SSP news

News from the uOttawa Science, Society and Policy Network
June 2012

Policy as Science
Opinion
Scott Findlay

In 2007, I attended a workshop to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Bruntland Commission's publication of "Our Common Future". During a panel discussion devoted to a retrospective analysis of the impact of Bruntland on public policy, the audience was pinned down by a perfect fusillade of references to "the policy process". Bleeding from a dozen wounds (granted, mostly superficial, or so it seemed at the time), I pleaded for clemency. Said I: "I am but a humble natural scientist, so please forgive my ignorance, but what, precisely, is the policy process?"

"Thank you for the question," said one of the panelists, after only the briefest of covert glances heavenwards (in supplication, I suspected), "most scientists (I presume she meant natural scientists) don't understand the policy process."

"Assuredly," said I. "You see before you another lost lamb, more to be pitied than censured. Shepherd, my shepherd, save me from the unknown perils of the policy wilderness!"

Twenty minutes later, I was still lost, but less concerned about being so. Why? Because "the policy process" was, apparently, something that (natural) scientists

don't engage in, or if they do, their job was solely to pack some of the ingredients from cold storage, like so many overtrained pack mules. But they were underfoot in the kitchen, where the policy process unfolded in strange and mysterious ways its wonders to perform.

Read the rest of the article **here**.

Publications

Christou, C. & Saner, M. (2012). Governance of Emerging Technologies: Scan of International Institutions. *Institute for Science, Society and Policy.*

Saner, M. & Heafey, E. (2011). A Primer on Nanomaterials Regulation. *Institute for Science, Society and Policy.*

D. Allan Bromley Memorial Event 2012

For the first time in its history, the Bromley Event was expanded beyond Canada and the United States to include participants from China, France, Germany, India, Israel, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

This year also marked the inauguration of the **G20+ Ingenuity Network**, co-directed by Jonathan Linton, Nicholas Vonortas, and Marc Saner with its secretariat at the Institute for Science, Society and Policy.

The D. Allan Bromley Memorial Event 2012 was hosted by the University of Ottawa's Institute for Science, Society and Policy and sponsored by George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs, the UK High Commission and Mitacs.

View the agenda, participant and speaker biographies, participant presentations, and photos of the three-day event.

For more information on this year's event, click **here**.

Bringing Advanced Innovation to the Manufacturing Sector
William Bonvillian, Director, MIT Washington DC Office

This year's D. Allan Bromley Memorial Lecture was presented by William Bonvillian, Director of MIT's Washington DC Office. Mr. Bonvillian's talk focused on the recent downturn in the manufacturing sector, and raised potential solutions to the problem of a troubled manufacturing sector.

Accompanying this lecture is the working paper "Reinventing American Manufacturing: The Role of Innovation".

Call for papers

International Journal of Technoethics

Editor-in-Chief: Rocci Luppicini, University of Ottawa, Canada
Published: Quarterly

The Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Technoethics (IJT) would like to invite you to **submit a manuscript** for the next submission deadline, August 1, 2012.

View the the mission, coverage, and guidelines for submission to IJT.

All submissions and inquiries should be directed to the attention of:
Rocci Luppicini, Editor-in-Chief, International Journal of Technoethics
Email: **rluppici@uottawa.ca**

IJT is a member of the SSP Network.

Other News

ISSP SSHRC Grant on science-policy integration
Marc Saner has received funding through the SSHRC Public Outreach: Knowledge Dissemination Program to undertake knowledge mobilization activities on the topic of science-policy integration in the public service.

The grant will fund the creation and dissemination of policy briefs addressing challenges to effective science-policy integration, as well as a workshop in Spring 2013 on effective management at the science-policy interface.

Meeting
Philadelphia, PA, 3-Society meeting: History of Science Society (HSS), British Society for the History of Science (BSHS), Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science (CSHPS), 11-14 July, 2012.

Ruby Heap will be a member of an international panel that will discuss the impact of the pioneering work of US historian Margaret W. Rossiter, author of a landmark survey of the history of American women scientists. The panel will focus as well on Rossiter's recently published third volume, *American Women Scientists: Forging a New World since 1972* (2011).

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