From the Editors

We have made it through another academic year and summer cannot come too soon for me.

We have lots of interesting material in this issue of ASA-SKATnews. On page two, Bernie Phillips looks at SKAT and terrorism. Jen Croissant replies to Joan and Mike’s discussion on the nature of STS on page three. In Book Notes, Jessica Litman reviews Digital Copyright. We have included information about the SKAT sessions at this year’s ASA Conference on page five. And of course we have our usual columns and informational items.

And as always, we welcome any help with the newsletter. We need 250-300 pieces concerning SKAT related issues, general information pieces about our members, or comments on others’ contributions. We would really like to post relevant information about our members’ achievements like new books, promotions, new jobs, and the like. Newsletter deadlines: May 15, October 15, and February 15.

Franz and Jen

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From the Chair

Congratulations on completing another academic year!

I am writing a short column for this newsletter. Please see the RSVP section for a response from Mike Lynch to my Chair's Column in the last newsletter and for Jen Croissant's contribution to the discussion. I again invite any of you SKAT members to join in the discussion. Mike and I have engaged in debate and discussion since we first met and will surely continue to until we are no longer cognizant. But I do not want us to dominate the pages of the SKAT newsletter. We are hoping to generate discussion from others. Mike is in an STS department, and I am situated in a Sociology department and an interdisciplinary program in STS. These different locations help to shape our particular concerns of the moment. Others will surely have other concerns, perspectives, desires, etc. Please join us in airing issues of concern to those of us in the field.

The results of our 2002 ASA elections are in. Our new Secretary-Treasurer is Daniel Kleinman. Our new Council members are Laura Mamo and Stefan Timmermans. Congratulations and welcome to our new SKAT officers! We also thank all of you who agreed to run for these offices, and we urge you to run again in the future. Everyone was obviously a good candidate for the job, else would not have been on the ballot. The tasks of running the ASA SKAT section will rotate among all of us, so I hope that you will all be willing to serve at some point in the future.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meetings in Chicago. Our SKAT Business Meeting on August 19. Please come with your ideas and questions. Mike Lynch, program chair for next year, will be soliciting proposals for sessions for the 2002-3 meetings. Please also take a look at the sessions planned for this August's meetings. According to the ASA website, the online program should be posted on June 10.
Responses are invited to the continuing exchange started by Michael Lynch’s *The epistemology of epistemics: Science and technology studies as an emergent (non)discipline*, from the previous newsletter, and Joan Fujimura’s and other responses.

**Mary Frank Fox** has been named NSF Advanced Professor of Sociology at the Georgia Institute of Technology. She has also received the WEPAN (Women in Engineering Programs) Betty Vetter Research Award - for notable achievement in research on women in engineering.

**SKAT and Terrorism.** Bernie Phillips bernieflps@aol.com (formerly of U. of North Carolina, U. of Illinois, and Boston U., and currently Co-Editor of the Aldine series, “Sociological Imagination and Structural Change.”)

In summer 1999 issue I contributed an editorial that began as follows: Is it possible that despite our growing knowledge of science and technology, our understanding of a central problem confronting modern society has fallen through the cracks, namely, accelerating possibilities of nuclear, chemical, or biological terrorism? And if we sociologists with our background in theory, history, science, and technology do not address this problem, who is in a better position to do so?

We are all well aware of the events of September 11th. In my editorial in SKAT I linked the problem of a lack of understanding of terrorism to the discipline's general failure to achieve rapid cumulative development around an effective scientific method. I would like to alert the members of the Section to some very current contributions to discussions about the nature and utility of "the scientific method."

In the January 2002 issue of the Theory Section Newsletter Perspectives, Jonathan Turner's article, "What Has Happened to Scientific Sociology?" included a critique of what he called "the anti-science movement" coming from both critical theory and postmodernism. My own reply to his piece, to appear in a subsequent issue, suggested that although "I share... Turner's...dream of..." I also believe that critiques of "the scientific method" are "useful in constraining us to question our present approach to the scientific method." And whereas Turner criticized "the perpetuation of certain long-standing debates," I claimed that "it is crucial for debates such as this one to continue so long as they remain unresolved..."

I added that, beyond debates, "we should use the knowledge gained from these debates as a basis for actively constructing the kind of scientific method and sociology we've dreamed of" so that we can understand and confront effectively humongous social problems like terrorism with nuclear weapons. Over these past three years I've been attempting to do exactly that, granting that it comes to no more than the proverbial drop in the bucket. In my just-published *Beyond Sociology's Tower of Babel: Reconstructing the Scientific Method* (Aldine de Gruyter, 2001) I attempt to move beyond debate to sketch and illustrate an approach that promises to build bridges connecting our specialized areas, addressing what Turner called "hyperdifferentiation." A group of sociologists and one philosopher of social science have joined forces in a volume, Toward A Sociological Imagination: Bridging Specialized Fields (Univ. Press of America; authors: Howard Becker, David Britt, Chanoch Jacobsen, James Kimberly, Harold Kincaid, Richard Lachmann, David Maines, myself, Suzanne Retzinger and Thomas Scheff) that should be available for the Chicago ASA meetings. The volume grew out of the first conference of the "Sociological Imagination Group" in 2000, meeting at all annual ASA meetings.

I urge everyone in the Section planning to attend the Chicago ASA meetings to consider visiting the group's open meetings on Saturday, August 17th, 8-10 PM and Sunday, 6:30-8:15 PM (place to be specified in the final program). In my own view the discipline lacks a growing movement for continuing the debate over how to
A Brief Response to Lynch and Fujimura.
Jen Croissant, U. Arizona, jlc@u.arizona.edu.

With all Mike Lynch and Joan Fujumura agree upon, and with Joan’s very well put-together response, my only goal is to emphasize one issue. Mike argues (normatively, I might add) that STS (however you want to define it) needs to be descriptive, neither normative (or ideological) or methodologically prescriptive. This is a reinscription of the hoary old descriptive/prescriptive distinction, which rests on a latent form of scientism, defining science as separate from values. Historians spent much ink on a similar issue: the relationship between narrative and theory. Theory, taken to mean developing nomothetic interpretations of the past in light of generalization about social life, was opposed to narrative, taken to mean (pure, ideographic or particularistic) description of what ‘really happened.’ In particular, Hayden White, in his analysis of the relationships between narrative and theory, undermines this distinction. (See Scranton, 1991, for a more recent discussion of this in relation to the history of technology.) “Pure” narratives, even simple storytelling, rest on implicit models of causality and agency, unarticulated in the narrative form. These models can be made explicit, and analyzed and critiqued, and thus understood as theoretical. Conversely, for historians especially, theoretically motivated work that has an incoherent narrative fails on epistemological, normative, and aesthetic grounds. In the same way that narratives are always already theoretical, descriptions are always already prescriptive: both normatively and methodologically. This is reflected in the levels of analysis and research methods selected by a scholar and the models of agency and causality expressed and implied in the work. This in turn connects to the aesthetic and epistemological standards internal to knowledge communities and accepted in the wider social world. STS (a group? a worldview?) has consistently maintained, due to its marginality and interdisciplinarity, a unique opportunity to reflect, and I do like Mike’s terms of epistemography and ethigraphy, on its own and others’ knowledge producing activities. However, asserting the right to do so must be done on some other grounds than arguing for producing ‘pure knowledge’ and non-normative description, to avoid privileging science (and sociology) all over again. I would argue that exactly because description and prescription are contiguous processes, there are opportunities to argue normative principles and articulate underlying logics (see Lynch paragraph 3) for governing science and technology. A coherent reflexivity recognizing the prescriptive character of description can legitimate STS as an interlocutor in public and scholarly arenas discussing science.

References:


BOOK NOTES

New Books

Nancy Reichman and Penelope Canan are pleased to announce the publication of *Ozone Connections: Expert Networks in Global Environmental Governance* by Greenleaf Publishing Company (2002). Penelope Canan, PhD, University of Denver, 303 871-2049 voice 303 871-2090 fax.

William Evan and Mark Manion announce the publication of *Minding the Machine: Preventing Technological Disasters*. (Prentice Hall 2002). At the following web URL you can find the table of contents, preface, and endorsements of the book: <http://vig.pearsoned.com/store/product/0,,store-562_banner-0_isbn-0130656461,00.html> Mark Manion, Philosophy Program Director, Department of English and Philosophy, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA 19104 (phone) 215.895.2434;(fax) 215.895.1071;(e-mail) manionm@drexel.edu


In *Digital Copyright*, Jessica Litman’s ambitious work, she embarks on a review of copyright history that begins with the British Parliament’s enactment of the 1710 Statute of Anne. Especially interesting in her analysis is the examination of the 21-year negotiation process which resulted in the Copyright Act of 1976, and more recently, her characterization of that same process that produced the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) of 1998. The process upon which Congress depended, which Litman challenges, that culminated in the 1976 act and then twenty-two years later in the DMCA, can be described as a series of seemingly endless consensus seeking meetings of those with vested interests in copyright. The result? A two-hundred-some page statute drafted by copyright lawyers that is a loosely assembled, impregnable series of broad expansive rights balanced by narrow, stingy exceptions and provisions that retained the advantages of those industries who had a stake in the protections afforded by the law. Despite this apparently inclusive process, Litman’s claim is that the public voice and interests are missing, as especially was the case during the evolution of the DMCA.
Digital Copyright explores the way that technology, from the printing press to the player piano, has continually prompted change in copyright law, and now is enabling the monitoring of violations by making it possible to track the use of copyrighted materials along with their permission status. This has led to a new control structure and an expansion of “protection” of copyrighted works via licensing mechanisms and a trend toward a pay per use model.

The original intent of copyright is “to promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts,” however, striking a balance between that and the provision of incentives for creation and incentives, while additionally preserving the public’s opportunities to read, view, listen to, learn from, and build on copyrighted works is very difficult as evidenced in this account. DMCA provides the legal authorization to do that which technology has long been able to do. The problem, as evoked by Digital Copyright, is that the varying industries, with the law and technical means at their side, have only considered what they have the ability to do: track, enforce, control, and capture new markets, without considering if they should do so.

ON THE WEB

The British Society for the History of Science has re-launched its Guide to History of Science Courses in the UK on the web. It can be reached via the Society's homepage, http://www.chstm.man.ac.uk/bshs/ The Guide aims to provide prospective students and other interested parties with a listing of courses in the history of science and related disciplines offered by institutions of higher education in the UK. The list covers undergraduate and postgraduate courses, arranged according to department. Each entry includes: - - names of staff and their areas of expertise -- special resources available -- courses and degrees offered. Please direct any correspondence relating to the Guide to Sam Alberti, sam.alberti@man.ac.uk.

NOMINATIONS: OFFICERS AND AWARDS

FOR FUTURE SKAT OFFICERS: Interested in running for SKAT in the future? Please contact Trevor Pinch TJP2@cornell.edu.

Sally Hacker-Nicholas Mullins Graduate Student Paper Award. SKAT invites nominations for the Hacker-Mullins Award. The $200 award is given to a graduate student for a published article or unpublished paper concerning science, knowledge, or technology that was completed during the preceding 12 months. Students are especially urged to nominate their own papers for this award. The award will be presented at the ASA Annual Meeting in 2002 at Chicago. The deadline for nominations is June 1, 2002. Please send two paper copies of the nominated work to Kelly Moore, Department of Sociology, Barnard College, 3009 Broadway, New York, NY 10027-6598, email: km104@columbia.edu.

ASA 2002

The section will be planning on the following sessions for ASA-2002.

(1) Gender and Science (co-sponsored by SKAT and Sex & Gender Sections), Organizer: Mary Frank Fox, School of History, Technology, and Society, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0345 phone 404-894-1818 fax: 404-371-8811 email: mary.fox@hts.gatech.edu.

(2) Law and Science, Organizer: Jennifer L. Croissant, Associate Professor, Program on Culture, Science, Technology, and Society, CSTS/MSE, Bldg. 12 University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 86721-0012, Phone: 520-626-2980 or 621-6070, Fax: 520-621-8059, jlc@u.arizona.edu.

SKATnews
Research Opportunities/Call for Papers & Reviewers/Grants & Fellowships/Upcoming Events

Research Symposium with the Next Generation of Leaders in Science and Technology Policy: Request for Proposals

The Program Committee of the Research Symposium with the Next Generation of Leaders in Science and Technology Policy requests proposals for papers from scholars and practitioners who have either received their PhD (or other terminal degree) no earlier than 1995 or who have completed all degree requirements with the exception of a thesis (ABD or equivalent). The Research Symposium, to be held in Washington, DC on 22 and 23 November 2002, is funded by the National Science Foundation (award number SES-0135170). It is a collaborative project of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University and the Center for Science, Policy, & Outcomes (CSPO) of Columbia University, and co-sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The Program co-chairs are David H. Guston (Rutgers), Daniel Sarewitz (CSPO), and Steven Nelson (AAAS).

The Research Symposium will address eight theme tracks: 1) new history of science and technology policy; 2) R&D program analysis and evaluation; 3) expertise, advice, assessment, and evaluation; 4) science, technology, and human needs and values; 5) science, technology, and international issues; 6) science education, human resources, and workforce; 7) science and technology policy institutions and processes; and 8) science, technology, and the public.

Authors whose proposals are accepted will receive travel funding to attend the workshop and an honorarium of $750 upon presentation of a completed paper, to be published in a multi-authored volume from the Research Symposium. Senior scholars and practitioners will be invited to serve as discussants.

A complete proposal consists of: 1) an abstract of up to 400 words (including citations if necessary and mention of appropriate theme track); 2) one-page biography; and 3) contact information for up to four senior scholars, analysts, and/or practitioners who could potentially serve as respondent. Proposals are due by 1 June 2002. They should be submitted by email to guston@rci.rutgers.edu. The Program Committee will accept two papers in each of the eight theme tracks for funding. The Program Committee will notify participants and alternates by 1 July 2002.

Visit the Symposium web site, http://www.cspo.org/nextgen/index.html, for further information about the Symposium, the Program Committee, and the theme tracks.

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The Societal Dimensions of Engineering, Science, and Technology program has issued a revised program announcement. You can find it at http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?nsf01152. Target dates for submission are February 1 and August 1, each year. The program's home page is at http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/ses/sdest/; check out the links to...
other sites and the assistance on "Preparing a Proposal, What You Should Know!!!"

Societal Dimensions continues to consider a wide variety of proposals for research and education about the interactions of engineering, science, technology, and society. The Ethics and Values Studies (EVS) component supports examinations of the ethical and value dimensions in those interactions. The Research on Knowledge, Science and Technology (RST) component supports research on social and strategic choices that influence knowledge production and innovations and their effects. In EVS, the new announcement highlights the area of ethics and research in the social and behavioral sciences, including human subjects issues; in RST, it highlights the area of research on social and cultural issues for goal-driven research centers. Another area of interest for the program is studies of cooperative efforts between government agencies, including internationally, in support of research. SDEST program director Rachelle Hollander is on sabbatical until September 2002. During this period, Joan Sieber is replacing her as program director. Joan can be reached at jsieber@nsf.gov and at the phone and fax and office numbers listed below. John Perhonis handles dissertation proposals; he can be reached at jperhoni@nsf.gov; his phone number is 703-292-7279. Societal Dimensions of Engineering, Science, and Technology Program - Ethics and Values Studies, Research on Science and Technology, NSF Room 995, Arlington, VA 22230. Phone: 703-292-7272, fax -9068 e-mail: jsieber@nsf.gov, www.nsf.gov/sbe/ees/sdest. To submit FastLane proposals, select 01-152 and either EVS or RST on the program dropdown menu!!!

Employment & Fellowship Notes

Several employment announcements have been sent directly to the SKAT website.

THE CHRISTINE MIRZAYAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES, WASHINGTON, D.C.

This Internship Program of the National Academies--consisting of the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and National Research Council--is designed to engage graduate and postdoctoral students in science and technology policy and to familiarize them with the interactions among science, technology, and government. As a result, students--in the fields of science, engineering, medicine, veterinary medicine, business, and law--develop essential skills different from those attained in academia, which will help them make the transition from being a graduate student to a professional. We are pleased to announce a new fall 2002 program session--expanding our program beyond its current summer and winter sessions. The fall 2002 program will take place from September 9 until November 27, 2002. To apply, candidates should submit an application and request their mentor fill out a reference form. Both are available on the Web at: <http://national-academies.org/internship>

Here is what four former interns said about the program:

"This is an important career building opportunity for people interested in the scientific community outside academia. Even if you plan to pursue a traditional academic track, seeing science from a policy perspective is very enlightening. There is something valuable in this experience for first year grad students to recent PhD's. Come with an open mind and expect to learn more than you bargained for."

"The National Academies Internship has been one of the most valuable life experiences I have had thus far. The scope of the influence of the Academies in helping shape science, medical and engineering related policy is amazing to witness. Through this internship, I have learned more about my work as a social scientist than I imagined, and I have a better sense of how my research can relate to public policy."

"The Internship program provides an exceptional opportunity for scientists to explore various facets of scholarly research and policymaking. As an intern, you will work with an eclectic mix of highly educated, diverse intellectuals who help advance the future of science. You will leave not only armed with important and influential contacts but also with invaluable skills and..."
experiences."

"This program will open your mind to a world rarely envisioned from the confines of laboratory bench work. I learned an immeasurable amount about the policy and politics behind science and after the internship opens your mind, it opens career doors."

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The STS Program at Penn State is seeking a talented, energetic scholar to teach core interdisciplinary courses at the undergraduate level. The applicants should have completed a Ph.D. degree and have outstanding teaching ability. Demonstrated scholarly achievements are expected in one or more of the following areas: environmental studies, science and/or technology studies, science and technology policy, and the history of science and technology. The selected candidate should anticipate working collegially with faculty and visiting scholars from many different disciplines and countries.

Candidates should send an application letter, a resume, and the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three references to: Chair, Faculty Search Committee, Room 102 Old Botany, University Park, PA 16802. Screening will begin May 15, 2002, and will continue until a selection is made. Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity and the diversity of its workforce.

Karen Snare, Staff Assistant IX, STS Program, 102 Old Botany
Phone/Voice Mail: 814-863-1173, Fax: 814-865-3046.

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Assistant Professor of Anthropology.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Anthropology Program invites applications for a tenure-track position at the rank of assistant professor in sociocultural anthropology to begin July 2003. Especially encouraged are candidates with research interests in Asia or Europe; ethnicity and race; religion; and anthropology of science and technology but other specializations and areas are welcomed.

MIT is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action employer and strongly encourages applications from women and members of minority groups.

Nominations and applications, with a complete resume and the names and addresses of three referees should be sent by December 1, 2002 to: Jean Jackson, Head, Anthropology Program, MIT, Room 16-223, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139-4307.

The employer does offer employment benefits to domestic partners of employees. The employer does prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation/preference and gender identity/expression.

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Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology, and Society offers international Fellows the opportunity of investigating the social implications of scientific and technological development. Applications for Fellowship may be submitted at any time.

Contact: Director Prof. Arno Bamme`, Institute for Advanced Studies in STS, Kopernikusgasse 9, A-8010, Graz, Austria. Email: kolleg@ifz.tu-graz.ac.at, http://www.ifz.tu-graz.ac.at/kolleg

The ASA (http://www.asanet.org) has the Employment Bulletin on-line, as well as annotated links to other employment listings and job-search aids.

SKAT Officers and Committees

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Book Review Editor

Newsletter: Please send announcements and news to either editor. Issues come out approximately one month after the deadline: for time-sensitive materials send materials directly to M. Virnoche (above) for Web posting. Contribute electronically, by regular post, or fax. Deadlines are: May 15, October 15, and February 15.

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