SCIENCE STUDIES NETWORK

A research network and colloquium funded by the Simpson Center for the Humanities, 2007-2009.

Organizers:
Alison Wylie (Philosophy and Anthropology)
Stephanie Malia Fullerton (Medical History and Ethics)
Celia Lowe (Anthropology)
Philip Thurtle (CHID and History)
Simon Werrett (History)
Network GRA: Brandon Olsen (Philosophy)

The University of Washington has a well-deserved reputation for its nationally ranked strength in a range of sciences but, by contrast with peer institutions of similar profile, it has no comparably ambitious interdisciplinary program in science studies. This is not for want of accomplished science studies scholars in a number of fields, many of whom have developed interdisciplinary initiatives (speaker series and discussion groups, research clusters, interdisciplinary courses and curricular tracks). Our aim is to create a forum in which these colleagues can explore common interests in a sustained way, and assess the potential for joining forces in developing science studies at the University of Washington.

In Fall 2007 we will initiate a two year program of bi-weekly colloquium meetings that will bring together faculty and graduate students who represent three overlapping constituencies of interest in science studies at UW: **History and Philosophy of Science**, **Cultural Studies of Science**, and **Ethics, Equity, and Science Policy**. This is intended to catalyze an inclusive research network, building on the interest and momentum generated by the Science Studies Speaker Series sponsored by the Simpson Center in 2003-2005. In addition we have two further goals: to foster topic-specific research clusters and externally funded collaborative research projects; and to explore the potential for establishing an interdisciplinary program in science studies that integrates dispersed course offerings and expands on the success of the existing major in History and Philosophy of Science.

The Colloquium

In the initial meetings of the colloquium, in Fall 2007, colleagues working in each of the three areas identified above will be invited to give work-in-progress presentations on the state of play in their fields. We expect these sessions to generate a roster of topics for cross-field discussion in subsequent meetings. “Democratizing science” is one such topic that took shape in the process of developing the *Science Studies Network* proposal: it brings together questions about the role of science in democratic institutions, scientific accountability in democratic contexts, and the salience of democratic ideals (deliberative process) as a model for the practice of science.

Collaborative research project development

Several projects have already begun to take shape, or are in progress, that we expect to be nodes in the *Science Studies Network*. These include two conferences that have been funded for 2007-2008, as well as projects on *The Participation of Ethnic Minorities in STEM Fields* (Ginorio), *Science in Transnational Context* (Lowe; Anagnost and Thurtle). The conferences in prospect are:

- *10th Annual Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable* (local organizer, Alison Wylie): the Roundtable brings together an international group of scholars interested in theoretical, epistemic, methodological, and normative questions that arise in, and about, the social sciences (March 7-9, 2008).
- *Expanding Interdisciplinarity from Campus to Communities: Exploring Innovation in Collaborative Research (*organized by Kelly Fryer-Edwards and Alison Wylie): a working conference on the implications of community based participation for research design and results (May/June 2008).

Curriculum and program development

Our point of departure will be a review of existing Science Studies courses and programs at UW (Fall 2007), and of models for programs in Science Studies that have been instituted elsewhere (Winter 2008). With these resources in hand we will establish a planning group to design an interdisciplinary curriculum in Science Studies for UW. We expect to convene a retreat for Fall 2008 to assess what has been learned in the first year of this process and to formulate plans for moving forward.

COLLOQUIUM MEETINGS – FALL 2007
Mondays 12:00-1:20, Simpson Center seminar room (CMU 202)

October 1: *Planning meeting and brainstorming session*

October 15: *Panel on current directions in History and Philosophy of Science*
Arthur Fine (Philosophy); **Andrea Woody** (Philosophy); **Simon Werrett** (History)

October 29: *Panel on Cultural Studies of Science*
Ann Angagnost (Anthropology); **S. Malia Fullerton** (Medical History & Ethics)
Celia Lowe (Anthropology); **Phillip Thurtle** (CHID and History)

November 19: *Panel on Research Ethics, Policy, & Equity Issues in Science*
Kelly Fryer-Edwards (Medical History & Ethics); **Angela Ginorio** (Women Studies);
Suzanne Ortega (Graduate School); **Matthew Weinstein** (Education, UW Tacoma)

Monday, December 3: *Synthesis / Discussion*

RELATED EVENTS – 2007-2008
List under construction: please send us information to post on relevant events

November 7: **Steve Epstein** (Sociology and Science Studies, UC-San Diego)
"Inclusion and Difference: Gender, Race, and the New Biopolitics of Medical Research"
Sponsored by Critical Medical Humanities: 4:00 pm, CMU 120

November 9: Miriam Solomon (Philosophy, Temple University)
Sponsored by the Department of Philosophy: 4:00 pm colloquium

March 7-9: Nancy Cartwright (Philosophy/Center for Philosophy of Natural and Social Science, LSE; Philosophy and Science Studies, UC-San Diego)
Walker Ames Lecturer: Thursday, March 6 (time TBA)
Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable, keynote speaker: Saturday March 7 (time TBA)

April 14-17: Richard Lewontin (Biology, Harvard University)
Danz Lecturer: Tuesday, April 15 (time TBA)

May 9: Sherri Roush (Philosophy, University of California Berkeley)
Sponsored by the Department of Philosophy: 4:00 pm colloquium

A WORKING DEFINITION
Science Studies is an interdisciplinary field of research that takes the sciences in all their complexity—their practice, their history and socio-cultural formation, their philosophical underpinnings, their impact on our lives—as a subject for systematic investigation. The point of departure is, for many, an appreciation that science is a jointly intellectual, material, and social enterprise; it brings diverse resources to bear on the project of constructing stable, reliable systems of knowledge about the natural and social world. It is the goal of Science Studies to understand how such knowledge is produced and authorized, what distinguishes it as scientific knowledge, how it evolves and is inflected by the contexts of its production, and what its normative implications are: what ethical obligations and other forms of accountability constitute “research integrity” in particular contexts of practice.

SSNet WEBSITE: ***http://depts.washington.edu/ssnet/***