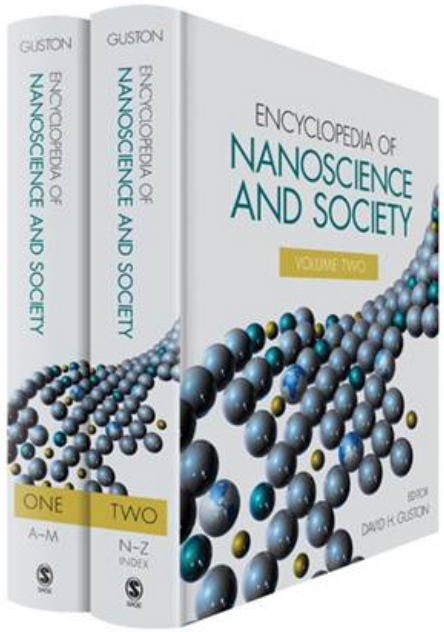
The Center for Nanotechnology in Society
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Curious about the Role of Nanoscience? New Encyclopedia has Answers

Nanoscience has garnered billions of dollars of funding and has been hailed as ushering in the Next Industrial Revolution. But, for such a richly anticipated field, it has made its way into products all around us without much fanfare while popular media entertain us with visions of nanotechnology as cornucopia or Armageddon.

Somewhere in between are social scientists, ethicists and others reflecting on our understanding of the broad implications of nanotechnology, gauging its promises and risks, assessing the impacts of policy decisions, and communicating the meaning of nanoscience research. The outcome of this middle ground is the newly-released two-volume *Encyclopedia of Nanoscience and Society*, published by SAGE Publications, Inc. Edited by David H. Guston, director of the Center for Nanotechnology in Society at Arizona State University, this resource isn't designed for the scientist or engineer, but for the rest of us who have plenty of questions about nanotechnology but are afraid to ask.



The Encyclopedia contains approximately 425 entries by contributors from a variety of disciplines – sociology and psychology, economics and business, science and engineering, computing and information technology,
philosophy, ethics, public policy, and more. They bring varied perspectives to the questions of nanotechnology in society in such general topic areas as:

- Ethical issues
- Social issues
- Risk assessment
- Environmental issues
- Military uses and issues
- Converging technologies
- Agriculture and food safety
- Health, safety and medical ethics
- Commercial and economic issues
- Educational and training issues
- Law, policy and regulation
- Philosophy and the human condition
- National security and civil liberties
- Technology "haves" and "have-nots"
- Computing and information technology

The *Encyclopedia of Nanoscience and Society* provides an accessible and jargon-free guide to what these issues and challenges are all about. It also includes helpful aids such as a chronology, a resource guide and a glossary.

> It is possible that both perspectives – next industrial revolution or just hype – are correct. Nanoscience and nanotechnology could at some time emerge as the engines of one of the most spectacular transformations of human societies, but it also could be that we started down this path led more by our hopes and fears than by reason, more by a sense of adventure than a sense of responsibility. It is challenges like these that make an encyclopedia of nanoscience and society a necessity.
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> David H. Guston

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

For more information including how to order the encyclopedia, visit the SAGE website at http://www.sagepub.com/books/Book233289?siteId=sage-us&prodTypes=any&q=encyclopedia+of+nanoscience

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