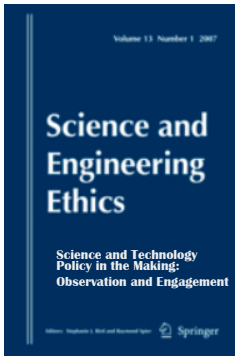
The Center for Nanotechnology in Society
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

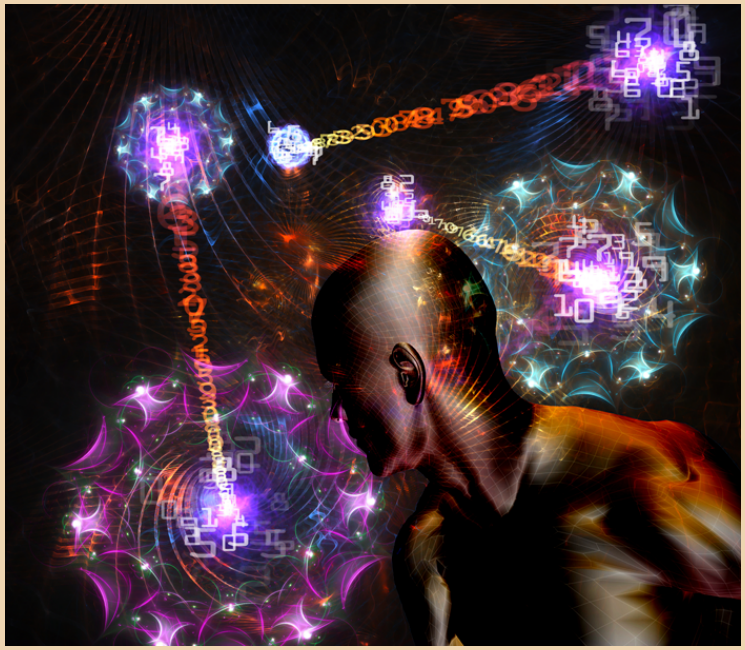
CNS-ASU Authors Produce Special Issue of Science and Engineering Ethics



Last year, Springer Press called upon the exceptional collection of international scholars affiliated with The Center for Nanotechnology in Society at Arizona State University to guest edit a special issue of its journal, *Science and Engineering Ethics.* The issue's theme was "Science and Technology Policy in the Making: Observation and Engagement."

The December, 2011 issue (Volume 17, Number 4) features guest editors Erik Fisher of CNS-ASU and Stephanie J. Bird, a neuroscientist whose current research interests focus on neuroethics as well as the ethical, legal and social policy implications of research and technology in general. The issue consists of articles and commentaries from an international array of science and technology studies (STS) scholars affiliated to varying degrees with CNS-ASU.

The issue offers a survey of cutting-edge, intervention-oriented forms of publicly engaged research. This research plays out in diverse cultural and institutional settings, from town halls and laboratories to shopping malls and bureaucracies.



The special issue also provides a forum for scrutinizing the assumptions, methods and purposes of STS-informed public engagement in science and technology (i.e., that lay publics can reframe, reshape and redirect science and technology when they participate in policy decisions earlier and more actively).

The issue is comprised of nine papers that reflect various modes of engagement. Each article is followed by a dedicated commentary, organized into three divisions (three papers and their commentaries in each division) that correspond to the *observation, design* and *attestation* of engagement.

The collection of articles and commentary pieces does not look at the social and ethical issues that are associated with emerging science and technologies *per se*, but at the efforts to facilitate dialogue, debate and deliberation among diverse public stakeholders about such issues. Nearly all convey a sense of experimentation regarding the approaches they describe.

Individually and as a whole, the articles in this collection offer a range of newly experimental forms of publicly engaged STS scholarship that inspires both confidence as well as caution.

Dr. Erik Fisher, Assistant Professor
School of Politics and Global Studies , and The Center for Nanotechnology in Society at Arizona State University

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