The Center for Nanotechnology in Society
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Advancing the Field of Socio-Technical Integration

The Socio-Technical Integration Research (STIR) project has shown that, under certain conditions, embedding humanists into nanotechnology and other laboratories yields concrete results. When the STIR protocol is used frequently and in a collaborative manner, laboratory researchers alter their R&D practices in light of newly considered socio-ethical aspects.

To take stock of the emerging field of socio-technical integration, Fisher organized the inaugural Communities of Integration (CoI) workshop at ASU in May 2013. This brought together seven distinctive socio-technical integration projects. Participants assessed the state of their research and compared the goals, methods, and assumptions of each approach.

The second CoI workshop is being held at the University of Waterloo this June.

Drawing on his work with the STIR project, **Dr. Erik Fisher** presented to the President's Bioethics Commission on how including ethicists on a research team might affect change in scientific research decisions and under what conditions socio-technical integration generates productive interdisciplinary collaboration.

Video of the meeting and Fisher's testimony may be viewed at http://www.tvworldwide.com/events/bioethics/140210/

Dr. Fisher leads STIR as well as the CNS-ASU Real-Time Technology Assessment (RTTA 4) thrust, which aims to understand the dynamics of nanoscale science and engineering (NSE) laboratories through ethnographic and other methods. He is also an associate editor for the *Journal of Responsible Innovation*.

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