



*"In lieu of evidence and retrospective empirical studies, plausibility becomes a central concept to address issues surrounding the rigor and relevance of anticipatory knowledge," says Cynthia Selin, Plausibility Project leader.*

**This just in**

**Merlyna Lim receives Ford Foundation grant**

**Merlyna Lim**, assistant professor in ASU's School of Social Transformation and at CSPO, has received a \$200,000 grant from the **Ford Foundation** in the field of Media and the Public Interest for the School of Social Transformation to undertake applied research, training and pilot projects on emerging patterns of digital and converged media production and consumption in Indonesia.

**Ponder Now**

**Plausibility and the Social Challenge of the Future**

CSPO's Plausibility Project seeks to better understand the meaning and significance of plausibility through questioning the ways individuals and communities know, explore, assess and shape futures across time, cultures and professional practices. While the upcoming Plausibility Workshop (at ASU on November 19 & 20, 2009) is not open to the public, you can visit the project **online** and find a wealth of information – **essays** on the subject written specifically for this occasion by workshop participants from around the globe, and a bibliography of **recommended reading**. You also can attend a series of four public seminars on the **"Social Challenge of the Future,"** presented on November 18 & 19 at ASU by some of the international experts attending the workshop. The Plausibility Project is led by Cynthia Selin, assistant research professor at CSPO and CNS-ASU, and Arnim Wiek, assistant professor in ASU's School of Sustainability. It is being presented in cooperation with the Institute for Science, Innovation and Society at University of Oxford. **[More info]**

**The fall of the Berlin Wall remembered**

While November 9th was the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, it also was the anniversary of two other events that impacted German, European and world history. Daniel Barben, associate research professor at CSPO, puts this anniversary in perspective in his current **Soapbox post**. "...the wall did not crumble most immediately because of masses of courageous people storming it – as images taken out of context might suggest," says Barben. "Instead, the opening – and subsequent fall – of the Berlin Wall came about in a scene that more resembles



a farce, exhibiting most remarkably how much things had gotten out of control in a state obsessed with control." **[Read now]**

**Congratulate Now**

**Merlyna Lim named one of Our Common Future Fellows**

**Merlyna Lim**, assistant professor in ASU's School of Social Transformation and at CSPO, has been named one of "Our Common Future Fellows." This is a program in which the Volkswagen Foundation invites about 100 early career researchers from all parts of the world to Germany to participate in the conference "Our Common Future" in November 2010. Throughout the coming year, these young researchers are offered the opportunity of an intensive intellectual exchange among each other and with the members of the "Global Young Faculty." This exchange of ideas is both preparation for and a contribution to the conference in



Merlyna Lim also is a leader of CSPO's *Alternative Imaginations* Research Cluster.

Hannover and Essen. [\[More info\]](#)

### Troy Benn successfully defends dissertation

**Troy Benn** became CSPO's third **PhDplus** by successfully defending his dissertation, "The Release of Engineered Nanomaterials from Commercial Products," on November 13. His work focused on methods for detecting and characterizing nanomaterials released from consumer products as an initial step in determining exposure and risk to humans and the environment. In response to the media, policy and industry attention paid to his initial study, Troy became interested in the policy relevancy and public use of his work – leading him to collaborate with CSPO and CNS-ASU. Troy worked with CNS researchers Jamey Wetmore and Ira Bennett to interweave the policy implications of his work and on the way he conveyed his findings to the general public in the dissertation itself. Troy will be awarded his doctorate in December from ASU's **School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment**.

### Chad Monfreda to join Earth Negotiations Bulletin

CSPO graduate research associate, **Chad Monfreda**, is joining the Earth Negotiations Bulletin team to periodically report on international environmental meetings. Earth Negotiations Bulletin is a publication of the International Institute for Sustainable Development Reporting Services. It is "A neutral, authoritative and up-to-the-minute record of ongoing multilateral negotiations on environment and sustainable development."

[\[More info\]](#)

## Learn now

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### December 15 application deadline:

#### Professional Science Master's Degree in Science & Technology Policy

CSPO now offers a one-year **Professional Science Master's Degree program in Science & Technology Policy**. Housed jointly by the ASU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College, in partnership with CSPO, the program provides students with essential skills, knowledge and methods for analyzing innovation, expertise and large-scale technological systems, with particular emphasis on the political and societal impacts of science and technology. The deadline to apply for Fall 2010 is December 15, 2009. CSPO faculty and affiliates also lead or are involved in many master's degree and Ph.D. programs, including the **Ph.D. Program in Human and Social Dimensions of Science and Technology**. [Visit online](#) for a complete list of CSPO affiliated degrees with links and contact information. [\[More on PSM\]](#) [\[List of CSPO affiliated degrees\]](#)

## Participate now

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### Science Outside the Lab: DC Summer Workshop for graduate students

Now in its fifth year, *Science Outside the Lab: A policy (dis)orientation* is an intensive two-week immersion in the policy and culture of our nation's capital, Washington, D.C. The only program of its kind for science and engineering graduate students from around the globe, it offers unparalleled access to the people who fund, regulate, shape, critique, publicize and study science – and more. It is organized by CNS-ASU and CSPO, and plans are underway for Summer 2010. The program fee is \$3,500 and includes program activities, materials, lodging, meals and local transportation during the two weeks spent in Washington, D.C. For more information, contact Ira Bennett at [Ira.Bennett@asu.edu](mailto:Ira.Bennett@asu.edu). [\[Download flier\]](#)

### ST Global graduate student conference call for papers

AAAS and the student organizing committee for the 10th Annual Conference of Science & Technology in Society are pleased to join forces with National Academies' Annual Forum for Graduate Students in Science, Technology, and Health Policy. The newly merged conference, **Innovating the Future: Critical Perspectives in Science & Technology**, in Washington, D.C., April 9-11, 2010, will continue to provide a professional and interactive venue for all graduate students from science & technology policy, science & technology studies, and related fields including, but not limited to, health, energy and environment, space, information and communications, innovation, education, and ethical, legal and social implications of science and technology. The conference is supported by CSPO. **Abstracts** (approximately 250 words) are due December 15, 2009, and should be submitted via e-mail to [abstracts@stglobal.org](mailto:abstracts@stglobal.org). [\[Download Call For Papers\]](#)

## Check it out now



## Save the Date!



### The Rightful Place of Science? Rethinking the Role of Science in Society

CSPO conference coming up, May 16-19, 2009, at the Mission Palms Hotel & Conference Center, Tempe, AZ. Watch for details!

**Not your typical conference....**

### Consortium for Science, Policy and Outcomes

Arizona State University  
(480) 727-8787  
cspo@asu.edu  
cspo.org  
Unsubscribe

#### Social Challenge of the Future Seminars

Seating is limited; please RSVP to [michelle.iafrat@asu.edu](mailto:michelle.iafrat@asu.edu).  
[more info on seminars]

##### New Currents in Post-Normal Science

- Wednesday, November 18, 2009, 2:00-3:45pm (Coor 5536)  
**Silvio Funtowicz**, European Commission - Joint Research Centre  
**Angela Guimarães Pereira**, European Commission - Joint Research Centre  
**Jerry Ravetz**, University of Oxford

##### Radical Evolution: The Promise and Peril of Enhancing Our Minds, Our Bodies—and What it Means to be Human

- Wednesday, November 18, 2009, 4:00-5:50pm  
**Joel Garreau**, Arizona State University

##### Symposium on Scenarios

- Thursday, November 19, 2009, 9:00-10:30am (Coor 5536)  
**Thomas Chermack**, Colorado State University  
**Vanessa Schweitzer**, Carnegie Mellon University  
**Shirin Elahi**, scenario architect, Complex Global Risks

##### Emerging Technologies: The Past, Present and Future

- Thursday, November 19, 2009, 10:45am-11:45am (Coor 5536)  
**Luis Campos**, Drew University  
**Chris Groves**, Cardiff University

#### CSPO enLIGHTeNING Lunch at ASU

Join us for quick, edifying lunchtime presentations and discussions, held in ASU's COOR Hall, Room 5536 (5th floor). Each enLIGHTeNING lunch will include pizza, a 25-minute presentation, and a 20-minute discussion. Seating and pizza are limited; please RSVP to [cspo@asu.edu](mailto:cspo@asu.edu).

**December 4, 12 Noon:** *Translating Discourse to Design: Connecting the Dots Between Life and Learning, Leadership and Livelihoods*, with Pramod Parajuli, director of Program Development for Sustainability Education at Prescott College.

#### Science Café at Arizona Science Center

Science Cafés, organized by CNS-ASU, are free, informal discussions at the **Arizona Science Center** in downtown Phoenix that bring together members of the community and university scientists to discuss how science and technology can change the future.

**November 20, 5:30p:** *Good to the Last Drop? The Water/Energy Connection*, with Stephen Goodnick, director of Arizona Institute for Renewable Energy and Arizona Institute for Nanoelectronics, and Tim Lant, research director of ASU's Decision Theater.

#### Support now

##### CSPO thrives with your support

Your involvement with CSPO at any level is appreciated. The continued success of CSPO depends on you. If you would like to show your support through a financial contribution, we have set up a secure **online form** for your convenience. Your financial contribution is tax deductible, and will be processed by the ASU Foundation, a nonprofit organization that exists to support Arizona State University. Your contribution to CSPO is greatly appreciated. Thank you! **[Support CSPO]**

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***"Loyalty to a petrified opinion never yet broke a chain or freed a human soul."***

- Mark Twain (1835-1910)