



Tahrir Square was a Foreseeable Surprise

In a recent piece for Slate.com, **Merlyna Lim**, Assistant Professor with CSPO and the School of Social Transformation, traces the history of technological innovation, Egyptian activism and social networking – online and off – that led to the protests in Tahrir Square and the relatively peaceful overthrow of a regime. [\[More\]](#) [\[Watch a video of Merlyna’s lecture *Revolution 2.0: Social Media and Political Changes in Egypt and Beyond*\]](#)

How to Ignite, or Quash, a Revolution in 140 Characters or Less

On July 13, the **Future Tense Project** (a collaboration of the New American Foundation, ASU, and Slate.com) presented a forum looking at the promise and limitations of new technologies in spreading democracy. As part of the forum, **Merlyna Lim** presented *Friending Revolutions: Social Media and Political Change in Egypt and Beyond*. [\[Watch\]](#)

S.NET Conference – Registration and Call for Posters

[Registration](#) for the November 7-10, 2011 **Society for the Study of Nanoscience and Emerging Technologies (S.NET) Conference** is now open. Early Bird Registration ends August 1.

S.NET invites poster proposals from a full breadth of disciplines, methodologies, and epistemologies, as well as from applied, participatory, and practical approaches and from different regional or comparative perspectives. The poster track will provide an opportunity for presenting late-breaking results, ongoing research projects, and speculative or innovative work in progress. All proposals should be submitted by Monday, August 1st via email to **Barbara Herr Harthorn** and **Dave Guston**. [\[More\]](#) [\[Register\]](#) [\[Submit a Poster Proposal\]](#)



CSPO Publications

The Growing Gap Between Emerging Technologies and Legal-Ethical Oversight

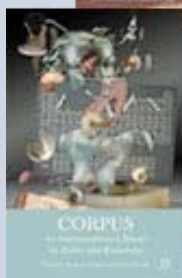
Joe Herkert, Associate Professor with ASU’s School of Letters and Sciences and CSPO, CSPO affiliate **Brad Allenby**, and **Gary Marchant** have edited a new book that addresses the growing gap between the pace of science and technology and the lagging responsiveness of legal and ethical oversight society relies on to govern emerging technologies. [\[More\]](#)

Twelve Breaths a Minute: End of Life Essays

CSPO Writer in Residence and Professor with ASU’s Hugh Downs School of Human Communication, **Lee Gutkind**, has edited a new book featuring 23 personal narratives that examine the way we as a society care for the dying. Lee will be featured on National Public Radio’s Talk of the Nation on July 25 discussing the book. [\[More\]](#)

Corpus: An Interdisciplinary Reader on Bodies and Knowledge

This new book, edited by CSPO Affiliate **Monica Casper** and **Paisley Currah**, argues that traditional disciplines are unable to fully apprehend the body and asserts that critical study demands interdisciplinary approaches. The collection’s 13 essays grapple with the place of bodies in a range of 21st century knowledge practices, including trauma, surveillance, aging, fat, food, feminist technoscience, death, disability, biopolitics, race, among others. [\[More\]](#)



The Dubious Benefits of Broader Impact

Assessments of the wider value of research are unpopular. Proposed changes will only produce more hype and hypocrisy, says CSPO Co-Director **Dan Sarewitz** in his most recent World View column for *Nature*. [[More](#)]

The Age of the Expert

In his new column **In Fact** for *Creative Nonfiction*, **Lee Gutkind** discusses how academics and writers can learn from each other to create interesting and informative nonfiction. [[More](#)]

Saving Smart Meters From a Backlash

In his most recent installment of the "The Scientific Estate" in *IEEE Spectrum*, **Gregg Zachary** discusses his concern that fear, uncertainty and doubt will lead to a backlash against smart meters, as our endless embrace of new technologies invariably co-evolves with a nagging suspicion of hazards too horrible to discuss. [[More](#)]

Fixing NIH

In two recent opinion pieces, ASU President and CSPO Co-Founder **Michael Crow** tackles the medical-research establishment and the National Institutes of Health. In *Growing a Better NIH*, for *The Boston Globe*, he discusses a radical way to fix the nation's medical-research establishment. While NIH has helped America become the unquestioned global leader in biomedical science, biomedical science is not the same thing as health, and in that very important sense, our investment in the NIH is not fully paying off. [[More](#)] In *Let's Collapse 27 U.S. Health Institutes Into 3*, an Op-Ed for Bloomberg.com, Crow, along with ASU Professors **Denis Cortese** and **Leland Hartwell**, make a case for structural changes to NIH to help the agency live up to its full potential in improving medicine and health outcomes. [[More](#)]

In Defense of the National Science Foundation

Michael Burnam-Fink takes on Senator Tom Coburn's criticism of our nation's science funding, noting that it illustrates a profound misunderstanding of how science is done and how the National Science Foundation operates. [[More](#)]

Does Climate Change Knowledge Really Matter?

Climate science and climate policy have been tightly linked for more than two decades. As a result, debates about climate policy and debates about climate science are impossible to disaggregate, and opposition to the prevailing international climate regime is often expressed as distrust of the science. In a recent opinion piece, **Dan Sarewitz** asserts that until new policy options are available that can enfranchise more diverse political constituencies, climate science will continue to exist as a largely political phenomenon. [[More](#)]

Nanotechnology Innovation and Policy: Current Strategies & Future Trajectories

A symposium issue of the *Journal of Technology Transfer* featuring papers from the 2010 Transatlantic Workshop on Nanotechnology Innovation and Policy is now available online. CNS researchers **Philip Shapira** and **Jan Youtie**, of Georgia Tech, served as editors. [[More](#)]

CSPO in the News

Laid-Back in the Lab, Maybe, but They Spurred the Weapons Race

In John Markoff's *New York Times* column, CSPO affiliate **Sybil Francis** discussed the role that the rivalry between Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos National Laboratories played in the emergence of intercontinental ballistic missiles, and how this kind of intragovernmental competition might again be encouraged to stimulate technological innovation. [[More](#)]

Rapid Revolution

CSPO Co-Director **Dave Guston**, CSPO affiliate **Jane Maienschein**, and **Gary Marchant** were featured in the May 2011 *ASU Alumni Magazine* discussing the collaborative, innovative efforts at ASU to explore how to manage technology's advance. [[More](#)]



Lawrence Livermore
National Laboratory Archives



NASA

AT&T Science & Technology Author Series

Lee Gutkind was featured on the AT&T Tech Channel Science & Technology Author Series discussing the creative nonfiction genre [\[More\]](#) and his book *Almost Human: Making Robots Think*. [\[More\]](#)

Shuttle Legacy: Grand, Though Not What Was Planned

CSPO affiliate **Roger Pielke, Jr.** discussed the promise vs. the reality of the space shuttle program on National Public Radio's Weekend Edition. [\[More\]](#)

How to Build the Perfect Soldier

CSPO affiliate **Joel Garreau** discussed human enhancement in the military on Australian television's *The Hungry Beast*. [\[More\]](#)

CSPO People

Kudos

Joe Herkert was elected the 2011-2012 Chair for the Liberal Education Division of the American Society for Engineering Education. He was also elected a Distinguished Life Member, Executive Board, National Institute for Engineering Ethics.

New Staff

Elizabeth Curran joins the Center for Nanotechnology in Society at ASU as the new Program Coordinator handling communications, outreach, and education effective July 11, 2011. Liz was the communications and marketing assistant at ASU's Global Institute of Sustainability/ School of Sustainability, and currently is pursuing a masters' degree in Communications.

New CSPO Affiliates

In the past few months, CSPO added five new affiliates. **Sybil Francis**, Executive Director for Center for the Future of Arizona and Senior Advisor for the ASU Foundation, focuses on the intersection of science, technology and politics and on the impact of political, organizational and competitive forces on technological innovation. **Andrea Ballestero Salaverry**, Assistant Professor, School of Human Evolution and Social Change, examines how expert and technical knowledge is constituted through ethical choices and how those choices are made by groups of experts that occupy hybrid spaces in local institutions and transnational networks.

Two of the new affiliates are old to CSPO, having completed their PhDs with CSPO and are now out in the world with their own take on the CSPO mission. **Ryan Meyer** studies the relationships between social problems and scientific research. His work addresses such questions as: What kinds of social benefit can we reasonably expect from scientific research? What role do values play in our science system? How do managers approach the task of deciding what research to fund? **Mark Neff**, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science at Allegheny College, focuses on understanding linkages between ecological science and environmental governance, with an eye toward exploring how ecological scientists establish research agendas and the broader societal impacts of those choices.

And embracing that even the smallest and fuzziest among us can contribute to the CSPO mission, Benjamin T. Bear (**Benny the Bear**) was named a CSPO affiliate. Benny, who is infused with nano-silver, has been an indispensable part of CSPO and CNS's goal to educate the general public on how to evaluate technologies and play an active role in anticipatory governance.

CSPO Summer Travels

During the first two weeks of July, the **CNS-ASU Thematic Research Cluster on Equity, Equality, and Responsibility** conducted fieldwork in South Africa. CNS sent six researchers: Georgia Tech professor **Susan Cozzens**, Georgia Tech graduate students **Thomas Woodson**, **Diran Soumonni**, and **Rodrigo Cortes**, ASU assistant professor **Jamey Wetmore** and CSPO postdoc **Matthew Harsh**. For two weeks the group interviewed scientists, researchers, policy officials, funders, government lab employees, and a few local people to find out how nanotechnology is being researched, developed, and used in South Africa and what some possibilities for the future might be. They are chronicling their experiences on the [CSPO Soapbox](#).



CNS Program Coordinator
Liz Curran



Benny the Bear



CNS researchers in South Africa

In June, CSPO Co-Director **Dave Guston** presented *Understanding Anticipatory Governance: Emerging Technologies in Democratic Context* at the meeting on Scientific Authority and Democratic Societies at the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Study at the University of British Columbia. He also presented *The Pumpkin or the Tiger?: Polanyi, Soddy, and the Anticipatory Governance of Emerging Technologies* at the 10th annual meeting of the Science and Democracy Network, held at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Joe Herkert presented a paper, *Yogi meets Moses: Ethics, Progress and the Grand Challenges for Engineering* at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Engineering Education in Vancouver, Canada in June.

Netra Chhetri, Assistant Professor with CSPO and the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning, trekked to Nepal in June and July for the launch of his new project *Livestock, Livelihoods, & Climate Change Interaction in the Mountains of Nepal*. [[More](#)]

Erik Fisher, Assistant Professor with CSPO and the School of Politics and Global Studies, spent the first part of the summer participating in Responsible Innovation workshops including the **DG Research Workshop on Responsible Research and Innovation in Europe**, Brussels, Belgium, May 16-17, organized by the European Commission to help develop recommendations for implementing a major theme across European investments in innovation. The following week, he presented at the **Franco-British Workshop on Responsible Innovation** in London, organized by the French Embassy in the UK and held at the residence of the French Ambassador to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. [[Watch](#)]

Erik has also given several other presentations in Europe and the US this summer: On May 11 he gave a colloquium sponsored by the Institute for Innovation and Governance Studies at the University of Twente in the Netherlands on *STIR Spin-offs: Beyond the Laboratory Engagement Study*. On June 17, Erik returned to the Netherlands to participate in the **Future of Science and Technology in Society: A Symposium in Honor of Arie Rip**. He presented on *Future Regimes of Science, Politics and Convergence Work*. Erik presented at the annual conference of the Society for Philosophy and Technology, May 26-29 at the University of North Texas, on *Public Deliberation in the Education of Science: Contemporary Practices and Classical Ideals* with Topi Heikkerö from St. John's College.

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 (select Other and note CSPO, account #30003881). 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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