

NEWSLETTER – October 2019



Matrix, George Penone, Yorkshire Sculpture Park

This is the quarterly Newsletter from AsSIST-UK. The Newsletter is sent to all registered members of the Association. Please ensure your contact details are up to date, and if they have changed, contact sarah.shrive-morrison@york.ac.uk

Issue Number 9

For all ongoing news about the Association visit the website at www.assist-uk.com

Executive Committee News

The newly formed Executive Committee (<https://assist-uk.com/executive-committee/>) met in October to discuss various matters, including a review of the very successful Conference at Manchester, which attracted a large and diverse range of papers and speakers encompassing STS and Innovation Studies; plans for next year's event, input into the next REF, and policy-related work (eg in regard to the current government inquiry on Artificial intelligence).

It was agreed that in 2020 the Association would convene a Workshop-based event for ECR and PhD members. Planning for this is underway, and will include liaison with the existing ESRC Doctoral Training Partnerships and specific centres who would be interested in linking up with us for a national event. Our next main annual conference is planned for 2021.

Please contact the Association's Exec Secretary, Andrew Webster (AW), if you would like to help shape the 2020 meeting.

The EC is also keen to invite Member's to contribute towards Blogs via our website, especially in areas which Members see as being widely shared common interests. *Please contact AW if interested in doing so.*

The EC has also announced the call for nominations for the AsSIST-UK Phd Award for the calendar year 2019. See further details on the website at: <https://assist-uk.com/assist-uk-phd-prize/>

Research-related initiatives and publications

Members have been active in a wide range of areas since the last Newsletter was published in May, which include the following.

Research-related initiatives

- **Martyn Pickersgill** (Edinburgh) has been working with colleagues in Edinburgh's College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine to embed STS in two new initiatives that recently received funding, a MRC GCRF project, 'Generation Malawi: A Study of Family, Maternal and Childhood Mental Health' (£3.7m) [Andrea McIntosh, PI; Lucinda Manda-Taylor, Martyn Pickersgill et al, Co-Is), and a Wellcome Trust PhD Programme in 'One Health Models of Disease: Science, Ethics and Society' (£5.3m) [Ross Fitzgerald, PI/Director; Martyn Pickersgill, Co-PI/Co-Director]. The PhD programme will offer studentships for those wishing to do a PhD in bioethics or STS, and interested applicants can **contact Martyn** (martyn.pickersgill@ed.ac.uk) for further details. Studentships include full fees at international rates, and a stipend of ~£19k pa.

- **James Wilsdon** (Sheffield) is to be the Director of the new **Research on Research Institute**.



See further details on its website and Twitter at <http://researchonresearch.org/> and: <https://twitter.com/rorintitute>. There has been considerable press coverage too: <https://wakelet.com/wake/39d3fcfb-6078-4d66-83ba-a41e2bc82e6d> including a very supported editorial in *Nature*. The plan with RoRI is for it to develop as a platform for multiple academic-funder collaborations in this area (well beyond Sheffield, Leiden and other core partners).

- **Julia Kasmire** (Manchester) took up a new position in October with the Cathie Marsh Institute and the UK Data Services. In this role, she will be training social scientists in using new forms of data. She is especially keen to hear from anyone that has identified gaps in their own knowledge, has ideas for training, or wants to collaborate on case studies, webinars or other educational material relating to new forms of data for social science research. Contact Julia at: julia.kasmire@manchester.ac.uk
- **Les Levidow** (Open University) has recently received funding from the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)

duration: 2020-2021, as PI on a new project in collaboration with colleagues in Bolivia and Brazil, the Comunidad de Estudios Jaina, Bolivia, and Universidade Estadual Paulista (UNESP), Brazil.



The project will carry out participatory action research with community organisations building capacities for agroecological innovation in Bolivia and Brazil. Each research team there will form an action-research group with communities in three case-study areas. The project will:

- identify and strengthen community capacities for an agroecology-based solidarity economy;
- combine, test and refine research methods for making those capacities more visible through multi-stakeholder knowledge co-production.

For further information see: <https://www2.unesp.br/portal#!/noticia/35142/unesp-se-une-a-bolivia-e-reino-unido-em-projeto-de-agroecologia/>

New publications by Members



Special issue of *Social Studies of Science*: Bauer, S., Hoeyer, K. and **Pickersgill, M.** (eds.) (2019) From Person to Population and Back: Exploring Accountability in Public Health, *Social Studies of Science*, 49, 4, 459-650.

Jack Stilgoe has a new book on innovation and the State - *Who's Driving Innovation? New Technologies and the Collaborative State* – which is due out in December 2019 from Palgrave. One review commented: Stilgoe's excellent new book tackles the directionality of AI with a strong call to action. The book critiques the idea that technology is a pre-determined force, and puts forward a concrete proposal on how to make sure we are making decisions along the way that ask who is benefitting and how can we open the possibilities of innovation while steering them to deliver social benefit." Mariana Mazzucato, University College London, UK

Jack also contributed to the latest Research Fortnight discussing his recent work with diverse publics and their concerns relating to self-driving cars: see https://www.researchprofessional.com/0/rr/news/political-science-blog/2019/10/Calculating-route.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=rpMailing&utm_campaign=researchFortnightNews_2019-10-30

Appointments

John Gardner (Monash, Australia), whose research focuses on medical innovation and clinical systems has been appointed Senior Lecturer in Sociology/STS. He is also founding member of the Neurosocieties Group at Monash: <https://arts.monash.edu/social-sciences/the-neurosocieties-group>

News from centres and other national associations

SATSU, University of York, has published its research seminar series for the 2019/20 academic year:

Tom McLeish, Professor of Natural Philosophy, University of York Department of Physics

Narratives of Hope: Science, Theology and Environmental Public Policy

Date: 5/2/2020 @ 16.00-17.00

Location: Room 222, Department of Sociology Wentworth College, Heslington West Campus.

Dr Martyn Pickersgill, University of Edinburgh

Uncertainty Work as Ontological Negotiation: Adjudicating Access to Therapy in Clinical Psychology

Date: 26/02/2020 @ 13:00 -14:00

Location: Room 222, Dept. of Sociology, Wentworth College, Heslington West Campus

SATSU & LAB@SATSU MONTHLY MEETINGS

Dr Gian Marco Campagnolo, The University of Edinburgh

Participative Epistemology in Social Data Science: combining ethnography with computational and statistical approaches

Date: 23/10/2019 @12:00 - 13:00

Location: Room LMB/102 (the boardroom), Department of Management, Heslington East

Dr Eugenia Rodriguez, The University of Edinburgh

From citizens in science to citizen science: citizenship and participatory expertise in contemporary societies

Date: 20/11/2019 @ 13.00-14.00

Location: LMB/023 Seminar Room, Dept. of Management, Heslington East Campus

Dr Esther Hitchen, Durham University

Austerity melancholia

Date: 04/12/2019 @ 13:00

Location: Room 243, Dept. of Sociology, Wentworth College, Heslington West Campus

Dr Emiliano Trere, Cardiff University

Roots, currents and horizons: a conceptual journey into the media practice approach

Date: 22/01/2020 @ 13:00 - 14:00

Location: Room 243, Dept. of Sociology, Wentworth College, Heslington West Campus

Dr Kim Kullman, Open University

TBC

Date & Time: 04/03/2020 @ 16:00 - 17:00

Location: Room 243, Dept. of Sociology, Wentworth College, Heslington West Campus

STS4CITIES MOBILE SEMINAR

More-than-human? Ecology, Society and Interspecies Worlds

Location: Council Room, Trent Building A21, University Park, Nottingham

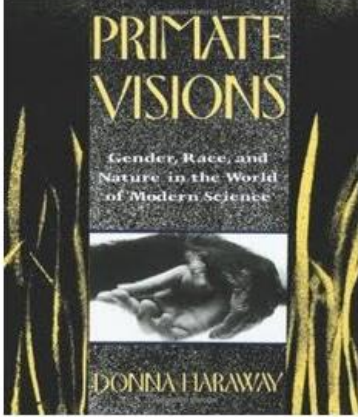
Date: Tuesday 19th November 2019 (12:00-17:15)

Speakers: Eva Giraud, Eleanor Hadley Kershaw, Richard Helliwell, & Gregory Hollin; Pru Hobson-West; Anna Krzywoszynska; Carrie Friese & Joanna Latimer; Warren Pearce. [Book your place](#)

SATSU/CULTURE & COMMUNICATION ANNUAL THEORY EVENT

SATSU/CULTURE & COMMUNICATION ANNUAL THEORY WORKSHOP 2019
Celebrating 30 years of Donna Haraway since the publication of *Primate Visions*

December 11th
TIME: 13.00-17.00
LOCATION: W/222, University of York



Donna Haraway has become both a hugely controversial as well as a much-loved figure in contemporary social theory, feminist epistemology and philosophy. Her contributions are, whichever way one looks, extraordinary – from *Primate Visions*, through *Modest_Witness@Second_Millennium*, *FemaleMan_Meets_OncoMouse* and *A Cyborg Manifesto* to *When Species Meet* – her work never fails to provoke, inspire, or just rattle the cage.

This workshop invites papers (10 minutes each) to address any aspect of Haraway’s work, critically or lovingly.

To submit an abstract/book a place please email satsu@york.ac.uk by 20th November

The *Italian Society of Science and Technology Studies* (STS Italia – www.stsitalia.org) has recently issued a call for papers for its annual conference in 2020. The University of Trieste will host the 8th International Conference of STS Italia, entitled “Dis/Entangling Technoscience. Vulnerability, Responsibility, Justice”, to be held on June 18-20, 2020. The conference aims at gathering STS scholars from Italy and abroad, to reflect on the complex and ambivalent role of technoscience and innovation in constituting our societies, making possibilities flourish, on the one hand, but also creating new vulnerabilities. STS Italia’s Vice-President, **Simone Araldi**, would welcome one or more track submissions from members of the Association. <http://www.stsitalia.org/disentangling-technoscience-call-for-tracks-of-the-8th-sts-italia-conference/?lang=en>

The *Danish STS* association has recently made a Call for abstracts for its annual conference to be held at the Copenhagen Business School on May 14-15, 2020. See <https://www.dasts.dk/?p=4705>.

The *Dutch WTMC* doctoral training and research programme is holding its annual review and planning meeting in December: see <https://www.wtmc.eu/wtmc-annual-meeting-13-december-2019-de-balie-amsterdam/>

Next Newsletter

Please send items for the Christmas Newsletter to AW by December 12th