

Workshop on Nanotechnology, Equity and Equality

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On November 20-28, 2008, CNS-ASU and the Technology Policy and Assessment Center at Georgia Institute of Technology co-sponsored a workshop on **Nanotechnology, Equity and Equality**. The goal of the workshop was to foster a rich interchange that would change how participants see the ways emerging nanotechnologies are likely to affect various groups in society as well as the structure of societies and economies, both national and global.



The workshop brought together scholars and practitioners who approached the topic from several perspectives: those managing nanoscience and nanotechnology funding programs, scientists and engineers developing nanotechnologies in the laboratory or industrial settings, scholars of the social context of nanotechnology, and analysts from a variety of fields who have given thoughtful consideration to issues of equity/inequity and equality/ inequality, especially in the context of emerging technologies.

The papers that were presented at the workshop are being developed into the third installment of the *Yearbook of Nanotechnology in Society*.

Given what we currently know about nanotechnologies, what are the likely consequences for equality and fairness of the technologies on the near-term horizon? What features of nanoscience and nanotechnology enterprise are contributing to those consequences?

Given what we know about equality and fairness, what is the variety of possible consequences of nanotechnologies over the longer term? What can be done now to affect the probabilities of the various possibilities?