

# InSIS newsletter

## Trinity 2017: Week 4

19 May 2017



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## InSIS News

### InSIS Welcomes Dr Stefan Schäfer

InSIS is happy to welcome [Dr Stefan Schäfer](#), who is visiting with the institute for several months. Stefan leads a research group on climate engineering at the [Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies](#) (IASS) in Potsdam, Germany, examining how a wide array of stakeholders, agendas, and bodies of knowledge shape the ongoing development of climate engineering as a set of imaginaries, discourses, and policy options.

During his visit, Stefan will work with InSIS researchers on a project entitled "The Politics of Terminology in Science and Technology: Geoengineering and Nanotechnology in Germany and the UK". The aim of the project is to examine contestation over terminology in science and technology fields as a means of better understanding key scientific-technological debates of our time.

In addition, Stefan will participate in initiatives related to the [Oxford Geoengineering Programme](#) (OGP).

### New Projects - 'Understanding policy needs and regional cooperation opportunities for improving water allocations in the Middle East: The case of Jordan'

InSIS Director Steve Rayner and Michael Gilmont have been awarded a Fell Fund grant to further develop research that Michael undertook as part of the project ['Delivering Food and Water Security in a Middle East in Flux'](#) (DeFWS) that wrapped up in March. The goal of this new work is to develop a programme and consortium to enable future research into, and pilot implementation of, agricultural productivity instruments that will allow for a superior allocation of Jordan's scarce water resources in terms of productivity and growth opportunities.

### New Projects - 'Releasing divalent cations to sequester carbon on land and sea'

InSIS is a partner in a new project that explores the potential of an idea to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as a way of addressing climate change and ocean acidification. The "Releasing divalent cations to sequester carbon on land and sea" project is a four-year project involving the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Cardiff and Southampton, which will explore the concept of using waste materials from mining as a way of removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. InSIS's role in the project will be to examine the societal issues arising from this proposed approach to help determine to what extent it might be a scalable means of countering climate change. The project is part of a wider programme jointly funded by the Natural Environment Research Council, the Economic & Social Research Council, the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to assess the feasibility of proposed methods to remove carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the air.

### Saving Ourselves: Interviews with World Leaders on the Sustainable Transition

An interview with InSIS Director Steve Rayner has been published as part of the book, ['Saving Ourselves: Interviews with World Leaders on the Sustainable Transition'](#). Edited by Yacine Belhaj-Bouabdallah and published by World Scientific Publishing, the book tackles issues of sustainability and the ways in which institutions at all levels, public and private, national and international, are teaming up to combat climate change and to promote more sustainable societies. Other individuals interviewed and contributing to the book include Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau, Dr Jane Goodall, 1995 Nobel Prize in Chemistry recipient Professor Paul Crutzen, the former Prime Minister of Norway Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, and the Dalai Lama.

### **How Institutions Think (HIT) workshop**

On May 15th and 16th InSIS Director Steve Rayner, InSIS Postdoctoral Research Fellow Chris Goldsworthy, and Keble College Research and Teaching Fellow Lambros Malafouris organised and co-convened the InSIS and Keble Creativity Cluster HIT workshop. This workshop sought to develop a theoretical framework which combines insight from Mary Douglas' work in How Institutions Think with contemporary theories of extended and distributed cognition. In addition to the aim of theoretical development this workshop also served to develop a broad body of empirical research to investigate the concept of radically distributed cognition at the institutional level. The workshop brought together experts from a wide variety of perspectives, including cultural theory, phenomenology, philosophy of science, geography, anthropology, and science and technology studies. As well as a strong constituency of InSIS members contributing to discussion other noted participants included Shaun Gallagher, Alexander Bird, Michael Thompson, Perri 6, Marco Verweij, Chris Gosden, Constantine Sandis and Beth Greenhough.

### **Rob Bellamy attends BRIGAD project meeting**

On May 10-12 InSIS researcher Rob Bellamy attended a project meeting for the ['Bridging the Gap for Innovations in Disaster Resilience'](#) (BRIGAD) project in Berlin. As part of the workshop, Rob presented a framework for the societal acceptance of climate adaptation innovations developed as part of his research work on the project so far.

### **Rob workshop next week**

On May 22 Rob Bellamy will be attending an expert workshop on energy security at the Institute of Chemical Engineers.

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **Mary Douglas Memorial Lecture - Wednesday, 24 May, 6pm**

On 24 May the 2017 Mary Douglas Memorial Lecture will be held at St Anne's College, Oxford. This year, the lecture will be given by Professor Pat Caplan, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at Goldsmiths, University of London. The title of the lecture is, 'Gifts, Entitlement, Benefits, and Surplus: Food Poverty and Food aid in the UK'.

For more information on this event, including a presentation abstract and details of how to register, please click [here](#).

### **Of what is global health the symptom: authorization, value anticipation after Ebola - Thursday, 8 June, 4:30pm**

Presented by: Vinh-Kim Nguyen

Location: Seminar Room, 64 Banbury Road, Oxford

Vinh-Kim Nguyen is an HIV and Emergency physician and medical anthropologist. As both practitioner and researcher, he is concerned with the relationship between science, politics and practice in global health. He practices Emergency Medicine at Avicenna Hospital in Paris and the Jewish General Hospital in Montréal, currently holds an ERC Consolidator Grant (Research Chair) on the science and politics of a world without AIDS and heads a team of anthropologists researching the Ebola epidemic in West Africa. All are welcome to attend

### **The Dynamics of Vulnerability seminar- Tuesday, 13 June, 3pm**

Presented by: Leverhulme Visiting Professor Lisa Dilling

Date: Tuesday, 13 June

Time: 15:00

Location: Gottmann Room, School of Geography and the Environment, South Parks Road, Oxford

Cities in the U.S. have been adapting to drought and flooding for many years, implementing a combination of mechanisms to cope with climate and water variability and (often) increasing population. I argue that these experiences help us to understand how society will engage the challenge of adapting to climate change. Data from drought management and flooding show that adaptation to climate variability can shift vulnerability in unexpected ways. This suggests that there is a need for greater engagement with various publics on the trade-offs involved in adaptation action and for improving analysis and communication about the complicated nature of the dynamics of vulnerability.

All are welcome to attend

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## Publications

### Journal Articles

De Campos, A.S., Hartley, S., de Koning, C., Lezaun, J., and Velho, L. (2017) Responsible Innovation and political accountability: genetically modified mosquitoes in Brazil. *Journal of Responsible Innovation*.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/23299460.2017.1326257>

[Read>](#)

Haines, S. (2017) Imagining the Highway: Anticipating Infrastructural and Environmental Change in Belize. *Ethos* (online). DOI:10.1080/00141844.2017.1282974

[Read>](#)

Lezaun, J and Muniesa, F (2017) Twilight in the leadership playground: subrealism and the training of the business self, *Journal of Cultural Economy* 10(3): 265-279.

[Read>](#)

### Chapters in Books and Proceedings

Lezaun, J. and Barandiaran, X. (2017) The Mondragon Experience. In: J Michie et al (ed) *The Oxford Handbook of Mutual, Co-Operative, and Co-Owned Business*. Oxford University Press.

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Lezaun, J., Marres, N., and Tironi, M. (2016) Experiments in Participation. In: Ulriko Felt et al (eds) *The Handbook of Science and Technology Studies*, 4th Edition. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

[More>](#)

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

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