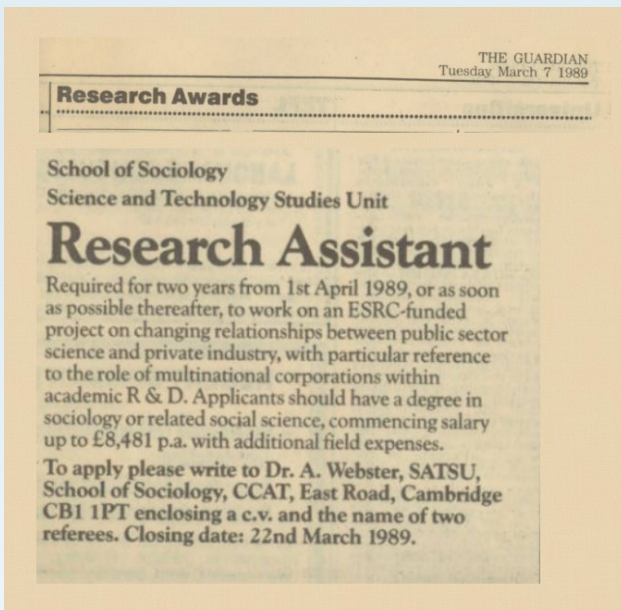


SATSU Annual Review: 2012-2013

September 2013

25

years of research



Postdoctoral Research Assistant

Department	Sociology
Based at	University of York - Heslington
	Campus
Hours of work	Full-time
Contract status	Fixed term
Salary	£29,249 - £35,938 a year
Documents	Job-description.2470.pdf (PDF, 218.42kb)

Role Description

Applications are invited for a two-year postdoctoral research position based in the Science and Technology Studies Unit in the Department of Sociology at the University of York. The post is available from October 1 or as soon as possible thereafter.

The position will involve working closely with the Director of the Unit to contribute towards current research activity in the sociology of the biosciences including the development of new grant proposals, while at the same time to develop their own research within SATSU broadly within the STS/medical sociology field but specifically to open up a new line of inquiry around the theme of the 'culture and value of medicines' (involving the everyday use of medicine, pharmacy practice, and the forms (professional, patient-based, socio-economic) in which medicines are valued). The opportunity for some limited teaching will be available.

The post is full time for 37 hours per week and is available for a fixed term period of two years.

It is anticipated that interviews for this post will be held on Friday 27 July 2012.

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Why York?

York is one of the most successful universities in the UK.

With world-class activity across the spectrum from the physical sciences, life sciences, and social sciences to the humanities, we have been recognised as one of the top 100 universities in the world, gaining outstanding results in official assessments of our research and teaching.

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SATSU Annual Review: 2012-2013

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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 welcomes research collaboration and applications for doctoral study in any one of its three main areas of research: the sociology of the biosciences, social informatics/new media, and regulation and governance. Please contact Andrew Webster with inquiries.

Celebrating 25 Years of SATSU

Director's Introduction: Reflecting on 25 years



This year sees SATSU's 25th Anniversary. Originally founded in October 1988 on the back of my first ESRC grant, which looked at IP and the privatisation of science and the role of 'hybrid' (public-private) organisations, the Unit has grown and developed in new directions and now explores the bio/medical sciences, health and social media. Trying to capture 25 years in one page has proved daunting and nigh on impossible. A photo of the Director from 1988 and today might do the job (a picture is worth etc...), and there are indeed a few snaps overleaf that capture the life and times of the Unit. Throughout we have sought to bridge between the more conceptual and the more applied – what these days we have to call 'impact'.

In 25 years we have published over 350 items – books, papers, reports – and undertaken over 30 externally-funded major research projects and commissioned work within the UK and at an international level (such as for STOA in the European Parliament), including coordinating four EU-funded projects exploring the dynamics of innovation in a

changing Europe, foresight, the role of expectations, regenerative medicine, and most recently the life and times of 'bio-objects'.

Members have played an important role in national policy committees, national and international evaluation of research, postgraduate training and editorial roles on various journals, and worked closely with the ESRC. Throughout we have been grateful for the ongoing support of our parent Departments, first at what is now Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge (for 11 years) and since 1999 at the Department of Sociology at York where I did my initial doctoral training in STS back in 1974-7 under Mike Mulkay, who remains an inspiration despite his retiring some years ago. The Unit merged in 2008 with the Social Informatics Research Unit then led by Roger Burrows and Brian Loader.

The Unit has enjoyed many visitors too, often contributing to our long-established 'Brown Bag' lunchtime series of fortnightly seminars, which at the last count was running at close to 200; I still have handwritten notes from all these discussions (my 'lab books'). Members have come and gone and many early research fellows are now senior academics in their own right, such as Brian Rappert, Janice McLaughlin, Richard Tutton and Lena Eriksson, or working in senior policy circles, such as Annemiek Nelis and Kathryn Packer.

We were especially delighted to be made a Marie Curie training site between 2001-5 for this has

meant meeting, supervising and becoming long-standing friends and colleagues with a magnificent group of young European scholars most of whom are now members of the EU-funded Bio-objects network: they too have gone on to secure their own careers making a major contribution to STS in their own countries and internationally. Our PhD students have been equally important to us and enjoyed their own success within the UK or overseas.

Our wider networks and friends elsewhere have been a pleasure to work with – including the ESRC Genomics Network (especially Innogen whose Advisory group I have chaired for over ten years), colleagues in EASST/4S, at SPRU, the Institute of Innovation Research at Manchester, SPSP, PEALS, the White Rose STS network, the Dutch WTMC, the Rathenau Institute, Twente, CSIC in Spain, and friends at the University of Sydney, and many, many more too numerous to mention.

I want to thank everyone for their support over the years but especially to Helen and my two sons, Matt and Nick who have provided me with the personal anchorage to weather the storms as well as enjoy the calmer days that running a research unit brings.

Celebrating 25 years

Celebrating 25 Years of SATSU

Members Past and Present



SATSU Members in 1993

Research and Administrative Colleagues 1988-2013

Dave Beer	Laura Machin	Amanda Rees
Siân Beynon-Jones	Janice McLaughlin	Gillian Robinson
Nik Brown	Danae McLeod	Jacqueline Rose
Julian Constable	Catherine Montgomery	Paul Rosen
Conor Douglas	Michael Morrison	Sarah Shrive-Morrison
Lena Erikson	Annemiek Nelis	David Skinner
Stephanie Gant	Kathryn Packer	Sharon Tabberer
Mike Hardey	Luana Pritchard	Richard Tutton
Kimberly Jamie	Brian Rappert	Andrew Webster
Graham Lewis	Darren Reed	Brian Woods

Affiliated Fellows 1988-2013

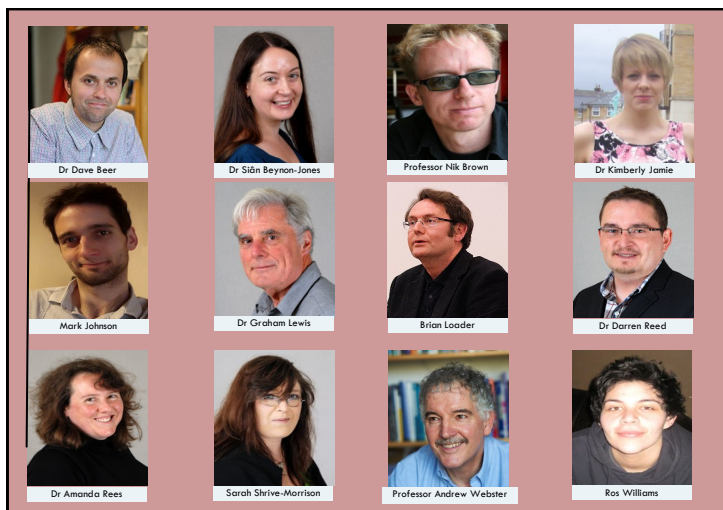
Roger Burrows
John Forrester
Herbert Gottweiss
Anne Kerr
Tom Ling
Paul Martin
Mike Michael
Mike Mulkay
Arie Rip
Steve Yearley



SATSU Members in 2003

Marie Curie Fellows 2001-2005

Aaro Tupasela
Antoinette Rouvroy
Bettina Bock von Wülfigen
Fenke Merx
Gyula Kasza
Ine Van Hoyweghen
Ingrid Metzler
Janus Hansen
Kadri Simm
Klaus Hoyer
Martin Rémondet
Nete Schwennesen
Niki Vermeulen
Sakari Tamminen
Tora Holmberg



SATSU Members in 2013

Immunitary Life: Visit to Humboldt, Germany

Nik Brown spent the Autumn of 2012 attached the Humboldt University, Berlin where he undertook a Short-term Scientific Mission through the COST Bio-objects network.

Most of his time was spent developing his thinking on 'Immunitary bioeconomy' and the theme of immunity in political philosophy and STS. 'Immunitary Life', the title of the monograph he's developing, outlines the salience of immunity in the organisation of late modern biopolitical life. He examines immunity in contexts as widely divergent as state organised attempts to deal with global instances of disease control, the politics of vaccination, the establishment of corporeal intimacies between transplant donors and recipients, etc. The monograph will endeavour to bring together two currently discrete literatures (political philosophy and STS/anthropology), which when combined are likely to offer important insights into the relationships between contemporary embodiment and biopolitics. The book argues that much is to be gained by exploring the cross-currents and divergences between these two literatures and applying them to a number of case studies with which Nik has been involved over recent years.



Humboldt University, Berlin

Pharmacy Research UK

The Pharmacy Practice Research Trust recently assumed a new name, Pharmacy Research UK (PRUK) as a result of a merger with the Pharmaceutical Trust for Educational and Charitable Objects. The newly constituted charity supports pharmacists and collaborating academic researchers to undertake research on the use of medicines and their place in society. SATSU Director, Andrew Webster, has been invited to become a member of its Scientific Advisory Panel, reflecting the Unit's interest in this field over recent years. Kimberly Jamie is currently undertaking postdoc work in the area following her PhD looking at the potential impacts of genetics in pharmacy.

Pharmacy Research UK

Regenerative Medicine Regulation

Andrew Webster has been closely involved with fellow social scientists (Alex Faulkner, Joyce Tait, James Mittra, Sue Simpson) and bioscientists in developing ideas and proposals related to the regulation of regenerative medicine in the UK. A workshop earlier in the year led which he helped to co-ordinate led to a report to the House of Lords Science Select Committee's Inquiry into the field. A meeting next year is planned in Toronto to explore UK/North American differences in regulation and the translation of therapies to the clinic.

Multidisciplinary ESRC Studentships: Biosciences and Society



Earlier in the year, the Economic and Social Research Council invited Doctoral Training Centres across the UK to bid for additional PhD studentships in a new cross-disciplinary pilot programme, called 'Biosciences and Society'. Three studentships (one each for York, Leeds and Sheffield) were approved following a collective bid made by them (as a White Rose partnership, with the York component led by SATSU) in May 2013. The intention is that the students engage with students on the BBSRC Mechanistic Biology DTP (also White Rose based), and are co-supervised by a social scientist (as a first supervisor) and biologist (as second supervisor). The ESRC determined that a four (rather than the conventional three-) year period of study would be needed to enable students to undertake some additional training in working across disciplinary boundaries.

SATSU's project proposes to examine developments in clinical trialling methodologies in the cell therapy field given these pose new challenges for biomedical researchers and companies.

Conferences and Events

Regenerative Medicine: Engaging Science, Industry and Social Science

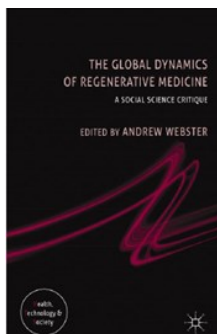
In October 2013, SATSU will be welcoming delegates to a one day interdisciplinary conference on regenerative medicine. This conference will bring together members of the COST Bio-objects Action, which has members from across 23 European countries and is chaired by SATSU Director Andrew Webster. The meeting will bring together researchers and stakeholders from academia and private industry and the social and biological sciences to debate current and future developments in regenerative medicine.

Speakers include:

Prof Andrew Webster (SATSU)
Prof Michael Whitaker (NESCI)
Dr Paul Kemp (CEO Intercytex)
Prof Brian Salter (KCL)
Emma Kemp (EuroStemCell)
Prof Dr. Peter Dabrock (FAU)

More information, including how to register, can be found here:

<http://www.york.ac.uk/satsu/news-events/regenerative/>



'Global Dynamics of Regenerative Medicine', edited by Andrew Webster.

International Communications Association Pre-conference

In June 2013 Brian Loader organized a one-day symposium bringing together a number of leading international scholars with an interest in the civic engagement of young citizens and social media. Held at the London School of Economics, the event was a pre-conference to the International Communications Association Annual Conference. It provided an ideal opportunity to critically explore the potential influence of social media communications technologies upon the participatory culture of young



citizens. The use of social media, such as YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter, by many young citizens in a variety of high profile political protests and campaigns such as the Arab Spring, Occupy and the Los Indignados in Spain has led to significant claims for its transforming capacity in the world's news media. Even in the academic world some have championed the interactive, collaborative and user-generated content capacities of social media as a means of offering new modes of political communication which are commensurate with contemporary youth cultures centred around self-actualisation, identity and individualism. Others, however, have exhibited greater anxiety about the influence of social media upon the political norms and actions of young citizens. Instead, social media is identified more often as a source of instability and as a further challenge to mainstream political culture by producing greater fragmentation and celebrity politics.

The symposium produced informed, lively and critical deliberation throughout the proceedings. The papers will form a special issue of the journal *Information, Communication & Society* and an edited collection to be published by Routledge in 2014.

A Visit to the Houses of Parliament

As a contribution to the Civic Network Project, Karen Buck (MP) hosted a discussion forum in one of the Committee Rooms of Parliament in June to explore the potential of social media to re-connect young people with democratic politics. The future engagement of young citizens from a wide range of socio-economic, ethnic and cultural backgrounds in democratic politics remains a crucial concern for politicians, political commentators, policy-makers, civics teachers, youth workers and academics around the world. At a time when the negative relationship between socio-economic inequality and levels of political participation is compounded by high youth unemployment or precarious employment in many countries, it is not surprising that new social media communications may be seen as a means to re-engage young citizens. A selection of young people, policy-makers, educationalists and academics were invited to deliberate how social media might influence young people's political attitudes; what role it might play in civic education; and, how politicians could use social media for engaging



with young citizens. The discussion was chaired by Brian Loader and Ian Davies from the University of York.

Publications

Throughout 2012/13 SATSU colleagues have worked hard to disseminate their research findings in publications and conference papers

- Beer, D.** (2012) 'Open Access and academic publishing: some lessons from music culture', *Political Geography* 31(8): 479-480.
- Beer, D.** (2012) 'The comfort of mobile media: uncovering personal attachments with everyday devices', *Convergence* 18(4): 361-367.
- Beer, D.** (2012) 'Using social media data aggregators to do social research', *Sociological Research Online* 17(3): <http://www.socresonline.org.uk/17/3/10.html>.
- Beer, D.** (2013) 'Genre, Boundary Drawing and the Classificatory Imagination', *Cultural Sociology* 7(2): 145-160.
- Beer, D.** (2013) *Popular Culture and New Media: the Politics of Circulation*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Beer, D.** (2013) 'Public geography and the politics of circulation', *Dialogues in Human Geography* 3(1): 92-95.
- Beer, D. & Taylor, M.** (2013) 'The hidden dimensions of the musical field and the potential of the new social data', *Sociological Research Online* 18(2): <http://www.socresonline.org.uk/18/2/14.html>.
- Beynon-Jones, S. M.** (2013) 'We view that as Contraceptive Failure: Containing the 'Multiplicity' of Contraception and Abortion Within Scottish Reproductive Healthcare', *Social Science and Medicine*, 80, 105-112.
- Beynon-Jones, S. and Brown, N.** (2013 in press) Where the wild things are: the EU regulation of transpecies bioscience, In Farrell, A.-N., Flear, M., Hervey, T. and 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. and Beynon-Jones, S.** (2012) 'Reflex Regulation: an anatomy of promissory science governance', *Health, Risk and Society*, 14, (3) 223-240.
- Burrows, R. & Beer, D.** (2013) 'Rethinking Space: Urban informatics and the sociological imagination', in, Orton-Johnson, K. & Prior, N. (eds) *Digital Sociology: Critical Perspectives*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. pp.61-78.
- Burrows, R. & Beer, D.** (2013) 'Rethinking Space: Urban informatics and the sociological imagination', in, Orton-Johnson, K. & Prior, N. (eds) *Digital Sociology: Critical Perspectives*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. pp.61-78.
- Cook, P.S., Kendall, G., Michael, M. and Brown, N.** (2013) Medical tourism, xenotourism and client expectations: between bioscience and responsabilisation, in Hall, C.M (ed) *Medical Tourism: the ethics, regulation, and marketing of health mobility*, Abingdon: Routledge.
- Cox, H. and Webster, A.** (2012) 'Translating Biomedical Science into Clinical Practice: Molecular Diagnostics and the Determination of Malignancy', *Health*, 17(4) 391-406
- Hardey, M. & Beer, D.** (2013) 'Talking about escape', in, Lovink, G & Rasch, M. (eds) *Unlike Us Reader*. Amsterdam: Institute of Network Cultures. pp.166-179.
- Jamie, K.** (2013) 'New Technologies in British Pharmacy Practice' in Wasen, K. (ed.) *Emerging Health Technologies*, London: Springer.
- Jamie, K.** (2013) 'Navigating the UK NHS Ethics and Governance Approval Process: The Case of Junior Researchers' in T. Le and Q. Le (eds.) *Conducting Research in a Changing and Challenging World*, New York: Nova.
- Jamie, K.** (2013) 'Pharmacogenetics and Pharmacy Education: Mind the Generation Gap', *Pharmacy Education*, 13 (4), 114-177.
- Lewis, G.** (2013) 'Regenerative Medicine at a Global Level: Current Patterns and Future Trends', in Webster, A. (ed.) *The Global Dynamics of Regenerative Medicine: A Social Science Critique*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Loader, B.** (Forthcoming) 'Towards a Culture of Connective Active?' *Sociologica: Italian Journal of Sociology Online*.
- Machin, L., Brown, N. and McLeod, D.** (2012) 'Giving to Receive? The right to donate in umbilical cord blood banking for stem cell therapies', *Health Policy*, 104, 3, 296-303
- Machin, L., Brown, N. and McLeod, D.** (2012) 'Two's company-Three's a crowd': The collection of umbilical cord blood for commercial stem cell banks in England and the midwifery profession, *Midwifery*, 28(3):358-365.
- Reed, D.J. & Penfold-Mounce, R.** (2013) 'The zombification of the sociological imagination: The walking dead as social science fiction' in M Leening (ed), *Zombie Renaissance: the Re-animation of the Undead in Popular Culture*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Reed, D. & Szczepek Reed, B.** (2013) 'Building an interactional project: Actions as components of music masterclasses' in B Szczepek Reed & G Raymond (eds), *Units of Talk - Units of Action*, London: John Benjamins.
- Reed, D.J. & Szczepek Reed, B.** (2013 in press) 'Topicalizing Learnables in Music Masterclasses', *Social Semiotics*.
- Szczepek Reed, B., Reed, D. and Haddon, L.** (2013) 'NOW or NOT NOW: Coordinating restarts in vocal masterclasses' *Research on Language & Social Interaction*, 46(1).

Publications

- Tutton R. and Jamie, K.** (2013– in press) 'Personalized Medicine: A Social Science Perspective', *Drug Discovery Today: Therapeutic Strategies*.
- Webster, A.** (2013) (ed.) *The Global Dynamics of Regenerative Medicine: A Social Science Critique*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Webster A.** (2013) 'The Boundaries and Mobilities of Regenerative Medicine'. In A. Webster (ed.) *The Global Dynamics of Regenerative Medicine: A Social Science Critique*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Webster, A.** (2013) 'Regenerative Medicine – a New Paradigm?' In A. Webster (ed.) *The Global Dynamics of Regenerative Medicine: A Social Science Critique*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Webster, A.** (2013) 'Digital Technology and Sociological Windows'. In K. Orton-Johnson and N. Prior (eds.) *Digital Sociology*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Wooffitt, R., Jackson, C., Reed, D., Ohshi, Y. and Hughes, I.**, (2013) 'Self-identity, authenticity and the Other: The spirits and audience management in stage mediumship', *Language & Communication*, 33(2), 93-105.

Conference Papers

- Beynon-Jones, S.M.** (2013: Invited Paper) 'Interdisciplinary Transitions', Presented at: *Silent Spring Chemical, Biological and Technological Visions of the Post-1945 Environment*, March 1st 2013, York, UK.
- Beynon-Jones, S. M.** (2013: Invited Paper) 'Exploring the Meanings of 'Access' to Abortion: Examples from Scottish Clinicians' Accounts of Their Practice. Presented at: *Access to Abortion as a Question of Reproductive Justice*, 22nd March 2013, Birmingham, UK.
- Haddon, L., Szczepek Reed, B. and Reed, D.J.** (2013) 'In pursuit of the learnable: Learning and teaching practices in music masterclasses. Findings from interdisciplinary research on the music masterclass' Presented at: *Research Colloquium Music Department*, York University
- Jamie, K.** (2012) 'Conceptualising Contemporary Pharmacy Practice: Sociologically Exploring Primary, Secondary and Pharmaceutical Care', Presented at: *BSA 44th Annual Medical Sociology Conference*, 5th-7th September 2012, Leicester, UK.
- Jamie, K.** (2013) 'Genomics in Pharmacy Education and Practice: Mind the Generation Gap', Presented at: *Royal Pharmaceutical Society Annual Conference*, 8th-9th September 2013, Birmingham, UK.
- Jamie, K.** (2013) 'The Pharmacy Gaze: Narrating the Body in Pharmacy Practice', Presented at: *BSA 45th Annual Medical Sociology Conference*, 11th-13th September 2013, York, UK.
- Loader, B.** (2012) 'The Professions, Knowledge-workers and the Internet: Boundaries, expertise and relationships', Presented at: *Association of Internet Researchers Annual Conference*, 18th-21st October 2012, MediaCity, Salford, UK.
- Loader, B.** (2013) 'Young citizens' socially mediated voice in a cold economic wind: bringing 'old' concepts of political inequality back in?', Presented at: *ECPR General Conference*, 5th-7th September 2013, Bordeaux, France.
- Szczepek Reed, B., Reed, D. and Haddon, L.** (2012) 'The emergence of learnables in music masterclasses' Education Department Research Seminar, University of York, UK.
- Webster, A.** (2012: plenary paper) 'Innovation and Technology Adoption in Health: A Social Science Perspective', Presented at: *Manchester Business School Seminar*, November 13th 2012, Manchester, UK.
- Webster, A.** (2013) 'Innovation in Diagnostic Technologies and the Challenges of Governance', Presented at: *ESRC Seminar Series on the Sociology of Diagnostics*, January 28th 2013, Exeter, UK.
- Webster, A.** (2013) 'The Story of the Bio-object' Presented at: *Bio-Objects COST Action ISH1001 Meeting*, April 23rd 2013, Bilbao, Spain.
- Webster, A.** (2013: Workshop participant) Understanding social science--public policy interactions: Linking Science and Technology Studies with Policy Studies, Edinburgh, UK.

Social Media



SATSU has joined the Twittersphere. We regularly post research updates, outputs, news and links to events. Follow us @UoY_SATSU.

In addition, some SATSU colleagues are regular bloggers. Dave Beer's blog *Thinking Culture* can be found here: <http://thinkingculture.wordpress.com/>
Ros Williams' blog *Largely Hokum* can be found here: <http://largelyhokum.blogspot.co.uk/>

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 year we have welcomed speakers from a range of continents and disciplines to share their research.

Autumn Term

The term began with a visit from an STS colleague from the other side of the globe! Nicola Marks, from the University of Wollongong provided her insights into the ways in which public debates concerning end of life decision-making have

developed in Australia. We then returned to the UK, to hear from Stuart Hogarth (Kings College London) on cervical cancer screening, and its attendant processes of corporatisation and commodification. Finally, we travelled into outer

space (and back) with SATSU's Mark Johnson, who reflected on the possibilities of democratizing space technologies using the example of his doctoral research concerning the case of open source nanosatellites.

Spring Term

Computer science visited SATSU in our first brown bag of the spring term. Paul Andrews (Computer Science, University of York) and his colleague Julia Pearce (Kings College London) came to discuss their involvement in a project that seeks to model future environmental scenarios. During their presentation

they demonstrated the very impressive modelling system and highlighted the social challenges posed by this feat of engineering. The theme of environmental engineering then continued in a slightly different context with Sally Brooks' (Social Policy and Social work, University of York) insightful

reflections on the development of 'pro-poor' agricultural biotechnology policy. Finally, we were transported to the court room where Gethin Rees (University of Southampton) captivated us with his research concerning the diagnostic controversy surrounding 'sexsomnia' - a contested sleep disorder.

Summer Term

Theory was the theme of the summer term's papers. We began with Andrew Webster, who shared preliminary insights concerning the making of the bio-object, based on collaborative conceptual work that he is doing with colleagues within the Bio-Objects network. Sarah

Parry (University of Edinburgh) then turned our attention towards sustainability, and the role which STS concepts might play in helping us to theorise interactions between social science and policy-making in this field. The term ended in the context of healthcare provision,

with SATSU's Siân Beynon-Jones reflecting upon the concept of 'dirty work', and the problems that it poses for engaging with the complexities of 'stigmatised' work such as abortion care

All Welcome

SATSU Brown bag seminars are usually held three times per term over lunch.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Brown Bag seminars including postgraduate and undergraduate students.

Please keep an eye on the SATSU website and Twitter feed for information about the 2013-2014 Brown Bag schedule.



Bio-objects Network Update

Chair: Professor Andrew

SATSU has taken on responsibility for chairing/co-ordinating the EU COST Action 'Bio-objects and their Boundaries: Governing Matters at the Intersection of Society, Politics, and Science'. The overall objectives of this Action are, first, to elaborate innovative interdisciplinary tools that enhance our understanding of bio-objects and bio-objectification processes, and, second, to build up a strong European network of Early Stage Researchers and more experienced researchers. Over the past year the Action has developed its conceptual and methodological model of bio-objects, and applied this to a number of research projects and publications (one of which secured a major international prize). Membership has continued to grow, with new individuals and countries joining, the Task Forces (on policy and research) have helped ensure impact, and the visibility of the Action has been enhanced through a diversity of public meetings. A number of STSMs were also supported as was a particularly successful PhD training school held in Madrid in November 2012, which will be replicated at York in October 2013.



Networking in Madrid, November 2012

This past year the Action has refined the concept of bio-object through a series of empirical studies reported on throughout the various meetings involving Action members and other research and policy networks.



Bilbao, April 2013

Action has consolidated its position that it is crucial to see *bio-objectification* as a process involving a technical intervention. At a meeting in Lisbon we sought to establish the main features characterising any *bio-object field* of inquiry: these are the manipulation of living entities in ways that disturb existing boundaries and

thereby formal identities (including, for example, legal statuses). We have distinguished between bio-objectification as a process involving the technical labour expended in the generation of novel biological entities and *bio-identification*, the wider social (and

especially regulatory) processes that police stabilise such entities such that they can be mobilised and have agency in different contexts (such as in IVF clinics, patent offices, regulatory domains, or as licensed products in markets). Together, these two process concepts led to the first full statement of the methodological

toolkit which was subsequently tested and validated via the interdisciplinary training school held in November in Madrid and explored more fully through the work of the members at a meeting in Bilbao (see photo).

The Civic Network: A comparative study of the use of social media for enhancing young people's political engagement

Brian Loader

Brian Loader was awarded funding from the Spencer Foundation of Chicago, USA to undertake a project examining young people's use of social media in political engagement.

This comparative study undertaken by Ariadne Vromen (University of Sydney), Mike Xenos (University of Wisconsin at Madison) and Brian Loader (University of York) is designed to critically investigate the potential of social media for influencing the participatory culture of young citizens. The widespread adoption of social media, such as *YouTube*, *Facebook*, and *Twitter* into the lives of many young people has raised significant questions about its mediating influence upon their political values and civic cultural norms. A central focus of this study is to assess whether new forms of civic learning and engagement by young citizens can be identified as a consequence of using social media networks and if there is evidence that these may mitigate the proven negative relationship between socio-economic inequality and political participation. These issues will be examined in each of three countries: Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The comparative project will allow questions about how differing national contexts relate to youth culture, social inequality, civic motivations and political behaviour.



Karen Buck, MP meeting young citizens along with Ian Davies and Brian Loader

The study builds on and extends single-country cases or multi-country survey research that use narrow and standardized measures. The approach used here will combine survey research with online discussion groups. The surveys will be conducted with representative samples of approximately 1,200 people aged sixteen to twenty-nine in each country. Surveys will provide both quantitative and qualitative data about young people's use of social media for civic purposes. Online discussion groups will provide opportunities to develop deeper understandings of the civic behaviour of young people online, both by capturing new and emerging forms of participation, and by providing opportunities for reflection and dialogue.

As of August 2013, the three country online survey of Australia, UK and USA has been undertaken

on our behalf by IPSOS Mori and over 3,600 completed questionnaires are now providing the opportunity to analyse this rich data set.

The twelve online focus groups will be completed by the end of August, and the resulting analysis will commence in September. The three CIs met in Sydney in April 2013 to discuss work in progress, and will meet again in September 2013. A workshop 'The Political Communication of Young Citizens Through Social Media' was held in June 2013 as an official preconference of the International Communication Association conference held in London.

More information and regular updates about this project can be found here: <http://www.york.ac.uk/satsu/civic-network>

Time, Timing and Termination of Pregnancy

Dr Siân Beynon-Jones



In recent years, the issue of gestational time and abortion has been debated extensively in both the media and in Parliament. However, such debates have largely been

conducted in the absence of a research evidence-base concerning how the meaning of the timing of termination of pregnancy (TOP) is understood by those directly affected by the practice: women undergoing the procedure and the health professionals who provide it.

Accordingly, this project is using qualitative interviews (n = 60) to explore patients' and health professionals' experiences of TOP

provision, in particular, their understandings of the meaning of the timing of TOP. Instead of making assumptions about the meaning of time, timing and TOP (as is common, for example, during public debate), the research takes women's and health professionals' lived experiences of these phenomena as its analytical starting point.

Now coming to the end of its second year, the project has to date focussed on the difficult task of negotiating access for fieldwork concerning abortion provision, as well as the attendant complexities of gaining institutional R&D approvals necessary to do research at multiple NHS sites. However, these difficulties have in turn been productive of significant research findings concerning the routine marginalisation of abortion provision as 'matter out of

place' within NHS healthcare contexts. The third and final year of the project will centre upon publishing these findings, alongside the ongoing collection and analysis of important new data concerning women's experiences of abortion.

The project is being conducted by SATSU Research Fellow Siân Beynon-Jones, as a key part of her three year Wellcome Trust research fellowship in biomedical ethics (August 2011-2014). During the second year of her Fellowship, Siân secured a position as Anniversary Research Lecturer within the Department of Sociology at the University of York, to be taken up in August 2014.

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

Habitele: Mobile Phone Use and Digital Identities

Dr Darren Reed

The Habitele project, led by Professor Dominique Boullier, Medialab, Sciences Po Paris in conjunction with research institutions around the world, provides a theoretical and conceptual framework for better understanding the management of social worlds in the 21st century. Building on the traditions of Bruno Latour and Pierre Bourdieu (among others) the concept of Habitele allows us to perceive the ways in which we, both as individuals and as groups, attempt to manage, control, and systematise our interactions in an increasingly connected planet.

The 'habitele' is a space or 'envelope' premised upon a range of digital artefacts, from mobile phone to credit card, that impress forms of



affiliation and traceability onto social actors. Dr. Darren Reed in the Science and Technology Studies Unit managed a group of research fellows (Triona Fitton, Mark Johnson, and Daniel Merriman) who undertook interviews of mobile phone users. These interviews combined an examination of the data on mobile phones with visualisations of patterns of connectivity and use to draw out the contemporary experiences of social actors. The work was carried out in the new Visual Analysis Laboratory in the Sociology Department.

Creative Speech Technology (CreST) Network

Dr. Darren Reed is a member of the CreST network which was led by Chris Newell at the University of Hull and Alistair Edwards, University of

York. The network brought together performance artists, academics and software developers interested in the production of artificial voice for those with impairments. The network resulted in a short film entitled " ", which was a comedy about speed dating for those with artificial voice machines (acted by disabled performers) and fifteen art installations. Reed was part of one of these art installations called 'Bespoke'. This was a publicly performed art piece in which a person conveyed professionally written poems spoken by a computer to people in public spaces. The piece was simultaneously an examination of 'social breeching' as well as an performance ethnography of voicelessness.

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

Dr Amanda Rees

Stories about the biological origins of human society and culture are consumed enthusiastically by the public, but while natural scientists have been happy to contribute to the development of such accounts, the human sciences have tended to remain aloof from such endeavours. Recently, however, some scholars have argued that the Deep History of humanity – more commonly known as ‘pre-history’ – should be subsumed within the discipline of ‘history’, the purview of which would then become the whole span of time from the emergence of anatomically modern human beings to the present day. Such a project throws



Peking Man: Image from Wikipedia

up numerous methodological problems, on which this proposed programme of research will focus. It will analyse 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 both history and science, and their wider political significance.

Doctoral Projects in SATSU

Ruchi Higham

Ruchi’s joined SATSU in October 2013 on a four-year interdisciplinary PhD examining clinical trials in regenerative medicine. The project will examine the developments in clinical trialling methodologies in the cell therapy field and will feed into recent UK government calls for most social science research in this area. Ruchi is co-supervised by Dr Paul Genever from the Department of Biology at York.

Mark Johnson

Mark’s research examines the UK Space Agency and how it recruits and manages actors in space programs. Space programs are traditionally regarded as long-term (10+ years), high-risk, high-cost and at the cutting edge of technology. Mark is studying how these issues and difficulties - which would seem to discourage investment - are managed.

Ayodeji Ogunrotifa

Ayodeji (Bayo) joined SATSU in October 2012 and is working with Nik Brown on a project related to HIV/AIDS. He will be exploring the constructions around the meaning of HIV in sub-Saharan Africa, focusing on Nigeria.

Ros Williams

See page 15.

SATSU welcomes enquiries about postgraduate study in SATSU’s key interest areas from potential home, EU and international students. Please contact andrew.webster@york.ac.uk or +44 (0)1904 324740

New Appointments

In the last year, two of SATSU's research fellows have been appointed to lectureship positions within Sociology at York. Dr Darren Reed was awarded a level transfer to lecturer after having been a Research Fellow for 12 years. He took up this post in May 2013. Dr Siân Beynon-Jones will take up her Anniversary Research Lectureship in August 2014 following completion of her Wellcome Trust fellowship. In addition, Nik Brown has recently been promoted from Reader to Professor of Sociology. Many congratulations to Darren, Siân and Nik.



Michael Xenos

In September 2013, SATSU welcomed two visitors, Ariadne Vromen and Mike Xenos, who are co-investigators with Brian Loader on *The Civic Network* project.

Michael Xenos earned his Ph.D. in political science, with an interdisciplinary concentration in political communication, at the University of Washington in 2005. He is currently an associate professor in the Department of Communication Arts, and an affiliate faculty member in the Department of Life Sciences Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research and teaching interests are centered on the effects of new media on political engagement and public deliberation. His primary focus is on the extent to which the internet and social media may help individuals learn about political issues,

form opinions, and participate in politics. He is also interested in the ways that political candidates, journalists, and other political actors adapt to changes in information and communication technologies, and how these adaptations affect broader dynamics of political communication and public deliberation. His work has been published in numerous academic journals, including *Political Communication*, *Journal of Communication*, *Political Analysis*, *iCS: Information Communication and Society*, and *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*. He is also the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Information Technology and Politics*.

Ariadne Vromen's research and teaching interests are in the field of political sociology and include: political participation, social movements, community organisations, political parties, political science research methods, internet politics and young people and politics. Ariadne has completed extensive research on Australian young people's political participation, including co-authoring a report for the National Youth Affairs Research Scheme in 2008. She has also co-authored several texts on Australian politics, including *Powerscape: Contemporary Australian Politics*. Ariadne is a member of the WUN group, *Networking Young Citizens*; and on the steering committee of the ECPR Standing Group, *Participation and Mobilisation*. Ariadne is currently working on two major projects; *The Civic Network* with Mike Xenos and Brian Loader on young peoples' use of social media for civic engagement and a project funded by the Australian Research Council on government-led citizen engagement in Australia, the UK and Denmark.

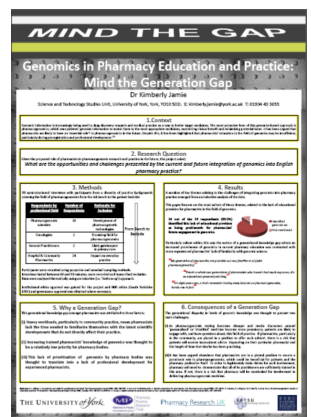


Ariadne Vromen

Visit to Milan

In Autumn 2013, Kimberly Jamie will be visiting Dr Giuseppe Testa and his research group at the European Institute of Oncology in Milan to undertake a Short-term Scientific Mission through the COST Bio-objects network. The aim of the visit is to produce a short paper reflecting on the effect of genomics in Oncology research and practice. This fits with her doctoral work on genomics in pharmacy practice, some of which she recently presented as a poster at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society

conference. A full size version of this poster can be found on Kimberly's website, here: <http://www.york.ac.uk/sociology/our-staff/research/kimberly-jamie/>



Doctoral Student: Ros Williams

Ros graduated from the University of Warwick in 2012 with a BA in Sociology and an MA in Social Research. With an interest in the intersection of ethnicity and molecular science, she joined SATSU in Autumn 2012 to work on her PhD.

Supervised by Dr. Nik Brown, Ros' research looks at the expansion of public umbilical cord blood (UCB) collection sites across the UK. An increasingly popular source of hematopoietic stem cells for use in treatment for blood malignancies, UCB does not require the high degree of immunological match between tissue donor and recipient. With a considerable amount of research that suggests some correlation between ethnicity and immunological composition, Ros is investigating the manner in which various institutions – charitable, governmental, health, activist – are working towards the specific expansion of ethnic minority UCB collection in the UK. She is also interested in NHS concerns over import costs for requesting UCB from abroad, and the role this plays (along with a concern for life) in the rationale of collection expansion.

Her work utilises a theoretical framework heavily influenced by recent work on the potential political productivity of racial categorisations. Moving beyond the social constructionist paradigm, the research is embedded in the literature on emergent forms of biosociality and biological citizenship within and without the laboratory setting. She is also



interested in the connections between charitable trusts and the NHS, and what this means for biobanking governance in the UK.

In June 2013, Ros presented a paper on the political and economic intersections of the NHS's drive to expand British cord blood inventories, at the PFGS 13th Colloquium on "Scientific Innovation in the Biosociety". She also teaches sociological theory to undergraduates, has

written book reviews for *Sociology and Political Studies Review*, and maintains an academic blog where she writes on ethnicity, STS, and health policy (<http://largelyhokum.blogspot.co.uk/>).

Ros' website can be found here: <http://www.york.ac.uk/sociology/our-staff/students/ros-williams/>

Associate Director: Brian Loader

Brian joined Sociology at York in 2006 to pursue his scholarly interests into new media technologies and democratic governance; young citizens and political engagement, ICTs and health and social care, and community informatics. His overarching interest is in new media communications technologies, and the social, political and economic factors shaping their development and diffusion, and their implications for social, economic, political and cultural change. Brian is the founding Editor of the international journal *Information, Communication and Society* which is hosted by SATSU and he has published widely in this area.

Brian's interest in the transforming capacities of the Internet and ICTs began in the mid-1990s primarily as a critical response to two discourses that continue to frame discussions about the socio-political influence of new media technologies. The first, addressed in his book *The Governance of Cyberspace* (1997), highlighted and criticised the 'cyber-libertarian' portrayals of the Internet as emancipatory spaces divorced from the 'real world' of power, place, history and political economy. The second, outlined in *The Cyberspace Divide* (1998) was the crucial issue of what impact the Internet would have upon social inequalities within and between different social groups.

In 1996 he was responsible for establishing and directing the Community Informatics Research and Applications Unit (CIRA) which attempted to explore the potential of new media for shaping the development, sustainability and even regeneration of community relations. What he described as community informatics was from the outset concerned with the relationship between geographical places where people lived, worked and socialized and the networked spaces provided by the Internet. Publications such as *Community Informatics: Shaping Computer-Mediated Social Networks* (2001) and *Challenging the Digital Divide? A literature Review of Community Informatics Initiatives* (2004) documented both the potential of new

media for community development and also the wider role it played in the fragmentation and individualization of local social relations. Action research projects, including *Trimdon Digital Village* informed UK policy debates about bridging the digital divide. Brian continues to be a member of the editorial board for the *Journal of Community Informatics*.

On



arriving at York Brian focused upon the potential of social media to influence the political and civic engagement of young citizens. First, by hosting a small symposium which was later published in an edited collection as *Young Citizens in the Digital Age* (2007) and then by establishing, in partnership with Lance Bennett, an international study group called Networking Young Citizens under the auspices of the World Universities Network. Together with Ariadne Vromen and Mike Xenos, he is currently undertaking a three country comparative study of the potential influence of social media upon the participatory culture of young citizens entitled *The Civic Network* which is funded by the Spencer Foundation.

Research interest in the broader impact of new media upon democratic governance began with the publication of *Digital Democracy: Discourse and Decision-Making in the Information Age* (1999) following the first of several conferences devoted to this issue. The use

of new media by social movements was first explored in *Cyberprotest: New Media, Citizens and Social Movements* (2004) with other European colleagues collaborating on a COST programme. Most recently, it was the focus of a conference on *Networking Democracy* held in Cluj, Romania where these themes were further developed in *Social Media and Democracy: social media innovations in participatory politics* (2012).

The potential for new media to shape practices of social care both organisationally and individually has been a longstanding research area. He has been particularly interested in the use of ICTs in re-structuring health and social care organizations and professional practices. With colleagues on an ESRC funded project on *Virtual Community Care* the use of the Internet as a potential means of online social support revealed the effectiveness of social networking amongst informed participants for facilitating social support. It further foregrounded how such technologies could transform relations between professionals and clients. *Digital Welfare for the Third Age* (2009) developed these ideas on the basis of a UK Department of Health funded project into electronic service delivery for older people.

Brian's wider interest in social media and the Internet is facilitated through his editorship of the *iCS*. Included in the prestigious Thompson Reuters Social Science Citation Index *iCS* is published in ten issues annually. This comprises several special issues including the best papers from both the annual conference of the Association of Internet Researchers and the American Sociological Association section on Communication and Information Technologies. Under Brian's editorship *iCS* also hosts regular conferences around the world on a range of topics related to the social, cultural, political and economic influence of new media communications technologies. The most recent were *A Decade in Internet Time* at Balliol College, Oxford, and at York on the *The Co-Production of Knowledge*.

How to contact SATSU members

Director

Professor Andrew Webster
T: 01904 43 4740,
E: andrew.webster@york.ac.uk

Management Group

Professor Nik Brown
T: 01904 43 4741
E: nik.brown@york.ac.uk

Brian Loader
T: 01904 43 2639
E: brian.loader@york.ac.uk

Sarah Shrive-Morrison
T: 01904 43 3050
E: sarah.shrive-morrison@york.ac.uk

Academic Staff

Dr David Beer
T: 01904 43 3049
E: david.beer@york.ac.uk

Dr Siân Beynon-Jones
T: 01904 43 3064
E: siân.beynon-jones@york.ac.uk

Dr Darren Reed
T: 01904 43 3047
E: darren.reed@york.ac.uk

Dr Amanda Rees
T: 01904 43 3054
E: Amanda.rees@york.ac.uk

Research Fellows

Dr Kimberly Jamie
T: 01904 43 3055
E: Kimberly.jamie@york.ac.uk

Associated Fellows

Dr John Forrester
Stockholm Environment Institute
T: 01904 432 893
E: john.forrester@sie.se

Professor Herbert Gottweiss
University of Vienna
T: 0043 1 4277 47723

E: Herbert.gottweis@univie.ac.at

Professor Paul Martin
University of Sheffield
T: 0115 951 5419
E: paul.martin@sheffield.ac.uk

Professor Mike Michael
University of Sydney
T: +61 2 9036 9483
E: mike.michael@sydney.edu.au

Dr Annemiek Nelis
Dutch Safety Board, The Hague
T: +31 (0)70 33370 09
E: a.nelis@onderzoeksraad.nl

Dr Brian Rappert
University of Exeter
T: 01392 723 353
E: b.rappert@exeter.ac.uk

Professor Arie Rip
University of Twente
T: +31 (0)53 489 4026
E: a.rip@utwente.nl

Dr Richard Tutton
University of Lancaster
T: 01524 510 838
E: r.tutton@lancaster.ac.uk

Doctoral Students

Mark Johnson
E: mrj503@york.ac.uk

Bayo Ogunrotifa
E: abo501@york.ac.uk

Ros Williams
E: rgw511@york.ac.uk

Postal Address

SATSU
Department of Sociology
Wentworth College
University of York
Heslington
YO10 5DD

T: 01904 433 050

Websites

Department of Sociology: <http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/soci/>
SATSU Homepage: <http://www.york.ac.uk/res/satsu/>

 Twitter: @UoY_SATSU

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