

Conference on the Political Sociology of Science and Technology
Science and Technology Studies Department
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

The political sociology of science and technology is about the study of power and inequality with respect to science and technology (defined broadly to include health, information, and environmental studies). Although attention to the construction processes and cultural meanings of knowledge and technology are important, we seek papers attentive to the problem of power and inequality in a larger institutional matrix involving relations between the scientific field and industry, the state, and/or civil society and social movements. Political sociology of S&T also includes work that attends to both the conditioning of historical situations by structural factors and the historical agency of actors.

The conference will take place on Friday, April 29, through Sunday morning, May 1. The Friday sessions will consist of doctoral students in a workshop setting, in which students will get ample time to explore new projects and present preliminary dissertation research that is related to the political sociology of science and technology. Daniel Kleinman will give the plenary lecture on Friday evening as the Phelan Lecture in Science, Technology, and Democracy.

A block of rooms is available at the Troy Hilton Garden Inn at 235 Hoosick Street. 518 272 1700. They have a complimentary shuttle to the airport and train station, but you must call them in advance to make reservations. 10 rooms are reserved for Thursday night, April 28, and 30 rooms are reserved for Friday and Saturday night. They are available on a first-come first-served basis and must be reserved by Feb. 28. The rate is \$119 under the "RPI Science and Technology Group." We will schedule a bus from the Hilton Garden Inn to campus on Saturday morning at 8:15am, and there will be a return bus at 5:30pm from campus. If you prefer to walk, the distance to campus is two blocks from the hotel to 15th St. and six blocks south on 15th to the campus. The Red Hawk campus shuttle also stops every 10 minutes at the Colonie Apartments on Burdett Ave., about two blocks from the hotel, and it stops on Sage Ave. outside the Russell Sage Laboratory Building, where the conference is held on Friday and Saturday (http://www.rpi.edu/dept/parking/shuttle/shuttle_route.html).

Fees: Fees are \$40 for the conference for postdocs and faculty, \$20 for non-Rensselaer graduate students. Fees include lunch on Saturday. Dinner on Saturday night is at the Hilton and is \$35. Additional dinner reservations closed on April 14. No additional reservations can be taken. Please write a check for \$75 (faculty and postdocs) or \$55 (non-Rensselaer grads) if you wish to attend the dinner, or just \$40 or \$20 for the conference if you have other dinner plans for Friday night. Make the check out to David Hess and send it to the STS Department, Sage Building Fifth Floor, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY 12180-3590. Send the check by March 1.

Parking: On Saturday, we suggest parking in West Lot, which is open to visitors on Saturday (http://rpi.edu/tour/rpi_campus_map_2010.pdf). On Friday, parking is difficult. There are sometimes spots available on Eaton, McLeod, or Sherry Roads, and on Peoples Avenue. (Again, see the map.) You may also contact Anne Borrero for a parking pass (borrea2@rpi.edu) and arrange to pick one up at the visitor parking building (#36). Be sure to feed the meter when you go inside the parking building, even if it is for five minutes, in order to avoid a ticket.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday Morning session, 10am-12 noon, Russell Sage Laboratory Building, Room 5711 (Building #6 on the campus map: http://rpi.edu/tour/rpi_campus_map_2010.pdf. See directions above on transportation and parking.) This is a small room, which is all that is available at the time slot on Friday. We do not expect full attendance at this slot.

Graduate Student Workshop I. The purpose of the workshop will be for graduate students to present work for about 15-20 minutes, followed by 10-15 minutes (30 minutes total) of feedback. Students will present either preliminary results from dissertation research or independent projects that they are currently pursuing. Students will dissertation research or other research projects that are related to the political sociology of science and technology. We welcome all conference attendees to join us. We are starting with Rensselaer students in the morning in case other students are unable to attend.

Friday, 10am-noon, Sage 5711

10:00-10:30 Anna Lamprou, STS Department, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
REACH, Toxic Chemicals and Nanomaterials: Civil Society and Social Regulation in the EU

10:30-11:00 Logan Williams, STS Department, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Towards a theory of appropriate innovation systems: examining NGOs
addressing undone science for avoidable blindness

11:00-11:30 David Banks, STS Department, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
New Urbanism and Scientism Discourse: Regulating as If Publics Matter?

11:30-noon Sean Ferguson, STS Department, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Contextualizing "Green" Bioplastics through Extension of the Social Construction of
Technology into Political Sociology

12 noon to 1:30pm Lunch at Student Union

1:30-5:00 pm Fischbach Room, Folsom Library. Graduate Student Workshop, Part II. See description above.

1:30-2:00pm Ali Kenner, STS Department, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Patient Demographics and the Asthma Epidemic:
Understanding How Age and Care Relations Shape Health Literacy

2:00-2:30pm Alissa Cordner, Sociology Department, Brown University
The social implications of flame retardant chemicals:

A case study in risk and hazard perception

2:30-3:00pm Bob Darrow

STS Department, Virginia Tech

A Public Challenge to Mining Gets Buried in Red Tape

3:00-3:30pm Kirk Jalbert, STS Department, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Culturally Situated Citizen Sensing: Participatory

Design and Citizen Sensing in Native American Communities

3:30-4:00pm Angie Boyce, STS Department, Cornell University

Framing Contests in Regulatory Politics: Constructing Peanut Butter

as Risk Object and Consumer as At-Risk Subject

4:00-4:30pm Monica Brannon, Sociology Dept., The New School for Social Research

The Power of Definition: The Strategic Distancing of Scientific from Military Satellites”

4:30-5:00pm Matthew Hoffmann, Sociology Dept., Loyola University

Greening Neoliberalism: The Politics of Green Jobs Training Programs

Dinner at student union or Troy restaurants.

6:30pm Keynote lecture, Sage 3303. The Annual Phelan Lecture on Science, Technology, and Democracy

Daniel Kleinman, Community and Environmental Sociology, University of Wisconsin

Note: Friday is Troy Night Out, so you may want to walk down the hill after the lecture to experience this walkable, nineteenth-century city. The downtown area should be full of people with some places open late. There are shuttle buses up and down the hill. If you wish to go back to the hotel, the shuttle bus stops on Sage Avenue outside the Sage Building (9th St.) and at the student union, and it goes to the Colonie Apartments, which are two blocks from the hotel. See www.troynightout.org and http://www.rpi.edu/dept/parking/shuttle/shuttle_route.html.

Saturday, April 30th, Russell Sage Laboratory Building, Room 5101.

Campus map:

(Building #6 on the campus map: http://rpi.edu/tour/rpi_campus_map_2010.pdf)

The hotel will provide a shuttle bus to the conference at 8:30am. You may also take the campus shuttle from the Colonie Apartments. Walking is about a half hour.

Please have breakfast at the hotel. We will have coffee and tea available, then snacks at the mid-morning break. We had more abstracts than originally planned, so timing is tight unless we get

cancellations. All talks have about 22 minutes. Presenters should plan 15-18-minute presentations to allow a few minutes of question and answer. A shorter presentation will allow more time for questions and answers.

9:00am-9:35am Opening Panel and Discussion: The Political Sociology of Science and Technology

Panel: Daniel Kleinman (Sociology, U Wisconsin), Scott Frickel (Sociology, Washington State), Kelly Moore (Sociology, Loyola)

Moderator: David Hess (STS Dept., RPI)

9:35am-10:41am Knowledge, Expertise, and the Public Interest (22 minutes per talk)

Chair: Ned Woodhouse

Kelly Moore, Sociology Dept., Loyola University-Chicago

Missing Persons: Bringing People Back In to the “Overstructural” Analysis of Neoliberalism and Science

Abby J. Kinchy, STS Dept., Rensselaer

Simona Perry, Dickinson College

Knowledge Investments during the Marcellus Shale Gas Rush:
A Study of Public and Private Efforts to Monitor Water Quality

Scott Frickel, Sociology Department, Washington State University

Disaster Science in the Gulf of Mexico

10:41-11:00am Break

11:00-12:30 Political Sociology of the Environment I (22 minutes per talk, including Q&A)

Chair: Ned Woodhouse

Barbara Allen, STS Department, Virginia Tech

Comparing NGO Assistance: Knowledge, Power, and Expertise in Rebuilding Post-Katrina New Orleans

Karen Hoffmann, Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology, University of Puerto Rico

Democratic Accountability in the Implementation
of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006

Jason Delborne, Liberal Arts and International Studies, Colorado School of Mines

Aubrey Wigner,

Abby Kinchy, STS Dept., Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Hope for sustainability, hype for natural gas: The emergence and significance of the “bridge fuel” metaphor

Daniel Breslau, STS Dept., Virginia Tech
Economics and the politics of market formation:
“stranded costs” in electricity deregulation in the U.S.

12:30-1:15pm Lunch. Served on site.

1:15-1:35 Langdon Winner, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
“Free Knowledge vs. Intellectual Property in Contemporary Spain”

1:35-2:20 Political Sociology and the Environment II (22 minutes per talk, including Q&A)

Chair: Ned Woodhouse

David Tomblin, STS Department, Virginia Tech
Understanding Emerging Hybrid Knowledge Systems of Environmental Justice through STS
Boundary Concepts

John N. Parker, National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, UCSB
Ideas, Emotions, and Intergenerational Change in Coherent Groups:
Micropolitical Dynamics in Environmental Knowledge Production

2:20pm-3:30pm Health, Knowledge, and Power (22 minutes per talk, including Q&A)

Mathieu Albert
University of Toronto
Suzanne Laberge
Université de Montréal
Boundary-work in the health research field:
Biomedical and clinician scientists’ perceptions of social science research

Jill A. Fisher, Center for Biomedical Ethics and Society, Vanderbilt University
“You’ve Gotta Be a Soldier”: Experiences of the “Professional Lab Rat” in Pharmaceutical
Studies”

Alexander Stingl, Institute for Transcultural Health Sciences, Viadrina European University
Bringing care back into health care in the era of biological citizenship and digital divide. The
role of critical social theory and civil society.

3:30-4:00pm Break

4:00-4:45pm Nutrition, Science, and Technology (22 minutes per talk, including Q&A)

Kelly Joyce, Science, Technology, and Society Program, National Science Foundation
Theorizing Science in Federal Agencies: An Analysis of Methylmercury Fish Advisories in the United States

Saul Halfon, STS Dept., Virginia Tech
Representing Nutrition and the Needs of (Un)Healthy Eaters

4:45-5:55 pm STS and Publics (22 minutes per talk, including Q&A)

Darrin Durant, Program in STS, York University
MAD (Mutual Assured Deconstruction) @ STS

Jeff Howard, School of Urban & Public Affairs, University of Texas at Arlington
Impaired and Suppressed Publics, Undoable Science, and Nondemocratic Expertise in Environmental Nondecision Making

Rick Worthington, Pomona College
Deliberation and Movement

6:15pm Van pick up from hotel at the foot of the Sage Building at West Lot.

6:30 pm Dinner at Hilton Hotel (\$35 prepaid only, cash bar).

May 1, Sunday Morning (Troy Hilton Hotel, Fitzroy Room)

9:00am-9:44am Commercialization, the University, and Science (22 minutes per talk, including Q&A)

Elizabeth Popp Berman, Sociology Department. The University at Albany
Putting Innovation on the U.S. Political Agenda:
Economists, Industry, and the Innovation Problem, 1960-1980

Allison Witt, Illinois Board of Higher Education
Global Impact on the Golden Triangle: A case study
of the international flow of power in engineering higher education

9:45-10:07am Thomas Woodson and Susan Cozzens
School of Public Policy, Georgia Tech
New Technologies, New Power Relationships? The Case of Nanomedicine

10:10-10:25am Break. Bagels and coffee served.

10:25am-noon Neoliberalism, Science, and Technology (22 minutes per talk)

Shib Shankar Dasgupta, STS Dept., Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Universal Services in the National e-Governance Plan in India

Shailaja Valdiya, STS Dept., Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Neoliberalism and Basic Biomedical Research in India at the Juncture of Globalization,
Industrial Change, and Science

Michael Mascarenhas, STS Dept., Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Redefining Water Security through Social Reproduction: Lessons Learned of Power and
Inequality from Rajasthan's "Ocean of Sand."

David Hess, STS Dept., Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Good Green Jobs: Neoliberal and Protectionist Politics in American Energy Policy