

CNS-ASU Hosts Third Annual S.Net Conference

Three years ago, CNS-ASU was instrumental in the formation of the Society for the Study of Nanoscience and Emerging Technologies (S.NET), an international association that promotes open intellectual exchange towards the advancement of knowledge and understanding of nanotechnologies in society.

The society pursues its mission primarily through the organization of an annual meeting. CNS-ASU utilized the first such meeting in 2009 to begin the process of teaching/transferring its concepts and methodologies of anticipatory governance and real-time technology assessment. Last fall, CNS-ASU continued to extend its outreach and advance the critical reflection of nanotechnologies by hosting the third annual S.Net conference at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona.



Merlyna Lim was inspired to produce this work of art while listening to the final plenary session on *Imagining the Future of S.Net*.



Arie Rip (above) kicked off the first plenary session about ethical dilemmas associated with geoengineering, i.e., the use of technologies to control climate.

The conference program was packed with 44 panels and six plenary sessions that covered diverse topics, including: immigration and emerging technologies; emerging technologies in medicine and food; toxicity and risk of nanomaterials; how nanotechnologies are portrayed in media; governance of ethically controversial emerging technologies; trends in industry and union perspectives; issues of gender, race, and other inequalities in emerging technologies; science policy and regulatory implications of emerging technologies; engaging the public; responsible innovation in public and private sectors; anticipating future commercial applications; how emerging technologies are represented in imagery, language and writing.



Conference attendees had a chance to bask in Tempe's beautiful mid-November weather during an outdoor break.

In addition to the presentations, the conference featured optional field trips, a night out for students, a poster session and a silent auction. Field trips included a walking tour of Tempe to explore and uncover commonplace and emerging technologies in Tempe's urban setting, and a walk-through of the Phoenix Gateway neighborhood to learn about the multiple environmental sustainability challenges that residents who live there face.

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