

# ISSP news

Institute for Science, Society and Policy  
November/December 2016



## Message from the director of the ISSP



Dr. Monica Gattinger

Dear Readers,

The past few months have been full of activities and events within ISSP's three activity streams: outreach, research, and teaching/training.

In outreach, we held the first [panel](#) of our scheduled **2016-2017 panel series**, an expert discussion of how to approach the societal opportunities and challenges posed by new gene-editing techniques. The panel was co-sponsored by Genome Canada. We also welcomed Dr. **Dee Williams** to the Institute as our **Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Science and Society** for the 2016-2017 academic year. Dr. Williams will travel intermittently between uOttawa and Anchorage, Alaska, where he currently serves as the Deputy Director of the Alaska Regional Office of the US Geological Survey. In addition, we now offer a **brown bag lunch (BBL) seminar series**, designed as relaxed gatherings where people can talk about their ongoing research, and

which we hope to offer during the last week of each month during the academic year. Our last three BBLs have featured: ISSP core member, Dr. **Dan Paré**, who discussed *Situating Open Government Data: A crossroads in government-citizen relationships?*; Dr. **Stephen Bird**, Associate Professor in Political Science at Clarkson University and 2016-2017 Fulbright

Visiting Research Chair in Governance and Public Administration at uOttawa, who presented *Three Agendas: Smart housing, microgrids, and energy conflict*, and Dr. **Matthew Wallace**, Senior Program Officer at the International Development Research Centre, who discussed *Science policy in the global south: towards an ecosystem approach*.

In research, the Institute continues to move forward with its **@Risk project**, which focuses on how to reconcile tensions that can arise among risk management, democratization, and evidence-based decision-making. Following a well-attended [workshop](#) last spring, we submitted a SSHRC Partnership Development grant proposal to support ongoing research on this topic during the next two years. Within [Positive Energy](#), the ISSP's three-year research project that focuses on strengthening public confidence in energy development, we organized two major events. In June 2016, we held a workshop attended by senior leaders from the policy, regulatory, industry, environmental NGO, Indigenous, and academic sectors. Its purpose was to help launch a new Positive Energy research stream addressing the role of public authorities in energy decision-making. In October 2016, in collaboration with the [Canada West Foundation](#), we hosted a full-day conference called "[ENGAGE](#)," which was designed to examine the evolving role of communities in energy decision-making. The conference built upon the momentum of Positive Energy's April 2016 release of the research report [FAIR ENOUGH: Assessing Community Confidence in Energy Authorities](#), and presented the study's overall research findings in the report [A MATTER OF TRUST: The Role of Communities in Energy Decision-Making](#).

In teaching and training, we are very proud to partner with [Mitacs](#) on the inaugural year of the [Canadian Science Policy Fellowship](#) program, which has placed 11 post-doctoral fellows and faculty in science-policy positions in various federal departments and agencies in Ottawa. In addition, ISSP Collaborative Master's program student **Simon Lester** presented "[Microbeads: Canadian Regulation & the Plasti-Berg](#)," a literature review prepared by ISSP master's students, at the Lake Helen Community Centre during a community meeting in May.

Finally, as always, many of our Institute members are highly active in their own research, teaching and outreach programs - we encourage you to see a small sampling for yourselves in our Member Activities section at the end of this newsletter.

Sincerely,  
Monica Gattinger



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## Spotlight: Dr. Nathan Young

This issue of the SSP News shines the spotlight on Dr. **Nathan Young**, Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of the School of Sociological and Anthropological Studies.

Dr. Young's research focuses on the role of scientific, experiential, and local/traditional knowledge in environmental governance and decision-making. He studies the promises and pitfalls of policy approaches such as evidence-based management, co-management, and

adaptive co-management, with a particular emphasis on aquatic and marine environments. He also conducts research on public engagement with science, particularly the notions of citizen-science, knowledge exchange, and knowledge mobilization.

"Science plays a critical role in modern governance and decision-making," says Dr. Young, "but scientific inquiry and expertise alone cannot answer many of the ethical and values-based questions raised by environmental problems and conflicts. The key is to find the right role for science in responsible governance of contested environments. Thankfully, our views of science are changing, and scientific inquiry is no longer considered to be separate from society. Once we realize that science and scientists are in constant dialogue with society, bridge-building between science and society becomes more possible and feasible. Governments, institutions, and private companies are all beginning to experiment with different forms of science-society engagement, some more successfully than others. It makes for an exciting and rapidly-changing field of study."



Dr. Nathan Young

[Website](#)



## 28 September 2016: ISSP Panel - Challenges of governing advances in gene editing



Left to right, Dr. Cindy Bell, Executive Vice President, Corporate Development at Genome Canada; Dr. Eric Meslin, President and CEO of the Council of Canadian Academies, Professor Jason Delborne, Genetic Engineering and Society Center, North Carolina State University; Gary Marchant, Regents' Professor of Law and Faculty Director and Faculty Fellow, Center for Law, Science & Innovation, Arizona State University; Professor Monica Gattinger, ISSP Director; Dr. Natalie Brender, National Director of Genomics in Society, Genome Canada; Professor Brenda Wilson, School of Epidemiology, Public Health and Preventative Medicine, University of Ottawa; Dr. Stewart Fast, Senior Research Associate, ISSP; and Professor Vardit Ravitsky, Department of Social and Preventative Medicine, Université de Montréal.

The ISSP, together with [Genome Canada](#), sponsored an expert panel discussion of how to approach the societal opportunities and challenges posed by new gene editing techniques such as CRISPR. ISSP Director, Professor **Monica Gattinger**, chaired the event, which was the first of the ISSP's panel series for the 2016-

The speakers included: Professor **Jason Delborne**, Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources, Genetic Engineering and Society Center, North Carolina State University; Professor **Gary Marchant**, Regents' Professor of Law and Faculty Director and Faculty Fellow, Center for Law, Science & Innovation, Arizona State University; Professor **Vardit Ravitsky**, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, Université de Montréal; and Professor **Brenda Wilson**, School of Epidemiology, Public Health and Preventative Medicine, Core Member of the ISSP, University of Ottawa. Dr. **Eric Meslin**, President and CEO of the Council of Canadian Academies, was the moderator. Opening remarks were given by Dr. **Cindy Bell**, Executive Vice President, Corporate Development at Genome Canada.

The panel was video-recorded and is [available for viewing here](#). Individual panel [presentations are available here](#). Dr. Wilson [wrote a blog](#) for the ISSP following the gene-editing event.

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## Welcome to our new Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Science and Society, Dr. Dee Williams, Deputy Director of the Alaska Regional Office, US Geological Survey

This autumn Dr. **Dee Williams** joined the Institute for Science, Society and Policy as its Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Science and Society for the 2016-2017 academic year. Dr. Williams lives in Anchorage, Alaska, where he currently serves as the Deputy Director of the Alaska Regional Office of the U.S. Geological Survey - the science agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

His Fulbright project seeks to identify the most viable methods and metrics by which to advance a more systematic inclusion of Indigenous knowledge within the work of the Arctic Council, and more generally, among the diverse practitioners of Arctic science and regulatory policy. During the last 15 years, he has worked in close coordination with resource management agencies and stakeholder groups in the Arctic to plan, design, and direct a wide range of physical, biological, and social research to monitor and mitigate impacts from energy sector development and ongoing climate change. He holds a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology, with particular research expertise in resource management challenges involving Indigenous communities throughout the Pacific Rim. Prior to government service, he earned multiple degrees from Columbia University (New York City), and worked as a professor and consultant to international development organizations. He has published numerous books and articles in the field of environmental anthropology, and serves on multiple Boards of Directors and Technical Steering Committees concerned with the advancement of Arctic science.



Dr. Dee Williams



## Brown Bag Lunch Series

The Institute for Science, Society and Policy (ISSP) initiated a brown bag lunch (BBL) seminar series in 2016. The sessions are designed as informal gatherings where existing and potential ISSP members can share their ongoing research.

Our inaugural BBL was held on 31 March 2016, and featured ISSP Core Member, Dr. **Dan Paré**, Associate Professor in uOttawa's Department of Communication, who shared his research on *Situating Open Government Data: A crossroads in government-citizen relationships?*



Our first BBL of the 2016-2017 academic year was held on 27 September 2016, and featured Dr. **Stephen Bird**, Associate Professor in Political Science at Clarkson University and 2016/17 Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Governance and Public Administration at uOttawa. His presentation focused on his Fulbright research and was titled *Three Agendas: Smart housing, microgrids, and energy conflict*.

The second BBL was held on 25 October 2016, and featured Dr. **Matthew Wallace**, Senior Program Officer at the International Development Research Centre. He presented on *Science policy*

*in the global south: towards an ecosystem approach*.

Upcoming BBLs are scheduled for 28 February 2017 and 28 March 2017. Information about speakers and topics are forthcoming.

If you are interested in participating in the BBLs as presenter or attendee, please contact Dr. Dan Paré at [dpar2@uottawa.ca](mailto:dpar2@uottawa.ca) or Sherry Wasilow, ISSP Head of Operations at [swasilow@uottawa.ca](mailto:swasilow@uottawa.ca).



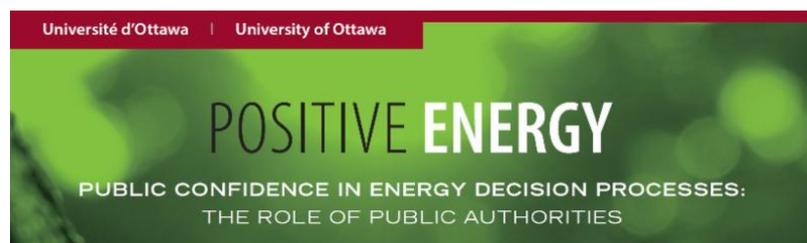
## High level workshop on how to strengthen public confidence in government energy decision-making authorities, 15-16 June 2016

On 15-16 June 2016, the Institute's [Positive Energy](#) project held a workshop attended by senior leaders from the policy, regulatory, industry, environmental NGO, Indigenous, and academic

sectors. Its purpose was to help launch a new Positive Energy research stream focused on how to build public confidence in public authorities involved in energy decision-making.

The workshop focused on a discussion paper written by Senior Fellow **Michael Cleland** that outlined key areas of challenge when it comes to public trust and confidence in public authorities responsible for energy policy, regulation and project decision-making.

"Most of the so-called social licence debate has centred for several years on the actions of project proponents; much less attention has been given to the roles of public authorities - policy makers, planners and regulators," said Cleland. "This gap will prove especially



important as we turn increasingly to the big questions around the low carbon energy transition."

The workshop helped identify key research questions and steps for this new research stream. These include how to strengthen policy-regulatory relationships, how to balance local/regional/national interests in energy policy, regulation and projects, and how to strengthen engagement, information and capacity in energy decision-making. A series of high-level symposia with senior energy leaders will be organized on each of these topics in 2017. Each symposium will feature a discussion paper detailing the main challenges and issues, along with possible means of addressing them. Closer to the end of 2017, a final report will roll up the research and recommendations.

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## ENGAGE Conference: Canadian Communities and Energy Decision-Making

On 5-6 October 2016, the [Positive Energy](#) project, in collaboration with the [Canada West Foundation](#), hosted an evening reception and full-day conference called "[ENGAGE: Canadian Communities and Energy Decision-Making](#)," a high-level conference releasing final research findings on this topic by Positive Energy.



Left to right: Professor Monica Gattinger, ISSP Director; Trevor McLeod, Director, Centre for Natural Resources Policy, CWF; The Honourable James Gordon Carr, Minister of Natural Resources; Mike Cleland, Senior Fellow at uOttawa; Martha Hall Findlay, President and CEO, CWF.

Building on the momentum of Positive Energy's April 2016 release of the report [FAIR ENOUGH: Assessing Community Confidence in Energy Authorities](#), the conference brought together energy leaders from the public, private, academic, Indigenous, and NGO sectors in Ottawa to discuss the benefits and challenges of community engagement and trust.

**Michael Cleland**, Senior Fellow at the University of Ottawa, was lead author on the research project by Positive Energy and CWF, exploring six case studies of proposed energy projects in communities in six provinces, including interviews and public-opinion surveys with local citizens and leaders. "This research gets to the heart of what is driving local opposition to energy development," said Cleland, "revealing that the reasons for opposition are more diverse, widespread and complex than what conventional wisdom has assumed them to be. It shows that energy-project decision-making processes would be more accepted if they are rethought and reconfigured - a process that will take time, money, and real engagement."

The final report, [A MATTER OF TRUST: The Role of Communities in Energy Decisions-Making](#), was released on 24 November 2016, and received strong media attention, including an [op-ed in the \*Globe and Mail\*](#).

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## ISSP Partners with Mitacs on Canadian Science Policy Fellowship Initiative

Federal science-policy capacity received a major boost this fall with the launch of the Canadian Science Policy Fellowship (CSPF) program. The initiative, which placed 11 post-doctoral fellows and faculty in various federal departments and agencies around Ottawa, was spearheaded by Dr. **Rob Annan**, Mitacs' former chief research officer, in collaboration with ISSP Core Member Dr. **Scott Findlay**, a professor of biology at the University of Ottawa. Dr. **Sarah Otto**, a theoretical biologist and director of the Biodiversity Research Centre at the University of British Columbia, first brought the idea to Mitacs' attention about two years ago.

The program works with research and policy communities in Canada to connect Ph.D. graduates with government hosts that can benefit from their expertise on policy challenges, while helping the graduates gain valuable experience and make important contacts. It draws inspiration from a long-standing S&T policy fellowship program managed by the [American Association for the Advancement of Science](#) (AAAS). The pilot group has already met with Science Minister **Kirsty Duncan**, who organizers say has become an enthusiastic supporter and champion of the program.

The ISSP draws on its rich network of scholars and senior practitioners to provide training and professional development to the Fellows, fostering their understanding of science policy, evidence-based decision-making, the policy process and machinery of government.

"I believe that the Mitacs CSPF will substantially enhance science policy capacity within governments," said Findlay, "as well as providing an efficient and effective conduit for government access to science policy expertise in external institutions, including universities and colleges, business, NGOs, and Indigenous communities."

Findlay noted that critical contributions were also made by Val Walker, formerly with Mitacs and now Vice President, Innovation and Skills at the Business Council of Canada, as well Rachael Maxwell, Mitacs policy advisor and currently lead on the CSPF. Mitacs is now accepting applications for fall 2017.

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## ISSP Network Member Activities

ISSP Adjunct Professor **Paul Dufour** published in July 2016 an article, "Priority setting in the knowledge ecosystem: Australia, the U.K., and U.S. all have their science policy goals. What should Canada's be?" in [The Hill Times](#).

ISSP Director, Professor **Monica Gattinger**, discussed the challenges of finding community consensus in energy decision making with *Canadian Press* reporter Bruce Cheadle in July 2016, "[Clean energy projects not immune from local opposition](#)."

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**Margaret McCuaig-Johnston**, Senior Fellow at ISSP, was in China in August and September 2016, where she represented the University of Ottawa at Prime



Minister Justin Trudeau's Gala Dinner in Shanghai with China's senior leadership. Margaret also attended the annual Canada/China Business Council Policy Conference and held bilateral meetings with senior government agencies in China and with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) to discuss the ISSP's

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ISSP Adjunct Professor Paul Dufour, is a co-author of "[Reflections on science advisory systems in Canada.](#)" This article is part of a series of papers compiled as a collection to coincide with the September 2016 [International Network for Government Science Advice \(INGSA\)](#) summit in Brussels.

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ISSP Director, Professor **Monica Gattinger**, was interviewed in the June 2016 (Issue 19) edition of *Pan European Networks: Science & Technology* for "[The University of Ottawa's Institute for Science, Society and Policy looks at the role of science in crafting public policy.](#)"

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ISSP Core Member **David Grondin** recently co-organized, with the support of ISSP, a workshop called "[Data, People, Objects: The Security Governance and Infrastructures of Contemporary Mobilities](#)" at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) on 30 September 30 and 1 October 2016. The workshop investigated how the rationalities of government, the policies, and the practices involved in the complex security infrastructures govern contemporary mobilities of (1) data, (2) people, and (3) objects/goods.

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ISSP Core Member **Rees Kassen** congratulates former uOttawa student and biologist **Anita Melnyk**, Ph.D. on her graduate internship with the [Council of Canadian Academies](#), beginning in July 2016.

ISSP Core Member Jeremy Kerr published an op-ed "Monarch butterflies: symbol or symptom?" in the [The Hill Times](#).

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**Stewart Fast**, Senior Research Associate at ISSP, published new research "[Assessing public participation tools during wind energy siting](#)" in [the Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences](#). The article examines the use of so-called community liaison committees as a public participation mechanism to reduce social friction during wind energy development in Ontario, Canada.

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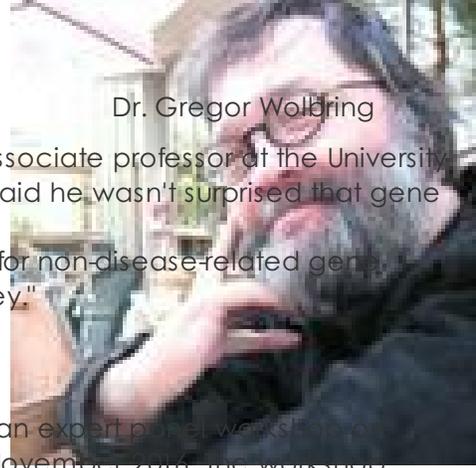
ISSP Senior Fellow **Gregor Wolbring** was interviewed in July 2016 by CNN reporter Jacqueline Howard for "[Americans wary of gene-editing, brain chips, synthetic blood.](#)"

The article noted that "[PewResearchCenter] researchers noticed that respondents who were more religious tended to be more wary of the emerging technologies and the more extreme or permanent the enhancement, the more likely it was to be seen as less acceptable. The survey also showed that [men tended to express](#)

[more enthusiasm](#) about potential human enhancements than women.

Since the gene-editing option was linked to preventing disease and the brain chip implant and synthetic blood interventions were not, Dr. Gregor Wolbring, an associate professor at the University of Calgary's Cumming School of Medicine in Canada, said he wasn't surprised that gene editing had more support.

It would be interesting to see what the results would be for non-disease-related gene editing, said Wolbring, who was not involved in the survey."



Dr. Gregor Wolbring

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[The Council of Canadian Academies](#) (CCA) undertook an expert panel workshop on science policy ideas under development in Alberta in November 2016. The workshop engaged national and international experts to explore various dimensions of sub-national science systems and the role of sub-national science policy. The five member Workshop Steering Committee includes ISSP Fellow, **Paul Dufour**, Adjunct Professor, uOttawa.

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**Simon Lester**, a student in the ISSP's Collaborative Master's program and at the Institute of the Environment, presented "[Microbeads: Canadian Regulation & the Plasti-Berg](#)," a literature review prepared by ISSP master's students, at the Lake Helen Community Centre during a community meeting in May 2016 to [discuss microplastics in the Great Lakes](#).

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ISSP Director, Professor **Monica Gattinger**, participated in a book launch of *The Harper Era in Canadian Foreign Policy: Parliament, Politics, and Canada's Global Posture* (UBC Press, 2016), co-edited by professors **Adam Chapnick** (Royal Military College) and **Christopher Kukucha** (University of Lethbridge) in October 2016. She presented her chapter on the Harper government's energy policy.

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