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### Digital Methods: First Steps

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# EASST *Review*

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*cover illustration: "Bombproof – and trashproof – Beirut trashbin". Courtesy of Ralf Brand, Manchester University*

# Busy, busy, busy ...

*Editorial*

by: Ann R. Sætnan

Manfred Kreuzwirth seems to be a busy man. Or perhaps just the opposite, a man with time on his hands, since he also seems to be quite the Renaissance Man – extremely multi-lingual and with interests in myriad fields. Or is he a CIA agent poking his nose into Arabic, Polish, Vietnamese, Serbian, Czech, etc. web sites, checking up on people who claim to be discussing home sales, gardening, P2P teaching, computer games, fishing, gig posters, Michael Jackson, football, tourism, Slobodan Milosevic, the comedy of Joe Frank, elves, African-American culture, the music of Chopin ...? I've never met him, so how do I know this about him? I "googled" him.

Manfred Kreuzwirth showed up in my email inbox requesting membership in our discussion forums (<http://www1.svt.ntnu.no/forum/easst/index.php>). His name wasn't on the EASST membership list, but we might have new members who aren't listed there yet, so I googled him. I found over 60 pages of "hits" for his name – all of them memberships in discussion forums, all of them (that I checked and that showed dates) dated within 24 hours of signing up for EASST Discussion Forums, none of them showing any posts. One site based in Poland reports that "Manfred Kreuzwirth is an unknown quantity at this point." That's only because they didn't google him. Manfred Kreuzwirth, or ManfredKreuzwirth, or Manfred\_Kreuzwirth is, of course, a non-human actor, a "bot." So are JessiTomei, MashaOlssen, AliseCarter, JeremyMcBacter, CarrieRodriguez, CharlieRoberts, Milena\_Mila, and RachelSimpson. In fact, they may all be the same bot, programmed to generate new names from time to time, or to steal them from human actors. Rachel Simpson, for instance, appears also to be at least one human actor with an on-line presence. But "she", or rather her "name-twin", is also clearly a bot, hacking her way into various discussion forums.

Why are they seeking membership in EASST forums? I can't say for sure; I don't have the skills to counterhack them and analyze their codes. Some seem to be "selling" (probably just taking money and not delivering) cut-priced and/or limited access products such as drugs, CDs, videos, and porn. Some are probably planting malware, infiltrating computers to plant information-tapping devices or destructive "worms", "trojans" and other types of "viruses".

None of these bots have managed to get past our own forums' last line of defence – me. Yet. They have, however, now found a way past the distorted-random-letters function, once thought to protect effectively against non-human actors. For a while, that function had stemmed the tide. Now I am again

receiving 50 or more false sign-ups per day. I feel sure we don't want these bots running freely on web sites where we might leave any personal information, like our email address, work affiliation, name, gender, age, or information on our academic and other interests. I feel sure that any of us who want to buy Viagra, Cialis, or the latest "cheap drugs" offering, Tamiflu, can find them from more reliable sources. Therefore new member sign-ups are kept on a waiting list as inactive. Several times a week I check the list. Once in a while there is an EASST member amongst them, so I take the time to read each username and check any that seem at all likely. Then I activate those that prove to be EASST members or other STSers and delete the rest. This is why I still request that members sign up using a recognizable version of their real-life name. Once your membership has been activated, you are welcome to change how your name will appear in discussions.

Of course, all this checking and deleting takes time – several hours per week now. The question becomes: Do we keep up the experiment in hopes that it will take off, in hopes that it will prove to be a first step on the road towards turning EASST Review into a fully refereed, perhaps open-refereed, on-line journal? Or ... do we give up, leaving the cyberdiscussions field to commercial interests who can afford to pay for editorial and on-line security services? It's up to you. So far our discussions forum has clearly not reached critical mass: We have twenty forum members and no responses to posts. But I'm willing to keep trying.

After all, it's not that we have nothing to say to one another. We have lively discussions, academic and otherwise, when we meet at conferences. Perhaps we can also continue on-line between meetings. Perhaps we can even be sociable and analytical at the same time by having an informal discussion on how cybercrime affects cybercommunities and how we might go about researching that theme, or for that matter dealing with it. Must we bombproof our website by welding it shut like a Beirut trashbin, rendering it useless at the same time? Can we find more constructive solutions? Or are we just all too busy, busy, busy?

I wish you all a restful summer, but also a productive one. Here's hoping that at least those of us researching various aspects of distanced and digital communications (see the workshop report that follows) are productive. Perhaps they can help us to achieve the promise of connectedness digital communications offer, yet avoid being invaded by the very monsters we create in the process.

# Digital Methods: First Steps

*Amsterdam Workshop Report*

by: Michael Stevenson and Richard Rogers,  
Media Studies, University of Amsterdam

In January 2009 the Digital Methods Initiative commenced with its four-year program of seminars (two per year) and international progress conferences (one per year), the latter named after the once annual event in Science & Technology Dynamics at the University of Amsterdam. The Digital Methods Initiative (<http://www.digitalmethods.net>) is an ongoing collaboration among new media researchers at the University of Amsterdam, seeking to rework method for the Web. Among the key concepts from digital methods that appear in the following are digital groundedness, the technicity of content as well as post-demographics. The workshop report concludes with the research opportunities discussed, including a Google theory of power.

Present at the inaugural Digital Methods research seminar were the Initiative's director Richard Rogers, coordinator-researchers Sabine Niederer and Esther Weltevrede, researchers Erik Borra, Andrea Fiore, Marijn de Vries Hoogerwerff, Michael Stevenson and Laura van der Vlies, and invited participant Lanu Kim, the exchange student who arrived days before from South Korea. Seven papers, distributed to participants beforehand, were introduced and discussed in four sessions.

## *Google as Inculpable Engine*

In the first session, both Rogers and de Vries Hoogerwerff presented work on critical approaches to Google. In "The Googlization Question, and the Inculpable Engine," Rogers explores what other effects might characterize 'Googlization,' generally understood as media concentration, and outlines a research agenda in terms of 'back-end' and 'front-end' Googlization, drawing from his book, *Information Politics on the Web* (MIT Press, 2004). Where back-end effects may refer to attempts (by Yahoo, Microsoft and others) to emulate Google's search engine algorithm, front-end effects include the reproduction of the engine's minimalist aesthetic. Subsequent discussion attempted to further identify a Google-specific form of power, and revolved primarily around the search engine company's unique status as a "blame-avoidance" machine, first expressed in Google's own parlance, "Don't Be Evil."

If this is to be an accurate description of

Google's strength, one must account for at least one anomaly. Marijn de Vries Hoogerwerff's paper, "Cybercosmopolitanism: The Other Californian Ideology," deals with the backlash that followed Google's decision to censor search returns in China. He draws on Google's decision and publicly declared rationale, as well as reactions from prominent bloggers and Google critics, to reflect on what Richard Barbrook and Andy Cameron previously termed "the Californian ideology," and to speculate on its transformation through cultural, commercial and legal concerns. Perhaps most significantly, de Vries Hoogerwerff concludes by recasting the Google China issue as a missed opportunity for proponents and critics of Google to question what he calls a belief in the democracy of the algorithm.

## *"Wikipedia researchers forgot the bots"*

The following session shifted focus to two novel concepts central to Digital Methods research. The first is networked content, which refers broadly to content that is 'held together' or otherwise maintained by virtue of its networked form. In "Wikipedia and the Vigilance of the Crowd," Sabine Niederer details the role of bots and software-assisted users in content creation and upkeep on Wikipedia. Her findings include an inventory of the various kinds of bots and software used, the authority bots hold (having fewer permissions than administrators, but more than registered users) and the relative bot-dependency of different language Wikipedias. Additionally, Niederer's work sheds new light on previous Wikipedia research. The various analysts and commentators who have entered false information in Wikipedia articles in attempts to confirm or debunk narratives about the site's reliability, she argues, were perhaps not testing 'reliability' in the conventional sense, but rather the technicity of Wikipedia content – the ability of bots, RSS feeds, alerts and the like to point contributors to erroneous edits.

A second concept central to the Digital Methods project is digital groundedness, which inverts epistemological approaches that assess the Web's knowledge against claims 'on the ground,' and asks instead what claims about reality may be

made on the basis of digital measures. In her National Webs project, Esther Weltevrede's has developed a periodization of the Web from the perspective of topology: authored first by notions of cyberspace and virtuality, the Web is increasingly organized regionally and nationally by technological arrangements (e.g. IP-to-Geo location technology), demonstrated by such services as the Google and Yahoo search engines. As the Web is made more local, new avenues for inquiry are opened. Specifically, Weltevrede is developing methods and tools for demarcating and characterizing national Webs, sketching for example the prominence of non-governmental organizations on the Palestinian Web.

#### *Web Machines as Interpolators as opposed to Extrapolators*

The two afternoon sessions treated objects of study conventionally grouped under the heading Web 2.0. Erik Borra contributed a review of 'post-demographics,' a term used in past Digital Methods research to refer to the preferences, interests and connections entered into databases, distinguishable from variables traditionally accounted for by demographers (e.g. age, race, income, etc.). What story does one's registered 'features,' from friends to favorite books, tell, and how is this information put to use? Crucial to business models that rely on product recommendation (canonically, Amazon's system based on past purchases), post-demographics also provide sociologists with large data sets for research on social networking. Borra suggests that beyond commercial profiling and the focus on social networking behavior, key research in this area should focus on the derived or 'hidden' attribute. In other words, research that does not extrapolate from, but rather interpolates new or previously concealed properties from existing data. An example is the project vriendjespolitiek.net, also by Borra and colleagues, which profiles political parties in the Netherlands based on data from the popular social networking site Hyves.

#### *Theorizing Open Source and Blogging*

With "The Bazaar and the Cloud," Andrea Fiore presented research into the relationship between free and open source software (FLOSS) and the 'software as service' paradigm that relies on cloud computing. Following Tiziana Terranova, Fiore argues against a dichotomous view of open source struggling against the proprietary forces of such software providers as Google, and instead seeks to highlight their interdependence. After reviewing back-end symbiosis – the FLOSS-enabled

infrastructure of cloud computing – Fiore turns to what he calls a front-end strategy of "controlled openness." The strategy is epitomized by the application programming interface (API): "By releasing open source libraries that wrap its own APIs into the control language of specific programming languages or operating systems, a service like Google mobilizes crowds of programmers in the work of building new front-ends" for its services. Reflecting back on the question of Googlization, discussion turned to both the possibility (and desirability) for open source developers to maintain a position outside the mix of proprietary software and open source that 'software as service' appears to require.

In the day's final presentation, Michael Stevenson discussed recent work on the rise of blogging in the 1990s. Stevenson sees common ground in theories of blogging from Geert Lovink and Henry Jenkins, and builds on these to theorize the medium's early development as the fabrication of an alternative media practice, one that deliberately sought to move beyond the subculture-mainstream divide. Drawing on initial attempts by users and commentators to characterize the medium, he argues that blogging signaled a turn away from the subcultural roots of the Web (including the virtual communities that blogging succeeded) and was simultaneously conflated with shifting definitions of the Web's purpose.

#### *Google's Power Theory and Other Research Thoughts*

The concluding plenary session discussed new research opportunities in a kind of top ten list provided by Rogers, together with the participants. (Only seven are covered here.) First, Google was described as an inculpable engine because of the increasing personalization of its results. One has oneself to blame, in part, for the results. Though not necessarily Google-specific, the ability to cast aside blame for its output is suggestive of a form of power Google has assumed. Relatedly, the idea of its democratic algorithm, with sites voting for other sites by linking, and the machine ultimately outputting what the search engine industry calls 'organic results,' also fits into thoughts of a blame-avoidance machine. (There was an invitation to think through how Lewis Mumford's model of democratic versus authoritarian technics would be affected, as well as those built upon it.) Second, again with respect to Google, is another larger issue of how to do user studies. Normally, users are observed, interviewed, or surveyed. In standard registrational approaches their eyes may be tracked

with an apparatus. However, Google is performing its very own form of user studies by treating the user as a data set, with preferences, a history and a location. It is also providing ‘user feedback,’ that is, results tailored in a variety of ways. Should method follow object, how might Google’s example be followed to innovate in approaches to the user?

Third, the Web, especially the projects that order it, has seen a gradual decline in editors, with the algorithmic engine (in Yahoo and Google) winning out over the special directory projects (Yahoo’s own and Google’s engine on top of Dmoz.org, the Open Directory Project). Something similar holds for Wikipedia’s collective authorship, over the editorial authorship of old, however much Wikipedia struggles with and sometimes seeks to straddle the two models. It was pointed out, fourthly, that there is an urgency to study the relationship between Google and Wikipedia, as their relationships are manifold. One of the more interesting ones is the collective editorship process of putting an article up for deletion, because the subject matter returns little or no results in Google. Thus Google becomes the authorizing entity for Wikipedia. In the study of Wikipedia to date, much attention has been placed on the vigilance of the Wikipedian community, and especially the community’s capacity to spot errors and vandals. What is missing from Wikipedia studies – the fifth point – is a symmetrical attention to the software bots (as opposed to the heroic humans). The question arose as to the status of previous Wikipedia studies that have left out the bots.

In the discussion of Internet censorship and Google in China, researchers worldwide are generally aware of how and when China censors,

thanks to the work of the University of Toronto and Harvard University. However, what is remarkable (sixth point) is it appears that Google, in complying with Chinese censorship practice, makes its own blacklists! Google fetches pages through machines in China to check whether they are blocked, and subsequently updates its own search engine outputs, removing those pages blocked in China. In a perverse sense such a practice would make Google into one of the more thorough Internet censorship research organizations.

The remaining points concern the politics of code, and how they affect research. One discussion (seventh and last point) revolved around the APIs, the data feeds provided by engines for the purposes of research and mash-ups. Owing to the small data sets they furnish (limited number of queries per day), it is difficult to gather a sufficient data population. Rather than rely on APIs fully – Google pulled one of theirs, leaving researchers and others without data – there is the other data-collection practice called ‘scraping,’ or sometimes ‘screen-scraping.’ But too much scraping prompts the engines and other services to block the data collection. The larger issue concerns researchers’ abilities to analyze engines, if the APIs provide too little, and scraping is punished.

Note

The Digital Methods Initiative is online at <http://www.digitalmethods.net/>.

Michael Stevenson is pursuing a PhD in Media Studies, University of Amsterdam. Richard Rogers holds the chair in New Media & Digital Culture, University of Amsterdam.



# President's Message

by: Fred Steward

I am delighted to be taking on the role of President of EASST for the next 4 years. First of all, many thanks from me and the Council for the leadership and energies of Christine Hine, who has led the organization so ably and left it in such good shape.

As I stated in my election address I am committed to ensure that EASST strengthens its role as the broad and inclusive voice of the international science, technology & innovation studies community. During the next 12 months we will be reviewing the position of the organization in order to achieve this and initiating a discussion among the membership.

The next EASST conference, provisionally titled, 'Practising science and technology - interfaces of organizing and communicating' will be in Trento, Italy on 2-4 September 2010. We held a meeting of the new EASST council in Trento in May 2009 in order to prepare for this event. This is going to be an excellent conference in a great place. The Faculty of Sociology has first class facilities and is in a wonderful location in the Dolomites. Staff at the University and their colleagues in STS Italia will be our knowledgeable hosts. It is a small and delightful town

and there will be a ceiling of 600 participants – my advice is to make sure that you book early to avoid disappointment.

The conference will be designed to involve a range of specialist networks in its organisation. The initial call which will be published in September will ask for proposals for streams to run through the whole conference as well as nominating the people who will take responsibility for them. The organisation of these streams will then be assigned to those selected so it will be a more decentralised model. This is an interesting experiment which should deliver good results.

The Council meeting in Trento was a rewarding experience and members should be assured that they have elected an energetic and enthusiastic team. We have also instituted a new administrative support structure managed by Dr Sonia Liff. A priority is to get the membership subscriptions up to date and you will have heard from us with regard to this. Please respond soon or, if your contact details have changed, please email [admin@easst.net](mailto:admin@easst.net)

## Reminder: Members' Benefits

EASST members are now offered reduced rate subscriptions to the following journals:

Science as Culture

[www.tandf.co.uk/journals/csac](http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/csac)

New Genetics and Society

[www.tandf.co.uk/journals/engs](http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/engs)

Please follow the links and select "News and Offers" to sign up for these journals directly with the publisher.

## Conferences and Calls for Papers

**“Changing cultures: cultures of change”** is the name of the international conference to be held on **December 10-12, 2009, Barcelona, Spain**. A call for papers has been issued. Across disciplines, topological or intensive approaches to the study of culture treat change as normal and immanent rather than exceptional and externally determined. In these approaches, cultures are defined by the possibilities they offer for change rather than by

their size, location or essence. These approaches thus provide a set of tools and concepts to think about different levels and kinds of change – learning, transmission, innovation, adaptation, self-organisation and evolution. This conference asks: what is the potential of topological and other intensive approaches to culture and space for thinking about change? It explores the value of thinking about culture as a privileged site or mechanism



for change, but it also asks how and why the question of change is being posed in relation to culture today. This question is especially important at a time when calculation and complex technical systems have become ubiquitous elements of human life, in specialised sites of scientific enquiry and in everyday life. In contemporary society, numbers do not just describe but they construct and – in topological thinking - take on virtual properties, building abstract spaces of calculation and opening up the possibility of new perspectives on the questions of cultural predictability and innovation. What are the tools, techniques and artifacts of thinking topologically about cultural change? What spaces do they make? How can the current development of a material culture of topological thinking be taken into account, reflexively, as a research topic? What are the cultural implications of the growth of technical systems, quantitative calculation and ideas and procedures concerned with number, counting, and logic, the increase in lists and registers, and the rise of logistics, of innovations in thinking about linkages and technologies of address, and the combination and organization of these operations into systems in everyday life? What kinds of engagement are adequate to the task of thinking and acting in response? Finally, the conference will also address issues of method, and in particular examine the current interest in the use of quantitative methods to investigate and understand qualitative change. Can anything – or everything – be measured in numbers? What role do modeling, simulation and experimentation have in the study of culture? How can we understand cultures of quantification? What are the implications of studying culture for the uses and meanings of numbers? Speakers will be drawn from across the humanities and the social and natural sciences, from architecture, design, mathematics, physics, biology, medicine and AI, with plenary presentations from Rosi Braidotti, Manuel DeLanda, J. Dooyne Farmer, Matthew Fuller, Alex Galloway, Penny Harvey, Scott Lash, Richard Rogers, Luc Steels, Eyal Weizmann. Participants are invited to explore these questions in relation to four broad areas of

cultural change, though other domains are not excluded: Media – networks, digital methods, interface, algorithm, ubiquity, emergency, trash and spam, identification, communication and interaction. Markets – models, probability, crisis, performance, devices, cultures of quantification, noise, financialization. Migration – movement, state spaces and spaces of passibility, lines and borders, flows, blocks and stoppages. Mind – consciousness, language, the human, imitation and evolution. There will be special events for industry and policymakers, with a focus on social and cultural trends, different ways to think about predictability and the management of cultural change, in relation to processes of innovation. There will also be special events from graduate students, with an opportunity to participate in a training workshop. Further information about these events will be announced on ATACD website, <http://www.atacd.net>. **The deadline for paper submissions to the conference is Thursday 28 May 2009.** Abstracts with a max length of 300 words will need to be submitted online in text only format (no diagrams, tables or graphs are permitted). Full instructions for online submission can be found on the Conference home page at: [http://www.atacd.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=27&Itemid=40](http://www.atacd.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27&Itemid=40).

In the **workshop on Social Technology**, to be held in **Amsterdam** on **2 October**, we seek to address two deeply ingrained aspects of current Science and Technology Studies: the focus on material technology, and the idea that all technology is social. Devices, machines, artifacts take central place in STS, in keeping with the common sense meaning of the word 'technology'. Combined with STS's traditional focus on natural science and medicine, this has resulted in a relative neglect of technologies that stem from the social sciences, in which material devices are less prominent. Moreover, through the influence of actor-network theory in particular, the idea has taken root that material technology forms the glue of our society (the 'missing masses'), as well as being its main source of change. Material technology is considered to be at the heart of society, and

the dichotomy of the social and the technological is rejected: all technology is social, and society is technological through and through. We wish first of all to redress the imbalance inherent in the material view of technology. The social sciences produce great numbers of graduates each year, skilled in technologies that are to a large extent intangible: psychotherapy, focus groups, various types of interview, techniques of human resource management, and many others. Such practices have of course been the subject of historical and sociological study, often from a Foucauldian perspective. However, applying the conceptual resources of STS may bring into better view the socio-material construction processes involved in practical social science, its particular affordances and trade-offs, and embeddedness in technoscientific networks. Secondly, we want to problematize the popular 'dissolution of the social': the widely accepted proposition that the category of 'the social' is at best increasingly irrelevant, and at worst a fundamental mistake. Rethinking old dichotomies such as that of nature and culture, or the material and the social, has been of tremendous importance in reflecting on our current ways of living. However, the fact that it is no longer acceptable as a theoretical resource, does not make the social any less interesting as an empirical phenomenon. The distinctiveness of people and their interactions is still invoked, produced, repressed, and utilized in many technological assemblages, not only those stemming from the social sciences. We propose the term 'social technology' to cover these issues, and intend to bring together a number of scholars from Science and Technology Studies and the Social Sciences to discuss them. The workshop will be the occasion to address the following questions, through theoretical and conceptual reflections and empirically-oriented contributions: What is the current scope of technology studies and to what extent can it embrace social technologies? Which social technologies are especially prominent in contemporary culture, and how can we study these? Does a reframing of 'technology' enable STS to better explore the workings of social science and humanities? How can the term

social technology allow a study of human qualities, without assuming a priori a human essence? Papers that compare the role of predominantly material technologies in building and stabilizing 'collectives' with the role of social technologies are also welcome, as are papers that address social technologies as (1) technologies from the social sciences, (2) technologies that consist entirely or predominantly of human action (polling, rhetoric, and psychotherapy are examples of social technology in this sense) or (3) technologies for the creation and maintenance of groups. Thanks to generous support from the Netherlands Graduate School of Science, Technology and Modern Culture (WTMC), there is no registration fee. Some funding is available to cover travel to the workshop. The workshop will be hosted by the Virtual Knowledge Studio for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Amsterdam. The organizers are Maarten Derksen (University of Groningen, The Netherlands, m.derksen@rug.nl), Signe Vikkelsø (Copenhagen Business School, Denmark, ssv.ioa@cbs.dk) and Anne Beaulieu (Virtual Knowledge Studio, The Netherlands, anne.beaulieu@vks.knaw.nl). **Deadline for submissions of 400-600 word abstracts: 30 May 2009.** Send to m.derksen@rug.nl. Announcement of paper acceptance: end of June 2009. Deadline for full papers: 22 August 2009. Workshop: 2 October 2009

Registration is now open for the **2009 4S Annual Meeting, October 28 to November 1, Washington, DC. Register before July 1** and save. Non-members, join 4S while registering and save money. Members, renew while registering and avoid a separate transaction later. Full meeting details at <http://www.4sonline.org/meeting.htm>.

A call for papers has been issued for the **Workshop on Urban Laboratories: towards a STS of the Built Environment**, to be held on **5-6 November 2009** at **Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Maastricht University**, the Netherlands. It is organized by the Manchester Architecture Research Centre and Maastricht Virtual Knowledge Studio. This workshop

follows a recent argument by Collier, Lakoff and Rabinow (2006) in highlighting the relevance of the laboratory concept for the human sciences and proposes to analyse the urban built environment as an assemblage of local knowledge claims, collaborations and emergent interactions. This approach highlights – following a veritable tradition in STS - the contingent cultural and institutional dimensions of knowledge production. Such a shift allows for a more ethnographic investigation of laboratory dynamics and creates awareness of the heterogeneity of urban laboratories: besides academic research institutions, it might also be productive to investigate policy think tanks, planning departments, economic development agencies, architectural firms and creative clusters as urban laboratories. Despite increasing references to the notion of laboratory in specific urban development and policy projects, sustained research on the role of these and other laboratories in shaping and transforming our cities is almost absent. This seems to reflect a broader trend in STS: after foundational work in the 1970s and 1980s that investigated the socio-cultural and technical context of knowledge production, this once active field of laboratory studies is now rather neglected (Kohler 2008) and Karin Knorr Cetina's hope in a 1995 review essay that laboratory studies could be further extended by investigating "processes of laboratorization" (163) in a variety of settings has hardly been realized. This workshop aims to contribute to this extension by revisiting the theoretical notion of laboratory and by investigating the ways in which this notion can be productively put to work in our analysis of the urban built environment. Three dimensions are central in this regard. Dimension 1: we still know very little of the actual dynamics involved in the emergence and reproduction of urban laboratories. Research, however, needs to avoid the internalist bias of early laboratory studies and should pay explicit attention to communication between urban laboratories and the rise of regional and transnational networks of expertise. How do facts emerge and circulate in and through these networks of expertise? Dimension 2: this second dimension is related

to the first, but zooms in on questions of method i.e. the ways in which features of urban life become objects of laboratory research and manipulation. In the case of research on and in the city in particular, there seems to be a constitutive tension between laboratory and fieldwork science that needs to be addressed (Gieryn 2006). Through the use of which methods and in what ways do the various urban laboratories construct and manipulate local objects of research? Dimension 3: laboratories interact with other laboratories, but they also engage with a world directly outside the laboratory. This third dimension refers to the fact that laboratories actively shape the urban environment in which they are embedded. How and to what extent do processes of laboratorization transform the built environment in which laboratories are simultaneously embedded? For a full call for papers, please see: <http://www.fdcw.org/maastrichtvks/2009/04/workshop-urban-laboratories-to.html>. Please submit a **500 word abstract by 1 July 2009** to the organizers Bas van Heur (b.vanheur@vks.unimaas.nl) and Ralf Brand (Ralf.Brand@manchester.ac.uk). We will send out notices of acceptance mid-July. The goal of this workshop is to publish an edited volume on Urban Laboratories. For this and to facilitate discussion during the workshop, we ask all participants to prepare a full paper and to submit this to the organizers before 1 October. We will then send the papers to all participants. Limited funding for travel expenses and accommodation will be available. If you have any questions on this call for papers or on the workshop in general, please contact the organizers.

**Carcinogens, Mutagens, Reproductive Toxicants: the Politics of Limit Values and Low Doses in the Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries** is the title of the conference to be held on **29-31 March 2010, Strasbourg, France**.

See <http://irist.u-strasbg.fr/>. We are inviting proposals for an international conference on the various forms of governing specific substances and products that are now

classified as Carcinogenic, Mutagenic or toxic to Reproduction (CMR for short). This conference will draw together scholars from different backgrounds - history, sociology, political science, anthropology, law, etc. - and will be held from the 29 to the 31 March 2010 in Strasbourg, France. The conference will be organised in a workshop format with pre-circulated papers. Each paper will be introduced and discussed by a commentator. We plan to move quickly to an edited publication. **Proposals for papers** should be sent to Soraya Boudia and Nathalie Jas, the conference organisers, **no later than the 26 June 2009**. They should contain an abstract of at least five hundred words and a short curriculum vitae. The list of accepted proposals will be available from 10 July 2009 and the accepted participants will be expected to submit a full manuscript version of their paper by 15 January 2010 at the latest. Funds will be available for accepted participants to cover food, accommodation, and travel expenses. Soraya Boudia: soraya.boudia@unistra.fr. Nathalie Jas: jas@ivry.inra.fr. Address: Soraya Boudia, Université de Strasbourg - IRIST, 7 rue de l'Université, 67000 Strasbourg, France.

**“New Grounds: Ecocriticism, Globalization and Cultural Memory”** is the title of the conference to be held on **13–15 January 2010 at Radboud University, Nijmegen** (the Netherlands). The conference organizers have issued a call for papers. See <http://www.ru.nl/hlcs/newgrounds/>. The first conference on ecocriticism in the Netherlands aims to bring together scholars from different ecocritical networks and countries to explore recent themes in ecocriticism. After its initial focus on the local and the regional, ecocriticism is now facing challenges posed by globalization, as explored in for instance Ursula Heise's *Sense of Place, Sense of Planet* (2008). Also, ecocriticism is still coming to terms with postmodernism and its implications, while interdisciplinary approaches to ecocriticism from the point of view of evolutionary psychology, cultural memory and biosemiotics are gaining ground. “New Grounds” will serve as a platform and forum for developments in

ecocriticism, offering the possibility for interaction and an exploration of a variety of ecocritical themes in order to further define and broaden the ecocritical field. Organized in association with ASLE-UK and EASLCE, this international conference aims to bring together scholars working in the fields of literature, drama, the visual arts, film and music. Responses to postmodern theory, globalization and cultural memory are particularly encouraged. Also, the conference aims to explore (European) ecocriticism to date, in particular during the plenary panel which features panellists working on ecocriticism in a number of European countries. Topics can include but are not limited to: Post-modern – post-nature?; The local and the global; The future of ecocritical theory; Ecocriticism and the visual arts; Postcolonial ecologies; Animal studies; Figures of memory of nature; Cultural memory; Eco-cosmopolitanism; Place and space; Apocalypse; and The nature of cities. Confirmed plenary speakers: Greg Garrard, Catrin Gersdorf, Serenella Iovino and Richard Kerridge. A selection of papers will be published in a special issue on ecocriticism of English Studies. Please send **proposals of 250 words for 20-minute papers by 1 September 2009** to: Astrid Bracke (a.bracke@let.ru.nl) and Marguérite Corporaal (m.corporaal@let.ru.nl).

**"Modeling Spaces - Modifying Societies"** is the title of the conference organized by the graduate program Topology of Technology of the Darmstadt University of Technology. It is to be held at the Fraunhofer IGD, **Darmstadt, Germany, 7 - 9 October, 2009**. Phenomena recognized as spatial arrangements are complex - thus we need tools to cope with them. Models can serve as tools for researchers and practitioners alike. There are two distinct yet interwoven aspects of models, both of which will be addressed by this conference: models as analytical devices and models as a reference for intervention. Models and other forms of abstract representations are generated to organize findings and to simulate options. In decision-making processes models have an enormous impact in that they provide guidelines for implementations as well as

legitimation in situations of conflict, even though they are also increasingly understood as constructions. Out of the great variety of spatial phenomena, climatology is a good example to show how models are constructed and affect society. They are used to analyze spatial patterns theoretically as well as to legitimize intervention in the political sphere. Global climate models are approximations of complex physical processes and enable researchers to simulate the climate system. The General Circulation Model allows predictions of various scenarios. Such scientifically-based statements simplified the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. They increased public awareness and led to a growing market for renewable energy. Similarly, the case of modernist urban planning highlights how the analysis of problems was recast in plans for action. Population densities and the variety of space usages in the industrializing cities were perceived as the root of various social deficiencies. Subsequently, abstract models based on the ideals of dispersion and the separation of functions shaped cities throughout the latter half of the 20th century. Both examples show that the status of models depends significantly on the contexts in which they are developed and employed. First, the nature of any model is determined by the goal to be achieved; modeling is always designed to serve a particular aim and can take on many forms. Still, the applicability of models is related to the specific conditions under which they are designed, proposed and tested - therefore, the transfer of a model from one area to another is not always justified. And, furthermore, the way in which models are perceived often endows them with considerable normative power. Is it perhaps the case that model-building in research and society are deeply problematic in that such abstractions may develop into self-fulfilling prophecies? Moreover, models govern planning and simulation, processes which are in many ways interwoven with model-building. Hence, models do not only provide systematized information, but are also explicitly directed at the future. While it is beyond doubt that models create instrumental knowledge, the distinctive spatial dimension of models is open

to discussion. Are there specific ways of modeling three-dimensional spaces, for example particular forms of visualization? Do spatial arrangements offer specific kinds of information for analysis and intervention - as is probably the case in logistics and architecture? Is a model more forceful if it refers to certain localities, because attachment to place gives rise to a feeling of involvement or concern - as in the rapidly growing interest in Geographical Information Systems (GIS)? Or is the spatial distribution of researchers and practitioners themselves an issue that reflects on model building. This conference aims to increase our understanding of the power and limitations of models, their construction and effects in the sciences and in fields of practice. It provides a forum for the discussion of qualitative and quantitative models composed of verbal propositions, numerical abstractions, and visualizations. Of particular interest are issues that cut across established scientific disciplines and analyze the boundaries between science, technology, society, and politics. A preliminary list of subject areas comprises: architecture and social work; urban planning and policies; system sciences and management; the history and future of infrastructures; sustainability science and resources management; climate science and emission regulations; geography (incl. GIS and GPS and their commercial application); behavioral sciences and human health; and philosophy, ethics and spatial order. The conference explicitly aims at bringing scientists and practitioners from outside the academy together. To simplify discussion and the exchange of information and experience, plenary speeches will be complemented by smaller workshop-like sessions. Keynote speeches will be held by: Paul N. Edwards (University of Michigan): "Versions of the Atmosphere: Climate Models, Data Models, Global Space and Time". Amy Hillier (University of Pennsylvania): "Mapping Social Patterns: The Making and Unmaking of Inequality". Roland Scholz (ETH Zürich): "Transdisciplinarity, System Sciences, and Prospective Modeling in Regional Transformation. Oskar von Stryk (TU Darmstadt): "Models and Simulation in



Engineering: Dynamics of Motion and Robot Intelligence". The conference is organized by the graduate program Topology of Technology of Darmstadt University of Technology and is financed by the German Research Foundation (DFG). The interdisciplinary graduate program focuses on the interdependencies of technology and space. The conference will take place at the Fraunhofer IGD, Darmstadt,

Germany, 7 - 9 October, 2009. Darmstadt is situated 30 kilometers south of Frankfurt am Main. We invite proposals that include an abstract of no more than 2,000 characters and a brief CV. **Deadline for submission is May 31, 2009.** Proposals should be submitted to the conference website at [www.modelingspaces.com](http://www.modelingspaces.com). Applicants can expect approval by July 15. The final program will be advertised in the second half of July. Accommodation will be provided for accepted presenters and their traveling costs will be covered up to 150€ for participants from Germany, 300€ for participants from within Europe and 600€ for international participants. The conference fee amounts to 130€ (applications for a fee waiver may be filed). For further information please visit our website at: [www.modelingspaces.com](http://www.modelingspaces.com).

The **Society for the Social History of Medicine** invites submissions for its 2010 Conference '**Knowledge, Ethics and Representations of Medicine and Health: Historical Perspectives**', to be held at **Durham and Newcastle (UK), 8-11 July 2010**, organised by the Northern Centre for the History of Medicine (NCHM). The deadline for proposals: 1 November 2009. The organisers welcome proposals for 20-minute papers under the theme 'Knowledge, Ethics and Representations of Medicine and Health: Historical Perspectives'. We particularly encourage papers addressing questions such as: What processes have generated knowledge

about the body, illness and health that has become authoritative in different societies? How have claims of medical expertise been justified vis à vis claims from other domains of social and cultural authority such as religion and law? What did it mean for medical practitioners in different cultural and social contexts to claim to be ethical as well as knowledgeable? How did they present themselves to the public? What kind of material, visual and textual representations of body, mind, health and disease have gained 'defining power' exerting influence on medical practice and research until today? Submissions covering all periods (from Antiquity to the 21st Century) and all regions of the world are welcome. In addition to individual papers, we seek proposals for panel sessions (with 3 papers), as well as suggestions for suitable chairpersons. Abstracts of up to 250 words should include the title of the paper, information concerning the research question examined, the sources used and preliminary results. Please also include on the abstract your contact details (name, affiliation, e-mail-address). All papers are to represent original work not already published. **Please send your proposal by 1 November 2009** to the NCHM (Email: [conference@nchm.ac.uk](mailto:conference@nchm.ac.uk)). Decisions on papers will be made by January 2010. Organising Committee: Philip van der Eijk (Newcastle University), Holger Maehle (Durham University), Cathy McClive (Durham University), Diana Paton (Newcastle University), Thomas Rütten (Newcastle University), and Lutz Sauerteig (Durham University). For more information on the SSHM please see [www.sshm.org](http://www.sshm.org). For more information on the NCHM, a collaboration of historians of medicine from Durham and Newcastle universities, please see [www.nchm.ac.uk](http://www.nchm.ac.uk).

## Opportunities available

**The Department of Science Studies, Aarhus University, Denmark** (<http://www.ivs.au.dk>) invites applications for a permanent position as **Associate Professor in the history and philosophy of mathematics and computer science** beginning January 1, 2010. The Department of Science Studies forms part of the Faculty of Science, and is responsible for research and education in history and philosophy of science. The Department seeks a historian or philosopher of mathematics and/or computer science with significant publications and research interest within the fields of history and philosophy of mathematics and computer science broadly conceived. The requirements for a successful application are an strong record of research and teaching within history and/or philosophy of mathematics and computer science, and the ability to teach in English or Danish. Experience with academic administration and fund raising is desirable. Duties will include instruction at the undergraduate and postgraduate level within the fields of history and philosophy of mathematics and computer science, preferably including mandatory courses in philosophy of mathematics and computer science for undergraduate students in mathematics and computer science. The Department offers courses in philosophy of science for all science programmes. All courses are based on extensive use of historical and contemporary cases, and faculty members from the Department collaborate on developing the course format. The new Associate Professor is expected to participate actively in the strategic development of the departments research focus on studies of contemporary science. The Department is interested in developing new teaching initiatives in science studies. The successful candidate will be expected to participate in all aspects of the Department's activities and to be present on a daily basis. Applications must be in English and include a curriculum vitae, a complete list of publications, a statement of future research plans and information about research activities,

teaching qualifications and management experience, all in 4 copies (see <http://www.nat.au.dk/default.asp?id=7842&la=UK> for the recommended level of detail). If the applicant wants other material to be considered in the evaluation (publications and other documentation of research and teaching qualifications, as well as management experience) such material must be clearly specified and must either be enclosed in hardcopy (3 copies) or must be available electronically. The Faculty refers to the Ministerial Order No. 92 of 15.02.2008 (<http://science.au.dk/default.asp?id=7839&la=UK>) on the appointment of teaching and research staff at the universities under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. Salary depends on seniority as agreed between the Danish Ministry of Finance and the Confederation of Professional Unions. Applications should be addressed to The Faculty of Science, Aarhus University, Ny Munkegade, Building 1520, DK-8000 Aarhus C, Denmark, and marked 212/5-292. **The deadline for receipt of all applications is July 1, 2009, at 12,00 noon.** For more information please contact the head of the department Keld Nielsen, Department of Science Studies, Building 1110, CF Moellers Alle, DK-8000 Aarhus C., Denmark; phone +45 8942 3540; e-mail: [keld.nielsen@ivs.au.dk](mailto:keld.nielsen@ivs.au.dk), or vice head of department Hanne Andersen, phone +45 8942 3514; e-mail: [hanne.andersen@ivs.au.dk](mailto:hanne.andersen@ivs.au.dk). Aarhus University offers a good and inspiring education and research environment for 35,000 students and 8,500 members of staff, who produce academic results of a high international standard. The budgeted turnover for 2009 amounts to EUR 700 million. The university's strategy and development contract are available at [www.au.dk](http://www.au.dk).

**The University of Ottawa** is seeking applications for the position of **Director, Institute for Science, Society and Policy (ISSP)**. The University recently approved the creation of the ISSP, an interdisciplinary unit



which aims to be Canada's leader in understanding and addressing the interplay of science, technology and society through cutting-edge interdisciplinary research, teaching and knowledge transfer. The University's bilingual and cosmopolitan character, and its proximity and access to decision makers in government, non-governmental organizations and the private sector will give the new Institute a strategic advantage in helping shape policy linked to science and technology at the national and international level. The new Director will also join of a vibrant community of scholars from several faculties who are currently conducting research on various issues of science, technology and society. This position presents a unique opportunity to position the ISSP as a geographical and virtual hub that will connect scholars and students across Canada and around the world. The ideal candidate must be a builder capable of designing and developing the Institute's strategic and financial planning, while fostering a strong and dynamic research program through the creation and maintenance of networks of researchers and research partnerships. Institutes at the University of Ottawa also have a teaching mandate, so the Director will be expected to develop an interdisciplinary graduate program. Terms and Qualifications: Applicants should be outstanding scholars of established reputation with expertise in the field of science, technology and policy, who have also demonstrated strong leadership and management skills. The successful candidate will be appointed in a tenure-track position in the Faculty of Arts, where the ISSP will be located. The salary and academic rank will be determined by the candidate's qualifications and experience in accordance with the collective agreement. The University of Ottawa is justly proud of its 160-year tradition of bilingualism. Through its Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute, the University provides training to staff members and to their spouses in their second official language. At the time of tenure, the Director will be expected to have the ability to function in a bilingual setting. Applications: Interested candidates should send their application, curriculum vitae

and the names of three referees (preferably electronically) to:

Professor Ruby Heap, Chair of the Selection Committee, c/o Office of the Vice-Rector, Research, Tabaret Hall, Room 246, 550 Cumberland Street, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5. Inquiries may be directed to Professor Heap at [rheap@uottawa.ca](mailto:rheap@uottawa.ca). **Deadline: The Committee will begin to consider candidates in June 2009 and will continue this process until the position is filled.** The preferred starting date is January 1, 2010. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. Equity is a University of Ottawa policy; women, aboriginal peoples, members of visible minorities and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

A position as **Assistant Professor in Governance of Science and Innovation** has been announced by the **University of Twente**, the Netherlands. politics and society. Studies conducted within ST@PS link analytical and normative perspectives, and consider not only technological innovations but also innovations in governance. Science and innovation are both a key resource and a cause for concern for industry and policy making in modern society. The production and use of scientific knowledge and its relevance for technological and other innovations have increasingly become objects of policy making. Understanding the changing governance of science and innovation (in a broad sense) and the conceptualization of the research and innovation system are key issues for contemporary science, technology and innovation studies. Your research and teaching on science and innovation policies analyzes transformation processes of the research and innovation system, the role of governance and policy making in this transformation and the processes by which scientific knowledge contributes to policy making and innovation. Candidate's profile: You have completed a PhD thesis in Political Science, Sociology, Management Science, Public Administration, Economics, or Science and Technology Studies. In any case your academic education and your

research should cover the interactions between and governance of science, technology and society. You have proven experience and a strong affinity with teaching (in English and preferably also Dutch language) and research. In addition, you have experience with the acquisition and conduct of externally-funded research projects, preferably also in international networks. We offer a challenging position in an inspiring environment. The vacancy concerns a position as an Assistant Professor with a tenure-track option. You will be appointed in a fulltime position, 38 hours a week. The salary scale, depending on your experience, extends from € 3195 to a maximum of € 4374 gross per month (on full-time basis), based upon the job profile of Assistant Professor, level 2 (in accordance with the Collective Labour Agreement for Dutch Universities). In due course growth to Assistant Professor, level 1 is possible. In addition, the University of Twente offers attractive fringe benefits. For more information please contact Prof. Dr. Stefan Kuhlmann (chair department STøPS; tel. +31 53 4893353; s.kuhlmann@utwente.nl). Please send your written application including a full resume (including a list of your education, publications, research, industry and teaching experience), possibly with references, **before 15 June 2009**, to the University of Twente, School of Management and Governance, Attn: Prof. Dr. P.J.J.M. van Loon, Dean, P.O. Box 217, 7500 AE Enschede, the Netherlands, stating application number 09/101. It is also possible to send your application by email to [mbsollicitaties@mb.utwente.nl](mailto:mbsollicitaties@mb.utwente.nl). For further details relating to this position, see [www.mb.utwente.nl/vacatures](http://www.mb.utwente.nl/vacatures) or <http://www.mb.utwente.nl/steps/>. The School of Management and Governance is a rapidly growing faculty that strives to hold a leading position in the field of business and social sciences and to do joint education and research with the technical schools of the University of Twente. The faculty focuses on management, governance, innovation, technology and entrepreneurship. In all these fields, the faculty provides bachelor, master and professional development programmes. In addition,

scientific and applied research is carried out in various settings, such as health care, tertiary education, banking, and service business industries. Research is accommodated within the university research institutes: The Institute for Governance Studies (IGS), and the Centre for Telematics and Information Technology (CTIT). The faculty has approximately 350 staff and 2,200 students. The Department of Science, Technology, and Policy Studies (STøPS) takes the assessment and governance of innovations and emerging technologies as its central theme of teaching and research.

The **University of Edinburgh** has announced an opening for **Chair in Innovation in the Life Sciences**. The University of Edinburgh is one of the world's leading locations for research and teaching in the life sciences. With strongly interdisciplinary programmes across all its Colleges (Humanities and Social Science, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, and Science and Engineering) the University both shapes the trajectory of the new life sciences and leads public and policy debate on their future applications. We are seeking an outstanding research leader with an international reputation and exceptional knowledge (perhaps with practitioner experience) in the socio-economic study of the life sciences, innovation, regulation and policy. The successful applicant will become part of the directorate of the ESRC Centre for Social and Economic Research on Innovation in Genomics (Innogen), and will be expected to exercise leadership in research development and to consolidate the excellent collaboration between the social sciences, natural sciences and medicine and carry forward the University's reputation as world-leading in this exciting, expanding field. The salary will be on the Grade 10 scale (GB £53,650 - £90,104) and the appointment will be made from 1st December 2009 or as soon as possible thereafter. For full advert see [www.jobs.ed.ac.uk/vacancies/index.cfm?fuseaction=vacancies.furtherdetails&vacancy\\_ref=3010871](http://www.jobs.ed.ac.uk/vacancies/index.cfm?fuseaction=vacancies.furtherdetails&vacancy_ref=3010871). For further information at Innogen visit [www.genomicsnetwork.ac.uk/innogen](http://www.genomicsnetwork.ac.uk/innogen).

**The School of Geography Human and Animal Dimensions of Biosecurity at the University of Exeter** announces an **ESRC funded PhD Studentship**. Following the award of an ESRC grant entitled Biosecurity Borderlands, a linked independent PhD studentship is available to study the human and animal dimensions of biosecurity. We are seeking to appoint a suitably qualified applicant for a doctoral studentship for three years to start in October 2009. The main project to which this studentship is attached, investigates the practices, understandings and pressures created as biosecurity is extended into the British food system and landscape. The economic and social costs associated with communicable animal diseases, particularly after recent foot and mouth, avian influenza and bluetongue outbreaks in the UK, have made biosecurity both a key policy goal and a widely used if poorly understood term. The term biosecurity is often used to suggest a sanitised landscape and a clinical approach to food and agriculture, with little patience for the untidiness of food and landscape practices that need to contend with a range of other concerns. The main project therefore explores the interfaces between biosecurity and other concerns, including workers' health and safety, food safety, security, and cultures and wildlife conservation practices. This exploration will be undertaken through ethnographic work on farms, in food safety settings and on wildlife reserves, as well as through focus groups with lay publics. The PhD will be jointly supervised by Professor Steve Hinchliffe (University of Exeter) and Dr Nick Bingham (Open University) and will develop a project that complements and/or extends the project team investigating biosecurity in the UK at Exeter and the Open Universities. The successful candidate will be expected to: engage with current theory and practice in geographies of animals, food and science; and develop an empirical investigation of international and/ or national biosecurity. You will be based in the School of Geography at the University of Exeter's Streatham Campus in Exeter, and jointly supervised by the Open University. Under the terms of the studentship scheme, you will also benefit from

opportunities to work alongside the Biosecurity Borderlands project team. To apply, you should meet the eligibility and residence requirements for an ESRC +3 PhD, and preferably have research experience using qualitative methods at postgraduate level. Applicants should have completed or be near to completing an ESRC approved social sciences training qualification at Masters level or equivalent. UK/EU level fees will be paid, together with a maintenance grant that matches the standard ESRC rate (for 2009/10 this will be £13,290). Please send a copy of your CV, with the names and addresses of three referees, plus a brief three page statement outlining how you would approach this research topic, to Laura Taylor at [sogaer-schooloffice@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:sogaer-schooloffice@exeter.ac.uk). For further information, or informal discussion about the position, please contact one of the project supervisors: Professor Steve Hinchliffe ([stephen.hinchliffe@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:stephen.hinchliffe@exeter.ac.uk)); or Dr Nick Bingham ([n.bingham@open.ac.uk](mailto:n.bingham@open.ac.uk)). **Closing date for completed applications is 15th June 2009**. Interviews are expected to take place in early July.

**Doctoral and Postdoctoral Positions are available on Phylogenetic Memory Project at the Research Center for Social and Economic History, Department of History, University of Zurich**, in a project entitled, History Within: The Phylogenetic Memory of Bones, Organisms, and Molecules. The **deadline for application: July 1, 2009**. At the Swiss National Science Foundation sponsored professorship of Marianne Sommer a doctoral and a postdoctoral position (100%) are available, beginning February 1, 2010. The professorship is located at the Department of History of the University of Zurich, Switzerland. The positions are granted for the duration of four years. The positions are part of the project "History Within: The Phylogenetic Memory of Bones, Organisms, and Molecules" that engages the cultural history of the historical life sciences. It analyzes the contributions that sciences such as evolutionary biology, (paleo)anthropology, primatology, and human genetics have made to cultures of remembrance since the turn to the 20th century. How do these

sciences provide orientation, meaning, and identity through the popularization and commercialization of origin narratives and historical images? The project focuses on the reconstruction and communication of biologically founded history – the scientific theories, objects, practices, media, genres, and institutions involved –, as well as on processes of reception, such as the appropriation, translation, and rejection of scientific history by particular individuals and groups and in different media and genres. A description of the project can be downloaded at <http://www.fsw.uzh.ch/page/mitarbeiter-content.php?subpage=forschung&id=243&yp=L>. 1) PhD Position (100%). The successful candidate holds a master's degree in the humanities, social or natural sciences, preferably with competences in the history of science or science studies. Fluency in either German or English (oral as well as written) is mandatory. Applications should contain a c.v., including copies of certificates. If a dissertation project already exists, a short description should be provided. 2) Postdoctoral Position (100%). The successful candidate holds a PhD in the humanities or the social sciences, preferably with a focus in the history of science or technology. Fluency in either German or English (oral as well as written) is mandatory. Applications should contain a c.v., including copies of certificates, and a short description of the project, outlining the subject, method, and aim of the planned work as well as its connections to the general theme (see above). **Applications should be submitted no later than July 1, 2009**, to: Silvia Rodriguez, Forschungsstelle für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte der Universität Zürich, Rämistrasse 64, 8001 Zürich, Switzerland. For administrative questions, please contact Ms. Rodriguez: [s.rodriguez@fsw.uzh.ch](mailto:s.rodriguez@fsw.uzh.ch). For questions regarding content, please contact the project leader, PD Dr. Marianne Sommer: [sommer@wiss.gess.ethz.ch](mailto:sommer@wiss.gess.ethz.ch).

Applications are invited for an **ESRC Collaborative (CASE) PhD studentship** under the supervision of Dr Simon Woods and Dr Janice McLaughlin of the **Policy Ethics and**

**Life Sciences Research Centre, School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University**. The studentship is £18000 (tbc) per annum for 3 years (plus home fees). The studentship will explore what boys and young men with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) think about participating in medical research. DMD is one of the most serious of the muscular dystrophies. It affects all ethnicities, nationalities and socioeconomic groups, although it is almost exclusive to males. Much work is being done to develop effective clinical therapies; this research requires the recruitment of affected boys to participate in clinical trials of candidate drugs. We know from other research that many parents are keen to have their children participate (Henderson 2008), however little is known about the attitudes of the boys and young men themselves. The principal objective of this studentship is to explore what frames the approach taken by boys and young men with DMD to participating in medical research. Secondary objectives: 1. Identifying the social, cultural and familial contexts that influence their attitude to participating in medical research.

2. Drawing out the key processes and interactions they engage with when considering/making a decision to enter a clinical trial (for example with family, professionals and patient groups). 3. Exploring the resources, such as patient organisations, and sources of information, such as the internet, that they draw upon when considering participating in medical research. Preference will be given to applicants who have a Masters level degree and/or relevant research experience and training. Applicants should send their CV, letter of application and the names and addresses of two referees to Tom Martin, Policy Ethics and Life Sciences Research Centre, Citywall, St James Boulevard, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 4JH ([tom.martin@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:tom.martin@ncl.ac.uk)). For further details contact Simon Woods [simon.woods@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:simon.woods@ncl.ac.uk) or Rob Walton [rob.walton@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:rob.walton@ncl.ac.uk). Tel: 0191 222 3919. **Closing Date for Applications is Monday, June 22nd**. Interviews will be held on: Monday, July 27th. Further Information about the project can be found here:

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/peals/news/item/esrc-collaborative-phd-studentship-applications-sought>

The NSF Center for Nanotechnology in Society (CNS) at the University of California, Santa Barbara seeks to hire a **postdoctoral scholar** who will conduct research on the history of nanotechnology or a combination of nanotechnology and other emerging technologies (e.g. biotech, materials, energy). Applicants should possess a Ph.D. in a relevant field such as the history of science/technology or science and technology studies. Applicants should have experience in doing independent research, a record of communicating research results via publications and presentations, and be willing to participate in collaborative, interdisciplinary research while in residence at UCSB. Scholars whose work employs a transnational or comparative approach, particularly between the U.S. and the Pacific Rim or Europe, are especially encouraged to apply. Positions are full time with a salary of \$41,496-\$47,328 (plus health benefits)

depending on experience. Some research funds are available as well. Initial appointment is for one year; continuation beyond one year will be based on performance and availability of funding. When applying, prospective postdoctoral researchers should submit a full c.v., a relevant sample of published or submitted work, and a plan for research to be done while in residence at the CNS. They should also provide two letters of reference, either with their application or mailed directly to the CNS. All application materials should be sent to: Barbara Gilkes, CNS Assistant Director, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-2150, Email: [bgilkes@cns.ucsb.edu](mailto:bgilkes@cns.ucsb.edu), Phone: (805) 893-3995, Fax: (805) 893-7995. **The deadline for submitting applications is June 15, 2009.** We expect the person chosen to fill the position starting in the Fall of 2009 (ideally by October 1, 2009). Additional information about the position and the CNS can be found at: <http://www.cns.ucsb.edu/education-3/>.

## News about Education

Applications are invited from social science students with an interest in health and the social aspects of genetics for an **ESRC doctoral studentship**, involving **collaboration between SATSU and the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust (PPRT)**. The thesis will explore the ways in which recent and future developments in pharmacogenetics and 'personalised medicine' will shape the occupational role of the pharmacist in the hospital, the community and the high street. Applicants will need to have Master's training background in Social Sciences and a UK or EU student status in order to receive funding. Mature students are welcome to apply. **Closing date for applications is June 8 2009.** Interviews will be held in London on June 29th. The project start date is 1st October 2009 to be completed within four years. The studentship will cover tuition fees (£3,390 p.a.)

and a maintenance allowance of £16,940 p.a. For further information and full details, contact Professor Andrew Webster, SATSU, Department of Sociology, University of York, Heslington, York, YO10 5DD, e-mail: [ajw25@york.ac.uk](mailto:ajw25@york.ac.uk); web-site: <http://www.york.ac.uk/org/satsu/>, Telephone: 01904 434740.

A **PhD Studentship** is being offered in an **ethnography of the construction site** by the **Departments of Civil and Building Engineering and Social Sciences, Loughborough University**. This is an exciting opportunity for a fully-funded 3-year PhD studentship to develop ethnographic research focused on the construction industry. There is an urgent need for scholarly research in this area that can address applied questions relating to the specificities of construction sites and

engage with public debates on this theme, while also making firm theoretical and methodological academic contributions. Therefore this is an ideal position for a student researcher keen to develop a high quality contribution to anthropological/sociological literatures while being at the forefront of developments in the fields of public and applied anthropology/sociology. The construction industry offers a fascinating and under-studied context for ethnographic research. The industry has for many years been criticised for failing to meet customer needs, a poor health and safety record, inability to innovate and poor treatment of those from under represented groups – raising a whole series of questions about the social and environmental elements of construction work. Despite numerous government-backed reports and countless improvement initiatives, the industry appears entrenched in outmoded employment and working practices which have arguably held back its development and performance improvement. Despite these concerns, the dominant paradigm within engineering and construction has been to attempt to improve the performance of the sector by externalised performance improvement measures. In this context ethnographic understandings of the realities of construction sites and the practices through which they are constituted (including the use of visual and mobile media on sites) will make a new and important contribution to knowledge in this area – and are urgently needed. The aim of this research would be to develop a deeper understanding of the construction site as an arena for power relations and forms of resistance which shape industry practice and stymie attempts at change, innovation and performance improvement. The aim here is to adopt a flexible and responsive approach which uncovers something about construction site socialities, human-material-technological relations and the dynamics of networks of temporal relations which define working within the sector. Given the many directions that this PhD research could take and the trans-disciplinary nature of the research supervisory team, this studentship would suit a graduate from a social sciences discipline with

an interest in applied ethnography and a willingness to work in the field for prolonged periods. Applicants should have achieved (or expect to achieve) a 2:1 degree or ideally should possess a masters degree in a relevant discipline. Higher degree fees will be paid at the home/EU rate together with a full stipend at the research council rate (£13,200). Registration will commence in October 2009. For an informal discussion about this studentship please contact either Professor Andrew Dainty (a.r.j.dainty@lboro.ac.uk) in the Dept. of Civil and Building Engineering or Professor Sarah Pink (s.pink@lboro.ac.uk) in the Dept. of Social Sciences. Completed application forms should be returned to Helen Newbold, Department of Civil and Building Engineering, Loughborough University, Ashby Road, Loughborough, LE11 3TU, email h.newbold@lboro.ac.uk). A Curriculum Vitae will only be accepted if accompanied by a completed University application form. Applicants should attach an outline proposal (maximum 2 sides) outlining how they would approach this research and what areas they would be interested in focusing on. **The deadline for applications is 8 June 2009.**

There is a **PhD course** at the **School of Education, Aarhus University, Copenhagen Campus**, entitled, **Introduction to Actor-Network Theory and its application in learning research**. Interest in Actor-Network Theory has increased the recent years among students and researchers of learning and education. The aim of the course is to introduce this complex theory and methodology to the educational field. More than a general introduction to ANT the course aims at linking the vocabulary and methods specifically to the area of learning or educational research. Focus of the course will be on the craft of writing in an 'Actor-Network Theory style'. Only very few scholars have yet made the connection between education/learning and Actor-Network Theory, but this course gathers some highly inspiring scholars of the study of children, knowledge and materiality: Helen Verran (Melbourne), Alan Prout (Warwick) and Estrid Sørensen (Copenhagen). The course focuses on the relationship between learning, childhood,



knowledge and materiality, on how to investigate and represent these along with the society and culture they are part of. For details on the course, please visit the following web-site:

<http://www.dpu.dk/site.aspx?p=6609&newsid1=8720>

There is a new **MA programme in Digital Anthropology at University College London**, and the **application deadline is 30 June 2009**. See also: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/anthropology/digital-anthropology/>. Digital technologies have become ubiquitous. From Facebook, YouTube and Flickr to PowerPoint, Google Earth and Second Life. Museum displays migrate to the internet, family communication in the Diaspora is dominated by new media, artists work with digital films and images. Anthropology and ethnographic research is fundamental to understanding the local consequences of these innovations, and to create theories that help us acknowledge, understand and engage with them. Today's students need to become proficient with digital technologies as research and communication tools. Through combining technical skills with appreciation of social effects, students will be trained for further research and involvement in this emergent world. This MA brings together three key components in the study of digital culture: 1. Skills training in digital technologies, including our own Digital Lab, from internet and digital film editing to e-curation and digital ethnography. 2. Anthropological theories of virtualism, materiality/immateriality and digitisation. 3. Understanding the consequences of digital culture through the ethnographic study of its social and regional impact. There is a £5,000 annual bursary specifically for this and the MA in Material and Visual Culture, as well as 3 x £1,000 bursaries for all anthropology MA programmes. All those who have submitted an application by 30 June 2009 will automatically be considered and no additional application form is necessary. The Dept. of Anthropology at UCL is the world's leading centre for the study of Material and Visual Culture. We publish *The Journal of Material Culture* and several relevant book series. We have nine

specialist staff in material and visual culture. We currently supervise nearly fifty PhD students specifically in this field, including many with topics in Digital Anthropology. The programme is suitable both for those with a prior degree in anthropology but also for those with degrees in neighbouring disciplines who wish to be trained in anthropological and related approaches to digital culture. There is scope for those with specialist interests to work closely with designers, curators, communication specialists as well as our own digital studio. In addition to its importance for careers such as media, design and museums, digital technology is also integral to development, theoretical and applied anthropology. For further information about this course contact [d.miller@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:d.miller@ucl.ac.uk). For making an application, note that the UCL bureaucracy may take a while to catch up with what is a new course, so in order to ensure your application is received we recommend that you download the application form from: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate-study/application-admission/downloadable-applications>. And send this directly to: Prof. Daniel Miller, Department of Anthropology, University College London, 14 Taviton Street, London WC1H 0BW. University College London has over 3,500 research staff and 17,000 students, ranking among the top three multi-faculty research and teaching universities in the UK. Located in the heart of Bloomsbury among the unique research resources of central London, which include excellent museum facilities as well as a dense network of specialist research and higher education institutions, the College provides an outstanding research base. The Department of Anthropology combines social and biological anthropology and material culture. Members of the Department carry out research in 49 countries, edit four international journals and run five research seminar series and specialist postgraduate research groups. There are over 140 postgraduate students funded by AHRC, ESRC, NERC, MRC, London University, British Academy, Institute of Zoology, Natural History Museum, Overseas Research Studentships, staff research



programme awards, and various national governmental and international awards. UCL is thus one of the largest centres in the world for the training of PhD students in Anthropology. The Department encourages pure and theoretical research as well as providing strong links with applied and development projects. As well as holding top research standing, the Department has been rated excellent in successive teaching quality audits. There are 7 taught Masters courses and several undergraduate degrees (BSc Anthropology, BSc in Human Sciences, and Intercalated BScs in Medical Anthropology). The Department maintains a student-centred approach to teaching, with a full tutorial system for its 300-strong undergraduate population. The Material Culture section of the Department contains six members of staff and may be considered a world centre for such studies. Amongst other activities members of this group edit the Journal of Material Culture, the journal Home Cultures, and several book series and recently developed the weblog at [materialworldblog.com](http://materialworldblog.com).

In **October 2009**, the **Department of Social Studies of Science at the University of Vienna** will start a new **international master programme in Science - Technology - Society** (teaching language: English). More Information: <http://sciencestudies.univie.ac.at>. Contact: [master.sciencestudies@univie.ac.at](mailto:master.sciencestudies@univie.ac.at).

**The University of Sassari, the University of Milan and the University of Parma** organize a **one week summer school ("The Social Self") on 20-27 September** on contemporary research on philosophical and psychological models as well as neural mechanisms underlying the sense of Self shaped through the intersubjective experience. The aim of the summer school is to provide a limited number of qualified students with the opportunity to attend short-courses of six hours (two hours each day), as well as main lectures of two hours (one hour talk, one hour discussion), focused on the analysis of the social roots of the Self. Research presentations and discussions sessions will allow researchers and students to share knowledge and interact.

English will be the official language. We invite on line submission by graduates and young researchers who have obtained their PhD within the last five years. Candidates must complete the application form available on the summer school web site: <http://www.sei.architettura.uniss.it/summerchoolthesocialself>. **The deadline for submission is June 30, 2009**. Acceptance will be notified by July 15, 2009. The registration fee is 300 euro and will be paid at the act of registration. Travel and accommodation will be at the applicant expenses. The registration fee includes two social dinners and the opportunity to resort to hotels, restaurants and pubs that have an agreement with us. A list of agreed hotels will be available on the summer school web site. Alghero is located on the west coast of Sardinia Island (Italy) and is easily reachable by plane (Alghero Airport) and by boat (Porto Torres).

New **Master of European Ethnology** with a focus on Science and Technology Studies / Cultures of Knowledge. Starting Wintersemester 2009/10 at the **Department of European Ethnology, Humboldt University Berlin**.

A research-centred Masters Programme, that teaches the methodical and theoretical tools of science and technology studies and the anthropology of knowledge in order to analyse the increasing entanglement of research, technology and society:

- Intensive contact with university research and diverse fields of practice
- Hands-on experience in ethnographic research
- Embedded in Berlin's multifaceted scientific life

Further information on the Masters Programme with focus Science and

Technology Studies / Cultures of Knowledge:

[www.csal.de](http://www.csal.de) <<http://www.csal.de>>

General information on the Masters Programme European Ethnology:

[www2.hu-berlin.de/ethno/](http://www2.hu-berlin.de/ethno/)

**Deadline for applications: 15th of July 2009**

## News from the field

A special issue of JCOM, Journal of Science Communication has issued a call for articles. The deadline is June 1st, 2009. See also: <http://jcom.sissa.it/call>. Science is increasingly being produced, discussed and deliberated with cooperative tools by web users and without the institutionalized presence of scientists. "Popular science" or "Citizen science" are two of the traditional ways of defining science grassroots produced outside the walls of laboratories. But the internet has changed the way of collecting and organising the knowledge produced by people - peers - who do not belong to the established scientific community. In this issue we want to discuss: a) How web tools are changing and widening this way of participating in the production of scientific knowledge. Do this increase in participation consist in a real shift towards democratizing science or on the contrary is merely a rhetoric which do not affect the asymmetrical relationships between citizens and institutions? b) The ways in which both academic and private scientific institutions are appropriating this knowledge and its value. Do we need a new model to understand these ways of production and appropriation? Are they part of a deeper change in productive paradigms? We would like to collect both theoretical contributions and research articles which address for example case studies in social media and science, peer production, the role of private firms in exploiting web arenas to collect scientific/medical data from their costumers, online social movements challenging communication incumbents, web tools for development. Interested authors should submit an extended abstract of no more than 500 words (in English) to the issue editor by June 1st,

2009. We will select three to five papers for inclusion in this special issue. Abstracts should be sent to the JCOM's editorial office ([jcom-ee@jcom.sissa.it](mailto:jcom-ee@jcom.sissa.it)) by email.

Annals of Science Young Writers Prize 2009. Submit your unpublished paper to Annals of Science (<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/annals>) for a chance to win US\$500 and a year's gratis subscription to this established journal. This prize is offered every two years to the author of an original, unpublished essay in the history of science or technology, which is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. The prize, which is supported by Taylor & Francis, is intended for those who are currently doctoral students, or have been awarded their doctorate within the past four years. Essays should be submitted to the Editor in a form acceptable for publication in Annals of Science. See the Journal's webpage for a style guide, [www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/tascauth.asp](http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/tascauth.asp). The winning essay will be published in the Journal, and the author will be awarded US\$500 and 1 year's free subscription to Annals of Science! Papers should be submitted by 30th September 2009, with the winner being notified by 31st December 2009. The Editor's decision is final. Past Winners of the prize: Natural Philosophical Contention Inside the Accademia del Cimento: the Properties and Effects of Heat and Cold by Luciano Boschiero; Rudolph Koenig's Workshop of Sound: Instruments, Theories, and the Debate over Combination Tones by David Pantalony; and Life of  $\mu$ : The Observation of the Spontaneous decay of Mesotrons and its Consequences, 1938-1947 by Daniela Monaldi.

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