

SATSU Annual Review: 2013-2014



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STIS Development Group Meeting in York



Meeting of the Bio-Objects COST Action in Leuven

SATSU's Focus

Established in 1988, SATSU is an internationally recognised social science research centre exploring the dynamics, practices, and possibilities of contemporary science and technology. Its principal focus is on the biosciences, health, digital media and social networking including new forms of democratic governance, and the broader regulatory universe within which these are found. Our approach is to provide both theoretical and empirically-grounded critical analyses of these fields, and to undertake interdisciplinary and policy-relevant research informed by both conventional and novel methodological techniques.

SATSU currently has 14 members as well as Affiliated members based in the UK and overseas, and is directed by Professor Andrew Webster. The Unit collaborates with colleagues working in dedicated research centres in the UK and internationally within the field of science and technology studies, social media, and science and technology policy. We also welcome applications for PhD study through the new Science and Technology Studies PhD doctoral training programme.

Welcome

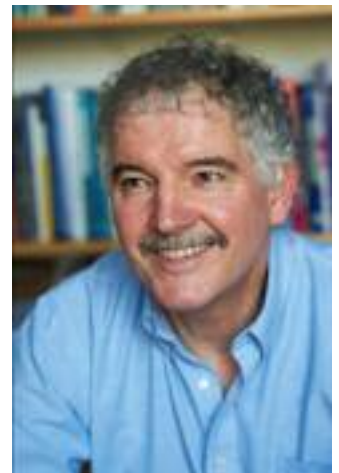
Director's Report

This year SATSU has been busy on a number of research fronts relating to initial work on newly secured grants, helping to build a new national association for STS (see page 5 for further information), collaborating within York with colleagues from a range of Departments, including Biology, Electronic Engineering, Computer Science and Health Sciences, staff moving on and arriving, and participating in or leading on conferences in the UK and internationally. Our papers continue to cover work on the biosciences, the history of science, digital culture and medical sociology.

One of the more notable developments earlier in the year was the completion of my 4-year role as Dean of Social Sciences here at York, which meant from January 1 my diary seemed to evaporate, and I could devote virtually all of my time to research and supervision of my PhD students, as well as being able to get to many more academic meetings more easily, and order many new books to read!

July saw the kick-off meeting of the new ESRC-funded project on regenerative medicine, which we have called REGenableMED, to stress how this research, with colleagues in Edinburgh, Sheffield and Sussex, examines how and in what way cultural, organisational and economic contexts within the UK are more or less 'enabling' of emerging technologies, in this case the specific and complex field of regenerative medicine (see page 10 for further details). Sian Beynon-Jones also saw the start of her new British Academy grant (with colleague Merran Toerien), which is a comparative analysis of abortion law and practice in the UK and South Africa (visitors from SA will be coming to York in the spring of 2015). Amanda Rees is undertaking fascinating work for her BA Fellowship which comes to a conclusion soon. Her work crosses the STS/History of Science boundary exploring the ways in which conceptions of the 'deep' human past have changed over time by examining the methodological development of archaeology and palaeoanthropology. As such, it will not only make a contribution to the history of science and historiography, but also to the public understanding of history and its wider political significance.

This year also saw Kim Jamie move on to a Lectureship in the Sociology at Durham University and she continues to develop her research in medical sociology/STS, recently publishing work on 'the pharmacy gaze' which opens up a new conceptual ground for understanding the epistemic and cultural world on pharmacy itself. This is an area that needs more STS/social science research, something I am particularly aware of in my continuing role as member of the Scientific Advisory Group of Pharmacy UK. We were delighted to appoint a new postdoc, Dr John Gardner, who came to us from Brunel and who has specialist expertise in the STS analysis of deep-brain stimulation. John joined the REGenableMED project for three years and will also be building his own research portfolio in the Unit focused on his post-doc papers and collaborative grant bids with other colleagues in the SATSU and beyond. Meanwhile, the European-wide Bio-Objects COST Action moved into its closing period, and during the year members were able to discuss follow-on grants and future collaboration.



We are intending this coming year to initiate a new STS-group across the University's social science departments to host roundtable discussions of a variety of areas of inquiry based on our and other colleagues' work. The first of these will be in the autumn term 2014, and each term thereafter; they are likely to include,

- measurement and metrics
- understanding different 'objects' – cultural, material, bio-objects, animal
- temporalities: futures, expectations, scenarios
- systems of surveillance, governance and control

Welcome

Director's Report Continued...

This initiative in part reflects the growing number of opportunities for research that requires an engagement with developments in science and technology. Most UK research programmes funded by the principal research councils call for research that addresses major societal challenges and these are frequently shaped by socio-technical processes relating to innovation, data, digital systems, health dynamics and so on. It is especially heartening in this regard to see so many other STS networks being established elsewhere (not only the new national one in the UK, but in a variety of countries including

Spain, Belgium, Singapore, Denmark, etc).

The year ahead promises therefore to be busy on new fronts as well as seeing the consolidation of our existing work through publications, reports and engagement with various senior policy constituencies through the advice and evaluation roles that we have in the UK and internationally. Last year we celebrated our 25th Anniversary: I'm not sure the Unit will be here in 25 years time(!) but I am sure the issues that we have explored and contributed to through evidence, critique and policy-engagement will still be around.

News

New Editor - Theory, Culture & Society

In early 2014 David Beer took on the role of website and social media editor for Theory, Culture & Society. He is currently taking a leading of editing and developing the TCS site, which acts as an open access supplement to the journal. The TCS website publishes thinkpieces, commentaries, interviews and reviews on various topics covered by the journals broad scope. The site is designed as an open access resource that complements and extends the materials covered in the journal. The site is a great resource for those teaching and researching in the areas of Theory, Culture & Society. It has recently published short open access pieces on neoliberalism, music, biopolitics, digital power, posthuman ethics and cosmopolitanism, with more to follow over the coming weeks and months. David is involved in commissioning and editing pieces and trying to steer the content and direction of the site.

New Belgian STS Network established

SATSU was invited to become a formal partner in a new Belgian-funded (FWO – Research Foundation Flanders) Science, Technology and Society network, co-ordinated by Ine van Howyeghen and which has 8 institutional members. Andrew Webster attended and presented at the kick-off meeting held in Leuven in late June (see below). Further information about the network can be found at: <http://www.bsts.be/>



SATSU Director visit to the University of Gothenburg

Andrew Webster was delighted to be hosted at the University of Gothenburg for a short period in May/June, guest of former SATSU member Dr Lena Eriksson. They spent time working on joint papers relating to the stem cell field. Andrew returns to Gothenburg in November for a week to continue and broaden the collaboration.

New STIS National Association

On June 30 SATSU hosted a meeting in York that brought together 35 colleagues (including PhD students from STIS ESRC Doctoral Training Centres) from across the UK to discuss the possibility of launching a new national association for Science, Technology and Innovation Studies (STIS). Robin Williams (ISSTI, Edinburgh) and Andrew Webster (SATSU) introduced the day and its main objectives. The meeting had been preceded by two ad hoc planning group meetings (in Sheffield and Leeds) that involved a dozen or so STIS colleagues. Robin has been acting as convenor for AsSIST – the Association for the Study of Innovation Science and Technology which was formed in the run up to the 1996 Research Assessment Exercise – driven by the need to represent the concerns of the fledgling STIS community to Research and Funding councils. There was a decision taken at that time that we were not in a position to launch a viable membership organisation. AsSIST was a virtual organisation – a committee of representatives of those organisations exchanging ideas and information by email.

At that time, the field was doing well, benefitting from large ESRC and other research programmes that had a strong STIS focus (such as PACCIT; Virtual Society; IHT) and a protected quota of PhD studentships associated with specific STIS centres. There has been a substantial growth in the field since 1996 in terms of the size and number of centres/groups/individuals promoting STIS scholarship, and in the wider

uptake of our ideas across a wider array of scholars outwith these. While there has been success in our intellectual project there is a sense that we need to do more institutional work, especially in regard to opportunities to support the research community and the emerging generation of research students.



The subsequent growth of the field has created the opportunity and the need therefore for a more inclusive and more proactive organisation today when the apparatuses for research training and research funding are being transformed – e.g. current pressures to concentrate research funding in selected leading

universities and for regional collaboration over research training. There is a need for members to shape the agenda – most immediately for example, regarding the next generation of ESRC Doctoral Training Centres, which may become CDTs (Centres for Doctoral Training), and so more thematic (i.e. less discipline-based) and regionally-based.

The discussion prior to the June 30 event was helped by EASST which under Fred Steward's leadership has become much stronger and has been working with emerging national organisations in many countries. Other new foci of activity include the BSA STS group with lively national conferences that Anne Kerr (Leeds) and Paul Martin (Sheffield) have been coordinating; and the growth of ESRC DTCs – many of which have STIS pathways adds further momentum. The outcome of a very productive day was to establish in the autumn a STIS Development Group to set in train a new UKAsSIST association.



Output

Publications

- Beer, D. (2013). *Popular Culture and New Media: The Politics of Circulation*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Beer, D. & Burrows, R. (2013). 'Popular culture, digital archives and the new social life of data', *Theory, Culture & Society* 30(4): 47-71.
- Beer, D. (2014). *Punk Sociology*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Beer, D. (2014). 'The embedded power of algorithms', *Open Democracy*, 3 July 2014, <http://www.opendemocracy.net/david-beer/embedded-power-of-algorithms>
- Beer, D. (2014). 'The invisibility of the recording engineer', *Discover Society*, 1 July 2014, <http://www.discoversociety.org/2014/07/01/the-invisibility-of-the-recording-engineer-2/>
- Beynon-Jones, S. & Brown, N. (2013). Where the Wild Things Are: The EU Regulation of Transpecies Bioscience, In Farrell, A-N., Flear, M., Hervey, T., & Murphy, T. (eds.) *European Law and New Health Technologies*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Brown, N. (2013). Contradictions of Value: Between use and Exchange in Cord Blood Bioeconomy, *Sociology of Health and Illness*, 35, (1), 97-112.
- Brown, N. (In Press 2014). Metrics of Hope: Disciplining Affect in Oncology, *Health*.
- Cook, P.S., Kendall, G., Michael, M., & Brown, N. (2013). Medical Tourism, Xenotourism and Client Expectations: Between Bioscience and Responsibilisation, in Hall, C.M., (ed.) *Medical Tourism: The Ethics, Regulation, and Marketing of Health Mobility*, Abingdon: Routledge, pp. 61-75.
- Johnson, M. R. (In Press). *The Social Impact of Space Science* in Dickens, P. & Ormrod, J. (Eds) *Society and the Universe: An Interdisciplinary Reader*, London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Loader, B. (2014). A Transnational Public Sphere for a Digital Generation? (2014) *E-International Relations*, <http://www.e-ir.info/2014/08/15/a-transnational-public-sphere-for-a-digital-generation/>
- Loader, B. (2014). 'Young People, Social Media and Connective Action: From organizational maintenance to everyday political talk', (with Ariadne Vromen and Mike Xenos) (2014) *Journal of Youth Studies*.
- Loader, B. (2014). Towards a Culture of Connective Action?' *Sociologica: Italian Journal of Sociology Online*. (No.3: 2014).
- Loader, B. (2014). 'The Networked Citizen: social media, political participation and civic engagement', (with Ariadne Vromen and Mike A. Xenos) (2014) *Information, Communication & Society*, 17:2, 143-150.
- Loader, B. (2014). 'The Great Equalizer? Patterns of social media use and youth political engagement in three advanced democracies', (with Ariadne Vromen and Mike A. Xenos) (2014) *Information, Communication & Society*, 17:2, 151-167.
- Loader, B. (eds.) (2014). *The Networked Young Citizen: social media, political participation and civic engagement*, (edited with Ariadne Vromen and Mike Xenos), New York: Routledge.
- Rees, A. (forthcoming). 'Exploring nature: geographies of science's history' in the Oxford Illustrated History of Science.
- Webster, A. (2013). 'Digital Technology and Sociological Windows', In K. Orton-Johnson and N. Prior (eds.) *Digital Sociology*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Webster, A. (2014). 'Critical analysis of collaborative systems in health', in B. Penders and N. Vermeulen (eds.) *Collaboration Across Health Research and Medical Care*, London: Ashgate.
- Webster, A., & Faulkner, A. (2014). Governance and Regenerative Medicine, in E. Annandale and E. Kuhlmann (eds.) *Handbook of Healthcare Policy*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Ali, R., Hollander, A., Kemp, P., Webster, A., & Wilkins, M. (2014). Regulating Cell-Based Regenerative Medicine: The Challenges Ahead, *Regenerative Medicine* vol. 9 (1) 77-83.

Conference Papers

- Beynon-Jones, S. M. (2014). Without delay: How women's accounts of abortion trouble the temporality of healthcare policy, BSA Yorkshire Medical Sociology Group Inaugural Meeting, University of Sheffield, February 2014.
- Beynon-Jones, S. M. (2014). Challenging times: Exploring temporalities in women's accounts of their experiences of abortion, BSA annual conference, University of Leeds, April 2014.
- Beynon-Jones, S. M. (2014). Re-embodying ultrasound: Women's accounts of fetal sonograms prior to abortion in England, 15th biennial congress of the European Society for Health and Medical Sociology, Helsinki, August 2014.
- Beynon-Jones, S. M. (2014). 'It's exactly like you see on TV when people are happy to be having a baby': Women's experiences of ultrasound in the context of abortion care. BSA Medical Sociology Group 46th Annual Conference, Aston University, September 2014.
- Brown, N. (2013). Metrics of Hope - A Critical Perspective on Affect in the Governmentality of Health, Monash University Prato Centre, Prato, Italy, June 2013.
- Brown, N. (2014). Dark Biology - 'The Thanopolitics of Bioart', Department of Philosophy, University of Lund, Sweden, March 2014.
- Brown, N. (2014). Immunitas And Communitas - Neither Gift Nor Commodity, Department of Geography, University of Exeter, March 2014.
- Johnson, M. (2014). The Semiotics of the Roguelike. "Canadian Game Studies Association Conference", St. Catharines, Ontario.
- Johnson, M. (2014). Procedural Graphic Generation. "International Roguelike Developer Conference", Co-Up Hackerspace, Berlin.
- Johnson, M. (2014). Access to Documents in High-Technology Industries. "Access and Opportunities in Social Sciences" Conference, University of York.
- Johnson, M. (2014). Lending Social Credibility to High-End Science. "British Sociological Association Annual Conference", University of Leeds.
- Webster, A. (2014). Bio-Objects and Governance, Presentation at the COST Action Annual Conference, Malta, 5-6 May 2014.
- Webster, A. (2014). STS, Research Networking and Impact, Belgian STS National Kick-off meeting, Leuven, 27 June 2014.
- Williams, R. (2014). "Cords of Collaboration: Exploring Aims and Claims in the Governance Structure of the British Umbilical Cord Blood Stem Cell Bioeconomy", paper presented at ISA Congress XVIII RC15 Sociology of Health, 19 July, Yokohama, Japan.
- Williams, R. (2014). "Cords of Collaboration: Exploring Political, Clinical, Private and Third-sector Interests within the Emerging British Umbilical Cord Stem Cell Bioeconomy", paper presented at BSA Annual Conference, 25 April, University of Leeds, UK.
- Williams, R. (2014). "Untwisting the cords: exploring the political value(s) of race in British umbilical cord blood stem cell policy", paper presented at BSA Race and Ethnicity Study Group Conference - Mapping the Field: Contemporary Theories of Race, Racism and Ethnicity, 31 January, Newman University, Birmingham, UK.

Other Dissemination Activities

- Johnson, M. (2014). Interviewed for *The Guardian* newspaper on procedural generation in video games
- Johnson, M. (2014). Interviewed for *Entrepreneur Magazine*, *Focus Magazine* and "The Conversation" about Space Tourism
- Johnson, M. (2014). Talk on "The Contested Futures of Space Tourism" at British Interplanetary Society (London)
- "The Predicted Futures of Space Tourism", Mark R Johnson & Daryl Martin, for a special issue of the journal *Mobilities* (invited paper).

Brown Bag Seminar Series

The SATSU Brown Bag seminar series provides a relaxed forum for the presentation, discussion and debate of cutting-edge research relevant to the study of science, technology and medicine. This past year we have again welcomed several invited speakers, as well as hearing from SATSU members concerning their own research interests.

Autumn term

Stem cells were the focus of the autumn term. We began with a presentation from Dr Merryn Ekberg (School of Health, University of Northampton) who provided an insightful overview of the history and dynamics of ethical debates concerning stem cell research. We then heard from SATSU doctoral student Ros Williams, who presented the exciting preliminary findings of her research concerning the British umbilical cord stem cell bioeconomy.



Spring term

In the spring term we continued our cellular explorations with a presentation from Emma King (STIS, University of Edinburgh) concerning the fascinating topic of synthetic blood, and the challenges that it poses to traditional models of blood donation. SATSU's Andrew Webster then asked us to consider the epistemological questions raised by new digital technologies via his discussion and response to Wouters et al's. recent book, *Virtual Knowledge*. Finally, Kate Reed (Department of Sociological Studies, University of Sheffield) reflected on the new socio-technical possibilities and dilemmas evident within professionals' accounts of the use of Magnetic Resonance Imaging as a diagnostic tool during pregnancy.

Project Updates

Excavating Deep History: Historiography, Methodology and Narratives of Human Nature

Dr Amanda Rees

This project, funded by a British Academy mid-career fellowship, has focused on the ways in which conceptions of the deep human past have changed over time. Its approach has been two-fold, considering both the methodological development and the public presentation of the disciplines of archaeology and palaeoanthropology during the 20th century. It has paid particular attention to scholars and sites that have been treated as central to the stories of human origins that have been told since 1859, people such as Grafton Elliot Smith and Louis Leakey, places such as Wookey Hole and Olduvai Gorge, and events from press conferences to plane journeys.

A workshop, 'Excavating Deep History' was held at the University of York in September 2014, including invited speakers from Europe and the United States, and a journal special issue ('Accounting for human Origins: Methodology and Emotion in the Sciences of the Human Past') is currently being planned in collaboration with participants and the journal editor. Two further journal articles are also in preparation ('Narrating Human/e Identity: Early 20th Century accounts of Human Origins'; 'Digging for Data: Presenting Archaeological Field Practice to the Public, 1865-1959'). A website based on the project's development and tracing the different constructions of the human story/ies as they have evolved in different ecological contexts is also under construction.



Project Updates

Time, Timing and Termination of Pregnancy: A Qualitative Analysis of Patients' and Health Professionals' Experiences

Dr Siân-Beynon-Jones

In recent years, prescriptions concerning the meaning of time and abortion have been debated extensively in both the media and in Parliament. Such debates have been conducted without reference to the temporal experiences of those who are directly affected by the regulation of abortion, namely, women who decide to end their pregnancies. Accordingly, this project draws on qualitative interviews to explore women's experiences of abortion provision in England, with a particular focus on the temporal dimensions of these experiences. It also addresses the understandings of time that are enacted through abortion

provision, via an analysis of health policy documents and interviews with health professionals working in this field.

The project is being conducted by SATSU Research Fellow Siân Beynon-Jones, as part of her three year Wellcome Trust research fellowship in biomedical ethics. Data collection and analysis are now complete, and dissemination of the results is currently underway. A central finding of the project is the ways in which women's accounts of temporality and abortion both reinforce and disrupt dominant framings of the practice within law, healthcare policy and healthcare practice. It also offers insights into other key aspects of contemporary experiences of providing and undergoing abortion in England, for example, the spaces in which abortion becomes stigmatised, and the processes through which 'choices' about methods of abortion become constrained in practice.

Further information about Siân's project can be found at: <http://www.york.ac.uk/satsu/timing-termination/>

Clinical Trials and the Challenge of Regenerative Medicine

Dr Ruchi Higham

My initial review of the clinical trials and regenerative medicine literature has helped me to narrow the focus of my project, and also identified a number of areas of interest which I will be developing in my research. I will be focussing specifically on stem cell trials in the UK, and I am particularly interested in exploring how the clinical trial fits in the innovation process for stem cell therapies, and how this relates to different perspectives on translational medicine. I am planning to do a series of interviews as well as two in-depth case studies, and I am hoping to begin fieldwork in October (subject to ethics approval).

The Civic Network Project

Brian Loader

The final year of the Civic Network project began with the second phase online focus groups in each of the three participating countries. A sample of young people was drawn from the larger survey respondents to enable us to drill down deeper into their political attitudes and their use of social media. These sessions were led by IPSOS Mori moderators with the three researchers able to follow the live discussions and intervene with questions if required. They each produced a rich source of data that we have been analysing and writing up for various conference presentations.

Early findings from the survey have been published in a special issue of *Information, Communication & Society* (2014, 17:2) and

an edited collection entitled *The Networked Young Citizen* (Routledge 2014). They have also been used to inform several other articles including 'Generational change, Networking Young Citizens and Democratic Politics', (2014) *Telos* (in Spanish), http://telos.fundaciontelefonica.com/docs/repositorio/es_ES/revistasPDF/telos_98.pdf - A Transnational Public Sphere for a Digital Generation? (2014) *E-International Relations*, <http://www.e-ir.info/2014/08/15/a-transnational-public-sphere-for-a-digital-generation/> - and 'Young People, Social Media and Connective Action: From organizational maintenance to everyday political talk', (2014) *Journal of Youth Studies*,

Most recently, preliminary qualitative findings from our focus groups have been presented to the Australian Political Studies Association conference in Sydney and the Regional ICA conference in Brisbane. Further articles and a book will follow in the coming year.

Project Updates

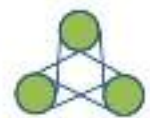
REGenableMED

REGenableMED is an ESRC-funded project examining the dynamics of innovation within the field of regenerative medicine. Using a mixed-methods social science approach, the project will undertake a detailed analysis of the interplay between business models, measures of clinical utility, patterns of regulatory oversight and clinical workflows within healthcare settings. The results of the research will inform strategies aimed at facilitating the responsible development of effective and useful regenerative medicine products and services.

The project uses the notion of *institutional readiness* as an analytical starting point. The progress of innovation projects is often understood in terms of *technology readiness*: the extent to which the innovative technology has matured and is 'ready' to be put to use. Yet successful innovation also depends upon what could be called *institutional readiness*, or the capacity and willingness of key pre-existing organisations and inter-organisational structures to adopt, respond to and utilise novel technologies. Institutional readiness is particularly significant in the developing field of regenerative medicine (RM). For RM to live up to its promise of revolutionising patient care, emerging products must somehow be accommodated within pre-existing regulatory and healthcare organisations that are accustomed to dealing with more conventional medicinal products and services.

The REGenableMED project thus examines the ways in which relevant institutions and agencies are 'readying' themselves for regenerative medicine, and the various factors that enable and hinder institutional 'readiness'. By doing this, the project will produce applicable findings that can inform healthcare policy and commercial strategies aimed at the responsible development and adoption of novel RM therapies.

REGenableMED



One of the project team members, Graham Lewis, is developing a database on global developments in cell therapy and other regenerative medicine technologies, including clinical trials. This aspect of the project builds on a similar database developed for the REMEDIe project (www.york.ac.uk/satsu/remedie) hosted by SATSU, 2009 - 2011. The latter database has attracted widespread notice across Europe and further afield as regenerative medicine attracts increasing interest.

The REGenableMED research team is composed of social scientists with differing skill-sets, but all have expertise in regenerative medicine and medical innovation. **Andrew Webster**, **John Gardner** and **Graham Lewis** (SATSU, based at the University of York), and **Alex Faulkner** (University of Sussex) work within the disciplines of sociology and Science and Technology Studies - they interested in the way in which social and political considerations can shape developments within the regenerative medicine field. **Aurélie Mahalatchimy** (also from the University of Sussex) is an expert in EU legislation and health policy, particularly in regards to advanced therapy medicinal products. **Sue Simpson** (University of Birmingham) has a background in public health and is currently an Associate Director within the NIHR Horizon Scanning Centre who has published a series of recent reports about current work in specific disease areas within the field. **Joyce Tait**, **James Mittra** and **Geoff Banda** (Innogen, University of Edinburgh) will bring to the project their knowledge of commercial decision-making and innovation trajectories within the life sciences – in particular their novel tool for modelling value-creation, the Analysis of Life Science Innovation Systems (ALSIS) methodology, which was initially funded by the (then) TSB.

Project Updates

Bio-Objects COST Action

This past year the Bio-Objects COST Action seen the ongoing consolidation of its conceptual methodology and its use in a series of jointly published papers addressing bio-objectification found in transgenic food, microRNA crossing species boundaries, media representations of the biosciences, induced pluripotent cells, and biobanking. The outlet for the series of papers has been the *Croatian Medical Journal (CMJ)*, edited by one of our colleagues: we now have 18 papers in the *CMJ*.



Members of the network constructed a profile or typology of *bio-objectification* and *bio-identification* processes. It should be noted that the concept is not the same as 'objectification' (associated with the commodification of biological products) but the forms of scientific labour

required to create new forms of 'life'. We have begun to build a typology based on three inter-related dynamics: the form of scientific *labour* invested, the *locale* we see this and the *focus/purpose* of the work. This renders three areas for the network to explore:

Exploratory work (labour) in the lab (locale) to manipulate life to produce the initial form of life for further elaboration. *Experimental science* (focus/purpose)

Characterisation work (labour) for standardisation and making data and life commensurable especially through intermediaries and collaboratory networks (locale). *Standardising science* (focus/purpose).

Regulatory or anticipatory (of regulation) work (labour) in labs and across technology and regulatory platforms



[e.g. clinical trials] (locale). *Compliance science* (focus/purpose).

Colleagues have also focused on two issues in the meetings this year: (1) the issue of private/public patterns of ownership and control in bio-object organisation infrastructures and regulatory regimes, and (2) a proposal for conceptual work on the forces leading to innovation in bio-object regulatory regimes and especially the role of governance. The network has identified two areas of substantive shared interest where these interests could be applied – biobanks and the media. Plans are under way for a journal special issue to encompass members' research interests in these areas. In addition, the Group has begun to develop a more detailed conceptual framework for a comparative model of modes of governance that shape the bio-objectification process. The network has also engaged with the notion of 'responsible research innovation' which figures in Horizon 2020, exploring that concept, understanding its meaning and relating it to our work on bio-objects and specifically the generative relations. The network has developed these ideas for a proposal to Horizon 2020 itself, and is developing a proposal that is geared to a new form of doctoral training across the social and bioscience domains.

In the final stage ahead (the Action finishes in December 2014) we are presenting a series of Case Studies and a policy review on the Bioeconomy at the concluding international Conference and Policy Workshop to be held in Brussels, 2-4 December.

Research Biography Profile

John Gardner

I joined SATSU in June 2014 as a research associate on Andrew Webster's ESRC-funded REGenableMED project. Generally, my research interests lie at the intersection of Science and Technology Studies and Medical sociology: I'm interested in the construction of socio-technical systems in healthcare ('innovation'), empirical ethics, embodied & tacit clinical knowledge, and social theory, particularly Actor-Network Theory and the work of Foucault.

I completed my first degree in microbiology at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand in 2004. In the summer of 2004 I was awarded a scholarship to conduct a small project in a genetics laboratory, during which he studied the expression of a particular gene in Mycobacterium. It was while conducting this project that I became interested in the sociology and philosophy of science - during his time in the lab, I became aware of the difference between what we were taught about 'science', and the way in which scientific work was actually conducted in the laboratory.

I then undertook an honours degree in sociology, which I completed in 2008 at Victoria University of Wellington, during which I focused on the sociology of science, and social theory. Shortly after I received a scholarship to undertake a research masters in sociology. As part of this, I joined an interdisciplinary research team – the Applied Research into Communication in Healthcare (ARCH) - that had collected extensive video and audio recordings of interactions involving clinicians and their patients. Using this data I examined interactions in cardiac medicine. Specifically, I looked at the way in which chest pain and the body of the patient were rendered intelligible via meaningful interaction, and I looked closely at the role of the material environment in shaping these interactions.

After completing my masters I was awarded a Wellcome Trust PhD studentship to undertake a PhD exploring the use of deep brain stimulation to manage dystonia in children and young people, with Clare Williams and Steven Wainwright as supervisors. I began this research at King's College London before moving to Brunel University London in 2011. As part of this project, I conducted ethnographic research with a multidisciplinary clinical team using deep brain stimulation (DBS) to treat children and young people with dystonia. Given that the team is considered to be 'pioneering' DBS, they provided an excellent case study to explore the dynamics of medical innovation - The primary aim of the project was to explore the way in which various socio-technical influences shape the technology adoption process. I sought to identify the clinical challenges encountered by the team, and I explored how team members attempted to overcome these challenges in their day-to-day clinical work. I was particularly interested in the way in which various social trends had become embedded within a specific clinical context, and were thus shaping the work of the team and how they interacted with patients.

I'm an active member of the medical sociology and Science and Technology Studies communities. During my time as a PhD student I was the post-graduate representative on the BSA Medical Sociology Group Committee. I was also co-convenor of a one day interdisciplinary colloquium at Cumberland Lodge (in November 2011) called: From the Classroom to the Clinic, that explored the contribution of social sciences and the humanities to medical ethics. This was funded by Cumberland Lodge, the Wellcome Trust and the Institute of Medical Ethics.



Events

Brian Loader

Innovation in Higher Education: Building a Better Future? ICA Preconference, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, USA. 22 May 2014.

Witness to the Speakers Commission on Digital Democracy, Boothroyd Room, Portcullis House, Westminster, London, 15 July 2014.

Keynote Presentation 'Socio-political Influence of New Media Technologies', International Conference on Communication, Media and Design, Istanbul, 24-26 April 2014.

Forthcoming: Streets to Screens: Mediating Conflict Through Digital Networks. Sponsored by University of York, iCS, British Academy/Leverhulme and Goldsmiths, 7 November 2014.

<http://www.york.ac.uk/sociology/about/news-and-events/department/2014/streets-to-screens/>



Amanda Rees

'Excavating Deep History: archaeological field practice and narratives of human identity', British Society for the History of Science, St Andrews University, June 2014.

'Cultures or Civilisations: talking about human origins', Excavating Deep History workshop, York University, September 2014.

Project Events

The REGenableMED project team is participating in the Global Life Sciences and Bionetworking Conference, University of Sussex, 11-12 November.

<http://www.centreforbionetworking.org/global-life-science-bionetworking-cell-therapy-production-provision-policies/>

Bio-Objects, Life Forms and Future Inquiries, Wednesday 3 December, 2014, Club University Foundation, Brussels. Closing Conference of the Bio-objects COST Action. See link at: <http://www.univie.ac.at/bio-objects/>



Images from the STIS 30 June 2014 Meeting

Research Biographies Updates

Mark Johnson

Mark is studying the creation of future-oriented narratives within the UK space industry. His thesis looks at how such narratives are created by space industry actors, how they are deployed, and the uses to which they are put. It proposes a three-part typology to contribute to existing work on understanding "futures", but to fill a gap in literature on futures within technologies as high-risk and long-term as the space sector. It also explores the twin themes of innovation and conservatism.



Piotr Maron

Informed by methods developed with science and technology studies (STS) my study aims to 'follow' diagnostic category of male anorexia (MAN) through its use within medical, health and social care practices. A key objective is to undertake a genealogy of academic, medical, practitioner, and policy literatures to document the disciplinary knowledge and discursive practices around male anorexia. What conditions gave rise to the phenomena of male anorexia? Which discursive practices shape male anorexia and how has the diagnostic category been operationalised and enacted? A second objective is to examine the accounts, key actors working in the field of anorexia care and those involved in the development of guidelines and policies on male anorexia in order to understand how practices and categories are rationalised and standardised in contemporary care setting. Also I am going to give a paper titled: Production of male anorexic body in the light of medical quantification tools at EASST 2014 conference in Torun. I believe it is 25th to 27th of September.



Julia Swallow

My research is funded by the ESRC as part of the White Rose Doctoral DTC studentship network, 'Rethinking the social production, locus and impact of bioscience' and explores the role of instruments for screening cognitive function in the process of diagnosing Alzheimer's disease across clinical and policy practice. We are currently living in what is being projected as an 'ageing population' pertaining to an increase in individuals aged 65 and over; fuelling concern in policy and practice for diagnosis of age related diseases such as Alzheimer's disease. Screening and diagnosing the disease however, is complex and uncertain. My PhD draws on ethnographic methods including observations of consultations, observations of staff team meetings and semi-structured interviews with a range of clinicians and information managers to explore how these tools are used and adopted in clinical practice to navigate this uncertainty and complexity and produce a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.



Ros Williams

My PhD focuses on the aims behind the UK's umbilical cord blood collection policy which has been in practice for the past four years. I'm particularly interested in the idea of an 'unmet need' for stem cells in particular groups within the British population. This has led me to an interest in how we both categorise bodies in reference to their tissue types, and also how this concern interacts with the Department of Health's call for UK clinicians to 'Buy British' instead of import more costly tissues from abroad.



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