute for Global Law and Policy at Harvard Law School.

Image: Profile Head with Grid, John Smith, 1918
<http://sts.hks.harvard.edu/>

This two day symposium, held April 24-25, 2014, explored how issues of identity and ethnicity are complicated by recent advances in the biosciences such as genomic sequencing, assisted conception, and prediction of inheritable diseases. Designed by Harvard graduate students Ian McGonigle (an STS Fellow) and Elise Burton, the symposium featured a keynote address by Nadia Abu El-Haj (Columbia University and Barnard College) and panel discussions “Law, Governance and the Science of Identity” and “Scientific Practice and Social Relations.” The event was co-sponsored by the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs; the Committee on African Studies; the Center for Middle Eastern Studies; the Department of Anthropology; the Department of African and African-American Studies; and the Department of the History of Science. Faculty members from those departments and programs contributed to an intense day and a half of discussion on some of the most controversial and wrenching issues confronting genetic medicine. The full program is available [here](#).

The Modern American Right’s Thinking about Expertise

In a joint seminar with the Institute for Global Law and Policy, Professor Ken I. Kersch of Boston College discussed contemporary conservative thinking about the nature and purpose of constitutional law, raising fundamental questions about the role of science and expertise in U.S. politics.

Workshops and Initiatives

Technological Visions & Revisions: An STS Workshop



Technological Visions and Revisions

An STS Workshop

Friday, April 4, 2014
9:00am-5:00pm

Malkin Penthouse, 4th Floor, Littauer Building
Harvard Kennedy School 79 JFK Street

Introduction: Sheila Jasanoff (Harvard Kennedy School, STS Program)
Session I: Nuclear Imaginaries
Session II: Biotechnology's Moral Materialities
Session III: New Solidarities: Humans, Machines, Environments
Keynote: Alfred Nordmann (Technical University of Darmstadt)
Discussion and Closing: Sheila Jasanoff

Organized by the Program on Science, Technology and Society at the Harvard Kennedy School
View the full program and RSVP at technologicalvisionsandrevisions.eventbrite.com.

Photo: "The City Rises" Umberto Boccioni, 1910

<http://sts.hks.harvard.edu/>

This April 4, 2014 workshop brought together several strands of current research on sociotechnical imaginaries in the STS Program. It explored the material, discursive, and political resources with which societies create shared visions of what they want, or do not want, from advances in technology. Panels on "Nuclear Imaginaries," "Biotechnology's Moral Markets," and "New Solidarities: Humans, Machines, Environments" featured current and former STS Fellows including Erik Aarden, Alessandro Blasimme, Margo Boenig-Liptsin, Ben Hurlbut, Zara Mirmalek, Georgia Miller, Kyoko Sato, Daniela Schuh, and Alex Wellerstein. A video of the keynote by Alfred Nordmann (University of Darmstadt, Germany), titled "Beyond Conservation - Revisioning Critiques of Technological Reason," is available on the STS Program website.

How the Law Responds to Unique Catastrophes: Personal Reflections on Tragic Choices

On April 1, 2014, Kenneth R. Feinberg offered personal reflections on how he became the nation's leading expert in compensating victims of unique catastrophes and the principled ways in which he has learned to respond. Feinberg, who oversaw the distribution of payments for a variety of victims' funds including the Federal September 11th Victim Compensation Funds, the BP Oil Spill fund, and the Boston One Fund, discussed difficult issues of achieving a sense of justice in the aftermath of tragedy through the administration of victims' funds. Coincidentally, Feinberg was at that very moment in negotiation with Mary Barra of General Motors regarding his role in administering compensation to victims of GM car crashes in which air bags failed to deploy. His lecture is archived on our website.

"On the Scale of Worlds": Technoscience and Global Governance

On October 10, 2014 the STS Program held a day-long workshop bringing together political science, international relations, and STS scholars for a cross-disciplinary discussion. John Dryzek (Australian National University, Canberra) presented a paper on the governing institutions of the anthropocene. Maximilian Mayer (University of Bonn), a short-term visitor in the Program, discussed the concept of heterogeneous zones in international relations, followed by a commentary from Peter Haas (UMass Amherst). The workshop also featured two panels in which STS fellows and students presented short vignettes about their ongoing research.

Workshops and Initiatives

Science and Democracy Network



The Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Science and Democracy Network was held in Vienna, Austria June 30- July 2, 2014. Hosted by the University of Vienna's Science and Technology Studies Department, the meeting continued the pattern of alternating US and European venues. Presenters addressed a variety of topics, including assisted reproductive technologies, next generation sequencing, democracy in post-Fukushima Japan, and the role of the notary in Colombia. All papers presented are available on the SDN website.

Fourth Annual STS Undergraduate Essay Contest

The STS Undergraduate Essay Contest recognizes independent original research on science, technology and society conducted by undergraduates. STS Fellows read and evaluate their submissions. Lily Ostrer (Social Studies '14) won the prize for her thesis chapter, "Co-Producing the Science and Policy of Child Development." Sandra Korn (History of Science/Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies '14) won an honorable mention for her thesis chapter, "Doing What Comes Naturally: Women's Liberation and the Radical Science Movement." Sandra's thesis also won the Thomas T. Hoopes and Captain Jonathan Fay prizes. Danny Wilson (History of Science '14) won an honorable mention for his thesis chapter, "This Incredible Organ': Brain Mapping During the Decade of the Brain." To see the winners discuss the relationship between STS and their essays, click here.

Training and Curricular Activities

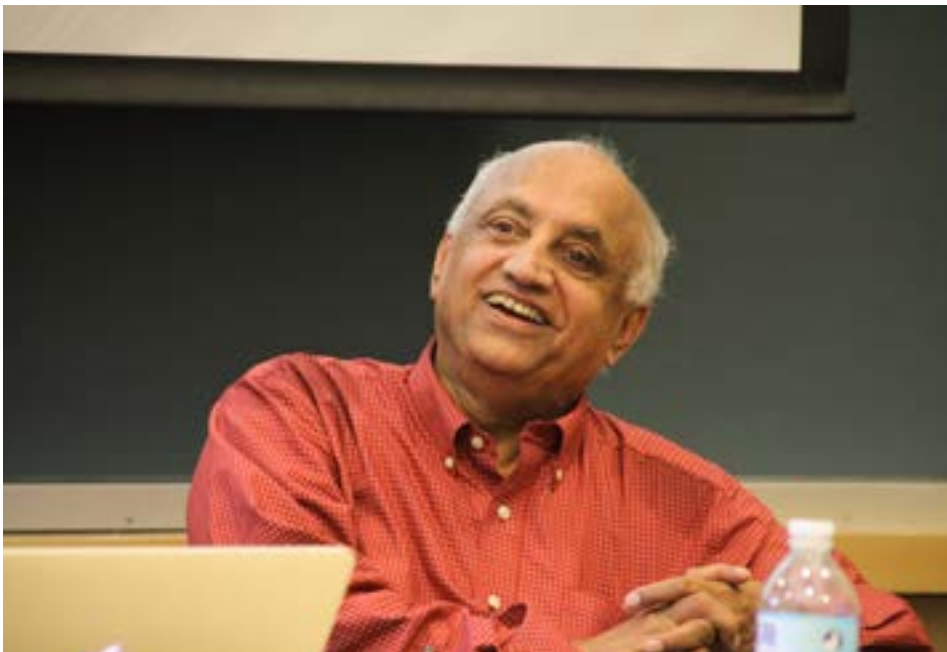
Secondary Field

The Secondary Field in Science, Technology and Society attracts Ph.D. students from varied backgrounds including anthropology, law, design, chemistry, and engineering and applied sciences among others. This year, Secondary Field student Brenna Krieger (Biophysics) presented a Capstone Seminar on “Knowledge Production in the Era of Big Data” to a group of STS Fellows and Secondary Field students.

STS Circle

In the ninth year of the STS Circle, attendance has reached new heights, with audiences regularly spilling out of the seminar room. Drawing on the diversity of the Cambridge academic community and capitalizing on its new proximity to engineering and the sciences, as well as the social sciences and humanities, the STS Circle continues to serve as the most attractive setting for junior and senior scholars from the Cambridge community to present their work on science, technology, and society.

The complete STS Circle program is available at http://sts.hks.harvard.edu/events/sts_circle/.



Research News

“The Fukushima Disaster and the Cultural Politics of Nuclear Power in the United States and Japan”

Funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation, the STS Program continued its investigation into the impact of the 2011 Fukushima disaster on nuclear discourses and politics in Japan and the United States. Led by Principal Investigator Sheila Jasanoff at Harvard and Senior Researcher Kyoko Sato at Stanford, the three-year project (2013-16) examines sociotechnical imaginaries that anchored postwar nuclear governance in the two countries, as well as how, through the process of interpreting and addressing the Fukushima disaster, these imaginaries are being refined and modified. Sato has made three trips to Japan to conduct interviews, visit Fukushima, and collect media data in Japanese. She is currently analyzing the data while embarking on the data collection for the US case.

Research on Remote Presence Technologies

STS Fellow Zara Mirmalek’s research on access to remote environments and human-technology relationships continues on the NSF INSPIRE project, “Transforming Remotely-conducted Research through Ethnography, Education, & Rapidly Evolving Technologies” (TREET) <http://www.who.edu/treet>. In Fall 2014, she conducted participant-observation alongside scientists physically located on-shore working in real-time with scientists and a robot located 2000 miles away in the Caribbean investigating the active sea-floor volcano, Kick’em Jenny. In this work, Zara both contributes to the sociotechnical processes of telepresence and science and has unique research access to the sociotechnical network of relationships between scientists, media, and the public. A paper discussing the work of the TREET project will be presented at the American Geophysical Union on December 14.

Bioconstitutionalism

The “Biology and the Law” project, funded by the Uses and Abuses of Biology grant program at Cambridge University’s Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, compares emerging legal principles around stem cell research and synthetic biology in Britain, Germany and the US. This year, the project homed in on the role of Embryonic Stem Cell Research Oversight Committees (ESCROs) in the United States, as well as on the detailed history of the German law regulating embryos. Postdoctoral Fellow Rachel Douglas-Jones (IT University, Copenhagen) conducted interviews with ESCROs at Harvard, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Arizona State University. This work will provide important insight into how stem cell issues are deliberated and resolved. This fall, Amy Hinterberger, joined the project as a postdoctoral fellow to work on the British cases and the study of ethics committees. The project is co-directed by Sheila Jasanoff (Harvard), Ben Hurlbut (ASU), and Kris Saha (University of Wisconsin).

NEW FELLOWS

Lydie Cabane (Fall 2014)
Post-doctoral Fellow, Institute for Research on Innovation and Society (IFRIS); CERMES3 (Research Center on Health, Medicine, Science, and Society), Paris, France.

Gabriel Dorthé
Ph.D. candidate, University of Lausanne, Switzerland and Sorbonne University (Paris I), France

Rachel Douglas-Jones (April-May & October 2014)
Postdoctoral Fellow, STS Program, “Biology and the Law”/Postdoctoral fellow, IT University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Paulo Fonseca
Junior Researcher, Centre for Social Studies - University of Coimbra, Portugal

Mascha Gugganig
Ph.D. candidate, University of British Columbia, Canada

Amy Hinterberger (Fall 2014)
Postdoctoral Fellow, STS Program, “Biology and the Law”/Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Warwick, UK

Natalie Mevissen (Fall 2014)
Ph.D. candidate, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin; Research fellow, WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Germany

NEW FELLOWS cont.

Zoe Nyssa
Environmental Fellow, STS Program/Harvard University Center for the Environment

Aleksandar Rankovic (Spring 2015)
Ph.D. candidate, Ecology, Université Pierre et Marie Curie-Paris VI

Matthew Sample
Ph.D. candidate, Philosophy, University of Washington

Claire Stockwell
D.Phil. student, Center for Socio-legal studies, Oxford University, UK

Samantha Vanderslott (Spring 2015)
Ph.D. candidate, Science and Technology Studies, University College London, UK

Shana Vijayan (Fall 2014)
National Health Services, UK

Alexander Wentland (Fall 2014)
Ph.D. candidate, Innovation Society Today Program, Technical University of Berlin, Germany

Fellows Milestones

Erik Aarden (2012-2014) accepted a postdoctoral position at the Department of Science and Technology Studies, University of Vienna in September 2014. Together with former STS fellows Alessandro Blasimme, Luca Marelli, and Dustin Holloway, he successfully applied for a workshop at the Brocher Foundation in Switzerland. The workshop on “Making Sense of Clinical Translation: Ethical, Regulatory and Policy Challenges for Europe and the US” will be held at the Foundation on May 18-19, 2015.

Sonja M. Amadae (2013-2014) will publish her second book, *Prisoners of Reason: Game Theory and Neoliberal Political Economy*, with Cambridge University Press. She co-authored, with Daniel Lempert, “The Long Term Viability of Team Reasoning,” in the *Journal of Economic Methodology*, forthcoming in June, 2015. She also published “Neoclassical Economics,” in the *Encyclopedia of Political Thought* (Wiley) in September, 2014.

Gabriele Abels (Spring 2012) published, along with Alexander Kobusch and Jennifer Traesch, “Scientific Regulatory Cooperation within the EU: On the relationship between EFSA and national food authorities” in Alberto Alemanno and Simone Gabbi’s *Foundations of EU Food Law & Policy: 10 Years of European Food Safety Authority* (London: Ashgate 2014).

Ari Barell (Spring 2014) published his book, *Engineer King: David Ben-Gurion, Science and Nation Building* (Ben Gurion Research Institute Press, 2014). The book examines David Ben-Gurion’s views and policies toward science and technology and his relations with scientists and experts. In it, Ari follows the profound and symbiotic relations that developed between the emerging Israeli political center and the scientific establishments in the young country that Ben-Gurion served as its first Prime Minister.

Ruha Benjamin (2012-2013) joined Princeton University in the Center for African American studies, with secondary appointments in the Program on History of Science and the Center for Health and Wellbeing. Her most recent publication, “Racial Destiny or Dexterity? The Global Circulation of Genomics as an Empowerment Idiom,” is forthcoming

in *Reimagining Biomedicalization, Pharmaceuticals, and Genetics: Old Critiques and New Engagements*, edited by Susan E. Bell and Anne Figert (Routledge 2015). She was also named an Honorary Research Associate at the Centre for Indian Studies in Africa at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Aurelien Bouayad (Fall 2013) presented a paper entitled “Anthropology at the Bar: a Contribution in Law and STS” at the Democracy, Rights and Reason(s) Workshop at the University of Westminster, London in February 2014.

Mads Dahl Gjefsen (2011-2013) began working for the Norwegian Board of Technology, where he will run a project investigating the treatment of technological change and disruption in long-term government planning in Norway.

Jim Dratwa (2001-2003), Adviser to the President of the European Commission, has been appointed Global Fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. His latest research and publications inquire into security and surveillance technologies, citizen engagement and citizen science, health and solidarity, formation of values and institutionalization of ethics.

Iris Eisenberger (2008-2009) successfully completed her habilitation in September. Her thesis, entitled “Innovation in Law,” covered Constitutional and Administrative Law, including the related field of European Law. In November she was appointed to a tenure-track position at the Law Faculty of the University of Vienna.

Connie Johnston (2012-2013) authored chapters in two forthcoming books: *The Political Ecology of Meat*, edited by J. Emel and H. Neo (Earthscan) and (as co-author with J. Emel and E. Stoddard) *Critical Animal Geographies*, edited by R. Collard and K. Gillespie (Routledge).

Zara Mirmalek (2013-2015) co-authored with Sophia Efstathiou “Interdisciplinarity in Action” in *Philosophy of Social Science*, edited by Nancy Cartwright and Eleonora Montuschi (Oxford University Press, 2014).

Cormac O’Rafeartaigh (2010-2011) made news in 2014 with the discovery of a hitherto unknown model

Fellows Milestones

of the universe by Albert Einstein. The discovery was published in the *European Physical Journal* and presented at the International Conference on the History of Physics at Cambridge University. It was covered by *Nature*, *Scientific American*, *The New York Times*, and *Huffington Post*. In January, Cormac was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Sebastian Pfotenhauer (2011-14), concurrently a Researcher at MIT’s Engineering Systems Division, recently received a tenure track offer at TU Munich, Germany. As Carl von Linde Professor for Innovation Research, Sebastian was recruited specifically to bring insights from STS and public policy to bear on ongoing engineering research and technological innovation at TU Munich. A recent publication is Pfotenhauer, “Trade Policy is Science Policy,” *Issues in Science and Technology* (Fall 2013).

Thomas Pfister (2010-2011) received a substantial grant from the German Federal Ministry for Education and Culture (BMBF) to investigate the role of knowledge production in the context of sustainable energy transformations. His EnergyCultures research group, which he now directs at Zeppelin University (Friedrichshafen, Germany), includes three PhD students and will run for four years.

Janina Schirmer (2007-2008) successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis on policy change in European Union research and technology policy, using the example of nanotechnology, at Bielefeld University in 2012. It recently became available online (in German).

Samuel Taylor-Alexander (2009-2010) published his book *On Face Transplantation: Life and Ethics in Experimental Biomedicine* last August (Palgrave Macmillan). In January 2015 he will be moving to the School of Law, University of Edinburgh as a Senior Research Fellow - Medical Anthropologist on the Wellcome Trust funded project “Confronting the Liminal Spaces of Health Research Regulation.”

Shana Vijayan (Fall 2014) was a guest editor for a new poetry publication “Revolution.” Compiled by Black & BLUE and a group of guest editors working

in various disciplines, the anthology of creative literature reminds us that poetic writing has the ability to break down barriers. It is a brilliantly green book of 120 pages, containing intensely beautiful poetry.

Sam Weiss Evans (2009-2011) rejoined Harvard after three years as Associate Director of Research for UC Berkeley’s Center for Science, Technology, Medicine & Society (CSTMS). From January 2015, he will be a Lecturer in the History of Science, while also maintaining his Affiliate Research Fellow position at MIT’s Center for International Studies. He is continuing to study and engage with the synthetic biology community on their construction and governance of security concerns.

