



CNS Occasional Speaker Series

Widening the Circle of Nano Research: A Case for Reflective Action Research in Flemish Society

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Friday, 27 October 2006
11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
Biodesign Institute Auditorium

Drawing on the hard lessons learned from the public controversy over genetically modified crops in Europe, policy makers, scientists and technologists have begun to recognize the need for *upstream* public involvement to address societal implications of nanotechnologies.

This talk describes the **Nanotechnologies For Tomorrow's Society** project. It outlines the Technology Assessment framework that underlies a reflective action research approach and motivates to co-shape nanotechnology developments in Flanders. It is an open, experimental model of social science research that respects the undetermined nature of nanotechnology, discovers and reflects on nano-researchers' motives and thinking, and allows open debate on the economic and social forces that shape the technology. The research method reveals trajectories and suggests how to adjust them to better fit society's needs.

The speakers are members of the coordinating team of Belgium's "Nanotechnologies For Tomorrow's Society" that brings together scientists, stakeholders, and interested citizens to construct sustainable trajectories collectively.

The Center for Nanotechnology in Society at Arizona State University facilitates the involvement of the general public in nanoscale research and development, to build new capabilities for understanding and governing the societally transforming power of nanotechnology. Funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation. #0531194.