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International Sociological Association

**Newsletter: Issue 8, August 2011
Research Committee (RC) 23:
Sociology of Science and Technology**

**Edited by: Binay K Pattnaik
Secretary RC 23**

Board 2010-2014

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Message of the President of RC 23

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

August 22, 2011

Dear Colleagues,

This newsletter of the ISA **Research Committee 23** on **Science and Technology** is devoted to the Program of our RC as part of the ISA 'Forum of Sociology' in Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 1-4, 2012. Our program can also be found on the web by click on one of our own urls:

www.rc23.org or www.isa-rc23.org

You may also access it through the ISA website by clicking on Research Committee 23 there.

The 'Forum of Sociology' is intended to focus on the interests of the Research Committees. We have been given 14 sessions, based on the size of our membership. Though the contribution of several of you, we have put together quite a diverse program that should be widely attractive and I hope many of you will come to join in our discussions in Buenos Aires. As organizers we have attracted, several international experts on various aspects of S&T and Knowledge who have not been active participants in RC23 before. This shows a growing global presence of RC 23. I am also pleased that we have several sessions in which members from South and Central America are organizers. This speaks well of the decision to hold the ISA Second Forum in South America. Also, we have a session about the role and impact of risk situations in Japan and Asia that will lead nicely into our next international congress in Yokohama in 2014.

I now call upon you to submit abstracts of papers that you would like to present at our Buenos Aires. Before doing so, please go on the ISA website at www.isa-sociology.org and read the requirements for abstract sub mission.

First, to participate in the sessions of RC 23 you must be a member of our Research Committee and preferably a member of the ISA. You can register for both on the ISA website.

Second, for those who are organizing sessions, please be aware that organizers cannot both Chair and be a presenter in a session. Thus, if you are an organizer and also want to present in a session, you **MUST** find someone else to be the session chair.

Third, abstracts being submitted for consideration in any session **MUST** be submitted on line to the ISA. **Please do not directly submit them to the session organizer.** She or he will ultimately receive your abstract, but only after it has been 'logged' and given an identification code by the ISA Office. The website for acceptance of abstracts that are being submitted for consideration will be operational between August 24, 2011 and December 15, 2011. Abstracts submitted after December 15, 2011 will not be considered.

Fourth, please note that the conference registration fee **MUST** be paid before April 10 2012. (Note that you will not be included in the conference if you register after that date).

A COMPLETE LIST OF THE GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTERS IS FOUND ON THE ISA WEBSITE AT:
<http://www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012/guidelines-for-presenters.htm>

Also, please be aware that each session is 90 minutes and that we will allow no more than six presentations in any session. Organizers may wish to limited their sessions to less presentations in order to allow for more open discussion or to have a discussant.

However, we are also aware that some persons who submit abstracts will ultimately be unable to attend the meeting either for personal or financial reasons. Thus, we ask session organizers to provide a 'supplementary list' of persons who will be able to present if someone drops out. As we get closer to the conference date, I will personally write each chosen presenter to ask them to confirm whether or not they will be presenting. In that way, we hope to give all those who wish to present and who will be able to join us in Buenos Aires, an opportunity to do so.

If any of you have any questions or concerns, at any time, with these procedures, do feel free to contact me by e-mail at ralph.matthews@ubc.ca. I may not be able to solve your problem or concern, but I will certainly listen and do my best.

Finally, very few of you are submitting newsworthy information for presentation in our newsletter and on our website. I encourage you to do so. Please submit them to Binay K Pattnaik our Newsletter Editor. I am hoping to make this a vibrant intellectual forum, but I need your active involvement to make that happen.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ralph Matthews".

Ralph Matthews, Ph.D.,
President, ISA Research Committee 23, Sociology of Science and Technology,
Professor of Sociology, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, V7R 4K2
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ISA Forum II, Buenos Aires, August 1-4, 2012

RC 23: Sociology of Science and Technology, Approved sessions

Programme coordinator:

- Ralph MATTHEWS, The University of British Columbia, Canada, ralph.matthews@ubc.ca

Committee members:

- Nadia ASHEULOVA, Director, Centre for Sociology of Science and Science Studies, Institute for the History of Science and Technology, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia.
- Binay PATTNAIK, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India.
- Juha TUUNAINEN, Helsinki Institute of Science and Technology Studies, Helsinki, Finland.

Number of allocated sessions including Business meeting: 14.

Deadlines

- On-line abstract submission **from August 25 to December 15, 2011.**
- All Forum participants (presenters, chairs, discussants, etc.) need to pay the early registration fee by **April 10, 2012**, in order to be included in the programme. If not registered, their names will not appear in the Programme or Abstracts Book.
- On-line registration will open **August 25, 2011.**

Call for papers

Proposed sessions (in provisional order)

Only abstracts submitted through [ISA website platform](#) will be considered.

SESSION. A

Leisure and Digital Transformation: Emerging Patterns of Communication and Electronic Community

Joint session of RC 13 Sociology of Leisure [Host Committee]; RC 14 Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture; and, RC 23 Sociology of Science and Technology).

Co-Organizers: Ishwar Modi, India International Institute of Social Sciences, Jaipur, India
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Christiana Constantopoulou, Panteion University, Greece,
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Ralph Matthews, University of British Columbia, Canada.
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Application of digital technology in all aspects of human life has not only changed but has actually transformed human life. Digitization, by enabling new types of innovation and creativity in particular domains, has not only revolutionized communication but has also enhanced support to traditional methods. Digital transformation affects not only government, business, mass communication, art or even medicine but also leisure in a significant manner. Digital transformation not only refers to the concept of 'going paperless' but also visiting places virtually and making use of leisure in manners hitherto unknown and unpracticed. One major consequence of digital transformation is the creation of electronic and virtual communities that have totally changed the character of leisure. The global computer network of the Internet is beginning to make radical changes in the way consumers conduct their economic, social, leisure and professional lives.

This session may also examine that how leading electronic communities that are revolutionizing the way consumers plan vacations, watch sports, find jobs and conduct other key aspects of their lives including leisure. The changes brought about by digital transformation offer not only significant opportunities but also the threats ahead. The session would examine if this revolution is a boon or a bane.

[Note: For French and Spanish translation of session description – see RC11 listing]

SESSION. B

Knowledge Based Economies and Networks of Knowledge Transfer

Organizers: Gabriel Vélez Cuartas, Department of Sociology, University of Antioquia, Medellin, Antioquia, Colombia (RC23)
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Julian Cardenas, Department of Sociology, University of Antioquia, Medellin, Antioquia, Colombia (RC02)
julian.cardenas@onlineschool.com>

Joint Session of RC02 Economy and Society [Host Committee] and RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology.

Many academics and researchers have demonstrated the strong relationship among science and technology investment and GPI growth. This statement has become a fruitful inspiration to relatively new development recipes for developing countries. Some countries have growth. Nevertheless, other countries are still far away from thinking about a knowledge-based economy. Why? What are the consequences? Thousands of corporations, governments and universities across the world have benefited from knowledge transfer. Networks have played a key role to expand, assimilate and adapt global knowledge. What are the configurations of these networks at regional and national level? What are the impacts of adopting a knowledge development model that has been generalized to every

national system? How could a knowledge regime emerge and what are their characteristics and possibilities in different countries and regions?

This joint session tries to understand successes and failures in implementing knowledge-based economy models; conflicts between knowledge, economic and political regimens; and the configuration and consequences of knowledge networks on economics, politics and society. Our goal is to present and discuss the determinants, mechanisms and impacts of knowledge-based economies and networks of knowledge transfer.

Language(s) of session: English, Spanish.

SESSION. C

Gender, Science and Technology : Postcolonial and Feminist Perspectives

Organizers: Laura Corradi, Gender Studies, Dipartimento Sociologia, Università della Calabria, 87036 Rende CS – Italy
lauracorradi.sociol@gmail.com

Josephine Beoku-Betts, Center for Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, Florida Atlantic University, USA
beokubet@fau.edu

Joint session of RC32 Women and Society [Host committee] and RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology.

Post-colonial feminist perspectives on gender, science, and technology accommodate a vast array of disciplines and contesting perspectives. Essentially, the interconnectedness of racism, colonialism and globalization, and their impact on women and gender, set a context for understanding the concerns, priorities, and contributions of post-colonial feminist scholars regarding the democratization of science and technology— from the rejection of a widely assumed neutrality to the active deconstruction of male scientific imaginary and practice, based upon a hierarchical opposition between science and nature. Post-colonial feminists have long questioned the aims and methods taken for granted in a white, male, upper-class scientific community which used to enjoy colonial privileges – and successfully unveiled the power relations underlying scientific knowledge, in terms of class, race, gender and sexuality. In her book, *Is Science Multicultural?* (1998) Sandra Harding argues that post-colonial feminist standpoints broaden understanding of how race, ethnicity, class, colonialism, sexuality and gender intersect to construct scientific agendas of the Global North and provide a means to assess how science and technology policies and practices impact on the marginalized, among which women are the most vulnerable.

This session will discuss the meanings and understandings post-colonial feminism brings to the subject of gender, science, and technology. It will examine approaches to integrating the experiential with the analytical and a transformative scholarship and political agenda for science and technology. Questions to consider include: Has the 'critical mass' of women in the scientific professions been achieved? How do women in scientific careers locate themselves in relation to science and its practice? Are women changing science? Is perhaps science changing women? How can women change the directions of science and technology? What about the different feminist standpoints, politically and ethically, on hot issues such as nuclear energy, genetically modified seeds and embryos, military research and nano-biotech? In an era of growing economical and environmental crises, what are the priorities, the criteria, the objectives? How can social scientists contribute to this discourse, in terms of a re-definition of a socially useful science and technology?

SESSION. D

Democracy and Surveillance Technologies: Relationships between Global South and Global North

Organizers: David Lyon, Queen's University, Canada
lyond@queensu.ca

Nelson Arteaga, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México
nelsonarteagabotello@me.com

The session seeks to understand the impact of surveillance society in the reconfiguration of relationships between Global South and Global North. It will focus primarily on analyzing the way in which nation states in both regions establish an interchange of personal or group information collected by different forms of surveillance as such as census, ID cards, population and migrants. This starting point allows the articulation of particular questions: How do the governments in the Global North and South organize legal regulation regarding consent of the flows of information? What is the global process of transference of surveillance technology, and "know how" skills of surveillance? These questions are important because they open a new reconfiguration of citizenship, the public and private, and the manner in which social sorting occurred. Cross national studies are important to comprehend the effects of surveillance between national states in global north and global south. Which is the impact in the construction of democratic institutions in both regions? The session particularly welcomes cross national studies of different types of surveillance and papers which relate to the development of surveillance institutions in Latin America.

SESSION. E

The New Frontiers of the Digital Divide: Technological Inequalities and Social Justice

Organizer: Jose Manuel Robles Morales, Sección Departamental de Sociología III. Facultad de Ciencias Económicas de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

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The increasing penetration rate of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in general and of the Internet in particular, has led to a profound academic debate regarding the social function of this type of technology. Within the field of Internet usage-associated risks, specialists have paid special attention to the problem of the Digital Divide. Originally, studies on the Digital Divide focused on the inequalities arising as a result of the differences in access to and use of the Internet. In this regard, their interest focused on the geographic and social inequalities between citizens who use and citizens who do not use the Internet. The current debate takes these studies as reference in order to inquire into the consequences of certain uses of the Internet. Given that the Internet penetration rate is unequal, what consequences might this have in terms of equality and social justice? Digital inequality focuses on the inequalities arising as a result of the advantages provided by certain uses of the Internet. The aim of this session is to discuss from an empirical, theoretical and methodological perspective the in-egalitarian effect of the use of the services and tools offered by Information and Communication Technologies. We particularly seek papers that focus on the following issues: The extent to which Information and Communication Technologies imply a problem for social inequality? To what extent do they pose a new challenge for social justice? Internet.

LANGUAGES ACCEPTED FOR THE SESSION: Proposals in any of the official languages of the International Sociological Association shall be accepted. However, participants shall be asked to either deliver the oral presentation in English or to provide the support material for the presentation (power point, handouts, etc) in English.

SESSION. F

The Social and Environmental Impacts of Nanotechnologies and Other Emerging Technologies

Organizers: Alison Anderson, Head of Sociology / Social Policy Group, University of Plymouth, UK

A.Anderson@plymouth.ac.uk

Paulo Martins, Brazilian Research Network in Nanotechnology, Society and Environment, Renanosoma, Brazil

marpaulo@uol.com.br

This session will examine the range of social environmental and ethical challenges posted by 'nanotechnology' and other new technologies. While consumer nano-products available on the market now exceed 1,000 and applications of other new technologies are similarly extensive, there is little public awareness of these developments. The proposed session will focus on the important issues regarding responsibility, accountability and ownership in relation to nanotech and other technologies. Papers dealing with issues of potential risk, inequality, social justice, governance and decision-making and the role of the media in framing such issues are particularly welcomed.

SESSION. G

Contested Science, Risk and Governance

Organizers: Eugene A. Rosa, Washington State University and Stanford University, USA
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Thomas Dietz, Michigan State University, USA
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Science is used to influence and also to legitimate risk governance decisions in contemporary society. But increasingly the legitimacy of science is contested by social movements organizations, corporate interests and political elites. In turn, sociologists around the globe have examined the dynamics of these struggles theoretically and empirically using diverse methods. The session will bring together leading papers examining the implications of contested science in risk governance for social change.

SESSION. H

Beyond Risk: Governing Unknowns

Organizer: Mathias Gross, Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – Leipzig, Germany
matthias.gross@ufz.de

Although the '*sociology of ignorance*' has a long history, dating back at least to Herbert Spencer's reflections on religion and the unknown, debates on ignorance, knowledge gaps or non-knowledge as inherent features of knowledge making in science and everyday life have only recently gained broader attention from sociologists, especially from STS scholars criticizing the potentially misleading role of risk assessments when clear knowledge about probabilities and outcomes are not available. This, raises questions about the conditions under which actors are legally entitled to point to their "non-knowledge" as explanation. It also raises questions on the varied ways that actors may seek to not know about certain

things in the sense that they may consciously avoid knowledge from emerging in the first place. To the end, it needs to be asked on how much do actors need to know in order to make strategic use of deliberate knowledge avoidance?

This session seeks papers that build on the observation that it is more often things that are not known that are most important in decision-making and thus more pivotal for sociological analysis than risk related issues.

SESSION. I

Latin America in the global science system

Organizer: Koen Jonkers, Institute for Public Goods and Policies, CSIC, Madrid, Spain.
koen.jonkers@cchs.csic.es

In this session contributors analyse the relative position of Latin American research systems (LA) in the global science system. It explores the factors influencing collaborative and competitive relations between LA and research systems in North America, Western Europe and the Asia Pacific as well as the impact of these relations on the functioning of LA research systems. Factors that facilitate or hinder the development of such ties can, for example, include historical factors, language, institutional support (including programs), mobility flows, research topics and the access to resources.

Topics that can be addressed include:

- The influence of the “scientific centre” on research agendas in the “periphery” and its impact on the local relevance of research. Papers can explore whether this creates tensions. They can do so through critically addressing the relative potential of researchers in LA to follow research lines that are of relevance to their local socio-economic context and/or historical or emerging research traditions. Here we relate to the global conference theme.
- The importance or/not of international ties to the development of national research organizations and the institutional set up of national research systems (institutional learning) as well as the importance of these relationships to the careers of individual researchers.
- The relative importance of inter-LA relations in comparison to the relationship to and influence of other parts of the global science system. Is regionalization an emerging trend in LA and what are the consequences of this (or the lack of this) development?
- Comparisons of the organization of scientific research and relative performance of LA and, for example, Asian research systems and explanations for observed differences.

These topics can be tackled using quantitative as well as qualitative methodological approaches from a broad range of theoretical perspectives.

SESSION. J

[Risk, Disaster, and Sustainability: Remodelling on Fukushima](#)

Organizer: Miwao Matsumoto, The University of Tokyo, Japan
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The sociology of science and technology, together with environmental sociology, risk sociology, and the sociology of disaster, has highlighted the importance of uncertainty in social decision-making on critical social issues in the science-technology-society interface. Based on this research tradition, this session attempts to illuminate afresh a complicated social process emerging from extreme events such as nuclear power plant failures, tsunami, earthquakes, and any other unexpected technological failure. The focus of the session is on the complicated social processes, made up of heterogeneous agents with different stakes and risk perception, involved in dealing with extreme events and/or their combination. How does risk change into disaster? How could the precautionary principle work to prevent risk from changing into disaster? How could we conceive technological trajectories leading to sustainability beyond risk and disaster? How could we maintain the quality of the public sphere where heterogeneous agents such as governmental, industrial, academic and citizen sector are engaged in social decision-making on critical social issues? And, in particular, how could we keep social justice in all these complicated social processes? This session welcome sociological studies that challenge these questions, be it empirical or theoretical, Fukushima-related or not, from many varieties of experiences and viewpoints.

SESSION. K

[New World, New Knowledge: Is an Asia-Pacific Science and Technology Research Area Emerging?](#)

Organizer: Richard Woolley, University of Western Sydney, Sydney, Australia
R.Woolley@uws.edu.au

In a recent paper in *Scientometrics*, Haustein and colleagues (2010) suggested that co-authorship trends point toward the emergence of an Asia-Pacific scientific research area and speculated on factors contributing to this development.

This session invites contributions to the study of science in Asia and the Pacific. In general terms, it seeks submissions that help us better understand the complexities involved in collaboration between, and the coordination of, the diverse scientific communities of the Asia-Pacific region. It particularly welcomes contributions on international research collaboration within Asia, and/or studies of scientific practices and networks leading to joint knowledge production or diffusion activities. It also welcomes contributions focussed on the

construction of regional institutions or policies that seek to further capitalise on the surge in scientific work in the Asia-Pacific region.

SESSION. L

International Science and Technology Cooperation: The Role of Academic Mobility

Organizer: Nadia Asheulova, Director, Centre for Sociology of Science and Science Studies, St Petersburg Branch of the Institute for the History of Science and Technology, Russian Academy of Sciences.

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Mobility is seen as an important method of exchanging information, skills and experience between universities, the academic world, and industry, as well as between different countries and scientific institutions. The mobility of scientists, from students to senior, whether incoming or out-going, is vital for encouraging exchanges between R&D communities of different countries. The international mobility becomes a significant tool of increasing the cooperation in science.

The Session invites papers that explore the themes of processes of democratization and liberalization in S&T that are a condition for stronger international mobility and cooperation among scientists. The Session will look at the current situation regarding international S&T cooperation and academic mobility in different countries, providing an overview of recent initiatives, current challenges, new policy initiatives, barriers and existing trends.

SESSION. M

Forms of Interaction between Science, Universities and Society: Knowledge Mobilization, Regulation and the Societal Impacts of Scientific Knowledge

Organizer:

Juha Tuunainen, Helsinki Institute of Science and Technology Studies, University of Helsinki
Juha.Tuunainen@Helsinki.Fi

The latter part of the 20th century witnessed a radical transformation in the ways of understanding the relationship between science, university and society. In science studies, the transformation of the university research was discussed in terms of changing norms of science and altering contract between science and society. In research policy and higher education research, the societal role of science and university was redefined in terms of academic capitalism, entrepreneurial university and Mode-two knowledge production. Research also began to address risks and ethical problems created by scientific and technological advancement as well as the roles of scientists as advisors and experts in different areas of the society. Finally, the traditional topic of public understanding of science

began to give way to public engagement in science thereby emphasizing the democracy of science and technology.

In the policy arena, science and technology policy was transformed into more encompassing innovation policy with focus on institutional conditions of economic growth and competitiveness of nations in the global knowledge-based economy. The Bayh-Dole Act of 1980 in the U.S. exemplified this transformation and constituted a model for university policies in many countries. The aim of the law was to accelerate industrial utilization of university research by enhancing patenting of research results. Intermediaries and technology transfer offices were established in universities overall the world to achieve this goal. Subsequently, the model was heavily criticized. Not only was patenting regarded as a limited method of technology transfer but excessive patenting was also seen to inhibit development of new knowledge. Despite this, the third mission activities of the university in many countries are currently framed on the basis of ideas derived from the Bayh-Dole Act.

Today, the need for more complex view on the societal impact of the university research is pronounced. First, the perspective in developing science impact assessment procedures has been one of centralized administrative planning and control at the national level. At the same time, however, it has been noted that there are big differences between disciplines in terms of their typical societal influence mechanisms. What the current knowledge thus lacks is a satisfactory understanding of the various ways in which universities and academic researchers collaborate with other societal stakeholders and contribute to the society. Second, the innovation systems approach has focused on the commercialization of research results, forms of technology transfer and the collaboration networks between universities and firms. It is only recently, however, that the need to understand other forms of knowledge transfer between university and the wider society was recognized. Third, the recent emphasis in innovation policy on the societal impact of university activities runs the risk of conceptualising the third mission of the university as a task separate from those of scientific research and education. To avoid this misconception there is a need to analyse and highlight the various ways in which these two basic tasks of the university are connected to the societal usefulness of the work done by academics.

The present session contributes to the understanding of the societal impact of academic research by addressing the diversity of forms and mechanisms of university-society interaction. It also seeks to increase knowledge about the various ways in which epistemic and social motives of research are intertwined, and strives for widening the perspective of assessing and measuring the university's third mission activities. Finally, the session contributes to the understanding of the democracy of science by paying attention to the different ways in which societal stakeholders influence university practices in different countries and in different fields of research.

SESSION. N

Changing Dynamic in Research Organizations.

Organizers: Laura Cruz-Castro, CSIC-IPP, Spain

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Pablo Kreimer, CONICET, Argentina, Luis Sanz-Menéndez CSIC-IPP, Spain.

Luis.Sanz@cchs.csic.es

Hebe Vessuri, IVIC, Venezuela.

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This session is intended to provide in-depth perspectives on the way in which the role of scientific research organizations in changing in various countries and international contexts.

SESSION. O

Democratizing Science and Technology Through Protests and Mobilizations for Social Justice

Joint session of RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology [Host Committee] and RC48 Social Movements, Collective Actions, and Social Change.

Organizer: Binay Kumar Pattnaik, (Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, India.

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Modern Science and technology as social institutions have been elitist compared to other forms of community based, traditional sciences and technologies. Often the latter are treated as indigenous forms of S&T. Such rich traditions that are embedded in socio-cultural systems cannot be treated as mere trash or superstitions. Because these too have been empirically founded, developed through trial and error method and hence have been carriers of some form of verifiable wisdom and experiences. Besides, these too have been found to be socially and culturally more appropriate to certain people/ communities, occupationally and physically non-displacing and ecologically sound. Such traditional and alternative forms of sciences and technologies need recognition and these have often raised their voices for their inclusion and due recognition, meaning, to be in par with modern Science and Technology. This of course means increasing democratization of the institution of modern Science and technology. Thus by being more inclusive S&T would be more democratized and would imbibe spirit social justice of a certain kind. These voices of protests have been heard in both developed as well as developing countries.

This process of democratization refers to the Science, technology and civil society interface areas where civil society agents mostly NGOs/ activist organizations/ intellectuals as pressure groups have influenced policies and shaped the growth of S&T in certain domains. Their mobilizations have been seen to be for protection of indigenous knowledge systems /indigenous technological practices, protection of people against testings of new drugs/ pharmaceuticals, instruments of fertility/ sterility, varying applications of new technologies of ICT type/ Nano technologies, etc in relation to human health. Similarly in the area of agriculture voices have been raised for maintaining farmers' rights over seeds, maintaining bio-diversity, traditional varieties of crop species and cropping patterns, etc. Further the impact of bio-technology products on human health and ecology have been severely contested in recent times in different parts of the developing world where NGOs have taken the lead.

All these protests of above kind have been seen as mobilizations both at ground level as well as at the discursive level. And hence these mobilizations have taken the shape of various forms of sustainable/ appropriate/ alternative technology movements, peoples' science movements, science popularization (communication) movements, anti-science movements, ecological movements (targeting epistemological foundation of S&T), anti-globalization movements (of particular kind, involving local/ traditional knowledge systems).

SESSION. P

ICTs in Latin America and the Economic South as a Vehicle for Science and Technology Development – Present and Future

Joint session of RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology [Host Committee] and RC07 Futures Research.

Organizers: Jaime Jiménez Guzmán, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico
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Markus Schulz, New York University, USA.
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Although it is well documented that ICT's are not evenly distributed along the world and the development gap between the rich and the poor among and within countries has increased, some advantages have been obtained from the comprehensive use of the technological means to communicate around the world for S&T advancement. What Latin Americans and the Economic Southerners have to say in terms of possible advantages/disadvantages rendered by the relative easiness to communicate with peers both in the industrialized and not industrialized countries? What can be visualized as the future of these communications?

What theoreticians have to say in terms of current and future developments? Is the explosion of ICT's helping/obstructing our science, technology and innovation? These and many other questions are proposed for exploration. Both personal experiences and theoretical advances are welcome.

The session will be run in both English and Spanish. Since simultaneous translation is not feasible, we ask presenters who can do, to produce slides in both languages. Presentations in one language are welcome. We will arrange the public in such a way that those who speak both languages be seated close to those who don't for a personal translation.

SESSION. Q

[RC23 Business meeting](#)

Ralph MATTHEWS, The University of British Columbia, Canada.
ralph.matthews@ubc.ca

TOTAL SESSIONS: 17 (16 Paper Presentation Sessions and One Business Meeting Session)

SESSIONS SHARED WITH OTHER RCs: 5

SESSIONS HOSTED BY OTHER RCs: 3 (RC02; RC13; RC32)

SESSIONS HOSTED BY RC23: 14

Familiarising the session organizers with ISA Rules Governing the Programme:

- 1) You may organize a session and present in it. You cannot Chair a session and present in it. i.e. If you intend to present in the session you are organizing you have to find another person to Chair,
- 2) Abstracts for papers have to be submitted to the ISA at the address provided on their site,
- 3) When you have chosen your list of paper presentations, they must be given an ISA ID number and submitted by a central source. They won't appear on the program without that being done. To avoid confusion, I will take on the 'submission' process. Thus, when you have your final list, please send me all the information required (see the ISA site) so that I may submit them.
- 4) No matter how many submissions you get, you cannot have more than 6 in any session, and preferably fewer if you wish to have an discussion at all. I simply won't submit more than 6. SO please make the hard decisions. That is your job as organizer.
- 5) It is appropriate to have a range of presenters with different national and university backgrounds. One need not limit your six presentations to just your friends who have been doing this together for a long time. This is a relatively static RC and it would be nice to have some new directions. I have tried to do that by writing people who I thought would be good candidates to organize sessions but who don't usually present in RC23 or even in ISA. Some of them responded and we have new folks and areas in this meeting. It would be good to do something the same within each session.

With best wishes,

Ralph Matthews &
Binay K Pattnaik

New Books by Members of RC 23:

BOOK Title: Gender and the Science of Difference

http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/acatalog/gender_and_the_science_of_difference_pb.html

Gender and the Science of Difference: Cultural Politics of Contemporary Science and Medicine, Rutgers University Press

Edited by Jill A. Fisher, Assistant Professor, Vanderbilt University

How does contemporary science contribute to our understanding about what it means to be women or men? What are the social implications of scientific claims about differences between "male" and "female" brains, hormones, and genes? How does culture influence scientific and medical research and its findings about human sexuality, especially so-called normal and deviant desires and behaviors? *Gender and the Science of Difference* examines how contemporary science shapes and is shaped by gender ideals and images. Prior scholarship has illustrated how past cultures of science were infused with patriarchal norms and values that influenced the kinds of research that was conducted and the interpretation of findings about differences between men and women. This interdisciplinary volume presents empirical inquiries into today's science, including examples of gendered scientific inquiry and medical interventions and research. It analyzes how scientific and medical knowledge produces gender norms through an emphasis on sex differences, and includes both U.S. and non-U.S. cases and examples.

BOOK Title: Surveillance in the Time of Insecurity, 2010. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. **By** Monahan, Torin.

This book has won the inaugural Surveillance Studies Book Prize 2011 of the International Surveillance Studies Network.

Threats of terrorism, natural disaster, identity theft, job loss, illegal immigration, and even biblical apocalypse -- all are perils that trigger alarm in people today. Although there may be a factual basis for many of these fears, they do not simply represent objective conditions. Feelings of insecurity are instilled by politicians and the media, and sustained by urban fortification, technological surveillance, and economic vulnerabilities. *Surveillance in the Time of Insecurity* fuses advanced theoretical accounts of state power and neoliberalism with original research from the social settings in which insecurity dynamics play out in the new century. Torin Monahan explores the counterterrorism-themed show 24, Rapture fiction, traffic control centers, security conferences, public housing, and gated communities, and examines how each manifests complex relationships of inequality, insecurity, and surveillance. Alleviating insecurity requires that we confront its mythic dimensions, the politics inherent in new configurations of security provision, and the structural obstacles to achieving equality in societies.
