NEWSLETTER

November 2023 Edition (7)

Event Summary:

End of Term Celebration

Where: INTS 1113

Date: Wednesday, November 29th Time: 11:30AM- 5:45PM

Sponsored by Computer Science and Engineering Department

Keynote Speaker
Dr. Colin Milburn
UC Davis

Faculty is encouraged to support student attendance of the keynote address beginning at 12:30PM

November 29th, we will welcome Dr. Colin Milburn, UC Davis Director of STS to our campus. During his address and at a dinner following the group session Dr. Milburn's focus will be on issues commonly confronted by STS organizations as they construct a meaningful and impactful presence on the campus and community. Milburn brings a wealth of knowledge that will address the question, "what should STS look like on the UCR campus?" Having established a department at UC Davis and being involved in the successful implementation of STS on other UC campuses, Dr. Milburn is familiar with the struggle. Milburn's visit will be the first step to engage his expertise as decisions are made at UCR to adapt STS as it best fits our campus.

Submitted by: Linda Jean Hall, November 2023

Summary of Collaborations

November 14, 2023: Meeting with Ashley Beene, Grants Facilitator

Attendees: Connie Nugent (CNAS), Yolanda Moses (Anthropology), Flip Tanedo (Physics), Ashley Beene (Grants), and Linda Jean Hall (Global Studies)
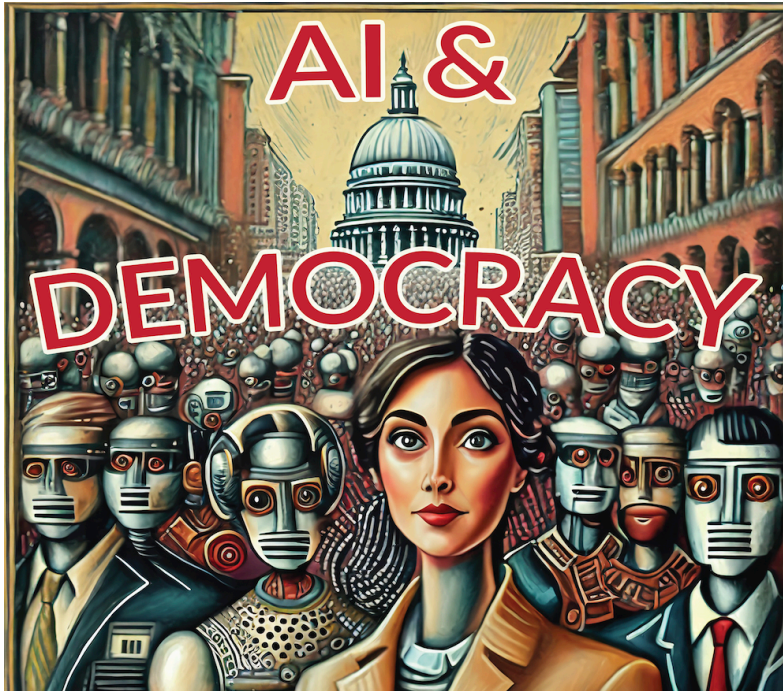
Summary: After familiarizing Ms. Beene with the objectives of the UCR STS Initiative, an agreement was reached to pursue National Science Foundation funding to support a large conference and to concurrently investigate long-term opportunities with this organization. Work for the conference project is underway and the steering committee along with participating collaborators will need to decide in the next 30 – 60 days on a project focus of shared interest that will meet the expectations of NSF grantors.

November 14, 2023: Meeting with Richard Edwards, xCite Director

Attendees: Rajiv Gupta (Computer Science), Yolanda Moses (Anthropology), Richard Edwards (xCite), Flip Tanedo (Physics), Linda Jean Hall (Global Studies)

A welcoming by the steering committee was given to Dr. Edwards which included a nuanced discussion of differences and similarities in mission and purpose of xCite and the STS Initiative. Particular attention was paid to the need to develop projects which in particular ways reflect and will support the missions of university offices and the diversity-centric mantras of UCR. The meeting revealed a shared interest in future collaborations in three areas: community outreach, the development of minor and certificate pathways, and the support of creative merit and promotion strategies for faculty.

Submitted by: Linda Jean Hall, November 2023

The Conference on AI & Democracy

November 30 - December 2, 2023,
TSAI Auditorium, Loeb House & Harvard Kennedy School

ABSTRACT

*Emergent A.I. technologies are raising ethical and political questions that cut to the heart of what it means to be a democratic citizen in the 21st century. However, the public conversation on A.I. has been dominated by tech industry leaders who insist that regulating A.I. is mostly a matter for technical experts. Furthermore, recurrent arguments for prioritizing technological innovation and pursuing global industry dominance have foreclosed wider debate and reinforced a laissez-faire approach to A.I. development in the U.S. Serious cross-sectoral dialogue and public mobilization are needed if we are to change course.   We aim to animate political consciousness about A.I., generate concrete proposals for action both in the U.S. and across national borders, and compel government and industry leaders to move swiftly and decisively to bring greater political accountability to this sector. This event, co-hosted by the Program on Science, Technology, and Society and the Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School, **calls for a people's movement to bring A.I. development under democratic control and steer it in the service of a progressive human future.**   The three-day event will bring together leading voices on A.I. and related policy issues and feature prominent figures from government, civil society, academia, and the private sector. MIT professor Sherry Turkle will deliver a keynote lecture on the evening of November 30. Targeted workshops on December 1 will assess promising fields of action ranging from federal oversight to labor activism, with panels focusing on Labor and Workers, Competition and Security, Regulation and Government, Transparency and Democracy, and Social Movements and NGOs. On the final day, smaller committees will produce working reports that can be widely circulated to stimulate forward movement in the effort to control A.I. before it controls us.*

Registration Link: https://airtable.com/appdEhGPi9PSUJeLr/shr3VnhhuYgiCTbgc

Submitted by: Linda Jean Hall, November 2023

EASST-4S STS conference 2024 hosted by Athena Institute

In July 2024, the Athena Institute at VU Amsterdam will be hosting the largest quadrennial conference in the field of Science, Technology & Society (STS), combining the communities of EASST and 4S.

The Athena Institute is glad to announce that we will be hosting the international joint EASST-4S conference from **16 till 19 July 2024**. This conference brings together academics and researchers in the broad field of Science, Technology & Society (STS).

The theme of the 2024 conference will be: **Making and Doing Transformations**. More information will follow on the [Athena Institute website](#).

About the EASST-4S conference

Every four years, the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST) and the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) jointly organise an international STS conference. Since the first event in 1982 this will be the 12th joint conference, which will once again involve scholars from many different academic institutions all over the world.

https://vu.nl/en/news/2023/easst-4s-sts-conference-2024-hosted-by-athena-institute

Submitted by: Linda Jean Hall, November 2023

A Place for Science and Technology Studies

Observation, Intervention, and Collaboration
232 pp., 6 x 9 in, 10 b&w illus.

- Paperback
- ISBN: 9780262546942
- Published: January 9, 2024
- Publisher: The MIT Press

An exploration of science and technology studies in eight different places, and the possibilities that arise for observation, intervention, and collaboration.

Where does science and technology studies (STS) belong? In *A Place for Science and Technology Studies*, Jane Calvert takes readers through eight different rooms—the laboratory, the conference room, the classroom, the coffee room, the art studio, the bioethics building, the policy room, and the ivory tower—investigating the possibilities and limitations of each for STS research.

Drawing from over a decade of work in synthetic biology, Calvert explores three different orientations for STS—observation, intervention, and collaboration—to ask whether there is a place for STS, which, as an undisciplined field, often finds itself on the periphery of traditional institutions or dependent on more generously funded STEM disciplines. Using examples of failures and successes and tackling enduring concerns about the relations between social scientific researchers and their fields of study, Calvert argues for an approach to STS that is collaborative yet allows for autonomy.

https://mitpress.mit.edu/9780262546942/a-place-for-science-and-technology-studies/

Submitted by: Linda Jean Hall, November 2023