

# ISSSP news

**Institute for Science, Society and Policy**  
**November 2014**



## ISSP Website Launch

The ISSP's [new website](#) is now officially live! ISSP and uOttawa staff have been working hard over the past few months to revamp and update our website with a brand new design. You will still find much of our original content, including our Research and Publications page, where you can access many of the reports published by the ISSP on science and technology policy.

Special thanks go to Rachel So (ISSP Research Consultant) and Sarah Farewell (our long-standing work-study student) as well as Karine Proulx (Marketing and Communications Manager, Faculty of Arts).

We are still working out some of the kinks and will be updating the site frequently in the coming weeks. Check it out and let us know what you think!

Please e-mail any comments or suggestions to us at [issp@uottawa.ca](mailto:issp@uottawa.ca).



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## ISSP Twitter Account



We are pleased to announce that our new Twitter handle, [@ISSP\\_uOttawa](#) is up and running! Follow us and keep up to date on everything ISSP-related!

You can also check out photos and videos of our past events on [Flickr](#) and our [Vimeo](#) channel!



## Upcoming Event

The ISSP will be hosting a talk by Dr. Joachim Knebel, Head of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering at the [Karlsruhe Institute of Technology](#) in Germany. The talk, which will cover energy transition and related policy changes in Germany, will be held on December 11 at 1 pm. The event will take place in room 124 of the [Lamoureux building](#) on the University of Ottawa's main campus.

Stay tuned for more details!



## ISSP Network Member Activities

ISSP Director Marc Saner, Core Group member Scott Findlay, and Fellow Jeff Kinder participated in the [5th Annual Science Policy Exchange: The State of Innovation in Canada](#) on October 3 in Montreal, which ISSP Fellow Paul Dufour helped organize. Panel topics included: "Business Innovation in Canada: Are We Lagging Behind?," "Intellectual Property and New Technology: The Pros and Cons of Patents in Innovation," and "Bioethics and Law: Bridging the Gap Between Innovative Technologies and Policy."

Scott Findlay presented a special keynote address at the event entitled "Governing in the Dark: Evidence, Accountability and the Future of Canadian Science."



ISSP Core Group member Brenda Wilson hosted UK expert Dr. Stuart Hogarth, Senior Research Fellow at the Department of Social Science, Health and Medicine, King's College London. He presented the talk "Blockbuster diagnostics? Reflections on the political economy of diagnostic innovation." The event took place on October 16.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

- Marc Saner presented a talk on converging technologies at the [World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology \(COMEST\) Extraordinary Session](#) in Quebec City. Jointly organized by UNESCO and the Science and Technology Ethics Commission of Quebec and hosted at Laval University, this event marks the first time a COMEST Extraordinary Session was held in North America.
- Some of the topics discussed include the relations between COMEST and the International Bioethics Committee (IBC), the ethics of converging technologies

and the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

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Marc Saner was recently named a Fellow at the [Balsillie School of International Affairs \(BSIA\)](#), an institute for advanced research, education, and outreach in the fields of global governance and international public policy.

BSIA is an equal collaboration among the Centre for International Governance Innovation, the University of Waterloo, and Wilfrid Laurier University with the aim of developing new solutions to humanity's critical problems, improving global governance, and enhancing the quality of people's lives around the world.



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## Recent Science Policy Publications



Paul Dufour recently co-published a book chapter with Kathryn O'Hara in [How Ottawa Spends 2014-15: The Harper Government - Good to Go?](#). The chapter, entitled "How Accurate is the Harper Government Misinformation? Scientific Evidence and Scientists in Federal Policy Making," discusses the Harper government's incursion into science policy in Canada and the emergence of an activist research community as a result of the muzzling of government scientists.

Paul Dufour also published an article in the September 14 edition of *Embassy*, entitled "[The Case for Science Diplomacy](#)." He discusses his participation in a training course held in Trieste, Italy, that was jointly organized by the World Academy of Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, where participants from all over the world explored emerging issues of science diplomacy. The article examines scientific collaboration and diplomacy, with special attention to the role that Canada plays in this "global science theatre."

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Marc Saner and Scott Findlay were interviewed by the University of Ottawa's English-language student newspaper, *The Fulcrum*, about Canada's war on science.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Evidence for Democracy (E4D), a non-profit, non-partisan group based in Ottawa that advocates for the transparent use of science and evidence in public policy and government decision-making, in collaboration with Simon Fraser University, recently published a report

entitled "[Can Scientists Speak?](#)"

This report suggests that Canada's federal scientists are in many cases not as free to communicate the results of their research as their American counterparts. The authors graded 16 Canadian federal departments and found that all but one department scored lower than the US average for 2013.

Read the full report [here](#).

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