

InSIS newsletter

Michaelmas 2016: Week 1

14 October 2016

InSIS News



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POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Postdoctoral Research Fellow - Forecasts for Anticipatory HUMANitarian action (FATHUM) - closing date 18 Nov.

InSIS wishes to appoint a Research Fellow to participate in the FATHUM project (fixed term for 3 years). FATHUM is a multi-institutional, interdisciplinary project led by the University of Reading. The diverse team of FATHUM researchers will link research on forecast predictability and skill, complex drivers of risk, multi-actor perspectives on successful implementation and financing mechanisms to facilitate the scale-up of Forecast-based Financing (FbF) for effective, action before a disaster.

[More information>](#)

Postdoctoral Research Fellow - How Institutions Think (HIT) - closing date 18 Nov.

InSIS wishes to appoint a Research Fellow to participate in the project 'How Institutions Think (HIT)' (fixed-term for 2 years). 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. The researcher will coordinate with researchers in relevant fields in the social sciences and humanities.

[More information>](#)

Postdoctoral Research Fellow - Changing Ecologies of Knowledge and Action (CEKA) - closing date 18 Nov.

InSIS wishes to appoint a Research Fellow to participate in the project 'Changing Ecologies of Knowledge and Action (CEKA)' (fixed-term for 2 years). 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.

[More information>](#)

NEW PROJECTS

Congratulations Sophie Haines - ESRC Future Leader

Everyone at InSIS would like to congratulate InSIS research fellow [Dr Sophie Haines](#) who was recently awarded funding through the [ESRC Future Researcher Leaders Scheme](#). Sophie has received funding for a two year research project titled, 'Envisioning emergent environments: negotiating science and resource management in rural communities', which is scheduled to begin 1 January 2017.

Forecasts for Anticipatory HUMANitarian action (FATHUM)

InSIS is proud to announce a new project that will begin in November, "Forecasts for Anticipatory HUMANitarian action (FATHUM)". Led by researchers at the [University of Reading](#), FATHUM will be funded as a [Department for International Development \(DiFD\)](#)/[Natural Environment Research Council \(NERC\)](#) consortium project. The diverse team of FATHUM researchers will link together research on forecast

predictability and skill, complex drivers of risk, multi-actor perspectives on successful implementation and financing mechanisms to catalyse and facilitate the scale-up of Forecast-based Financing (FbF) for effective, appropriate and impactful action before a disaster. FbF is a new concept which uses forecasts of natural hazards to initiate humanitarian preparedness actions.

InSIS is currently looking to appoint a postdoctoral research fellow to participate in FATHUM (see item above).

Carbon Drawdown Policies Project (CDPP)

In October, work progressed on a new project to InSIS, the 'Carbon Drawdown Policies Project (CDPP)'. Jointly funded by the [V Kann Rasmussen Foundation](#) and the [ClimateWorks Foundation](#), this 2 year project will focus on developing appropriate policies for carbon drawdown practices. Javier Lezaun is joint PI on this project with [Timothy Kruger](#), James Martin Fellow and Programme Manager for the [Oxford Geoengineering Programme](#). InSIS Associate Fellow [Peter Healey](#) will also be contributing to the research.

OTHER NEWS

InSIS Welcomes Dr Lisa Dilling

InSIS is happy to welcome [Professor Lisa Dilling](#), who will be visiting with the Institute from the University of Colorado, Boulder, for 12 months from August 2016.

Lisa is Associate Professor of Environmental Studies, a Fellow of the [Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences \(CIRES\)](#) and a member of the [Center for Science and Technology Policy Research](#) at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She is Director of the [Western Water Assessment](#), a NOAA Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessment project that studies and facilitates the use of climate information in decision making in the Intermountain West. Her scholarship focuses on decision making, the use of information and science policies related to climate change, adaptation, carbon management and geoengineering.

Lisa's visit with InSIS will be supported by a [Leverhulme Visiting Professorship](#). She will explore how cultural theory informs our understanding of the use of knowledge in climate change adaptation decision making at the local level. As part of her visit Prof. Dilling will present four Leverhulme Lectures and convene a seminar/colloquium for graduate students.

Sophie Haines in Kenya for REACH project

October has seen InSIS researcher Dr Sophie Haines head to Kenya to begin 3 months fieldwork as part of the project '[REACH: Improving water security for the poor](#)'. REACH is funded by the UK [Department for International Development](#), and is investigating how weather/climate forecasts are produced, interpreted, and used for practical applications. Sophie's time will be split between Nairobi and Lodwar, in the north of the country, and she will be collaborating with colleagues at the [University of Nairobi](#) to conduct a case study on the use of weather and forecast information in the context of water security in Turkana county.

InSIS at 4S/EASST conference

Several members of the InSIS team participated in the 4S/EASST conference '[Science and Technology by Other Means](#)', held in Barcelona from August 31 to September 3, 2016.

More information on the various sessions that individuals convened or participated in can be found [here](#)>

Horizons of Movement: Interdisciplinary Encounters in Kinesthetic Thinking

On September 22-23 InSIS hosted the workshop 'Horizons of Movement: Interdisciplinary Encounters in Kinesthetic Thinking'.

Convened by [Javier Lezaun](#) and [Nicolas Salazar Sutil](#), the workshop explored the disruptive potential of kinetic movement for philosophies and social theories centred on the problem of mind and its language. The meeting encompassed a wide variety of perspectives, including representational and non-representational, formal and informal, scientific and arts/humanities approaches to movement.

Participants included Paul Carter, Fernando Zalamea, Peter Gärdenfors, Celia Lury, Nerea Calvillo, Derek McCormack, Michael Guggenheim, and John Stell.

Recent publications by Steve Rayner

Over the summer months, InSIS Director Steve Rayner published several articles.

In August, Steve published a Guest Editorial in that month's edition of the [Royal Anthropological Institute](#) publication '[Anthropology Today](#)'. Titled, '[What might Evans-Pritchard have made of two degrees?](#)', this editorial reflects on the anthropological thinking behind criticism that the December 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change is an example of 'magical thinking'.

On August 31, [The Breakthrough](#) published an article by Steve titled, '[A Climate Movement at War: A War on Climate Can Be Neither Democratic Nor Effective](#)'. In this article, Steve examines the idea of 'a war on climate change'. He questions whether such a metaphor is useful in moving climate action forward and helping us better cope with climate impacts.

And finally, Steve was published in the September 2016 issue of the publication [International Affairs](#). Co-written by [Dr Michele Acuto](#) and titled, '[City Networks: breaking gridlocks or forging \(new\) lock-ins](#)', this article aims to offer a preliminary guide to what city networks are, and what they do in contemporary world politics.

Rob Bellamy on climate change and geoengineering

Over the summer months, InSIS research fellow Dr Rob Bellamy participated in several meetings and seminars focussed on the areas of climate change and geoengineering. On 23 June, Rob gave a talk on 'crafting a public for geoengineering' at the 15th Annual Meeting of the [Science and Democracy Network](#) held at UCL. Then, on the 25th August, Rob gave a seminar to the [Oxford Environmental Change Institute's Lower Carbon Futures Group](#) on 'mitigation vs. geoengineering'. This presentation focussed on what Rob views as a need for 'opening up' the appraisals of options for tackling climate change. Thursday 8 September, Rob, attended the [launch](#) of the new [Leverhulme Centre for Climate Change Mitigation](#) at the Royal Society. The Centre will examine enhanced rock weathering: a biological climate change mitigation technique with possible co-benefits for food security. The following day, he attended the [Low Carbon Summit](#), organised but the [Institution of Chemical Engineers Energy Centre and Knowledge Transfer Network](#) on behalf of the [Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy](#) (BEIS). The event considered what the COP21 targets mean for the UK and how existing low carbon technologies and future innovations will help us meet them. Rob was also one of several InSIS researchers, including Steve Rayner and associate Peter Healey, to attend the Oxford Greenhouse Gas Removal Conference. Organised and hosted by the [Oxford Martin School](#), this three day event brought together climate experts from a wide range of fields to discuss the status of current greenhouse gas removal technologies, and make recommendations for the future.

Lisa Dilling begins her research at Oxford

InSIS visitor Dr Lisa Dilling was also busy over the summer, attending several seminars and workshops covering issues such as climate change and drought science and management. On 20-22 September, she attended the international conference '[1.5 Degrees: Meeting the challenges of the Paris Agreement](#)', organised by the Oxford University [Environmental Change Institute](#) and held at [Keble College](#). This conference brought together researchers, policy makers, businesses and members of civil society to understand the impacts of warming of 1.5oC above pre-industrial levels and assess the feasibility of meeting the challenges in the Paris Climate Agreement. The following week, Lisa attended the '[Drought and Science Management Symposium](#)', organised by the NERC funded project 'Managing the Risks, Impacts and Uncertainties of drought and water Scarcity ([MaRIUS](#))'. This symposium was the last of a trio of International Symposia and included speakers from the UK and around the world.

Sophie Haines attends meeting on Forecast-based Financing (FBF)

On July 5-7, Dr Sophie Haines participated in the third workshop of the Dialogue Platform on Forecast-based financing (FbF). Hosted by the German Red Cross, this workshop brought together scientists, humanitarians and policymakers to explore the potential for using forecasts (meteorological, hydrological) to fund and implement humanitarian action before a disaster.

Publications

Journal Articles

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

[Read>](#)

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

[Read>](#)

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]

[Read>](#)

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

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Urban Governance and Its Discontents video

Video recordings from the [Urban Governance and Its Discontents](#) conference panel and debate sessions are now available for viewing online.

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