



The Rightful Place of Science?

CSPO Conference 2010
May 16-19 / Tempe, Arizona

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"I must admit, when I first read of this line of research, I thought, finally, I can enjoy a bacon-wrapped hot dog without being wracked by guilt," says Thad Miller in his current Soapbox blog post.

You're invited

CSPO Conference 2010: Registration open for conference and field trips

Online **registration** is now open for *The Rightful Place of Science?* – CSPO's conference in Tempe, Arizona, May 16-19, 2010. CSPO is offering registrants and registered guests a variety of optional activities, for additional fees, on Sunday (May 16) before the conference begins and on Wednesday (May 19) following the wrap-up. From visiting the Titan Missile Museum or a cryonics facility to taking a turn at being a research subject, you have the opportunity to experience some of what only Arizona has to offer. **Peruse the scheduled field trips** and sign up when you register for the conference. [\[Find out more about conference\]](#)

Ponder Now

Science education in Ecuador

Tungurahua Science Center Project is a collaborative effort between Arizona State University faculty members and Universidad Técnica de Ambato (UTA) in Ecuador. It is aimed at promoting education about universal science and global technology in Tungurahua, Ecuador, and building an academic bridge to bring researchers and policymakers together from both countries. CSPO faculty member **Mary Jane Parmentier** led a group from ASU to Tungurahua last month, with support from UTA and the U.S. Embassy in Quito, to explore the planning of an interactive science center for children and other avenues of collaboration between ASU and UTA. Parmentier – along with **Dan Collins**, the co-director of ASU's **Prism Lab** and a professor of art, and **Mookesh Patel**, the co-director of ASU's **InnovationSpace** and an associate professor of visual communication design – met with administrators and faculty from UTA, local businesses and provincial government officials, with an effort to create partnerships among these sectors as the project unfolds. The working visit was coordinated by Victor Molina, an ASU alumnus at the Center for the Transfer of Technology in Ambato. [\[Read Parmentier's blog post\]](#)

CSPO and national security

CSPO has become an active partner in the Consortium for Emerging Technologies, Military Operations and National Security (**CETMONS**) to explore the potential social and ethical implications of the military applications of synthetic biology, human enhancement, nanotechnology, and other areas of emerging science and technology. Several CSPO faculty and affiliates are involved in this effort, including: **Braden Allenby**, who is the consortium's chair; **Clark Miller**, who is leading a CETMONS research thrust on emerging military technologies, civil-society and democratic governance; **David Guston**, CSPO co-director and director of CNS-ASU; and CSPO faculty members **Elizabeth Corley** and **Jason Robert**.



Science, ethics and painless pork

If we can fix it so animals don't feel pain, doctoral student **Thad Miller** wonders if we are then absolved of ethical responsibility as they make their way to our dinner table. While scientists have been able to isolate in mice the gene for a peptide that affects its ability to perceive pain, Miller explores in his current **Soapbox blog post** the questions this poses, which speak to the larger relationship between science and ethical dilemmas. [\[Go to Soapbox\]](#) [\[Subscribe to Soapbox\]](#)

World View in February & March

"Scientists and policymakers often insist that 'more research' is needed to solve a wide range of social challenges," says **Dan Sarewitz** in his February column in *Nature*, **World View: Better all the time**. "But what is the most effective way to deploy our formidable knowledge-creating enterprise in the shadow of looming threats to human welfare, such as AIDS or climate change?" Innovation policies are more likely to be successful if they leverage existing capabilities, argues Sarewitz. In his March column just out, **World View: Curing climate backlash**, Sarewitz explains that effective action on climate requires better politics,

not better science. [\[Nature online\]](#)

Read Now

Vulnerability and climate change in Australia

CSPO affiliate Rohan Nelson has co-authored a two-part paper in the February 2010 issue of **Environmental Science & Policy** entitled "The vulnerability of Australian rural communities to climate variability and change." In Part I, the authors examine "Conceptualising and measuring vulnerability," and Part II explores "Integrating impacts with adaptive capacity." [\[Read Part I\]](#) [\[Read Part II\]](#)

Integration of natural and social sciences

Research thrives on integration of natural and social sciences, says a letter in the February 25, 2010, *Nature* co-authored by CSPO's **Erik Fisher**. Emerging collaborations between social and natural scientists face challenges, but efforts to enhance scientific creativity and societal responsiveness can be mutually reinforcing, says the correspondence. [\[Read now\]](#)

Listen Now

Clarity, Complexity & Style

CSPO faculty and affiliates **Merlyna Lim**, **Clark Miller**, **Ben Minteer** and **Jamey Wetmore** discuss what makes a piece of writing exemplary in this podcast hosted by the director of ASU Writing Centers, Jeanne Simpson, for graduate students. They focus on how style can make or break a piece of writing and on the tenuous relationship between clarity and complexity. They also share how their graduate school mentors helped shape their writing skills. [\[Listen now\]](#)

Learn Now

Summer session in Washington, D.C.

Now in its fifth year, "**Science Outside the Lab: A Policy (dis)Orientation**" is a hands-on and on-location summer experience in Washington, D.C. for science and engineering graduate students from around the globe. It is the only program of its kind, providing an intensive 2-week immersion in the policy and culture of our nation's capital with unparalleled access to the people who fund, regulate, shape, critique, publicize and study science. There will be two sessions this year: Session I, May 24-June 4, and Session II, June 14-25. The program fee is \$3,500 and includes all program activities and materials, lodging, food and transportation while in Washington, D.C. For more information and an application, contact CSPO faculty member, **Ira Bennett**, at Ira.Bennett@asu.edu. [\[download flier\]](#)

Application deadline extended for Professional Science Masters

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 has been extended. Priority consideration will be given to those applications received by April 1, 2010. If openings remain, applications will continue to be accepted through June 15, 2010. [\[More on PSM\]](#) [\[List of CSPO affiliated degrees\]](#)

CSPO Events & Programs

CSPO offers a variety of events, talks and programs each month, both at the ASU campus and in Washington, D.C. To find out more about upcoming events, [visit online](#). We hope you will join us.

Congratulate Now

CSPO and CNS-ASU Affiliates honored

- **Andrew Smith**, ASU School of Life Sciences, has been awarded an **ASU President's Professorship**. The award recognizes tenured faculty who have made outstanding contributions to undergraduate education at ASU. The awardees are chosen based on mastery of subject matter, teaching abilities in and outside of the classroom, innovation in course and curriculum design, and scholarly contributions.
- **Dietram Scheufele**, CNS-ASU affiliate, has been awarded the inaugural John E. Ross Professorship



in Science Communication at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. The professorship highlights the importance of public communication about science in the 21st century.

Consortium for Science, Policy and Outcomes

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“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.”

- Marcel Proust (1871-1922)