



Program on Science, Technology & Society

PROGRAM ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY

HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR

This is the first in a regular series of newsletters to update students, fellows, and friends of the Program on Science, Technology and Society at Harvard on new and noteworthy developments in STS. Thanks to extraordinary support from many of you, the STS Program has dramatically expanded its portfolio of activities during the past three years. We have reached out across the University to involve the entire Harvard community in our public events. The Science and Democracy lecture series, generously funded by John McQuillan, is drawing ever more enthusiastic crowds. We have attracted new research grants, created a PhD Secondary Field in STS, launched books by our faculty affiliates, sponsored student initiatives, and, through the weekly STS Circle, created a forum for discussing STS issues of interest to audiences from Harvard, MIT, and the Boston area.

This newsletter provides information about some of our most innovative and successful initiatives. Above all I am pleased to offer you a positive report on the Program's progress. In return, please let us know of newsworthy developments in your personal and professional lives, everything from jobs to publications to life passages. I am proud to say that STS at Harvard anchors a lively, robust, and growing intellectual community that now has links and connections around the world. Sharing news is one way of keeping our collective engagement alive.

- Sheila Jasanoff

Pforzheimer Professor of Science and Technology Studies

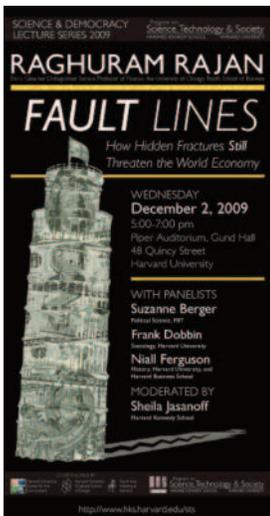
UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 22, 2010: A by invitation workshop of scientists, lawyers, and STS scholars, funded by the Greenwall Foundation, to discuss the constitutional underpinnings of bioethics.
- November 30, 2010: Science & Democracy Lecture by Michael Crow, President, ASU on "Designing a University for America's Complex Future."
- April 12, 2011: Science & Democracy Lecture by David Brooks, New York Times.
- April 7-9, 2011: A conference organized by the STS Program to explore the disciplinary status of Science and Technology Studies.
- August 1-6 2011: A summer school (modeled on one held in 2008) planned in collaboration with the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg and the European Center for Molecular Medicine in Milan on the topic "The Human Animal."

Find out more online at:
hks.harvard.edu/sts



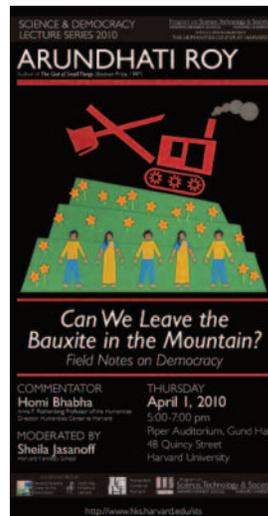
Science & Democracy Lectures



RAGHURAM RAJAN

Previewing his book, **Fault Lines: How Hidden Fractures Still Threaten the World Economy** (Princeton, 2010), Raghuram Rajan of the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business argued that it was too simplistic to blame the 2008 financial crisis on a few greedy bankers who took irrational risks and passed on the costs to the rest of us. Rajan suggested that the global financial order is overly dependent on consumption by indebted Americans to power the world economy and stave off a global downturn; and that America's thin social safety net and grave inequalities create unstable links between an

overconsuming America and an underconsuming world. Three distinguished panelists offered vigorous critiques, which Rajan as vigorously rebutted: MIT international relations professor Suzanne Berger, Harvard sociology professor Frank Dobbin, and Harvard economic history professor Niall Ferguson.



ARUNDHATI ROY

Writer, activist, and social critic Arundhati Roy provided a highlight to the Spring semester with her stirring talk in the Science & Democracy lecture series. Several hundred attendees filled Piper Auditorium and two overflow rooms to hear Roy challenge popular narratives surrounding globalization, economic growth, and social justice. Her talk, "*Can We Leave the Bauxite in the Mountain?*" turned a mining controversy in India into a wide-ranging critique of environmental degradation, multinational corporations, the plight of the poor, and the meaning of happiness

an age of globalized consumption. Homi Bhabha, Director of the Humanities Center, offered a trenchant commentary. This event was co-sponsored by the Harvard University Center for the Environment, the Harvard Humanities Center, the South Asia Initiative, the Graduate School of Design, and RILES (Resource Institute for Low Entropy Systems).

Training & Curricular Activities

THE PHD SECONDARY FIELD

In September 2010 the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences approved a new Secondary Field in Science, Technology and Society (STS). Secondary Fields offer advanced degree candidates at Harvard an opportunity to supplement their primary field of doctoral research with an intellectually coherent, topically relevant subfield. STS is the first GSAS-approved Secondary Field that pulls together course offerings and faculty interests from around the University. It is available to all Ph.D. students, as well as to doctoral students in design and law. Students opting for the STS Secondary Field will take four courses from an approved menu and present their research to the STS Circle. The STS Secondary Field will initially be administered by the Program on Science, Technology and Society.

STS CIRCLE



The fourth year of the STS Circle at Harvard showcased a wide range of research that engages with Science and Technology Studies in the Cambridge community and beyond. Historical and philosophical talks sat alongside presentations from practicing scientists, and in one case a US Naval officer, to provide weekly stimulation for a varied audience. The seminar room was nearly always at capacity, demonstrating the STS Program's continued ability to draw participants from several

departments and universities on a weekly basis. As before, the Circle particularly welcomed work by younger scholars. Presenting at the STS Circle will function as the capstone event for doctoral students pursuing the new Secondary Field in STS.

FELLOWS GROUP

The Fellows Group, a core element of the STS Program, enjoyed another vibrant year of analyzing fellows' work and issues of common interest. Topics ranged from 19th century American energy transport infrastructure to a study of risk perception in an Austrian town, and from regulation of direct-to-consumer genetic testing to democratic governance of telecommunications infrastructure in Nigeria. Visiting presenters included Professor Theodore Porter of the UCLA History Department, whose paper on "thick" and "thin" descriptions in science studies generated a lively debate. Jonathan Marks, faculty fellow at the Safra Center for Ethics, presented his research on the use of functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) in counterterrorist efforts. A research group led by Professor Michèle Lamont of Harvard's Sociology Department presented a draft paper on the social structure of successful interdisciplinary collaborations.

CAMBRIDGE CROSSROADS

The first Science Technology and Policy Crossroads event, organized by several student groups at MIT and Harvard, occurred on May 1, 2010. This bi-annual event will offer students a chance to learn about a broad range of career paths in science and technology policy (STP) and interact with academics and practitioners in the field.

NEW COURSES WITH STS FELLOWS

Introduction to Technology & Society (Sam Evans & Tolu Odumosu assisting Professor Venky Narayanamurti): a General Education course for undergraduates, emphasizing scientific and engineering concepts underlying significant social issues in society.

Energy and Environment: Paths to Sustainability (Chris Jones): a Freshman Seminar exploring the scientific, engineering, historical, and social dimensions of energy systems.

Innovation, Science & Technology Policy and the Public Good (Tolu Odumosu assisting Professor Venky Narayanamurti): a graduate course at the Kennedy School providing tools for policy makers to make informed judgments about the allocation of resources (human, material, and financial) toward future development and innovation in S&T.

RESEARCH NEWS

The STS Program created a "research platforms" section of its website where scholars can learn about key STS concepts that the Program has helped develop. Visit the Sociotechnical Imaginaries Platform.

The STS Program received a grant from the Greenwall Foundation to study the constitutional foundations of differences in the classification and ethical treatment of new, lab-created biological entities.

Reframing Rights: Bio-Constitutionalism in the Genetic Age, edited by Sheila Jasanoff and featuring the work of several former STS fellows, will be published by MIT Press in 2011.

NEW FELLOWS

Christophe Bonneuil

Senior Researcher at the Centre A. Koyré of History of Science (CNRS) and associate researcher at the Institut National de la recherche Agronomique – INRA

Rachel Douglas-Jones

PhD candidate, Department of Anthropology, University of Durham, UK

Johanna Hoeffken

PhD Candidate, Department of Technology and Society Studies, Maastricht University, the Netherlands

Cormac O'Raifeartaigh

Lecturer in Physics at Waterford Institute of Technology, Ireland

Thomas Pfister

Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre of Excellence "Cultural Foundations of Integration" at the University of Constance, Germany

TRANSITIONS

Ellen Bales joined the STS Program on an NSF grant to study Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Ben Hurlbut completed his dissertation on the history of the US embryo research debates and left the STS Program for an Assistant Professorship in Bioethics, Policy, and Politics at Arizona State University.

Alex Wellerstein completed his dissertation on nuclear secrecy in America and began a postdoctoral fellowship in the Belfer Center at the Kennedy School.

Shana Rabinowich joined the STS Program in February 2010 as faculty assistant to Sheila Jasanoff. A warm farewell went with Sheila's former assistant, **Lauren Schiff**.

Workshops & Events

UNRULY DEMOCRACY



Science blogs have proliferated in recent years. The STS Program took a critical look at science blogging on April 30, 2010, when it co-sponsored a one-day conference on the topic with support from the Shorenstein Center at the Harvard Kennedy School and the Knight Science Journalism Program at MIT. *Unruly Democracy: Science Blogs and the Public Sphere* analyzed new modes of science communication occurring in the blogosphere. Starting from the proposition that this new space is unruly—there are no well-defined rules of entry, access, or conduct—presenters and participants engaged in at times heated discussion about whether blogging helps or hurts democracy, whether norms of civil discourse might develop in the blogosphere, and what happens when science blogging becomes a business. Much of the conversation centered on the impact of blogging on deliberation: can science blogs contribute to public reason, or will they exacerbate fragmentation, extremism, and rage? Presenters included media executives, science bloggers, science journalists, scientists, and legal experts. With more than 75 people in attendance, the conference raised more questions than it answered, but it left all who attended convinced that the new media pose, and will continue to pose, major challenges for responsible science communication and democratic deliberation.

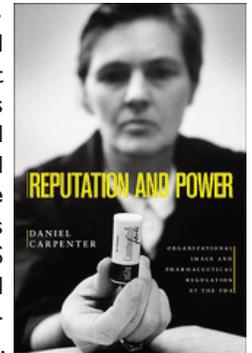
ULRICH BECK

Our Fall 2008 Science & Democracy Lecturer, Ulrich Beck, returned to the STS Program to discuss his most recent book, **World at Risk** (Polity Press, 2009). Beck gathered a heterogeneous actor-network of pizza, drinks, and disciplinary interests at the Graduate School of Design for an informal discussion of his recent work. As is often the case during STS events, the meeting with Beck was a cosmopolitan moment of constructive deconstruction. Issues discussed included the staging of global risks, the clash of risk cultures, and the development of Beck's own ideas through the past several years. Beck's openness and willingness to be challenged contributed mightily to the warmth of the proceedings. In a more social turn, STS fellow Ben Hurlbut led Beck and several STS-ers on a hike in the woods near his New Hampshire home.



DANIEL CARPENTER BOOK LAUNCH

How did the FDA become the most powerful regulatory agency in the world? Daniel Carpenter, Freed Professor of Government and STS faculty affiliate, discusses this in his magisterial book, **Reputation and Power: Organizational Image and Pharmaceutical Regulation at the FDA** (Princeton, 2010), which was launched to a receptive audience by the STS Program on May 3. The author responded to comments by Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, Principal Deputy Commissioner of the FDA, Charles Rosenberg, Professor of the History of Science and Ernest E. Monrad Professor in the Social Sciences at Harvard University, and Sheila Jasanoff. Jeremy Greene, Assistant Professor of the History of Science at Harvard University and instructor at the Harvard Medical School, ably moderated the discussion.



SCIENCE & DEMOCRACY NETWORK

The Ninth Annual Meeting of the Science and Democracy Network was held near London in conjunction with the Royal Society's 350th anniversary celebrations. We began on June 28 with a public panel on "The Experimental Society" in London's South Bank Centre. SDN members then spent two days at the Society's recently acquired and very picturesque Kavli International Centre in Buckinghamshire. The meeting featured a roundtable discussion between SDN attendees and leading UK science advisers. James Wilsdon, Jack Stilgoe, and Jessica Bland from the Royal Society's Science Policy Centre collaborated with Shana Rabinowich and the SDN Council to bring about an exceptionally rewarding event. Opportunities for further collaboration between SDN and the Royal Society are being explored.

WHO GOVERNS INNOVATION?

The management, nurture and promotion of innovation is of paramount importance to societies around the world. In November of 2009, the STS program invited an interdisciplinary group of scholars to discuss the question "Who Governs Innovation?" Eric Von Hippel (MIT) presented a user-centered view of the innovation process, while Langdon Winner (RPI) critiqued innovation as a concept divorced from any consideration of the moral and spiritual commitments of earlier conceptions of social progress. Venky Narayanamurti (Harvard-SEAS/HKS) and Rebecca Henderson (Harvard-HBS) reviewed institutional processes that can aid or impede innovation, and Pierre Benoit-Joly (Paris-IFRIS) analyzed governance mechanisms that are relevant to innovation, for example, property rights and risk assessment.