

Societal Interactions Research Effort

Anthropology
Art
Chemistry
Civil Engineering
Communications
English
History
Mathematics
Medicine
Philosophy
Speech



Dix
Dickson
Vogt
Khushf
Robinson
Elliott
Best
Johnson
Munn Sanchez
Toumey
Priest
Ray
Lynn
November
Baird
Berube

Images

How do nanoscale images work as representations?

How, why do they misrepresent to different audiences?

- Convergence of science, social science, and the humanities—all play important roles in this research
- Image Group = Baird, Robinson, Vogt, Dickson, Johnson
- Funded by NSEC

Workshop planned for October 2007

- Includes scientists, instrument makers, image makers, digital media experts, etc.

Also, on-campus interactions with between humanists, artists and technical practitioners: e.g.,

- Chris Robinson, Co-PI: 'Role of Mechanical Environment on the Evolution of Tissue' (How non-scientists use the tools of their own disciplines to understand and communicate science)

Practices

How are scientific/engineering research practices changing because of nanotechnology policy?

- Focus on Chemical Industry Roadmap for Nanostructured Materials
- Role of roadmaps in shaping, disseminating scientific practices
 - (Ann Johnson, History)
 - Collaborations with UCSB, Chemical Heritage Foundation
- Anticipated NSF funding for project on nanomanufacturing with Thomas Crawford, Physics, USC, on knowledge silos in nanotechnology

2006-7 Theme: Looking at how nano is (*or is not*) creating demand for development of new theories and fundamental understandings of nanoscale phenomena

2007 Workshop: 'Engineering Theory in Nanotechnology'

- May 2-3 in Bielefeld, Germany.
 - ~6 practitioners from physics, chemistry, engineering
 - ~6-8 science studies scholars
 - Funded by NSEC, Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Forschung

Publics

Social Science Research on Public Perceptions of Nanotechnology (Susanna Priest, Communications)

- Mental Modeling to create a more nuanced account of how experts and ordinary people think about nano.
 - Public Opinion research in US, Europe, Canada
 - Funded by NSEC

South Carolina Citizens School of Nanotechnology: (Chris Toumey, NanoCenter)

- > 150 grads
- Presented 7 times, 2 times/year since Spring 04
- Funded by NSEC
 - Seeking further funding through ISE & other funding programs

Nanotechnology Undergraduate Education Grant (David Berube, Speech)

- Nano literature used in ENGL 101 with > 3,000 students
- nanoSTS 'cognate' to begin fall 07

Ethics

George Khushf (Phil), PI; Robert Best (Med), Dan Dix (Math)

- “SGER: Complexity, Systems, and Control in Nanobiotechnology: Developing a Framework for Understanding and Managing Uncertainty Associated with Radically Disruptive Technologies”
- Collaboration with 4 NSECs. Began Sept. 2006

David Berube (Speech)

- Communications Director for International Council on Nanotechnology
- 2006 NIRT Proposal submission on “Intuitive Toxicology”

Ed Munn Sanchez (Honors College) & Ann Johnson (History)

- Nationalism and National Competitiveness in Nanotechnology Policy
- 2007 Conference / 2009 Osiris on Science and National Identity
 - NSF & NEH proposals pending

Chris Toumey (NanoCenter)

- Democratization of Nano’s Public Sphere