

InSIS newsletter

Michaelmas 2016: Term end

16 December 2016



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InSIS News

NEW PROJECTS

Two new projects will begin early 2017, 'Changing Ecologies of Knowledge and Action' ([CEKA](#)), and 'How Institutions Think' ([HIT](#)).

[CEKA](#) is a programme designed to explore the changing dynamics of the production of technoscience. Aspects to be investigated include pressures of quality control and replicability, the demand for scientific results to be readily available, a growing questioning of a patent system, and an emergence and rapid growth of forms of scientific production outside of the conventional academic and industrial framework. We will be kicking off the project with a seminar series in the upcoming Oxford University Hilary Term titled, '[Science in Your Own Hands: The Promises and Perils of DIY Science](#)'.

[HIT](#) will investigate the cognitive and affective flexibility of individuals as they move through different institutional (social organisational) conditions defined by the density of social and material networks and the extent of social differentiation within such networks.

Oxford Interdisciplinary Microbiome Project

InSIS Deputy Director, Javier Lezaun, is part of the [Oxford Interdisciplinary Microbiome Project](#), a new initiative funded by the University's [Social Sciences Division](#) to explore new understandings of microbial life and develop a research agenda on the implications of new microbionomic knowledge.

OTHER NEWS

Upcoming InSIS Hilary Term Seminar Series

To kick off the new [CEKA](#) project, InSIS will be holding a seminar series in the upcoming Oxford University Hilary Term titled, 'Science in Your Own Hands: Promises and Perils of DIY Science'.

In the 21st century, the production of scientific knowledge has moved beyond academic or industrial laboratories to online communities, low-rent "hackspaces", personal wearable devices, and low-cost kits ordered from the internet. Does DIY science provide a more democratic, relevant and accountable form of self-guided expertise? Or are authority and control simply shifted and permeating the production of DIY activities in unknown ways? How are quality and outcomes assessed? Like an ever-evolving ecosystem, knowledge production and use is expanding into new niches and functioning in creative ways among new sets of actors. This seminar series explores the changing ecologies of knowledge and the implications of the public taking the production of science "into their own hands".

Seminars will be held on Tuesdays of the Oxford University Hilary Term (January to March) 2017, at 3pm, at 64 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6PN.

For more information on the seminars in the series, please see the 'Events' section below.

Steve in Hong Kong and Taiwan

On 17 November InSIS Director Steve Rayner gave the key note address at the [Electrical and Mechanical Services Department's 'EMSD Summit 2016'](#) in Hong Kong. The theme of the summit was 'Imaginate Hong Kong' and its aim was to provide a platform for overseas and local eminent scholars, experts, professionals, and government officials to imagine, innovate and share views on E&M engineering solutions for a better future of Hong Kong.

Following his time in Hong Kong, Steve travelled to Taiwan to participate in a symposium on collective behavior change for sustainable futures. This workshop was organised by the [Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies \(IASS\)](#) and the [Global Change Research Center](#) of the [National Taiwan University \(GCRC/NTU\)](#).

Sophie in Nairobi for REACH

As part of her field work in Kenya for the [REACH](#) project, Sophie Haines gave a seminar at the University of Nairobi [Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation](#) on 12th October; 'The usability of scientific forecasts for water resource and hazard management: Uncertainty, accountability and practical applications'.

Sophie also give a seminar at the [British Institute in Eastern Africa](#) (Nairobi) on 5th December titled, 'Water, weather and climate knowledge for water security: Institutional roles and relationships in Turkana'.

Steve in Dublin

From November 10 to 12, Steve Rayner participated in the interdisciplinary workshop 'Climate Science, Disagreement, and Policy: A multidisciplinary investigation'. This event was hosted by the [When Experts Disagree \(WEXD\)](#) Research Project ([University College Dublin](#) [School of Philosophy](#) and [Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies \(DIAS\)](#)).

Jerry and Christiaan attend 'Ignorance, Science and Democracy' meeting

On 1-2 December InSIS Associate Jerome Ravetz and PhD Student Christiaan de Koning attended a meeting on 'Ignorance, Science and Democracy' held at the [Ecole Normale Supérieure](#) in Paris. The meeting was organised in the framework of project DACCORD within the [NEEDS](#) program, [CNRS](#) - France. It explored the relations between the production (or promotion) of ignorance, the changing attitudes of our societies as regards risk, and the remarkable evolution of scientific and technological aims and methods in recent decades.

Rob Bellamy in Belgium for BRIGAD

On November 17-18, InSIS Researcher Dr Rob Bellamy attended the biannual project meeting for the project 'Bridging the Gap for Innovations in Disaster Resilience' ([BRIGAD](#)) in Leuven, Belgium. While at the meeting, Rob met with colleagues with whom he has been working to develop a novel 'Test and Implementation Framework' for climate adaptation innovations.

Congratulations Farzana - PhD

InSIS would like to congratulate DPhil student Farzana Dudhwala who recently was successful in defending her PhD thesis "Doing the Self: An Ethnographic Analysis of the Quantified Self." Using Science and Technology Studies to frame the phenomenon, Farzana conducted a multi-sited ethnographic study of the relationship between 'self-quantifying' technologies and the self, and the 'construction' of self-improvement. In particular, she focussed on understanding the use of these technologies in the cases of the Quantified Self and amateur triathletes.

Upcoming Events

InSIS Seminar Series - Science in Your Own Hands? Promises and Perils of DIY Science

All seminars in this series will be held on Tuesday, 3-5pm, at 64 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6PN.

24 Jan. [Citizen science: a new knowledge politics?](#) by Alan Irwin (Copenhagen Business School)

31 Jan. [TBA](#) by Will Hutton (Hertford College)

7 Feb. [N of 1: Self-Tracking as Personal Science](#) by Gina Neff (Oxford Internet Institute)

14 Feb. [Smart Citizenship. Recovering the productive role of society through new technologies](#) by Tomas Diez (Fab City Global Initiative)

21 Feb. [Civic Science and DIY Enquiry: Critical perspectives and experiences from Jerusalem, London and New York](#) by Hagit Keysar and Cindy Regalado (Public Labs)

28 Feb. [Do-it-yourself Biology \(DIYBio\): between education, innovation, subversion and empowerment](#) by Markus Schmidt (Biofaction)

7 Mar. [TBA](#) by Ilya Levantis (London Biohackspace)

Publications

Journal Articles

Acuto, M., and Rayner, S. (2016) City Networks: breaking gridlocks or forging (new) lock-ins? *International Affairs*, 92(5), 1147-1166.

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Bellamy, R. (2016) A sociotechnical framework for governing climate engineering. *Science, Technology and Human Values*, 41, 135-162

[Read>](#)

Bellamy, R., Chilvers, J. and Vaughan, N. (2016) Deliberative Mapping of options for tackling climate change: citizens and specialists 'open up' appraisal of geoengineering. *Public Understanding of Science*, 25, 269-286

[Read>](#)

Struminska-Kutra, M. (2016) Engaged scholarship: Steering between the risks of paternalism, opportunism, and paralysis. *Organisation*. DOI:10.1177/1350508416631163

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Book Chapters

Heyward, C., Rayner, S. and Savulescu, J. (2016) Early geoengineering governance: The Oxford Principles. In: D. Kaplan and J.B. Callicott (eds.) *Technology and the Environment.*, MIT Press: Cambridge MA.

Heyward, C. and Rayner, S. (2016) Apocalypse Nicked: Stolen Rhetoric in Geoengineering Advocacy. In: S. Crate and M. Nuttaall (eds.) *Anthropology and Climate Change Second Edition*, Left Coast Press, Walnut Creek, CA.

[More info>](#)

Other

Haines, S. (2016) An anthropological perspective on the role of scientific predictions for water resource decision-making. In N. Encalada, R. Cocom, S. Solis and G. Pinelo (eds), *Research Reports in Belizean History and Anthropology, Volume 4* (Vol. 4, 97-103. Belize: ISCR, NICH. ISBN:978-978-8264-07-1.

Hunert, A., Kruger, T., and Rayner, S. (2016) Geoengineering. Code of conduct for geoengineering. *Nature*, 537(7621), 488-488. DOI 10.1038/537488a.

[Read>](#)

Kruger, T., Geden, O., and Rayner, S. (2016) Abandon hype in climate models, *The Guardian* [Online]. Available at: <https://www>

[Read>](#)

Rayner, S. (2016) What might Evans Pritchard have made of two degrees? *Anthropology Today*, 32(4), 1-2.

[Read>](#)

Rayner, S. (2016) A Climate Movement at War: A War on Climate Can BE Neither Democratic Nor Effective. *The Breakthrough* [Online]

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For a full list of publications visit: <http://www.insis.ox.ac.uk/publications/>
