

Nanotechnology and society issues illustrated through “Three Big Ideas”

One of the central collaborations of CNS-ASU’s Education and Outreach has been with another NSF-funded project, the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NISE Net, NSF #0940143). One of NISE Net’s original learning goals included a recognition of the societal and ethical implications of nanotechnology.

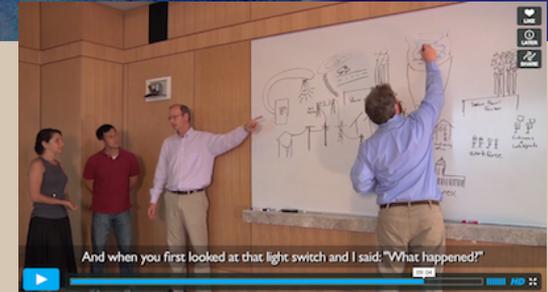
Because including social implications of science represents somewhat of a departure from traditional science museum content, CNS-ASU’s work with NISE Net has been particularly fruitful.

As part of a training program for museum floor staff, a series of videos on nano and society was developed starring two CNS-ASU faculty. The series focuses on ways to broach social and ethical issues of with the general public, focusing on “Three Big Ideas” of technology and society.

The three big ideas of the series are

1. *Values* shape technologies
2. Technologies affect *social relationships*
3. Technologies work because they’re part of *systems*

The videos use real-world technologies – cell phones, light switches and even a simple speed bump -- as examples to demonstrate how the Three Big Ideas play out in our daily lives.



They also take the time to discuss the innovation systems that bring nanotechnology products into the mainstream. This makes the Big Ideas even more applicable to guiding discussions around emerging technology.

The video series is available online at <http://vimeo.com/channels/nanoandsociety>

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