

Notes on WTMC



In these Notes (12) on WTMC:

- WTMC receives re-accreditation
- Completed dissertations
- Inaugural lectures
- New forms of membership
- Annual meeting – register NOW

WTMC receives re-accreditation

Sally Wyatt (WTMC Director) sent out an email to the WTMC list in June with the good news about our ECOS accreditation. But it's always good to repeat good news. After a process that lasted more than a year, started by our former Director, Professor Karin Bijsterveld, we finally received formal notification that we can carry on doing our good work. The major concern of the committee was how to combine growth in numbers with excellence in quality. This will also be discussed during the Annual Meeting (see below).

Completed dissertations

Congratulations to the 'new doctors' - Clare, Anneloes and Louis who successfully defended their PhDs in the last few months:

- Clare Shelley-Egan on 13 May 2011 at Universiteit Twente, *Ethics in practice: responding to an evolving problematic situation of nanotechnology in society* (supervisors Prof. dr. Arie Rip & Dr. Marta Kirejczyk)
- Anneloes Roelofsen on 23 June 2011 at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, *Exploring the future of ecogenomics. Constructive technology assessment and emerging technologies* (supervisors Prof. dr. Joske Bunders & Dr. Jacqueline Broerse)
- Louis Neven on 1 September 2011 at Universiteit Twente, *Representations of the old and ageing in the design of the new and emerging. Assessing the design of ambient intelligence technologies for older people* (supervisor prof. dr Nelly Oudshoorn)

Inaugural lectures

Congratulations also to the 'new professors' – Loet Leydesdorff (Universiteit van Amsterdam), Tsjalling Swierstra (Maastricht University) and Robert Tijssen (Leiden University) – all of whom delivered their inaugural lectures in recent months.

New forms of membership

At its last meeting, the WTMC Board agreed to establish two new forms of membership. One recognises those more mature members of WTMC, who have now formally retired but who still have much to contribute to the field. Stuart Blume, Marta Kirejczyk, Arie Rip and Wim Smit are all now 'emeritus' members of WTMC. We tried to contact all former members who have retired in recent years. If we missed you, our apologies – please contact José Cornips (j.cornips@maastrichtuniversity.nl) and we will send you details.

The second new form of membership is for postdocs, who for whatever reason, are not yet eligible to become full members. If you completed your PhD within the past three years and are now working in a Dutch research group or university, you may be eligible (even if you didn't follow the WTMC training programme). We will hold an annual 'postdoc day', which is remarkably similar to a 'dissertation day'. We tried to contact all those we thought might be eligible. But if we missed you and you would like more details, contact José Cornips.

Annual Meeting, 8-9 December, Amsterdam

On the following pages you find more details on the forthcoming WTMC Annual Meeting – register by October 15, 2011.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME FOR WTMC ANNUAL MEETING,

8-9 December 2011

Felix Meritis, Keizersgracht 324, Amsterdam

Directions at: <http://www.felix.meritis.nl/en/about-felix-meritis/contact-and-route/>

We all saw the shocking pictures earlier this year, as a tsunami hit the coast of Japan, with immediate devastating loss of life. The damage to the Fukushima nuclear plant has longer term consequences, not only for the people living and working nearby, but more broadly for the future of nuclear power. The German and Swiss governments responded swiftly, announcing that they would phase out nuclear power stations over the coming years. What lessons can be learned, not only for those involved in energy policy but for STS? Nuclear power is arguably one of the foundational technologies for STS, though there has been relatively little attention for nuclear power within STS over the past decade. Many older STS scholars were involved in anti-nuclear (energy and/or weapons) movements. But, as Fukushima so dramatically showed, the problems did not go away. With the help of Bram Verhees, who has recently completed a PhD about the cultural legitimacy of nuclear power, we will debate what these events mean for policy and for STS itself.

We will also address a more mundane, though nonetheless important question of our own policy and practice, namely co-authoring. The pressure to publish and interdisciplinary cooperation sometimes lead to misunderstandings or outright conflicts about whose name should appear on publications. Different disciplines have different norms about the meaning of being first-named author. But analysing co-authorship patterns is itself an interesting topic for scientometricians. What does co-authorship tell us about a field, about careers? We will spend some time considering co-authorship as an object of analysis, after listening to Jarno Hoekman present some of his research about how co-authorship is constituted for medical publications. We will also reflect on co-authorship as a practice we do ourselves. Co-authoring can lead to much better output as colleagues combine their skills and expertise; it can also lead to hurt feelings and arguments, and bland compromises. How can we achieve the benefits while avoiding the pitfalls? What policies are in place? What are the implications for people at different career stages?

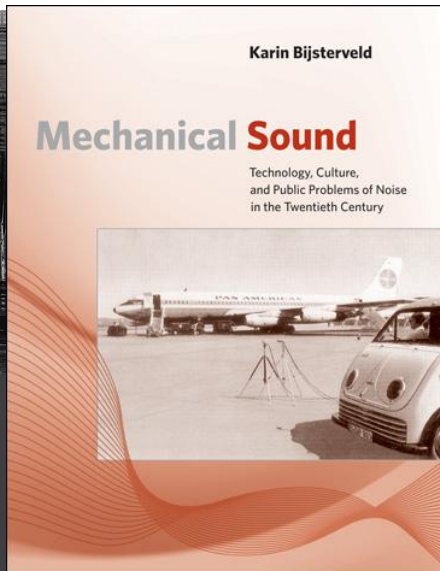
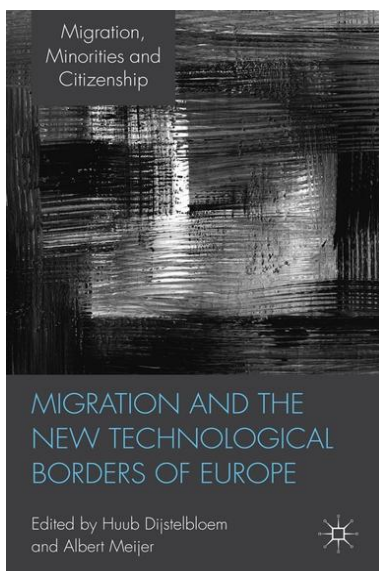
Two recent books will be discussed - *Mechanical Sound* (MIT Press, 2008) by Karin Bijsterveld and *Migration and the New Technological Borders of Europe* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011) edited by Huub Dijkstra and Albert Meijer. And we will also hear about two projects that have recently started – one about the politics of low carbon innovation (under the direction of Rob Raven) and another about bodily integrity in blemished bodies (under the direction of Jenny Slatman).

For registration, please contact José Cornips (j.cornips@maastrichtuniversity.nl). If you need a hotel room, please register by October 15, 2011.

Please bring with you: (1) copies of recent publications; and (2) [maybe especially relevant for the older members of WTMC] any artefacts you have of the anti-nuclear movement, such as badges, t-shirts, posters, pamphlets. These will be displayed during the meeting for others to look at.

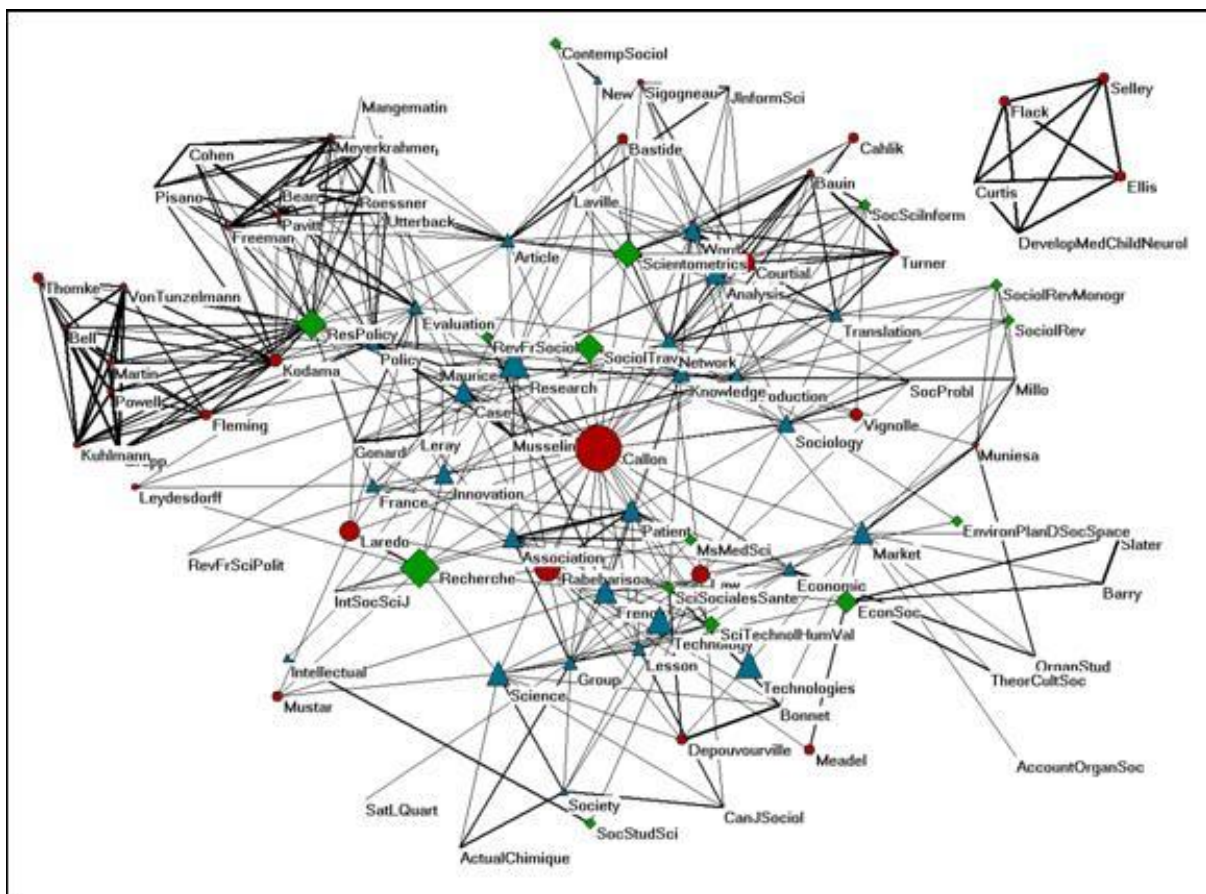
Thursday 8 December 2011

time	activity
11-11.30	Coffee – setting up publications & (anti-)nuclear artefacts
11.30-12.30	Welcome, introductions, update on WTMC policy issues (Sally Wyatt)
12.30-13.30	lunch
13.30-15.30	<i>After Fukushima: can STS still contribute to debates about nuclear power?</i> Discussion introduced by Bram Verhees (TUE), discussant (tbc)
15.30-16	tea
16-17	Discussion of <i>Migration & the New Technological Borders of Europe</i> edited by Huub Dijkstra (WRR) & Albert Meijer (UU) – with comments by Sjaak Koenis (UM) & Maarten Derksen (RUG)
17-17.30	New project – ‘The politics of low carbon innovation’, Rob Raven (TUE)
17.30-20	Drinks & dinner
20-21	<i>Optreding: Kim van Zeben: Syndroom van Zeben</i> (in het Nederlands)
21---	Informal drinks



Friday 9 December 2011

time	activity
9-9.30	coffee
9.30-10.30	Discussion of <i>Mechanical Sound</i> by Karin Bijsterveld (UM) – with comments from Sarah de Rijcke (Leiden) & Henkjan Honing (UvA)
10.30-11	New project – ‘Bodily integrity in blemished bodies’, Jenny Slatman (UM)
11-11.30	coffee
11.30-12.30	Co-authoring 1 – as object of study – presentation by Jarno Hoekman (TUE) on the constitution of authorship in medical publications
12.30-13.30	lunch
13.30-14.30	Co-authoring 2 – as practice within WTMC (small group discussion)
14.30-15	Reporting back – towards WTMC guidelines?
15-16	Close and farewell drinks



Authors, words & journals – based on Michel Callon's ISI journal publications

Full paper at: <http://www.leydesdorff.net/mcallon/index.htm>