



## Hot News Now

### 2011 ASU President's Award for Sustainability goes to...

"The Future of Phoenix – Crafting Sustainable Development Strategies" – a project organized by CSPO affiliate and assistant professor in the School of Sustainability, **Arnim Wiek**, and CSPO assistant research professor **Cynthia Selin** – was selected to receive the 2011 President's Award for Sustainability. Michael M. Crow, ASU president, presented the award at a recognition ceremony on April 13<sup>th</sup>. In this project, an interdisciplinary research team of ASU faculty and students worked in collaboration with the City of Phoenix's Planning Department to analyze the current state of Phoenix, craft future visions and scenarios, and develop transformative sustainability strategies. These were incorporated into the new **Phoenix General Plan Hearing Draft**. The project engaged more than 100 citizens, businesses, non-profit organizations and other stakeholder groups. [\[More\]](#)

### Time to rethink the National Institutes of Health

A radical restructure is the only way to solve the systemic problems of the world's biggest funder of biomedical research, argues Michael M. Crow, ASU president, in his **comment piece** in the March 31, 2011, issue of *Nature*. "Especially in these recessionary times, spending \$30 billion effectively requires that the accretions of the past be replaced with a framework that better addresses the health-care priorities of the twenty-first century," he says. Crow was **interviewed** about the *Nature* article in *The Scientist*, "Q&A: From the lab to the clinic." [\[Read article\]](#)

### Congress on Teaching the Social and Ethical Implications of Research, Nov. 10 & 11

There is an increasing push to offer scientists and engineers new forms of education in the social and ethical implications of research. Because this trend is relatively new, there are no cohesive curricula or recognized sets of best practices. But SEI education is happening in a wide variety of spaces including: laboratory training sessions, science museums, online modules, study abroad experiences, and the classroom. The Congress on Teaching the Social and Ethical Implications of Research, cosponsored by CSPO and CNS-ASU, will bring together a wide array of these educators to share programs, materials and experience and to collaborate on new strategies to help scientists and engineers understand the social and ethical implications of research. It will be held at ASU in Tempe on November 10 & 11, 2011. The organizers are inviting proposals in any of the following categories: Paper, Poster, Panel, Roundtable, or Non-traditional (i.e. other). The deadline for submission is June 1, 2011. [\[More on Congress\]](#) [\[Call for Proposals\]](#)



## Ponder Now

### Pro-poor Nanotechnology

Innovations can be aimed at specific problems faced by poor and marginalized groups in developing regions and countries, so-called 'pro-poor' innovation. In his presentation at the Grenoble Ecole de Management's Winter School on Emerging Nanotechnologies, CSPO postdoctoral research associate **Matthew Harsh** explored this by examining the case of nanotechnology applications for water. The specific aim of his paper, "**Pro-poor Nanotechnology Applications for Water: Characterizing Private Sector Research Using Publication Data**" co-authored with Thomas Woodson of Georgia Tech, is to characterize global private sector research on nanotechnology applications for water in order to understand how private sector innovation might benefit poor people living in developing regions and countries. Philip Shapira, co-PI of the Center for Nanotechnology in Society at ASU and professor at Georgia Tech, also presented "Trajectories of Nanotechnology Research and Innovation" at the Winter School. [\[Read paper\]](#)

## Partnerships for the Future

"Entergy Corporation's latest tactics in its fight with the State of Vermont reminded me today why the energy industry in the United States has such a bad reputation with the public," says CSPO's associate director **Clark Miller** in his [current blog post](#) on Soapbox. "It's an approach and a reputation that the industry needs to work hard to change if the United States is going to make a successful transition to sustainable energy in the coming years." [\[Soapbox\]](#) [\[Subscribe\]](#) [\[RSS\]](#)

## Jobless innovation?

In his April installment in the series "The Scientific Estate" in *IEEE Spectrum*, CSPO's **Gregg Zachary** wonders whether, as the United States tries to ride high tech out of recession, does it risk innovating its workforce out of jobs? [\[Read now\]](#)

## CSPO & CNS-ASU provide ways to find information easily

CSPO has launched an online indexed **events database** that makes it easy for you to find those programs that interest you, whether in Tempe or Washington, D.C. – such as CNS-ASU's monthly **Science Café** at the Arizona Science Center, like "Germ-free, and other Myths: Examining Antimicrobial Products" coming up on May 20th. Events can be sorted and filtered by city, subject, series, date and presenting organization. This database follows the success of the searchable **online library** database, where over 1,200 publications and presentations by CSPO and CNS-ASU personnel currently can be found, many of which are downloadable. Search by type of publication, author, year, and more. We invite you to take advantage of these helpful databases. [\[Events\]](#) [\[Full Library\]](#) [\[CNS only library\]](#)

## Read Now

### Minerva focuses on public value mapping

In March 2011, *Minerva* published a **special issue** – "Public Value Mapping: Assessing the Non-Economic Value of R&D" – focusing on the CSPO-developed approach to assessing the capacity of research programs to achieve social goals. The issue contains papers authored by current and former CSPO faculty and students: Barry Bozeman and Daniel Sarewitz on "**Public Value Mapping and Science Policy Evaluation**"; Walter Valdivia on "**The Stakes in Bayh-Dole: Public Values Beyond the Pace of Innovation**"; Ryan Meyer on "**The Public Values Failures of Climate Science in the US**"; Catherine Slade on "**Public Value Mapping of Equity in Emerging Nanomedicine**"; Genevieve Maricle on "**Prediction as an Impediment to Preparedness: Lessons from the US Hurricane and Earthquake Research Enterprises**"; and Nathaniel Logar on "**Chemistry, Green Chemistry, and the Instrumental Valuation of Sustainability**." The research was supported by the National Science Foundation. [\[More\]](#)

### To Think, To Write, To Publish....in *Issues in Science and Technology*

In conjunction with its conference "The Rightful Place of Science," CSPO brought together the next generation of science communicators for an intensive two-day NSF-funded workshop – "To Think, To Write, To Publish" – to learn and practice creative nonfiction techniques. They were paired with next generation science and technology policy scholars to work together to publish their work. The first piece was published in the Winter 2011 *Issues in Science and Technology* – "**Making Stories Visible: The Task for Bioethics Commissions**" by Meera Lee Sethi and Adam Briggie. The second is in the publication's Spring 2011 issue – "**Drowning in Data**" by Gwen Ottinger and Rachel Zurer. "Monitoring the chemical content of the air near chemical plants provides valuable data," they say, "but it becomes useful only when it is paired with epidemiological data about the local population." [\[More\]](#)

### Climate sensitive measure of agricultural intensity: Case for Nepal

While the impact of climate on how vigorously land is cropped is acknowledged, most studies have ignored its influence in the measurement of agricultural intensity. CSPO's **Netra Chhetri**, an assistant professor in ASU's School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning, presents a new measure, the Crop Potential Index (CPI), which includes climate variables and can be used to assess the production potential of a region, in his [paper](#) in the recent issue of *Applied Geography*. Chhetri compares the CPI to the more conventional measure, Cropping Intensity (CI), in regions in Nepal and finds that the advantage of CPI is apparent in its ability to set a theoretical upper limit to the production potential of crops in a specific climatic region. [\[Read now\]](#)

### Climate change, weather extremes and US infrastructure

CSPO's associate director, **Clark Miller**, says there are tough engineering problems ahead without action to sharply slow global warming, in his current article in *Science Progress*. "The country needs engineers, policymakers, business leaders, and citizens who understand the infrastructure challenges we face and who are prepared to work together....," says Miller. [\[Read now\]](#)





## Competing research visions among ecologists

Information we collect about our planet depends, in part, on the questions scientists ask regarding the natural world. Asking other questions might lead to different innovations and alternative understandings of policy problems and their potential solutions. In his paper “What research should be done and why? Four competing visions among ecologists,” published by *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, **Mark Neff**, former doctoral student at CSPO, explores ecologists' thought processes as they evaluate the merits of potential research topics. Neff contends that ecology might be more effective in informing policy if priority setting were a more deliberative process and open to insights from individuals and institutions outside of ecology. Neff currently is an adjunct professor in environmental science at Allegheny College. [\[Read now\]](#)

## People Now

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### PSM students win fellowships

Three incoming students in CSPO's Professional Science Master's in Science and Technology Policy program have been awarded ASU's Graduate College Dean's Fellowships for Fall 2011: **Cherish Connolly**, **Alaina George** and **Travis Johnson**. The Fellowships provide up to \$10,000 of support to regularly admitted first year graduate degree students who are Arizona residents or under-represented in their discipline, and who demonstrate academic excellence. [\[About PSM\]](#)

### CSPO student is a 2011 Breakthrough Generation Fellow

**Michael Burnam-Fink**, a graduate student in the Human and Social Dimensions in Science and Technology program, has been selected to be one of The Breakthrough Institute's 2011 Breakthrough Generation Fellows. The fellowships seek to foster the development of a new generation of leaders capable of fully grappling with the scale and complexity of today's greatest challenges, and offering cutting-edge solutions over the near and long term. CSPO co-director Dan Sarewitz served as a Breakthrough Institute senior fellow in 2010. [\[More info\]](#)

### Graduate research associate to lead national organization

**Sharlissa Moore**, a CSPO graduate research associate, has been appointed president of **Student Pugwash USA**, a national nonprofit organization that promotes social responsibility in science and technology. While examining all sides of an issue, SPUSA increases students' ability to think independently about the issues that affect society – from international conflict to environmental protection, from genetics research to civil rights. [\[More info\]](#)

### CSPO writer in residence shares wisdom in Florida



**Lee Gutkind**, CSPO's writer in residence and professor in ASU's Hugh Downs School of Human Communication, was the keynote speaker at the **Tallahassee Writers' Association** conference in March; he also led the workshop, “The Five R's of Creative Nonfiction.” Gutkind then participated in an author's forum on April 16 at the University of Central Florida's Book Festival in Orlando.

## Learn Now

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### One-year graduate program in science and technology policy

A one-year degree program, the **Professional Science Master's in Science and Technology Policy** housed by CSPO is the only one of its kind in the country. It is for those seeking focused graduate training with an internationally-regarded faculty. Today, employers in government, business and NGOs are looking for professionals who can critically assess and enhance the value of science and technology for societies around the globe. Through active learning and proximity to innovative research, this program will equip students with the essential knowledge and skills to succeed.

[\[Find out more\]](#)





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### 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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*“How wonderful that we have met with a paradox.  
Now we have some hope of making progress.”*

*- Niels Bohr (1900 - 1986)*