

## **TRACK 17. FROM BIODIGITAL LIVES TO BIO-IT WORLDS: *IN-VIVO, IN-SILICO AND IN-VITRO* EMBODIMENTS AND DISSONANCES**

IT/digital technologies increasingly intersect with biological sciences in biobanks, clinical drug trials, database design and software interfaces, in web-based biological services and logistics (sequencing, DNA synthesis, etc), and in instruments, devices protocols and standards of many kinds (microarrays, high-speed sequencers, etc). If 'biodigital life' refers to transformations in contemporary notions of biological substance (for instance in the now substantive fields of 'bioinformatics' or 'systems biology'), 'BioIT worlds' refers to concomitant changes in economic, financial, and institutional organization of work and relations across heterogeneous settings. While much STS work has already been done on notions of 'convergence,' this track will explore ramifications of biodigital and BioIT processes. We invite contributions from historical, anthropological, sociological and other perspectives that highlight how recent pasts and near futures of knowing and doing in biological domains are affected by such changes. Potential sessions would include:

- Transformations in laboratories, clinics, offices and homes associated with databases, lab-robotics, and software virtualisations: what forms of aggregation, segmentation, assembly and sorting are taking place in biodigital processes? How do changes in speed, scale, availability, and retrievability of biodigital information affect people, things and relations in various settings, ranging from the experiment to the shopping mall?
- Bioscience publics and digital populations: how are publics, populations and interested groupings around biological knowledges affected as population level thinking encounters consumer-driven desires?
- Working and living in BioIT worlds: how are forms of identity, work/labour, authority, personhood and pedagogy altering as software interfaces, online services, and volumes of data expand? What kinds of work, ideas of self and other, and senses of belonging and relation are developing here?
- Shaping of BioIT and genomics by notions of markets, property, commodity, and value: how do processes of globalisation, regulation, standardisation embody relations of power, expectations and promises of economic value?
- Coalescences of genomics and Web 2.0: how do techniques, metaphors, infrastructures and practices move from network and web cultures into contemporary post-genomic sciences and medicine (for instance, in personal genomics, but also in translational medicine)? What is at stake in such translations?
- Analysing and theorising biodigital/BioIT worlds: what are the problems and potentials of researching the kinds of settings and processes mentioned above? How do existing STS conceptualisations of practice, performativity, doing, multiples and things fare? What alternative practices and performances of knowing need to be developed?

Abstracts of no more than 500 words should be sent by email (following website instructions) by 2010 March 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Convenors**

**Adrian Mackenzie** works in Centre for Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics (Lancaster) on contemporary forms of work, value, economy and speed in life sciences and biotechnologies; co-Director of Centre for Science Studies.

**Kate O'Riordan** works in Embodiment and digital media (ICTs), Embodiment and human biotechnology (genomics and cloning) in Media and Film at the University of Sussex.

**Ruth McNally** works in Centre for Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics (Lancaster) on contemporary forms of post-genomic sciences and publics, as well as digital research methods.

**Lawrence Busch** works on standards and economic regimes in food and agricultural biotechnologies in the Department of Sociology (MSU)/Centre for Social Aspects of Genomics (Lancaster).