

4th Annual Science and the Public Conference

13th – 14th June 2009

University of Brighton

Conference Programme

Saturday, 13th June

0900 – Registration opens [Mayfield House foyer]

0900 – 1000 Coffee

0930 – 0945 Introduction and Welcome [Room M129, Mayfield House]

1000 – 1130 Paper session 1

Media 1

Merav Katz-Kimchi, UC Berkeley:

‘Screening science, building the nation: popular science programs on Israeli TV: 1968-1993’

Felicity Mellor, Imperial College:

‘Normalising extreme technologies: the discourse of planetary engineering’

Elisabet Rodriguez-Gonzalez, López-Béjar M., Cordon R., Domingo M., Centre de Recerca en Sanitat Animal (CRESA), Barcelona:

‘Travelling from the lab to the farm through a new educational website’

Theory 1

Bob Brecher, University of Brighton:

‘Science and society: whose responsibility?’

Konstantinos Pitsakis, Cass Business School:

‘Lack of norms, mimicry and the spread of educational innovations: the UK spinoffs’

Debra Benita Shaw, University of East London:

‘Investment strategies in the genomic domain: the life cycle of *homo oeconomicus*’

Outreach and engagement 1

Claudine Anderson, The Wales Gene Park:

‘The National DNA Database on trial - avoiding the usual suspects’

Emily Dawson, Kings College London, and Tobie Kerridge, Goldsmiths College:

‘Interdisciplinary projects for public engagement - some points on a divergent spectrum of expectations’

Eric Jensen, Anglia Ruskin University, and Richard Holliman, Open University:

‘The ISOTOPE project: informing science outreach and public engagement’

History 1

Anastasia Filippopoliti, Democritus University of Thrace:

‘Aspects of a public culture of science: displaying objects and engaging with science in mid 19th-century England’

Charlotte Nicklas, University of Brighton:

‘Chemical science has given to the world bright hues: dyes in nineteenth-century professional, public, and domestic cultures of chemistry’

Kate Roach, University of Nottingham: ‘The *Penny Magazine*, popular science and social class in the 1830’s. Can history teach us anything?’

1130 – 1200 Refreshment break

1200-1300 Plenary 1

Professor Steve Fuller, Warwick University: ‘Does science communication really need to distinguish fact and fiction?’

1300-1400 Lunch

1400 – 1530 Paper session 2

Roundtable – Demarcation, Science and Publics: models, concepts and figures

This panel will reflect on critical scholarship on the relationship between publics and science, and how disciplinary demarcations have inhibited the conceptualisation of science and publics. It will also take two case studies, on news reports regarding therapeutic cloning research in South Korea, and public consultation on animal-human hybrid embryos in the UK to explore different figurations of ‘the public’ / ‘publics’, and of ‘science’. It will unpack how these figures are constructed and deployed by a range of actors through multiple mediated and institutional contexts.

Panelists:

Maureen McNeil, Cesagen and Centre for Gender and Women’s Studies, Lancaster University:

‘Between a rock and a hard place: ‘the deficit model’, ‘the dissemination model’, STS, science and publics’

Choon Key Chekar, Cesagen, Cardiff University:

‘Media representation of the scientifically aware public in the South Korean news coverage of the Hwang affair’

Joan Haran, Cesagen, Cardiff University:

‘Pressure groups, luddites and moralists: on the ‘hijacking’ of public consultation in the hybrid embryo case’

Media 2

Pippa Goldschmidt, Writer in Residence, ESRC Genomics Policy and Research Forum, University of Edinburgh:

‘Two aspects of one culture: the Janus faces of science and fiction.’

David Kirby, University of Manchester:

‘Forensic fictions: the construction of forensic medicine in television dramas’

Kaori Sasaki, Independent Scholar:

‘Cultural projection of medicine: medical dramas and public understanding of, and expectation for, medicine in Japan’

Experts

Alison Adam, University of Salford:

‘The social construction of ‘junk’ science’

Jeremy Collins, London Metropolitan University:

‘Equasy, micromorts, and falling under a bus: scientific expertise, media accounts and lay constructions of risk comparisons.’

Erwin van Rijswoud, Radboud University, Nijmegen:

‘Expertise at the science-policy-public nexus: a biographical-narrative approach to experts in virology’

1530 – 1600 Refreshment break

1600 – 1800 Paper session 3

Disputes

Mark Elam, University of Gothenburg:

‘Drug addicts or pathological consumers? shifting expert representations of the smoking public’

Shona Hilton, Kate Hunt, Mark Petticrew, UEA:

‘Examining the role of journals in translating evidence during a public health scare using the MMR controversy as a case study’

Charlotte Kenten and Angela Cassidy, Institute of Food Research, Norwich:

‘Vermin, victims and disease: public controversy over badgers and bovine TB in the UK’

Sebastian Linke, University of Gothenburg:

‘Disputes about fish: science communication among stakeholder in European fisheries governance’

Theory 2

Kathrin Braun, LSE, Svea Herrmann, University of Hanover, Alfred Moore, University College Cork and Sabine Koenninger, Leuphana University Lüneburg:

‘Governmental Bioethics between the Technological Model and Reflexive Government’

Candice Kent, Cambridge University:

‘Living outside time: astronomy and physics in the writings of Mary Butts (1890 – 1937)’

Vienna Setälä and Esa Väliaverronen, University of Helsinki:

‘Public acceptance of evolution and the rise of evolutionary discourse.’

Philip D. Walsh, York University, Canada:

‘Science, technocracy and the public sphere: Arendt and Bell as social forecasters.’

Art and representation

Rikke Schmidt Kjaergaard, Cambridge University and Aarhus University:

‘Cover stories: a visual content analysis of *Nature* front covers’

Simon Locke, Kingston University:

‘Colouring in the black-box: alternative renderings of scientific visualisations in two comic book cosmologies.’

Ellen ter Gast, The Arts & Genomics Centre Leiden/ University of Maastricht:

‘Imagining bio(techno)logy: what ethicists could learn from bio art.’

Blay Whitby, University of Sussex and Anna Dumutriu, University of Brighton:

‘The Institute of Unnecessary Research: public engagement in science through art and performance.’

Sunday, 14th June

0900 – 1000 Coffee / registration

1000 – 1130 Paper session 4

Outreach and engagement 2

Anne M. Dijkstra, University of Twente:

‘Participating publics in genomics research’

Nicole Kronberger, LSE:

‘Synthetic biology from the lab to public mind: intuitive logics in a natural experiment’

Rebekah Higgitt and Marek Kukula, Royal Observatory, Greenwich:

‘Public engagement at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich’

Journalism

Stuart Allan and Shelley Thompson, University of Bournemouth:

‘Science journalism on the internet.’

Vinciane Colson, Université Libre de Bruxelles:

‘When future journalists and scientists wonder about the science communication to the public.’

Hauke Riesch, University of Cambridge:

‘“Can somebody please make up their minds?” How the media represent the risk of drinking during pregnancy’

Rui Brito Fonseca, CIES – ISCTE, Lisbon:

‘Science for the people: science articles in “popular” and “quality” newspapers’

Media 3

Oliver Hochadel, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona:

‘Atapuerca - the making of a magic mountain. Popular science books and human-origins research in contemporary Spain’

Alice Bell, Imperial College London:

‘How to turn your parents green: the knowledge politics of children’s ecology books’

Vincent Campbell, University of Leicester:

‘Framing natural disasters and extreme weather in factual entertainment television’

1130 – 1200 Refreshment break

1200 – 1300 Plenary 2

Dr Patricia Fara, Cambridge University: ‘Science / Public: A Cretan Paradox?’

1300 – 1400 Lunch

1400 – 1530 Paper session 5

History 2

Jordi Ferran Boleda, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya:

‘Producer meets consumer: popularizing household electricity in the early twentieth-century in Barcelona’

Adam Green, SOAS:

‘East is East, West is West, never the twain shall meet: Fang Lizhi’s resistance to Deng Xiaoping’s vision of science in China’

Boris Jardine, Cambridge University:

‘Observation for, by, and of the people: the philosophy and politics of Mass-Observation’

Roundtable – Reaching Out, Reaching In, Reaching Beyond, Science and Engineering Engagement: Challenging the Discourse for Engagement

This roundtable draws on a widescale national engagement development programme working across 17 universities with 27 scientists and engineers, exploring the development of engagement work and the ways in which engagement may be more firmly embedded within university cultures.

Core themes include:

- Policy drivers for engagement and the nature of that engagement
- Current economic drivers for engagement and the nature of that engagement
- The publics’ perceptions of scientists and science
- The perceptions of fellow academics and students of science and engineering engagement
- How to develop engagement work, to change a university climate and make colleagues more receptive to undertaking engagement work
- The practical development of skills and routes into engagement work for academic scientists and students

Panelists:

Laura Bowater, UEA:

‘Brooking no excuses: university staff and students are encouraged to develop their engagement’

Gillian Squirrell, University of Bristol:

‘Crossing Personal, Institutional and Disciplinary Boundaries : Science and Engineering Engagement and University Culture Change’

Kay Yeoman, UEA:

‘Linking science communication with pedagogy-using curriculum design in higher education for change’

Media 4

James Farry, University of Manchester:

'Space as entertainment?: The interactions between space and the media, 1945-1970'

Andreas Gunnarson, University of Gothenburg:

'Carbs versus fat – changing the meaning of healthy diets through science communication.'

Alexander von Lünen, University of Portsmouth:

“Keine Grotte ohne Lotte”: underwater documentaries in the 1950s'

1530 Close