

## **TRACK 40. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE NORTH-SOUTH DIVIDE IN AN EMERGING GLOBAL ORDER**

We propose to organize a series of sessions to engage with practices, performances, and transfer of science and technology (S&T) and their links with development, democracy and justice in an emerging global order. The session especially aims to focus on the world outside of EU and the USA and the connections and antagonisms between various regions with respect to science, technology and global change.

Science and technology rank high on the worldwide list of tools promising to foster economic growth, social well-being and environmental sustainability especially in the “global south.” These goals often assume the “transfer” of ideas, technologies, and related values from countries in the expert North to the lay South. Also, a significant part of STS tend to focus exclusively on Western science in northern countries and ignore wider roots, politics, context and relations of science and technology across regions. In both respects a shift in focus seems needed.

Nation states are not and have never been sovereign decision makers in matters of S&T. It is also increasingly difficult to imagine the world divided in monolithic blocks of North and South that are at different stages of development. This is made even more visible by the current spread of global technological infrastructures, rise of multinational corporations, and deep penetration of global governance structures into national boundaries. Therefore, it is important to go beyond the focus on S&T in nation-states in “the North” and look at this issue from a wider geographical and intellectual perspective. Furthermore, we think that the image that globalization is a process in which Western science and Western cultures are being rolled out over the world in unquestionable ways is highly problematic. We propose that epistemic and politics of the changing co-production of science, technology and society in a globalizing world need closer study in a symmetrical fashion across regions and hemispheres.

This track will engage with the links between S&T and notions of development, progress, democracy, justice, ethics, and newly emerging identity politics in non-Western settings. It will also focus on transfer of technology on the North-South axis. We aim to bring together papers that may be historical, ethnographic or quantitative. A list of possible themes or sessions is suggested as below.

1. Historical perspectives on interconnections between science, technology and development;

2. Risks and uncertainties of newly emerging technologies in politically, culturally and religiously diverse contexts;
3. Social and scientific practices and context of “transfer” of S&T from north to south;
4. Economic and social influence or impact of S&T “transfer” along the north-south axis;
5. Controversies on science and competing religious and identity politics in a globalizing world;
6. Changing geopolitical configurations and their effects on S&T agendas;
7. Science, economic growth and global and local inequalities.
8. Catching up with the South: New Spaces of Conversation with STS

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

### **Convenors**

**Christine Richter** is a PhD student at the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation in Enschede, The Netherlands. She studies the potential institutionalization and use of spatial information infrastructure in Indian a southern Indian city to tackle urban deprivations. ([http://www.spatialist.be/download/200906\\_delft/Richter\\_20090614\\_abstract.pdf](http://www.spatialist.be/download/200906_delft/Richter_20090614_abstract.pdf))

**Esha Shah** is a lecturer with Department of Technology and Society Studies at University of Maastricht. Her research interests include history and anthropology of technology with special reference to genealogies of development, and comparative politics of knowledge production across regions.

**Gianluca Miscione** is a associated professor at the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation in Enschede, The Netherlands. His research activity is focused on the interplay between geographic information and technologies, and organizational processes. ([http://www.itc.nl/about\\_itc/resumes/miscione.aspx](http://www.itc.nl/about_itc/resumes/miscione.aspx))

**Harro Maat** is a lecturer at the Technology and Agrarian Development group at Wageningen University. His research interest is technology in the context of colonial and post-colonial development, in particular technical arrangements,

research agendas and policies for food and agriculture.  
(<http://www.tad.wur.nl/UK/People/Faculty/Harro/>)

**Joana Rocha Dias** is a PhD student at the Centre for Social Sciences/School of Economics of the University of Coimbra - Portugal. Her research interests concern Intellectual Property Rights' governance institutions and management of collective rights associated with Traditional Knowledge.  
([http://www.ces.uc.pt/doutoramentos/gci/estudantes.php?action=info&id\\_investigador=222&id\\_lingua=1](http://www.ces.uc.pt/doutoramentos/gci/estudantes.php?action=info&id_investigador=222&id_lingua=1))

**Raoni Rajão** is a PhD student at the department of Organisation, Work and Technology at Lancaster University. He studies the changing roles and social implications related to the use of geographic information systems in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest. (<http://www.lums.lancs.ac.uk/profiles/raoni-guerra/>)

**Rob Hagendijk** is associate professor at the Department of Political Science and the Amsterdam Institute for Social Research of the Universiteit van Amsterdam. His main research interests are science, technology and development and the role of science and technology in Europe's foreign relations.  
(<http://home.medewerker.uva.nl/r.p.hagendijk/>)

**Yola Georgiadou** is a professor at the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation in Enschede, The Netherlands. Her research interests include the use of geo-information and geolCT in governance as well as the governance of geolCT and Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI).  
([http://www.itc.nl/about\\_itc/resumes/georgiadou.aspx](http://www.itc.nl/about_itc/resumes/georgiadou.aspx))