

## CSPO Newsletter - Back to School Issue

### CSPO Perspectives

In “Wanted: Good Presidential Advice or Where have you gone Bill Baker?,” science writer **Wil Lepkowski** notes that “*Good Presidencies need good advice. And in troublesome times, good Presidencies need advice well beyond the ordinary, and far removed from the petty and the political... What I’m offering here are a few reflections about an individual who, to me, epitomized the kind advisory model the next President might well look for.*” Now available on the CSPO website at [http://www.cspo.org/ourlibrary/perspectives/lepkowski\\_aug07.htm](http://www.cspo.org/ourlibrary/perspectives/lepkowski_aug07.htm).

### Does Science Policy Matter?

In a recent piece for *Issues in Science and Technology*, available at [http://www.cspo.org/documents/Sarewitz\\_Does\\_Science\\_Policy\\_Matter.pdf](http://www.cspo.org/documents/Sarewitz_Does_Science_Policy_Matter.pdf), **Daniel Sarewitz** says that it would if we had a real science policy, but what we have now is science politics: “It is not only axiomatic but also true that federal science policy is largely played out as federal science budget policy. ...Overall, it is fair to say that marginal budgetary changes are treated by the science and technology (S&T) community as surrogates for the well-being of the science enterprise, while the interested public considers such changes to be surrogates for progress toward particular societal goals (for example, budget increases for cancer research mean more rapid progress toward cures). ...the annual obsession with marginal changes in the R&D budget tells us something important about the internal politics of science, but little, if anything, that’s useful about the health of the science enterprise as a whole.”

### Democratization, International Knowledge Institutions and Global Knowledge

**Clark Miller** examines the rapid rise in the creation of international knowledge institutions, arguing that these institutions reflect a growing effort by nations and publics to assert democratic constraints on the on the global exercise of power *through their ability to structure processes of reasoning and deliberation in global society*. Read the paper, published in *Governance: An International Journal of Policy, Administration, and Institutions*, at <http://www.cspo.org/documents/Miller-Governance-2007.pdf>.

### Science, Policy and Social Equity

Science and technology have been heralded as important strategies for addressing the inequities that exist in modern societies. A number of studies, however, have demonstrated that they do not always achieve this goal and in some cases they exacerbate existing, or create new, inequities. A handful of scholars have argued that the problem is not simply a result of poor attempts at implementation, but may have roots in science and technology policy. A special issue of *Science*

and *Public Policy*, guest editor **Jameson Wetmore**, explores the opportunities for, and difficulties with, addressing inequities through science policy. These papers, abstracts available at <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/beechn/spp/2007/00000034/00000002>, were developed through the Science, Policy and Social Inequities Workshop co-sponsored by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and CSPO (<http://www.cspo.org/outreach/events/inequityworkshopmain.htm>).

### **Scenario Planning for Wildlife Management: A Case Study of the National Elk Refuge, Jackson, Wyoming**

In this new article for *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*, CSPO graduate student **Mark Neff** presents a case study of a wildlife management dilemma at the National Elk Refuge in Jackson, Wyoming, to demonstrate the use of narrative scenarios as a tool for engaging diverse stakeholders in disputes over social–ecological system management. Read the article at [http://www.cspo.org/documents/neff\\_wildlifemanagement.pdf](http://www.cspo.org/documents/neff_wildlifemanagement.pdf)

### **Ethnographic Invention: Probing the Capacity of Laboratory Decisions**

**Erik Fisher** investigated the real-time effects of engineering research practices using a laboratory engagement study to specify the interplay of technical and social considerations during the normal course of research. The article, published in *Nanoethics*, is available at [http://www.cspo.org/documents/Fisher\\_ProbingLabCapacity\\_Nanoethics-07.pdf](http://www.cspo.org/documents/Fisher_ProbingLabCapacity_Nanoethics-07.pdf)

### **Science Cafés**

The Center for Nanotechnology in Society at Arizona State University (CNS) will again be hosting a series of public discussions at the [Arizona Science Center](#), 600 E. Washington Street, Phoenix.

- September 21, 5:30-6:30pm: *Designing Things: Balancing Beauty, Utility and Sustainability in Products*, with Matt Kim and Prasad Boradkar. A scientist who has successfully created two start-up companies and a design professor will discuss what it takes to get technologies from the lab to the store.
- October 19, 5:30-6:30pm: *"Less is More" Technology: Is Smaller and Cheaper Always Better?* With Deidre Meldrum and Jamey Wetmore. An engineer and a social scientist will talk about how the trend towards smaller and cheaper technology affects research and the general public.
- November 16, 5:30-6:30pm: *Do Robots Need a Bill of Rights? Implications of Artificial Intelligence* with David Calverley and TBD. A philosopher and a computer scientist will discuss progress in artificial intelligence and how we should prepare for this new population.

For more information on CNS-ASU, visit [cns.asu.edu](http://cns.asu.edu); to receive an electronic newsletter from CNS-ASU contact [cns@asu.edu](mailto:cns@asu.edu).

### **Journal of Nano Education**

Center for Nanotechnology in Society at Arizona State University co-PI, **Clark Miller**, has been appointed to the editorial advisory board of this peer-reviewed international journal focused on developments in nanoscale science, technology, engineering, and medical education. For more information on JNE, visit <http://www.aspbs.com/jne/>.

## Movin' on Up

**Paul Privateer**, CSPO and Film and Media Studies, has been promoted to Professor. **Netra Chhetri** has been promoted to Assistant Professor with joint appointments in CSPO and the School of Geographical Sciences. **Daniel Barben** has been promoted to Associate Research Professor and **David Conz**, **Erik Fisher**, and **Cynthia Selin** have all been promoted to Assistant Research Professors.

## New Faces

A number of new faces have joined CSPO and CNS for the new academic year: post-doctoral research associate **Nalini Chhetri** (Science Policy Assessment and Research on Climate project); graduate students **Monamie Badhra** (Political Science), **Erin Daly** (School of Life Sciences), **Shannon Lidberg** (School of Design), **John McNight** (School of Sustainability), **Chad Monfreda** (School of Life Sciences), and **Zach Pirtle** (Civil & Environmental Engineering); interns **Foster Leaf**, **Owen Marshall**, **Cameron Miller**, and **Tim Trefren**; and webmaster **Andrew Gaddis**.

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