



The Center for
Nanotechnology in Society
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Talking about the social implications of science is somewhat of a departure—and a sometimes uncomfortable one—from traditional science museum content. To help facilitate this shift in museum education, CNS-ASU's Education and Outreach team, in collaboration with the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NISE Net, NSF #0940143), published *Nanotechnology and Society: A Practical Guide to Engaging Museum Visitors in Conversations*.

Conversations, in addition to the more conventional formats of lecture, demonstration and display, are encouraged for science museum education. From conversation tips to training agendas to improv games, the guide provides numerous practical resources for training museum staff on how to encourage meaningful conversations with visitors about nanotechnology and its future societal implications.

The guide focuses on using the “Three Big Ideas” of technology and society as a conversation framework:

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

Starting the Nanotechnology in Society Conversation with Museum Visitors

The guide aims to empower museum educators and visitors to explore how emerging nanotechnologies may affect their lives and society.



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Nanotechnology and Society:

A Practical Guide to Engaging Museum Visitors in Conversations

By Jameson Wetmore, Ira Bennett, Ali Jackson and Brad Herring



The guide is being used by numerous science museums across the country. The “Three Big Ideas” framework used in the guide is part of a museum staff training program developed by CNS-ASU staff. It can be viewed at Vimeo: <http://vimeo.com/channels/nanoandsociety>



Dr. Ira Bennett (left) and **Dr. Jameson Wetmore** (right) have been advising and collaborating with science museums and NISE Net on nano and society issues for several years. They lead the CNS-ASU education and outreach efforts.



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