



The Center for
Nanotechnology in Society
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. David H. Guston, Professor of Political Science;
Director, The Center for Nanotechnology in Society at
Arizona State University;
Associate Director, Consortium for Science, Policy &
Outcomes, Arizona State University

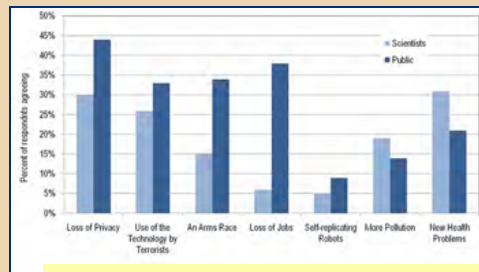
In the five years since being established as a
Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center
under the National Science Foundation, the
Center for Nanotechnology in Society at Arizona
State University has pioneered the concept of
anticipatory governance to guide its research
methods of **real-time technology assessment
(RTTA)**. But what, exactly, are those research
methods? What does anticipatory governance
and RTTA look like as implemented by social
scientists?

To answer those questions, and to begin the
process of establishing forums through which to
teach and transfer its methodologies to other
scholars, last fall CNS-ASU conducted a
workshop at the inaugural meeting of the Society
for the Study of Nanoscience and Emerging
Technologies (S.NET). The workshop was a
prototype for an extended methods course CNS-
ASU is planning for winter, 2011. In the half-day
S.NET workshop, different CNS-ASU principal
investigators presented short sessions describing
the quantitative and qualitative techniques they
use to conduct real-time technology assessment,
shaped by the guiding principal of anticipatory
governance.

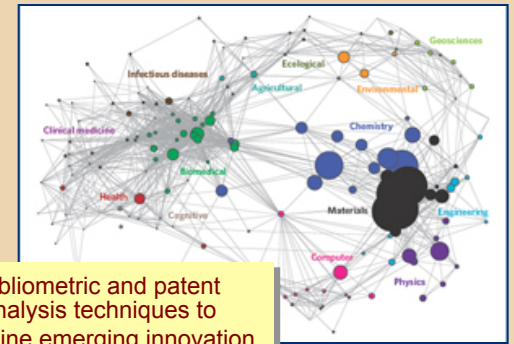
The CNS-ASU research techniques presented at the
workshop included:



Techniques to develop plausible
scenarios of technological futures



Public opinion surveys to gauge attitudes
towards and understanding of
nanotechnology



Bibliometric and patent
analysis techniques to
examine emerging innovation
systems.



The configuration and
evaluation of public
deliberative exercises on
emerging technologies

Participant feedback regarding the prototype workshop was
very positive. Attendees valued the professional networking, the
overview and diversity of approaches presented, learning what
social and natural scientists consider to be societal issues, and
the high-quality supporting materials.



Research,
education and
outreach activities at
the Center for Nanotechnology in Society
at Arizona State University are supported
by the National Science Foundation under
cooperative agreement #0531194.