



Blog: The Rightful Place of Science?

Video / Commentary / Plays / Interviews / Pop-Sci clips

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Keep the conversation going

Missed the conference? Check the blog.

“**The Rightful Place of Science?**” is the question that nearly 200 scientists, scholars, engineers, decision makers, students and members of the public showed up to try to answer. Diverse perspectives were shared in lively discussion during such sessions as talks by the Vatican’s chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Science, Monsignor **Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo**, and **Gina Kolata**, science writer at *The New York Times*, and panels with exemplars – the first ever **CSPO Prize recipients**. If you missed it, you can find text of remarks, video, interviews, commentary, and even some 10-minute plays on the **conference blog**. About 3,000 people have checked in on the conference in its digital space, and we invite you to do the same and join the conversation. **[Check it out]** **[Download program]**

Agenda items developed at conference are posted for comment

In his inaugural address, President Barack Obama promised to “restore science to its rightful place” in U.S. society. But where is that place? How do we find it in an ever more complex, uncertain, and politically, socially and culturally diverse world? And is the rightful place of science also the place that assures the best outcomes for all of us? These questions and more were discussed at CSPO’s recent conference “**The Rightful Place of Science?**” in Tempe, AZ. The primary work of the conference took place in Tabletop Salons, roundtable discussions where topics were submitted and led by conference attendees. The salons generated items to be part of the developing research, education and outreach agenda to enhance linkages between scientific and technological research and beneficial societal outcomes. These agenda items are now being posted to the **conference blog** and we invite you to continue the conversation by providing your feedback, critiques and ideas. More items are likely to be posted, so check back often to have your say. **[Check it out]**

Ponder Now

High school students will engage with geoengineering policy issues

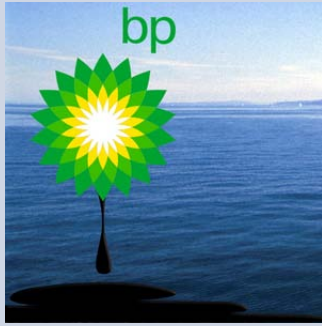
This fall, CSPO will bring together high school students from three Washington, D.C. area magnet (STEM) schools to deliberate on policies relating to geoengineering. "Tinkering With the Temperature of Planet Earth" will include face-to-face and online discussion, and conclude with a mock hearing featured during the **USA Science & Engineering Festival** in D.C. in October. Students will connect from the citizen’s perspective to consider the social and ethical issues that may accompany transformative technologies like geoengineering, a timely science policy issue that is being debated throughout the nation and the world. This project will demonstrate that the public can be effectively engaged – even at a very young age – to formulate and express informed ideas that contribute to democratic approaches in dealing with technology and society. **[Questions?]**

Four Policy Principles for Energy Innovation and Climate Change

Over the last two years, numerous independent teams have sifted through history, experience and best practices on technology and energy innovation to provide policy guidance for catalyzing energy technology innovation. The teams include researchers organized by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, Georgetown University, the National Bureau of Economic Research, the Brookings Institution, the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts, the National Commission on Energy Policy, CSPO, the Clean Air Task Force, and Clean Air-Cool Planet. Despite the independence of the teams, collectively they display substantial convergence on four basic policy design principles, summarized, explained and illustrated further in the newly-released report **Four Policy Principles for Energy Innovation and Climate Change: A Synthesis**, prepared by CSPO and the Clean Air Task Force. **[Get report]**

Reinventing Technology Assessment for the 21st Century

CSPO is a founding partner of a new participatory institutional model for technology assessment: a nationwide Expert & Citizen Assessment of Science & Technology (ECAST) network. ECAST combines the



"BP's repeated claim in TV commercials that they 'will make this right' will sadly be a teachable moment for decades to come," says Joe Herkert in his current [Soapbox blog post](#).



skills of nonpartisan policy research organizations with the research strengths of universities and the public outreach and education capabilities of science museums. Joining CSPO in founding ECAST are the Science and Technology Innovation Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Boston Museum of Science, ScienceCheerleader.com and the Loka Institute. This critical public participation component was among the recommendations in ***Reinventing Technology Assessment: A 21st Century Model***, released by the Wilson Center. [\[Read more\]](#)

The course topic that keeps on giving

CSPO faculty member and Lincoln Associate Professor of Ethics and Technology, **Joe Herkert**, discusses the prospects for adding the BP oil spill disaster to his course "Technological Catastrophes" in his **Soapbox blog post**. It will join such case studies as the Challenger space shuttle, Chernobyl nuclear plant, Bhopal chemical plant, and the Exxon Valdez oil tanker. Joe also recently delivered the Second Annual Brian O'Connell Lecture, "Ethical Challenges of Emerging Technologies," at Central Connecticut State University and spoke on the same topic in his keynote address at the Symposium on Technology and Ethics at Utah Valley University. He also is a co-executive producer of *Henry's Daughters*, a new educational video on engineering ethics produced by the National Institute for Engineering Ethics. [\[Read blog post\]](#) [\[Subscribe to Soapbox\]](#)

World View in July

Efforts by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences to popularize science through movies will sanitize it as well, says CSPO co-director **Dan Sarewitz** in his July World View column in *Nature*, "**Entertaining Science.**" In the July 15 issue of *Nature*, Dan is joined by co-authors John Alic, Georgetown University's Charles Weiss and MIT's William Bonvillian in an Opinion piece, "**A New Strategy for Energy Innovation.**" [\[Read column\]](#) [\[Read opinion piece\]](#)

Read Now

Handbook on usable science

Science Policy Assessment and Research on Climate (**SPARC**), a joint NSF-funded project of the University of Colorado's Center for Science and Policy Technology Research and CSPO, has released **Usable Science: A Handbook for Science Policy Decision Makers**. Designed as a resource for anyone involved in the process of designing, directing or implementing research, it addresses the challenge of producing usable science, defined as science that meets the changing needs of decision-makers. SPARC presents concrete examples from diverse areas, from earthquake research to materials science, and offers specific recommendations for organizations and individuals interested in becoming more effective at producing usable science. [\[Read more\]](#) [\[Get it\]](#)

European Commission, nanotechnology and society

Visiting researcher at CSPO's Center for Nanotechnology in Society, **Sarah Davies**, has co-edited **Understanding Public Debate on Nanotechnologies: Options for Framing Public Policy**, a report from European Commission Services, showcasing the European Commission-funded research on nanotechnology and society. It consists of a series of research articles on the nature of public debate on nanosciences and nanotechnologies, and the ways in which deliberative approaches could lead to better governance of these technologies. [\[Read now\]](#)

The public value of nanotechnology?

The journal *Scientometrics* has published "**The public value of nanotechnology?**" by CSPO & CNS members **Erik Fisher**, **Catherine Slade**, **Derrick Anderson** and **Barry Bozeman**. The paper, available online, advances the study of public values in science and innovation policy by demonstrating that quantitative analysis of value statements can provide a credible and robust basis for policy analysis. [\[Read now\]](#)

New CSPO report series

CSPO's new report series has been launched with the first two reports: **Accelerating Technological Advance for Climate Change: Lessons from Sixty Years of U.S. Innovation Policy** (CSPO Report #10-01) by CSPO co-director Dan Sarewitz and consultant John Alic is the text of their testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; and **Societal Dimensions Research in the National Nanotechnology Initiative** (CSPO Report #10-02) by CSPO co-director David Guston is based on his briefing before the PCAST Working Group that prepared the Report to the President and Congress on the Third Assessment of the National Nanotechnology Initiative. [\[Read #10-01\]](#) [\[Read #10-02\]](#)

People Now

CSPO interns win prestigious Boren scholarships

CSPO interns **Katie Dreeland** and **Mark Petersen** are among eight ASU students to be awarded the



Katie Dreeland

\$20,000 Boren Scholarship, funded by the National Security Education Program (NSEP), to study abroad. Katie, a biology and society junior with a minor in Arabic languages, will study Arabic at the University of Jordan and examine issues of public health. Mark, a junior in economics and environmental studies, will increase his proficiency in Portuguese and also study Brazil's alternative energy industry. [\[Read More\]](#)

Netra Chhetri in Nepal, Bhutan and Brazil

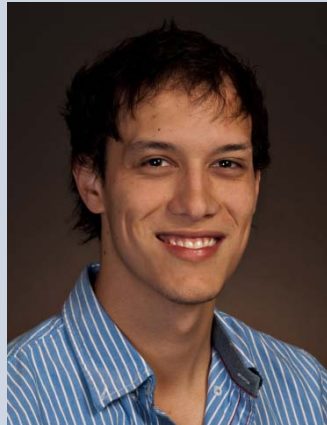
CSPO faculty member and assistant professor in ASU's School of Geographical Sciences **Netra Chhetri** has been invited to participate in a **science policy dialogue** on climate change in Nepal and Bhutan in August, in support of the project "Understanding the Findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report, Climate Change 2007 – Integrating Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Development Planning." Designed to foster the development of policymaking processes that are more responsive to the need for adaptation and mitigation planning within the context of sustainable development and poverty reduction, the project is a collaborative effort among the IPCC, WMO, UNEP, START, the Universities of Ghana and Dar es Salaam and the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies. It is one of nine country-level dialogues to be held in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Netra also is coordinating a panel on "Climate Change Adaptation: Policies for Equitable Design, Implementation and Outcomes" at the Second International Conference on Climate, Sustainability and Development in Semi-arid Regions (**ICID 2010**) in Brazil in August. The results and recommendations of ICID 2010 will contribute to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (**Rio+20**) that will take place in 2012, in Rio de Janeiro.

Gary Grossman to lead ASU Senate

Gary Grossman, associate professor in the School of Letters and Sciences and CSPO, and director of the Global Technology and Development Program, has assumed the 2010-11 presidency of the Arizona State University Senate and will chair the University Academic Council. [\[Find out more\]](#)

CSPO at European Summer School

Dan Sarewitz, **Jamey Wetmore** and **Mark Brown** are participating in the European Summer School, "Which Place for Science in the Public Debate," presented by the Institut des Hautes Études pour la Science et la Technologie (**IHEST**) in August at Saline royale d'Arc et Senans, France. The main roles of IHEST are to help remedy the lack of public understanding of science, and bring science and society closer together. Its Summer School will bring together about fifty participants and speakers from various academic and professional backgrounds for four days of intellectual exchanges and training on the role of science in the public debate. [\[Read more\]](#)



Mark Petersen

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"I object to people running down the future. I am going to live all the rest of my life there."

- Charles Kettering (1876-1958)