



CNS director Dave Guston and team leader Cynthia Selin meet with students at ASU's Innovation Space.

Hot News Now

Center for Nanotechnology in Society awarded \$6.5 million

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded \$6.5 million to the Center for Nanotechnology in Society at Arizona State University (CNS-ASU) to continue its work regarding the societal aspects of nanotechnology for another five years. CNS-ASU was founded in 2005 when NSF made its first five-year award of \$6.2 million to Arizona State University to create the Center. These awards are part of NSF's initiative to support research and education on nanotechnology and social change, as well as educational and public outreach activities, and international collaborations. CNS-ASU is CSPO's largest project. CSPO's ideas and goals – advancing change to assure that science and technology have positive impacts on human well-being – are put to the test at CNS-ASU and guide its work.

[\[Read more\]](#)

Second volume in CNS-ASU's Yearbook series released

The newly-released book *Nanotechnology and the Challenges of Equity, Equality and Development*, the second volume in the CNS-ASU series "Yearbook of Nanotechnology in Society," looks at the potential ways nanotechnology will change the fabric of society. It brings together authors from six continents who examine the groups that might benefit or suffer from new developments in nanotechnology – including women, industrial workers, differently-abled people, developing countries, and the poor. The book, published by Springer, was co-edited by CNS-ASU's assistant director for outreach Jameson Wetmore, who is an assistant professor in ASU's School of Human Evolution and Social Change, and Susan Cozzens, a CNS-ASU affiliate and professor of public policy at Georgia Tech. [\[More\]](#)

Ponder Now

High school students consider tinkering with the temperature

This fall, CSPO worked with students from the Science Policy Program at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, VA, to engage them in a four-step citizen's deliberation process about geoengineering – "**Tinkering with the Temperature of Planet Earth**" – which culminated in a mock congressional hearing during the USA Science & Engineering Festival in Washington, D.C. The students engaged fully, meeting face to face and online to craft their final recommendations, which they presented in testimony to a mock congressional committee made up of experts Claire Parkinson of NASA, Ana Ivelisse Aviles of the US Government Accountability Office, Sam Thernstrom of the Bipartisan Policy Center, Mike MacCracken of the Climate Institute, and CSPO co-director Dan Sarewitz. "This project has provided an excellent opportunity for my students to model real-world problem solving," said Melissa Schoeplein, Science Policy Program Coordinator at Thomas Jefferson High School. "It was exciting to see my students starting to appreciate the challenges of policymaking. They faced the ultimate policymaking challenge: they had to make a decision." [\[Read more\]](#) [\[Watch mock hearing\]](#)

Energy Innovation Conference

CSPO is one of a group of America's leading policy think tanks hosting a day-long conference on Energy Innovation at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., on December 15. They welcome those willing to ask hard questions about how energy technology funding should be spent; which institutions should be involved; how the program should be organized, disciplined and evaluated; and how both parties can support policies to boost public and private energy innovation investment. [\[Register now\]](#)



Plan now for Summer Workshop in Washington, D.C.

Science and engineering graduate students from around the globe have an unparalleled opportunity this summer. Now in its sixth year, **Science Outside the Lab** is a hands-on and on-location experience in Washington, D.C. An intensive 2-week immersion in the policy and culture of our nation's capital, participants will have access to the people who fund, regulate, shape, critique, publicize and study science. There will be three sessions to choose from this year, and the \$3,500 program fee includes all program activities and materials, lodging, food and transportation while in Washington, D.C. Make your plans now, or pass this on to those who might be interested, because these popular sessions fill up quickly. Applications will be accepted starting January 1.

[\[More info\]](#) [\[Flyer\]](#) [\[Application\]](#)

TINKERING WITH THE TEMPERATURE OF PLANET EARTH

a citizens' deliberation by high school students on climate geoengineering



CSPO guided high school students through a citizens' deliberation on cloud whitening.

Pros and perils of life in cyberspace

Three recent posts to [Soapbox](#) have sparked a discussion about how we live our lives with and through new technologies. Raising children in today's society can be frightening and, as [Monamie Bhadra](#) contemplates in "[Raising Cyber Babies](#)," technology is likely adding to the fright factor. In "[The webcam made me do it?](#)", [Sharlissa Moore](#) argues that by stripping human agency from the use of technology, we depoliticize important issues. In the newest Soapbox post "[On webcams, cyberbabies, and forms of life](#)," [Antonio Calleja Lopez](#) continues the discussion of how to address the challenges that the relationships between humans and technologies pose to contemporary societies. Now it's your turn to add your voice to the conversation.

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Double Trouble?

Politicians who seek economic recovery should look beyond the budget of the National Science Foundation, argues CSPO co-director [Dan Sarewitz](#) in his new World View column in the Nov. 10 issue of *Nature*. In "[Double Trouble? To throw cash at science is a mistake](#)," Sarewitz says doubling NSF's budget makes good politics, but what about good policy? [\[get pdf\]](#)

Read Now

Climate change and farming in Nepal

Are farmers in Nepal leading the way in mitigating potentially negative effects of climate change? CSPO's [Netra Chhetri](#) and William Easterling of Pennsylvania State University investigate the interaction of two closely related factors, climate and technology, in their paper [Adapting to Climate Change: Retrospective Analysis of Climate Technology Interaction in the Rice-Based Farming System of Nepal](#) published in *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. [\[Read now\]](#)

CSPO faculty member launches series of articles in IEEE Spectrum

[The Republic of Engineering Is Not a Democracy ...](#) and neither is the Republic of Science, says G. Pascal Zachary in his new series for *IEEE Spectrum*, *The Scientific Estate*. A long-time journalist, [Gregg Zachary](#) is a CSPO professor of practice. "Posts in *The Scientific Estate* series won't be limited to the usual debates about the size of budgets for this enterprise or that," said Zachary. "More broadly, I'll examine the essential tension between democracy and science." [\[Read now\]](#)

Environmentalism as religion

A piece by [Joel Garreau](#), a CSPO affiliate, in *The New Atlantis* – a leading journal of technology's impact on culture, values and society – looks at environmentalism as the latest and most successful religion. Not that there's anything wrong with faith-based hopes and convictions, he says. They frequently help humans do the right thing, as was demonstrated during the civil rights era. But climate change will put a premium on rapid and flexible adaptation. [\[Read now\]](#)

Role of technology assessment in innovation policy

CSPO co-directors [David Guston](#) and [Dan Sarewitz](#) have co-authored, with Ruud Smits and Rutger van Merkerk, "[The Role of Technology Assessment in Systemic Innovation Policy](#)," a chapter in the new international research handbook *The Theory And Practice Of Innovation Policy*, published by Edward Elgar Publishing, Ltd. [\[More info\]](#)

Communication technologies in southern Africa

CSPO faculty member and senior lecturer [Mary Jane Parmentier](#) has co-authored a chapter – "[Coordination, Convergence or Contradiction: Information and Communication Technologies for Integration and Development in Southern Africa and the Southern Cone](#)" – in *The Rise of Technological Power in the South*, published by Palgrave MacMillan. [\[More info\]](#)

Limiting knowledge in a democracy

CSPO co-director [Dan Sarewitz](#) writes about "[Normal Science and Limits on Knowledge: What We Seek to Know, What We Choose Not to Know, What We Don't Bother Knowing](#)" in the Fall 2010 issue of *Social Research*. The issue's theme is Limiting Knowledge in a Democracy. "The problem of 'limiting knowledge' is not just one of the conflict between efforts to make knowledge available and efforts to keep knowledge locked up," says Sarewitz. [\[Read now\]](#)

People Now

CSPO affiliate named DCDC associate director

CSPO affiliate [Dave White](#), associate professor in ASU's School of Community Resources and Development, has been named associate director for [Decision Center for a Desert City](#). Decision Center was one of the original five NSF DMUJ centers nationwide established to foster better decision-making under climatic uncertainty, applying this guiding principle to water-management decisions in the urbanizing desert of Central Arizona.

CSPO & CNS host more international visiting scholars this academic year

- [Jane Calvert](#), University of Edinburgh and based in the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Innogen Centre
- [Dorothy Jane Dankel](#), Institute of Marine Research, Bergen, Norway
- [Ana Delgado](#), Centre for the Study of the Sciences and the Humanities, University of Bergen
- [Emma Frow](#), UK Synthetic Biology Standards Network, ESRC Genomics Policy and Research Forum, and University of Edinburgh
- [Federica Lucivero](#), Department of Philosophy at University of Twente, The Netherlands



*Netra Chhetri and William Easterling investigate the interaction of climate and technology in rice farming in Nepal in their paper in *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*.*



- **Simon Pfersdorf**, Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis, Germany

Work Now

Two tenure-track opportunities at Arizona State University

The faculty of **Justice and Social Inquiry** in the **School of Social Transformation** at Arizona State University's Tempe campus seek to appoint two full-time tenure-track assistant professors with research interests in one or more of the following: economic justice/political economy, human rights, media studies, science and technology studies, sustainability. [\[More info\]](#)

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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! [\[Support CSPO\]](#)

“Science is organized knowledge. Wisdom is organized life.”
- Immanuel Kant (1724 - 1804)

Consortium for Science, Policy and Outcomes

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