

 Ponder now**Swine flu and the media**

David Edwards, a CSPO research intern, asks if we are squealing too loudly in his current Soapbox post reviewing the media onslaught surrounding the swine flu. Take a break from following the CDC on Twitter and check it out.

[\[Read now\]](#) [\[Send a comment\]](#)

Help for mothers

With every new gadget, study or piece of expert advice, a mother's already incredibly challenging job only seems to get harder. What can we do to help them figure out what's going on, and what can we learn from them about evaluating expert advice? That's what Jennifer Brian, a CSPO graduate research assistant, will discuss in her Soapbox post, coming up this weekend in time for Mother's Day. [\[Check out CSPO's Soapbox\]](#)

 Read now**Should corporations contribute to nano-regulation?**

An engineer and a social scientist have joined forces to answer the question, "Who should be responsible for regulating the use of nanomaterials, especially in light of the potential environmental impact of such materials?"

Jameson Wetmore, assistant professor at CSPO and in ASU's School of Human Evolution and Social Change, and **Jonathan Posner**, assistant professor in ASU's Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering, have co-authored an article in the upcoming issue of *NanoToday*, entitled "Should Corporations Contribute to Nano-Regulation?" It currently is in press and available online. [\[Read now \(pdf\)\]](#)

Scientists: Listen Up!

In response to Christopher Reddy's editorial "[Scientist Citizens](#)" in the March 13, 2009 issue of *Science*, CSPO faculty members **Jameson Wetmore** and **Ira Bennett**, and colleagues **William H. Hooke** of the American Meteorological Society and **Tim Miller** of Devine Wind Design wrote a letter to the editor advising scientists that it's just not good enough to communicate your ideas. In the [letter](#) printed in the April 17, 2009 issue, they urge scientists to engage in two-way dialogue with policy-makers and the public. They also cite some dynamic programs that spur these encounters. [\[Read now \(pdf\)\]](#)

Changing the energy system

In the current Spring 2009 issue of *Issues in Science and Technology*, CSPO associate director **Clark Miller** responds to Frank N. Laird's "A Full-Court Press for Renewable Energy," which appeared in the Winter 2009 issue, with a commentary in Forum entitled "[Changing the Energy System](#)." "Laird rightly points out that energy systems are, in reality, sociotechnical systems deeply interconnected with a wide range of social, political, and economic arrangements in society," says Miller. He goes on to explain, however, why "...the plan of action Laird proposes should, in fact, be even more ambitious in engaging broader societal issues." [\[Read now\]](#)

 Blog now**Alternative Imaginations launches new blog**

Established in Spring 2008 at CSPO, Alternative Imaginations Research Cluster (AI) celebrates the plurality of alternative perspectives – originating in a variety of social, cultural, economic and spatial contexts – on the impact of science and technology on human life. AI's mission is to promote dialogue and understanding of these knowledge systems in assessing the impacts of science, technology, policy and outcomes. AI invites you to visit online and speak your mind. [\[Blog\]](#)

* Congratulate now

Claire C. Gordon, a CSPO affiliate and senior research scientist in biological anthropology for the U.S. Army, was awarded a 2008 Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Senior Professionals. Each year, the president recognizes and celebrates a small group within the Federal executive ranks with the award and recipients “are strong leaders, professionals, and scientists who achieve results and consistently demonstrate strength, integrity, industry and a relentless commitment to excellence in public service.”

Ryan Meyer, current CSPO graduate research assistant, has been awarded a Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship to work with Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). He will be studying the ways in which science policy decision making relates to climate adaptation.

Taylor Jackson, former CSPO graduate student, has been awarded a Fulbright to study sustainable agriculture at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences in Aas, Norway. His research project will examine the challenge of creating organizations that successfully promote more environmentally friendly and socially just methods of agriculture.

Genevieve Maricle, current CSPO post-doctoral research associate, has received a 2009-2010 AAAS Diplomacy Fellowship. The fellowship will place her in the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), where she will work in areas of international science policy as it relates to the agency's mission to extend assistance to countries recovering from disaster, trying to escape poverty, and engaging in democratic reforms.

Upcoming Event

Science Cafe: Center for Nanotechnology in Society (CNS-ASU) and Arizona Science Center co-host informal discussions among members of the community and university scientists about how science and technology can change the future; free and held at Arizona Science Center, 600 E. Washington St., Phoenix.

- Friday, May 15, 5:30p – “To Drink or Not to Drink: What Should We Do to Have Good-Tasting, Safe and Sustainable Water into the Future?” Dave White, associate professor in ASU's School of Community Resources and Development, and Troy Benn, Ph.D. candidate, ASU's Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering.



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