



Julia Lane, Dan Sarewitz, Fiona Murray and Albert Teich before House Subcommittee on Research and Science Education.

CSPO on The Hill

House Subcommittee interested in CSPO

On September 23, 2010, CSPO's co-director, **Dan Sarewitz**, testified before the **Subcommittee on Research and Science Education** of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology about the science of science and innovation policy (SciSIP). The purpose of the hearing was to receive testimony regarding the current state of science and technology policy research, how this research informs policymaking, and the role of the federal government in fostering academic research and education in this emerging interdisciplinary field. As such, the Subcommittee also asked to hear specifically about CSPO and its work. Those joining Sarewitz on the witness panel were: Julia Lane, SciSIP program director at NSF; Fiona Murray, associate professor of management of technological innovation and entrepreneurship at MIT; and Albert Teich, director of science and policy programs at AAAS. CSPO has issued CSPO Report #10-04, which contains Sarewitz's testimony. [\[Watch SciSIP hearing webcast\]](#) [\[CSPO Report #10-04\]](#)

Also, in June 2010, CSPO affiliate faculty member **James Collins**, ASU professor of natural history and environment, testified before the Subcommittee regarding the **future of research and education in biology** at a hearing on 21st Century Biology. Collins put forth an envisioned future for biology that has three elements: sustaining disciplines while blurring their boundaries; innovation as a central feature of life science research and education; and building coalitions among institutions. In combination, said Collins, these three elements are a vision for understanding how the life sciences will play a key role in addressing the great intellectual and social challenges of the 21st century. [\[Collins testimony\]](#)

Ponder Now

New project to transform engineering education

CSPO associate director **Clark Miller** will co-lead **Partnership for Education on Climate Change, Engineered Systems, and Society** with National Academy of Engineering, Museum of Science-Boston, University of Virginia, Colorado School of Mines, and the Phoenix Union High School District. The project, which received a \$481,995 grant (**#1043289**) from the National Science Foundation as part of its Climate Change Education Partnership Program, will establish a coordinated national network of regionally- or thematically-based partnerships devoted to increasing the adoption of effective, high quality educational programs – in K-12, science museums and undergraduate engineering departments – and resources related to climate change impacts on engineered systems. [\[Read more\]](#)

Merlyna Lim receives grant from the Office of Naval Research

CSPO faculty member **Merlyna Lim** and **Huan Liu**, professor in ASU's Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering, have received a three-year grant in the amount of \$338,831 from the U.S. Department of Defense's Office of Naval Research for the project "Blogtrackers: Analyzing Social Media for Cultural Modeling," which begins this fall.

Study in Dubai with CSPO faculty

CSPO faculty members **Jameson Wetmore** and **Mary Jane Parmentier** will be teaching a two-week winter school in Dubai, January 2-16, 2011. **Sustainability and Culture in Dubai** will use Dubai (and nearby Abu Dhabi) as a classroom to better understand the relationship between technology and social change. Various building projects in and around Dubai will be used as case studies of how technology can be used to shape human interactions. In particular, these issues will be explored with an eye to sustainability – how can one build a sustainable city in the desert? In addition to online and classroom sessions, the class will tour some of the city's landmarks, meet with local officials who are still building this city of the future, and explore nearby areas that have taken a different approach to living in the desert. The class also will include background on Arabic and Islamic culture, Middle Eastern history, the current political system of the United Arab Emirates. [\[More information\]](#)



CSPO to be well-represented at S.NET 2010

CSPO and CNS-ASU faculty members **David Guston**, **Erik Fisher** and **Cynthia Selin**, and CNS graduate student **Walter Valdivia** are attending the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Nanoscience and Emerging Technologies (**S.NET**) in Darmstadt, Germany, this week. Guston, who is on the S.NET program committee, and Wiek will present a paper on the "Nano and the City" thematic research cluster at CNS-ASU. Fisher has co-organized a panel comparing the roles of ethics in the **STIR** project and other integration and engagement programs in the United States and Europe. Selin will convene a roundtable on "Plausibility of Scenarios and Visions" and present a paper with former CSPO faculty member **Daniel Barben**, Aachen University, on "Plausibility: Calibrating the Visions of Emerging Nanoscience and –technology." Valdivia, who earned a travel grant from the National



New NSF-funded project to transform engineering education to respond to impacts of climate change.



"The level of misinformation in the public sphere is rising, and is embedded in the architecture of Internet technologies," says Michael Burnam-Fink in his current Soapbox blog post.



Netra Chhetri and his colleagues analyzed the ability of farmers to adapt to climate change in their paper in *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*.

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Science Foundation to attend the meeting, will discuss "Nano as a GPT: Integrating economic theory and anticipatory governance." [\[Find out more\]](#)

SPT 2011 call for papers: Technology and Security

University of North Texas is hosting the 17th international biennial conference of the Society for Philosophy and Technology in May 2011, on *Technology and Security*. SPT is the leading international organization devoted to the philosophical examination of technology. They encourage contributions that examine the role of technology in fostering and sustaining security as well as creating or exacerbating insecurities. SPT 2011 will welcome contributions on any philosophical dimension of technology -- from the perspective of any academic discipline as well as perspectives outside of the academy. The deadline for abstracts is November 1, 2010. [\[More info\]](#) [\[Questions?\]](#)

Are we gossiping ourselves to death?

If you strip away all the jargon of Internet social media and personal publishing, what you really have is old-fashioned gossip, says CSPO graduate student **Michael Burnam-Fink** in his current **Soapbox blog post**. Gossip has always played a role in politics, but when it plays the preeminent role, honest evaluation of our leaders, their beliefs, and executive ability become impossible. The truth of a rumor is basically irrelevant, and fact-checking often strengthens misinformed beliefs. The damage to public discourse is obvious, he says. [\[Read blog post\]](#) [\[Subscribe to Soapbox\]](#)

World View in September

Barack Obama is finding that sometimes politics needs to put science in its place, says CSPO co-director **Dan Sarewitz** in his September column. "Politimize Me," in *Nature*. "Science is the wrong tool for solving political disputes," he says. [\[Read column\]](#)

Read Now

Will farmers adapt in time?

Will farmers be able to respond and adapt to the challenges of climate change? Will they be so dependent on or find themselves a captive of management practices and a suite of technologies in which they've invested? Will they – and their supporting agricultural institutions – be flexible enough to minimize losses or to take advantage of new opportunities brought about by a changing climate? Can new technologies be developed and put in place rapidly and easily? Through an assessment of the impacts of climate variability and change on corn yields in the southeastern United States, CSPO faculty member **Netra Chhetri** and his co-authors address these concerns in "Modeling Path Dependence in Agricultural Adaptation to Climate Variability and Change" in the current issue of *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. They argue that farmers will be seriously challenged and it will result in adaptation choices that will be suboptimal for some years. [\[Read now\]](#)

Web 2.0, public engagement and nanotechnology dissected

In their newly-published paper "Envisioning nanotechnology: New media and future-oriented stakeholder dialogue" in *Technology in Society*, CSPO and CNS faculty member **Cynthia Selin** and former CNS intern **Rebecca Hudson** have analyzed the Web 2.0 virtual platform *NanoFutures*. This former CNS project used a variety of new media applications to scale up public engagement on the societal implications of nanotechnology. Selin and Hudson explore to what extent this public engagement led to genuine dialogue and illustrate the risks and benefits of using multi-media tools in social science research. [\[Read now\]](#)

People Now

CSPO & CNS welcome new faculty and international visiting scholars

Noted journalist and author, **Gregg Zachary**, has joined CSPO with a joint appointment with ASU's Cronkite School of Journalism as a professor of practice. CSPO & CNS also welcome the following international visiting scholars: **Rune Nydal**, associate professor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology; **Jeong Yim Seo**, doctoral student at Ewha Women's University, Korea; and **Hua Tian**, associate professor at Beihang University, Beijing, China.

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

"If knowledge can create problems, it is not through ignorance that we can solve them."

- Isaac Asimov (1920 - 1992)