

## References

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## ANKÜNDIGUNGEN / EVENTS

Call for contributions for a special issue of the 'Journal of Cleaner Production'

### Development of Nanotechnology in Light of Sustainability

October 2005 - March 15, 2006

Dr. Hans G. Kastenholz, Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research (EMPA), Technology and Society Lab, and Mr. Asgeir Helland are Guest Editors of a special issue of the peer reviewed American 'Journal of Cleaner Production' (JCP) and thus inviting authors for contributions addressing the 'Development of Nanotechnology in Light of Sustainability'; abstracts should be sent in by **March 15, 2006**. The objective of this Special Issue is to publish high quality papers that objectively and critically analyze how the development of nanotechnology may contribute to sustainable development.

Nanotechnology is an enabling technology for a wide variety of traditional scientific disciplines. This had led to high expectations that nanotechnology will be a key technology for improving people's standards of living, in the short-term by significantly improving existing processes and products and in the long-term by providing revolutionary and life-changing advances across a wide variety of industries from cancer treatment, light-weight materials to renewable energy. However, the novel properties that make nanotechnologies so interesting have also raised many unanswered questions and concerns related to the impacts nanotechnology may have on society and the environment from the vantage point of sustainability.

The Editors invite authors to submit papers (8,000-9,000 words in length) which deal, in depth, with sustainable development in the field of nanotechnology. Sustainable technologies are, in their view, characterized by high benefits, low risks for the short and long-term and which are socially acceptable.

Since much of the current literature is focused on disciplinary research as, for example, toxicology and materials science, they especially solicit interdisciplinary and integrative contributions. Because nanotechnology involves such a broad span of disciplines, potential fields and topics, authors are encouraged to contribute documents that address multiple disciplinary elements of the potential positive and negative attributes of nanomaterials from a sustainable development perspective as the common denominator. Potential topics envisioned include but are not limited to:

- Potential (positive and/or negative) impacts of nanotechnology on environmental, human health, social and economic sustainability;
- Ethical, legal and social aspects (ELSA) of nanotechnology development;
- Governance and policy aspects of managing nanotechnologies;
- Evolution and governance of innovation processes;
- Monitoring, assessment and enforcement methodologies;
- Education and training on safe production, usage and end-of-life management of products that contain nanomaterials;
- Case-studies and practical experiences;
- Future studies.

Authors are invited to address the issues from a wide variety of perspectives, interdisciplinary analyses of topics that can lead to conclusions and recommendations for different stakeholders, e.g. industry, governments, NGOs and universities on how to ensure that nanotechnological advances lead toward not away from sustainable societies are encouraged in the same way.

#### **Schedule and process for submission of papers**

Potential contributors should send their abstracts electronically to Mr. Asgeir Helland or to Dr. Hans Kastenholz by **March 15, 2006**.

Contributors whose abstracts are selected and found appropriate for this Special Issue will be invited to submit a full manuscript by **July 15, 2006**. Upon receipt, the manuscripts will be sent out for Peer Review to at least

three independent reviewers. The reviewers' comments and the editorial team's comments, recommendations and questions will then be sent to the authors of each manuscript. After receiving and accepting the author's revised version, all selected manuscripts will be published in a SPECIAL ISSUE of JCP.

#### **Contact**

For further information or to discuss ideas, please contact one of the Guest Editors:

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For manuscript guidelines please see

<http://www.elsevier.com/locate.jclepro>

and click on 'Guide for authors' or consult the Instruction to Authors in the Journal of Cleaner Production.

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## **Projekt-Abschlussveranstaltung Erfolgsfaktoren virtueller Unternehmen**

**Berlin, 8. Dezember 2005**

Gemeinsam mit Experten und Expertinnen aus erfolgreichen virtuellen Unternehmen wollen die Projektpartner (IZT – Institut für Zukunftsstudien und Technologiebewertung gGmbH; SFZ – Sekretariat für Zukunftsforchung; TWG The Webworker Group – Gesellschaft für Virtual Business Services mbH) Praxiserfahrungen europäisch agierender virtueller Unternehmen und aktuelle Forschungsergebnisse aus der Projektarbeit präsentieren und im Dialog mit Wissenschaftlern sowie Vertretern aus Verbänden und der Politik diskutieren.

Im Mittelpunkt stehen dabei die Darstellung erfolgreicher deutscher und internationaler Unternehmensbeispiele, Herausforderungen der grenzüberschreitenden Unternehmensexansion sowie der Arbeit der Zukunft. Mithilfe von Szenarien sollen darüber hinaus innovative Entwicklungspfade für die erfolgreiche Zukunft virtueller Unternehmensverbünde aufgezeigt werden. Die Vernetzung von Forschung und Wirtschaft soll einen maßgeblichen Beitrag dazu leisten, die Chancen für Wachstum und Beschäftigung stärker in den Blickpunkt zu rücken.

### **Hintergrund**

Der zunehmende Einsatz von Informations- und Kommunikationstechnologien (IuK-Technologien) beschleunigt den strukturellen Wandel und ermöglicht neue Formen der Arbeits- und Unternehmensorganisation. Die Weiterentwicklung und Verbreitung der IuK-Technologien ist zentrale Voraussetzung und Antriebskraft der weltweiten ökonomischen und sozialen Vernetzung.

Im Zuge der Globalisierung und Internationalisierung wird die Fähigkeit, Netzwerke mit Partnern unterschiedlicher Wertschöpfungsstufen und volkswirtschaftlicher Branchen aufzubauen und zu managen, zum zentralen Wettbewerbsfaktor. Bilaterale Partnerschaften werden durch multilaterale Partner-Netze und flexible Partnerschaften auf Zeit abgelöst. Virtuelle Unternehmen gewinnen an Bedeutung.

### **Virtualität als Erfolgsmodell**

Virtuelle Unternehmen gelten als flexibles und innovatives Unternehmenskonzept. Aufgrund ihrer Fähigkeit, schnell auf sich wandelnde Märkte zu reagieren und Kompetenzen flexibel zu bündeln, nehmen sie einen hohen Stellenwert in der modernen Arbeitsorganisation ein.

Im Fokus der Veranstaltung stehen folgende Fragestellungen:

- Welche Gestaltungsmöglichkeiten bestehen für eine menschengerechte und leistungsfähige Arbeits- und Unternehmensorganisation in virtuellen Unternehmen?
- Welche Anforderungen ergeben sich aus der grenzüberschreitenden Zusammenarbeit?
- Wie kann die Entwicklung virtueller Unternehmen nachhaltig gefördert werden?

Mit der Unterstützung von Szenarien sollen mögliche Entwicklungskorridore für die Zukunft virtueller Unternehmensverbünde aufgezeigt werden.

Eine Teilnahme ist nur mit Anmeldebestätigung möglich; die Anmeldung sollte bis zum **21. November 2005** beim SFZ erfolgen. Das Anmeldeformular ist im Internet erhältlich unter <http://www.itz.de/evu/online-anmeldung.html>.

### **Kontakt**

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## **Expertenworkshop Parallel- und Metakommunikation bei der Nutzung smarter Informationssysteme**

**Stuttgart, 15. Dezember 2005**

Die Alcatel SEL Stiftung für Kommunikationsforschung und der Sonderforschungsbereich 627 „neXus“ laden zu diesem Workshop ein.

Vorhaben des Workshops ist es, das weite Problemfeld smarter Informationssysteme zu sondieren und aufzuzeigen, wo Kompetenz- und Vertrauensverluste auftreten und wie sie durch die Etablierung neuer technischer als auch nicht-technischer Formen der Parallelkommunikation kompensiert werden können.

Zum Workshop eingeladen sind die ausgewiesene Experten Stephan Dutke von der Universität Kaiserslautern, („Defizite technisch vermittelter Kommunikation und einige ihrer Ursachen aus Sicht der Technikpsychologie“); Jan Egelhaaf, Robert Bosch GmbH Leonberg („Konzepte der Parallel- und Metakommunikation in Fahrassistentensystemen“), sowie Klaus Wiegler vom Institut für Philosophie der Universität Stuttgart („Aspekte der Parallelkommunikation in intelligenten Umgebungen“).

Die sich an jeden Beitrag anschließende allgemeine Diskussionsrunde wird jeweils durch eine kritische Stellungnahme seitens des Co-Referenten Christoph Hubig eingeleitet werden.

## Hintergrund

Probleme einer Informationsüberflutung, des Wissensmülls, mangelnder Qualität und Nachprüfbarkeit von Informationen im Internet sind allgemein bekannt. Sie sind in erster Linie dadurch bedingt, dass mit der technisch vermittelten Kommunikation eine Reduktion von Kommunikationskanälen sowie von Informationsarten einhergeht, die eine Abschätzung der strategischen Interessen der Kommunikationspartner unmöglich machen. Eine Problemlage, die sich im Rahmen der Entwicklung mobiler, kontextbezogener IuK-Systeme fortschreibt und unter dem Gesichtspunkt smarter, intelligenter Handlungsumgebungen, wie sie etwa im Zuge des so genannten Ubiquitous Computing diskutiert werden, an neuer Brisanz gewinnt. Gegenstand des Workshops ist es, das weite Problemfeld zu sondieren und aufzuzeigen, wo Kompetenz- und Vertrauensverluste auftreten und wie sie durch die Etablierung neuer technischer als auch nicht-technischer Formen der Parallelkommunikation kompensiert werden können.

Anmeldungen bis zum **8. Dezember 2005** werden erbeten an Oliver Siemoneit, Universität Stuttgart, Institut für Philosophie, Sonderforschungsbereich 627 ([oliver.siemoneit@philo.uni-stuttgart.de](mailto:oliver.siemoneit@philo.uni-stuttgart.de))

[uni-stuttgart.de](http://uni-stuttgart.de)) (Tagungsbeginn ist um 10.30 h; Tagungsort die Universität Stuttgart, Campus Vaihingen, Universitätsstraße 38 (Neubau Informatik), Sitzungssaal 2.013).

## Kontakt

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Interdisciplinary Workshop on  
 Governance for Sustainable  
 Development

## Steering in Contexts of Ambivalence, Uncertainty and Distributed Control

Berlin, Germany, February 5-7, 2006

The Institute for Applied Ecology, Berlin, the Institute of Environmental Systems Research at the University of Osnabrück and the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology are going to organize this workshop.

The issue of sustainable development represents a problem of transformation. It requires an active shaping of long-term dynamics in social and technical structures. It thus stirs up debate about political steering and governance. Established heuristics for improving steering capacity come to their limits when applied to sustainable development. They usually expound the need for

- clear, stable and unequivocal goals that guide the steering efforts,
- knowledge to predict dynamics and the effects of alternative options of intervention, and
- the necessary power to implement political strategies.

Science and practice of sustainable development, however, is confronted with fundamental problems in all three dimensions of steering:

- a) Sustainability, which concerns the balancing of potentially conflicting risk perceptions, values and interests, cannot be defined as an unequivocal and undisputed set of targets. With knowledge development and ongoing cultural and ecological transformation, sustainability goals are subject to change and controversy. Steering for sustainable development has to cope, therefore, with conflict and ambivalence.
- b) Knowledge of ecological cause-and-effect relations and the coupled dynamics of society, technology and nature are limited and bear fundamental uncertainties. The predictability of long-term developments and possible side-effects of intervention strategies is very limited. For this reason, steering for sustainable development has to cope with uncertainty and unintended consequences.
- c) The power to shape structural change in society and technology is distributed across a multitude of actors and societal subsystems. While all have particular resources to contribute, they also follow different rationalities and interests. On account of this, steering for sustainable development has to cope with a lack of central control and to face the necessity of coordinating strategies of different actor groups and social networks.

Contributions that

- empirically examine steering situations with respect to the ambivalence of goals, uncertainty of knowledge and distribution of power, aiming to identify typical steering situations that reflect varying combinations of these characteristics;
- review and scrutinize existing steering and governance theories with respect to their implicit assumptions about defined goals, certain knowledge and centralised power, thus allowing for not only the identification of the roots of theoretical disagreement but also an indication of how a pragmatic combination of theories – by specifying the range of empirical situations to which they apply – could be accomplished;
- conceptualise steering strategies which are able to cope with ambivalence, uncertainty,

and distributed power or analyse and assess empirical steering processes which are set up to deal with these challenges

will attend special interest at this workshop.

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## Changing Foresight Practices in Regional Development – Global Pressures and Regional Possibilities

8<sup>th</sup> International Conference of  
Finland Futures Research Centre and  
Finland Futures Academy

**Turku, Finland, June 7-9, 2006**

Finland Futures Research Centre and Finland Futures Academy are organizing the conference in collaboration with Economic Geography, Pan-European Institute and Pori Unit from Turku School of Economics and Business Administration.

The future of regions is dependent on proactive interaction between companies, universities and public actors. The aim of the conference is to discuss the different strategic possibilities of regions under the rapidly changing pressures of globalising world. The key questions are: How regional actors can cope in a global economy? What are the new ways to study and explore the future of regions? How to enhance regional co-operation and networking? What are

the strategic keys to prosperous regional futures? Does creativity strengthen regions? How general foresight and development theories can strengthen regional development in practice? How companies can shape their regional strategies in globalising economy?

The conference brings together people from universities and research institutes, regional authorities, municipalities and governmental organisations as well as from private companies and non-governmental organisations to discuss and assess the future of regions from a foresight and futures studies point of view.

Conference program consist of keynote lectures and parallel workshops and poster sessions, focusing in following preliminary themes:

- Innovation systems in creative economy
- Strategies in globalising economy
- Practical applications (case studies)
- Theories of foresight and regional development
- Foresight methods in regional development
- Future of regional and global governance
- Changing roles and impacts of companies, universities and public actors in regional development

The conference language is **English**.

For further information on the conference and the Program please visit

<http://www.tukkk.fi/tutu/conference2006/>.

## Contact

If you have any questions, please contact the conference coordinator:

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## Conference **Ethical Aspects of Risk**

Delft, The Netherlands, June 14-16, 2006

The Philosophy Department of the Delft University of Technology is organizing the conference “Ethical Aspect of Risk”.

Technology has advanced human well being in a myriad of respects, such as energy, communication and abilities to travel. Still, every technology also has negative side-effects, such as risks from accidents and pollution. A standard way to judge the acceptability of a specific technology is cost-benefit analysis. However, next to the balance between the benefits and risks of a technology the following considerations seem to be important: the distribution of costs and benefits, whether a risk is voluntarily taken, whether there are available alternatives etc. How to judge whether a risk is acceptable is a pressing ethical question that deserves thorough investigation. There is a vast amount of sociological and psychological research on acceptable risks, but surprisingly, there is only very little research from moral philosophy on risks. This conference aims to fill this gap by bringing together moral philosophers, sociologists, psychologists and engineers to reflect on the ethical issues concerning ‘acceptable risk’.

The following questions will be the focus of the conference:

- What are morally legitimate considerations in judging the acceptability of risks? Is cost-benefit analysis the best way or do we need additional considerations?
- What role should emotions play in judging the acceptability of risks? Are they irrational and distorting or are they a necessary precondition for practically rational judgments?
- What role should the public play in judging the acceptability of risks (e.g. informed consent procedures analogous to medical ethics)?
- Is the precautionary principle a fruitful tool in dealing with risks?

### Conference Organization

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### EASST Conference 2006 **Reviewing Humanness: Bodies, Technologies and Spaces**

**Lausanne, Switzerland, August 23-26, 2006**

The biennial conference of the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST) will be organized by the ‘Institut d’études politiques et internationales’ (IEPI), University of Lausanne/Switzerland. It addresses all members of the European science, technology and innovation studies community.

What is it to be human today? Human “nature” is made and re-made by ideas and practices assembling bodies, technologies, and spaces. Three processes in particular seem to be transforming the very notion of humanness:

1. it is reconfigured by the life sciences, from genetics to neurobiology, with the invention of new forms of human corporeity. Within contemporary philosophy and STS literature, this is associated with conceptual changes, displacing traditional binaries such as human/animal, animal/machine, nature/technology, mind/body towards all kinds of hybrids.
2. it is reassigned to and redistributed throughout sociotechnical networks and artifacts. In other words, the notion of humanness is rethought; it is considered no longer to be enclosed within the human subject, but instead disseminated in and through human-made objects and technological systems.
3. it is rescaled by the increase in transnational connections and the development of a cosmopolitan imaginary. The increase of spatial mobility (international migration, tour-

ism, professional travel, etc.) and information flows, ‘stretching’ social relations across space, have reterritorialized, and in the best cases broadened, our conceptions of humanness.

The conference organizers invite contributions that address both a general conceptualization of humanness and these three particular processes. The further aim of this conference is to address the political (in the broad sense of the term) dimension of a reviewed humanness. The re-fabrication of humanness is not only an academic thought-experiment but a daily life experience, and sometimes an object of concern, for society as a whole. The organizers therefore also invite contributions specifically focusing on the politicization of contemporary humanness. Such topics include:

- a) issues related to participative forums created by state or supranational organizations to trigger public debate around the anthropological consequences of scientific and technological innovations;
- b) initiatives of different segments of civil society (patient organizations, feminist movements, indigenous groups, consumer associations, etc.), including public action and mobilizations, regarding the definition of research agendas, the organization of knowledge production and diffusion, or the political regulation of the three above-mentioned processes;
- c) questions regarding participation in the global redefinition of humanness. Are not large sectors of humankind excluded from these changes? Do they mean the same thing regardless of social class, gender and ethnicity?

### Threads

1. Biomedical practices, politics and markets
2. Medicine, healthcare & patients
3. Information and communication technologies
4. Technological artifacts & users
5. Environments, landscapes and resources
6. Spatialities, transnationalism and governance
7. Expertise, governance & publics

8. Normative issues & the production of norms
9. Science, politics & markets
10. Knowledge objects, practices & cultures
11. Science, culture & arts
12. Practices and processes of innovation
13. STS in practice (methods, research networks, computer tools)

Contributions will be welcome from the range of disciplines found within the broad field of science, technology, and society studies. For those whose work does not relate directly to the Conference's theme, there are open paper sessions.

Deadline for abstracts and session proposals is **December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005**. Abstract/session proposal submissions should include all contact details, the text of the abstract (300 words) / the proposal (600 words), three keywords and the preferred Conference Threads and be sent to [easst2006@unil.ch](mailto:easst2006@unil.ch) by using the template file.

All information, including the draft programme (by the end of March) can be found on the Conference's website (<http://www2.unil.ch/easst2006/>).

## Contact

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## IAS-STS – Fellowship- Programme 2006/2007

Graz, Austria, October 2006 - June 2007

In 1999 the IFZ – Inter-University Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture launched the Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society (IAS-STS) in Graz, Austria. IAS-STS is broadly speaking, an

Institute for the enhancement of Science and Technology Studies.

It promotes the interdisciplinary investigation of the links and interaction between science, technology and society as well as research on the development and implementation of socially and environmentally sound, sustainable technologies.

Each year the IAS-STS gives around a dozen international researchers the opportunity to explore the issues published in the annually changing fellowship programme.

The IAS-STS invites researchers to apply for a stay between October 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007 as

- Research Fellows (up to nine month) or as
- Visiting Scholars (up to one month).

Senior scientists – working within the framework of the issues listed below – are also encouraged to apply as Guest lecturers.

Five grants of € 1 000,- per month for long term Fellows (nine month) can furthermore be offered:

The *fellowship programme 2006/2007* is dedicated to projects investigating the following issues:

1. *Gender – Technology – Environment:*  
Women with their various interests, competencies and potentials play an important part in the process of shaping socially sound and environmentally friendly sustainable technologies – be it as users and consumers, or as experts. Applications should focus on research in the field of women in traditionally male fields of engineering, on ways of creating cultures of success for women engineers (students, graduates), and on masculinity and the culture of engineering.
2. *Ethical, Legal and Social Aspects of Human Genetics and Biotechnology:* A main focus of the fellowship programme lies on research projects providing a better understanding of human genetics or biotechnology in the context of fabrication, application and regulation. Researchers investigating socio-cultural aspects of genetic testing or risk issues in biotechnology are especially encouraged to apply.
3. *Technology Studies and Sustainability:* Fellowships will be awarded for research projects contributing to the issue of sustainable

development from the perspective of social studies or the history of science and technology. Projects should aim at socio-economic aspects of environmental technologies or at strategies of environmental technology policy, such as user participation, strategic niche management or ecological product policy. We encourage both theoretical analysis as well as empirical case studies and implementation research.

4. *Information and Communication Technologies:* A focus of the fellowship programme will be put on novel developments based on information and communication technologies (ICT) from an STS point-of-view. Topics like embedded systems, ubiquitous computing or ICT applications in traffic systems shall be analysed with respect to their wider social and political implications. Further issues of interest are the social shaping of new ICT developments and participative approaches to the design of ICT systems and applications.

**Applications** must be submitted to the IAS-STS by **December 31, 2005**.

Please visit the following website: <http://www.sts.tugraz.at> for application forms and further information.

### General

The IAS-STS is open to applicants of all academic positions and disciplines. To be eligible for membership, candidates must have completed university studies. Applicants working on their dissertation or postdoctoral (habilitation) thesis are given preference. In case of doctoral thesis comments and/or references of the supervisor should be enclosed with the application. The IAS-STS will not provide a formal supervision of doctoral thesis. Scientists not intending to write a doctoral or postdoctoral (habilitation) thesis also have the possibility of applying for membership as a Fellow at the IAS-STS for research purposes. This applies in particular to those who have already acquired these qualifications. In this case, special emphasis will be placed on publications relevant to the subject in the appointment process.

Young scientists who are not yet working on their doctoral theses but who are taking part

in research projects relevant to the subject can also be appointed as Fellows of the IAS-STS. It is of utmost importance for them to submit letters of reference.

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Ausführlichere Informationen zu diesen Veranstaltungen sowie Hinweise zu weiteren Tagungen sind dem ständig aktualisierten „Konferenzkalender“ auf dem ITAS-Server zu entnehmen (<http://www.itas.fzk.de/veranstaltung/inhalt.htm>)