
About the Authors

Kolya Abramsky

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Kolya Abramsky has been active in different anti-authoritarian global networking processes for over ten years and has lived in a number of countries in western Europe and USA. He has worked with a wide range of different grassroots social and environmental organizations from around the world, at different times focusing on themes of energy, agriculture and globalization. His work has included a range of educational work, international mobilizations, publications and translations. For the last nine years, his work has focused on energy in general and the question of a transition to renewable energy in particular.

In 2008, he received a Masters' degree in sociology from the State University of New York, Binghamton, in the USA. He is a former coordinator of the World Wind Energy Institute, an international effort in renewable energy education coordinated by the Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy in Denmark. In 2004, he was co-coordinator of the INFORSE-Europe (International Network for Sustainable Energy-Europe) European-wide seminar on sustainable energy and social change. As a Research Fellow at the IAS-STS in 2008 / 2009 Kolya Abramsky was awarded with the Manfred Heindler Grant.

Selected publications

Abramsky, Kolya (2010) (Ed.), *Sparking a World-Wide Energy Revolution – Social Struggles in the Transition to a Post-Petrol World*: AK Press, Oakland, Creative Commons Licence.

Abramsky, Kolya (2007), *The Underground Challenge – Raw Materials, the World-Economy and Anti-Capitalist Struggle – A Review of Globalization and the Race for Resources by Stephen Bunker and Paul Ciccantell*, in *Review XXX*, 2, Binghamton: Fernand Braudel Center.

Abramsky, Kolya (2001) (Ed.), *Restructuring and Resistance – Diverse Voices of Struggle in Western Europe*, (Self published, and distributed book).

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Project abstract

Kolya's main project at the IAS-STC was editing a book entitled *Sparking a Worldwide Energy Revolution: Social Struggles in the Transition to a Post-Petrol World*.

The book probes the systemic relationships between energy production and consumption and the worldwide division of labour on which capitalism is based; its conflicts and hierarchies; crisis and class struggle. By doing so, the book seeks to contribute towards anticipating and strategizing future scenarios in order to assess current options for collective action.

The book has over 50 chapters, written by people from approximately 20 countries in North and South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa and Asia. All contributors are organizers and researchers with years of experience in different strategic locations within the worldwide energy sector. The book forms a collective map, based on the views as seen from some of the many different actors within the energy sector.

Kolya also worked on launching Towards a Worldwide Energy Revolution, a large international event which aims to make a significant global contribution towards grassroots-led efforts in relation to energy and climate change. It will bring together a range of different, already existing, organizational processes in order to lay the foundations for a long-term process of collectively building up a worldwide dialogue, common analyses, political perspectives and long-term collaboration processes. By creating new dynamics and alliances, this event seeks to contribute towards a wider process of grassroots-led emancipatory social, political and economic transformation in the face of the world economic-financial crisis (which is also increasingly becoming a political crisis).

Sulfikar Amir

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Sulfikar Amir is an assistant professor in the Division of Sociology, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He worked on a project that examines nuclear politics and democracy in Southeast Asia. He is currently working on the concept of sociotechnical resilience as part of a research project on the development of underwater infrastructure in

Singapore. His research interests include science and technology studies, sociology of risk, technological nationalism, technological politics, development, and globalization. He was Visiting Scholar at IAS-STS in May 2009.

Selected publications

Amir, Sulfikar (2010), 'Nuclear revival in Post-Suharto Indonesia', *Asian Survey* 50 (2): 265–286.

Amir, Sulfikar (2007), 'Nationalist rhetoric and technological development: The Indonesian aircraft industry in the new order regime', *Technology in Society* 29 (3): 283–293.

Muthukumar Bagavathiannan

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Muthukumar Bagavathiannan is an agroecologist / agronomist, currently working as a postdoctoral research associate in weed ecology at the University of Arkansas, United States. In particular, Muthu's current research is aimed at understanding the evolution of herbicide resistance in barnyardgrass (*Echinochloa crus-galli*) through a simulation modeling approach and identifying strategies for mitigating resistance evolution. Muthu has graduated with his PhD from the University of Manitoba, Canada, in 2010. His doctoral thesis was focused on characterizing the feral nature of alfalfa and understanding its implications for novel trait confinement. The project was very successful and the findings were useful for the formulation of best management practices and co-existence protocols for genetically engineered (GE) alfalfa. Muthu holds an MSc in Plant Science from the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom, another MSc in Tropical Agronomy from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, India, and a BSc in Agriculture from the latter institute.

Muthu received a Research Fellowship from the Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society (IAS-STS), Graz, in the area of *new biotechnology*. During his stay at IAS-STS in fall 2008, Muthu worked in collaboration with Dr. Armin Spök on the regulatory challenges associated with the commercialization of perennial GE crops such as alfalfa. This work was instrumental in revealing the key policy

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and regulatory issues associated with the commercialization of GE crops and identifying the policy approaches that may help achieve a widespread acceptance of GE crops among various stakeholders.

Selected publications

Bagavathiannan, M. V., Gulden, R. H., and Van Acker, R. C. (2011), 'Occurrence of feral alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) populations along roadside habitats in southern Manitoba, Canada and their role in intra-specific novel trait movement', *Transgenic Research* 20: 397–407.

Bagavathiannan, M. V., Gulden, R. H., and Van Acker, R. C. (2011), 'The ability of alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) to establish in a seminatural habitat under different seed dispersal times and disturbance', *Weed Science* 59: 314–320.

Bagavathiannan, M. V., Spök, A., and Van Acker, R. C. (2010), 'Commercialization of perennial GE crops: Looming challenges for regulatory frameworks', *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics* 24: 227–242.

Bagavathiannan, M. V., Gulden, R. H., Begg, G. S., and Van Acker, R.C. (2010), 'The demography of feral alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) populations occurring in roadside habitats in Southern Manitoba, Canada: Implications for novel trait confinement', *Environmental Science and Pollution Research* 17: 1448–1459.

Bagavathiannan, M. V., Julier, B., Barre, P., Gulden, R. H., and Van Acker, R.C. (2010), 'Genetic diversity of feral alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) populations occurring in Manitoba, Canada and comparison with alfalfa cultivars: An analysis using SSR markers and phenotypic traits', *Euphytica* 171: 419–432.

Project abstract

Commercialization of perennial GE crops: Looming challenges for regulatory frameworks

Overall, the deregulation of genetically engineered (GE) crops for commercial cultivation in North America has been a success story. In several

cases, however, GE crops have sparked concerns and disagreements among the stakeholders and there are incidences of court lawsuits, including a recent one on glyphosate resistant (GR) alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*, L.). While GE crops can provide operational benefits to farmers, challenges are looming from commercialization of perennial GE crops. The unique ecology and biology of these crops and GE alfalfa in particular can facilitate adventitious presence (AP) of GE traits and it makes more visible that economic risks for conventional growers and food / feed producers have not been adequately addressed by the GE regulatory system in the United States (US). Asynchronous market approvals and the existence of a number of GE sensitive export markets create uncertainties among the exporters. Policy development in these fields may be helpful for ensuring a broader acceptance and market success of GE agriculture in general. The analysis is focusing on the US, although many diagnosed problems are also relevant to other jurisdictions – in particular if no co-existence policy is in place.

The following were the leading questions of the research:

- (1) What are the challenges faced by regulatory frameworks while assessing GE crops, perennial crops in particular?
- (2) What are the policy approaches that are likely to improve the widespread acceptance of GE crops among various stakeholders?

Arno Bammé

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Born in 1944; studied economics, education and sociology at the Free University of Berlin (GFG fellowship); several years in industry, research assistant at the Technical University Berlin, participated in establishing Ökotopia GmbH in Berlin Mehringhof, which provided vocational education to socially deprived young people and supported alternative cultivation methods of production cooperatives in Third World countries; founding member of the interdisciplinary Technology and Social Sciences Research Institute in Berlin (TESOF); research assistant at the University of Hamburg (DFG project); since 1985: Full Professor for

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Didactics in Further Education at the University of Klagenfurt and Head of the Department for Science and Technology Research (TEWI) at the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies (Klagenfurt – Graz – Vienna) (IFF); since 1998: Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society in Graz; 1986 to 1992: Chairman of the Interuniversity Commission (IUK); 1996 to 2001: Deputy Head of Institute of IFF and Dean of Studies; 1988 to 2000: member of the international advisory committee of the journal 'Innovation'; 1992 to 1997: member of the commission for 'Integrated Technology Research' of the Hessian Ministry for Science and the Arts; 1997 to 2000: member of the scientific advisory committee for 'Technological Development Research' of the Institute for Natural Sciences Education in Kiel; since 2004: member of the editorial advisory board of the online journal 'Science, Technology & Innovation Studies'; numerous publications in different textual and publishing forms and translations from English and French; current focus of work includes science and technology studies, literature and sociology, didactics of the social sciences, didactics of continuing education in science.

Selected publications

- Bammé, Arno (2011), *Homo occidentalis. Von der Anschauung zur Bemächtigung der Welt. Zäsuren abendländischer Epistemologie*, Weilerswist: Velbrück.
- Bammé, Arno (2009), *Science and Technology Studies. Ein Überblick*, Marburg: Metropolis.
- Bammé, Arno (2008), *Wissenschaft im Wandel. Bruno Latour als Symptom*, Marburg: Metropolis.
- Bammé, Arno (2008), *Die Neuordnung des Sozialen durch Technologie*, Marburg: Metropolis.
- Bammé, Arno (2004), *Science Wars. Von der akademischen zur postakademischen Wissenschaft*, Frankfurt am Main / New York: Campus.
- Bammé, Arno (2004), *Gesellschaft (re-)interpretieren*, München / Wien: Profil.

A. Senem Deviren

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Dr. A. Senem Deviren is an architect, Assistant Professor at Istanbul Technical University, Faculty of Architecture. She has taken her PhD degree in 2001 in Architectural Design program from the Institute of Science and Technology at Istanbul Technical University, with her thesis titled 'Place in Architecture: Conceptualization of the Relations Between Site and Building'. She received her MSc in Architectural Design in 1996 and Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1994 from the Department of Architecture of Istanbul Technical University.

She has taught as Senior Lecturer at Eastern Mediterranean University, Faculty of Architecture, Department of Architecture in North Cyprus between 1996–2006. As a Visiting Assistant Professor at Texas A&M University in 2004–2005 academic year she has coordinated four design studios and received a Blue Ribbon from one of her studios. She has participated in graduate and undergraduate design studio reviews at Texas A&M University (USA), Technical University of Graz (Austria), Anadolu University and Middle East Technical University (Turkey) as invited jury member. She is currently advisor to the Rector of Istanbul Technical University for international research and education, and, teaching in Interdisciplinary Urban Design graduate program, Landscape Architecture graduate and undergraduate programs. Her research and teaching focuses on interdisciplinary design research and strategies, architectural design and theory, urban design and landscape, design research and education, place design and theory, energy efficient design and sustainability.

From March 2009 to September 2009, she was a Research Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society (IAS-STS) in Graz. Her research project was partly supported by Istanbul Technical University Rectorate Grant, Support Program for Long Term Research Abroad. As a Research Fellow at the IAS-STS (March to July 2009) she was awarded with the Manfred Heindler Grant.

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Selected publications

Deviren, A. Senem (2010), 'Tackling eco-urbanity: Housing and place-making at the urban edge', *AZ ITU Journal of the Faculty of Architecture*, ISSN 1302-8324, 7 (2): 163–184.

Deviren, A. Senem (2010), 'Triggering innovation: Place, energy and housing', ENHR 2010 Conference, *ENHR 2010 Urban Dynamics and Housing Change, Crossing into the 2nd Decade of the 3rd Millennium*, Book of Abstracts, July 2010, 7–8.

Deviren, A. Senem (2009), *Zaman*, Istanbul, ville monde, *La pensée de midi*, Ed. Thierry Fabre, Des Sud et Actes Sud, France, 45–46.

Deviren, A. Senem (2009), 'Understanding place through design studio studies', *Archnet-IJAR, International Journal of Architectural Research* 3 (1): 269–270.

Deviren, A. Senem (2009), 'Experimental studies on design', IAPS CSBE and IAPS Housing Networks, *Revitalizing Built Environments: Requalifying Old Places for New Uses*, International Symposium, Istanbul, 12–16 October 2009 (abstract).

Deviren, A. Senem (2009), 'Energy efficient home: Landscape design and architectural design as one', 8th International Annual IAS-STS Conference, *Critical Issues in Science and Technology Studies*, Graz, Austria, 4–5 May 2009 (abstract and full paper).

Deviren, A. Senem (2008), 'Karsi Taraf, Sahilyolu, Siluet, Zaman', *Istanbullamak: Olgular, Sorunsallar, Metaforlar*, P. Dervis, B. Tanju, and U. Tanyeli (Eds.), Garanti Galeri, 167, 240–242, 251–253, 333 (Turkish edition, ISBN 978-9944-731-11-9, 2) 2009; 'The Other Side, Shore Road, Silhouette, Time', in P. Dervis, B. Tanju, U. Tanyeli (Eds.), *Becoming Istanbul*, Garanti Gallery, Deutches Architekturmuseum, 202–203, 261–266, 321–322 (English edition, ISBN 978-9944-731-06-5); 'Die gegenüberliegende Seite, Silhouette, Uferstrasse, Zeit', in P. Dervis, B. Tanju, and U. Tanyeli (Eds.), *Becoming Istanbul*, Garanti Gallery, Deutches Architekturmuseum: 109–110, 296–298, 359–361, 391–392 (German edition, ISBN 978-9944-731-07).

Deviren, A. Senem (2008), 'Living between urban and rural: A case study on ecological design strategies of hillside traditional courtyard houses at Mardin and environs', 7th China Urban Housing Conference, *Green Architecture and Social Sustainability: Housing Development Coherent with Geographical Resources and Contexts*, Chongqing, 26–27 September 2008 (abstract and full paper).

Deviren, A. Senem (2006), 'A design studio experiment on site and building integrations towards placemaking', 9th International Design Conference – Excellence in Design, *Design 2006 Conference Proceedings*, Dubrovnik, Croatia, 15–18 May 2006, 1109–1114 (abstract and full paper).

Project abstract

The effects of landscape design on microclimate regulations in housing environments and energy efficient housing design

Increasing demand for energy efficiently designed buildings demonstrate that design approaches that are preoccupied by form and style only are not able to lead for creation of sustainable, healthy and livable places that are appropriate for human habitation. Energy efficient architectural design necessitates a contextual approach to the nature and design of built work that relates it to its setting and landscape. Moreover, such a design requires a more holistic design approach that combines the architectural and landscape design into one. The research project was an investigation on the cooperation of architectural and landscape design practices for the utilization of renewable energy sources in urban contexts and urban peripheries. Within this general scope, the main inquiry was the ways of creating microclimates through urban landscape transformations of in-between spaces in urban contexts for creating energy efficient and livable urban environments.

The following were the leading questions of the research:

- (1) What could be the role of architectural and landscape design cooperation for achieving the goals of energy efficiency in urban contexts?
- (2) How could the open spaces in urban contexts be transformed and/or utilized to create healthy microclimatic conditions and contribute to improve urban climate?

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- (3) How could the housing related open spaces between buildings can be transformed and used to contribute to utilization of renewable energy sources in urban contexts and urban-rural peripheries?

Rather than single building solutions the research was focusing on building groups or settlements because of the impact of their scale in transforming larger urban landscapes. The idea was to examine the ways of improving microclimate through landscape integrated building and settlement programs, in-between space design and arrangements and urban surface modifications which would positively affect the urban climate change and provide longer term livability.

Sonja Deutschmeister

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Sonja Deutschmeister is student of Journalism and Communication Science at the University of Vienna. In 2010 she graduated from Musikgymnasium Dreihackengasse Graz, a high school with focus on music. Being a high school student there, she participated in the project 'Engineer Your Sound!'.

Jan Fischer

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Jan Fischer received his PhD for his thesis *Translating Zero Carbon into Building Design: Regulation, Theories and Practices* at the University of Manchester in 2010. He is employed as an Early Career Fellow in Public Health at Oxford Brookes University. He previously read Philosophy, Politics and Economics at the University of Oxford and obtained an MSc in Political Sociology at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Jan Fischer was awarded a Manfred Heindler Grant and worked as Research Fellow at IAS-STS in May 2009.

His most recent publications include

Jenkins, Nicholas, Bloor, Michael, Fischer, Jan, Berney, Lee, and Neale, Joanne (2010), 'Putting it in context: The use of vignettes in qualitative interviewing', *Qualitative Research* 10 (2): 175–198.

Fischer, Jan and Guy, Simon (2009), 'Re-interpreting regulations: Architects as street-level bureaucrats', *Urban Studies* 46 (12): 2577–2594.

Birgit Gasteiger

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Birgit Gasteiger received her degree in Electrical Engineering and Audio Engineering at Graz University of Technology. In 2008–2009 she participated in the Sparkling Science Project 'Engineer Your Sound!' as a technical coach.

Recent publications

Hofstätter, Birgit, Eckel, Gerhard, Gasteiger, Birgit, Grießer, Hermann, Thaler, Anita, Weitlaner, Ulrike, Wächter, Christine, and Zorn, Isabel (2009), "Engineer Your Sound" – Partizipative Technikgestaltung im Klassenzimmer', *Soziale Technik* 1: 17–19.

Gasteiger, Birgit and Hofstätter, Birgit (2009), 'From beat to bit Birgit. Working with secondary-school students in the Sparkling Science project "Engineer Your Sound!"', in Freitag, Daniela, Wieser, Bernhard, and Getzinger, Günter (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 8th Annual IAS-STIS Conference on Critical Issues in Science and Technology Studies*, 4th–5th May 2009, (CD-ROM), Graz: IFZ.

Birgit Hofstätter

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Birgit Hofstätter is researcher at IFZ with focus on gender in engineering education and a trained high school teacher. She is working on a doctoral thesis on representations of gender in visual media and their perception by a younger audience. Since 2010 she is lecturer at Alpen Adria Universität Klagenfurt. She has been participating in various research projects on gender issues in engineering education, some of them including working with students of high schools and vocational schools. In the project 'Engineer Your Sound!' she was responsible for the pedagogical aspects of the project activities, such as the coaching of the students and the development of the didactic concepts.

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Selected publications

Hofstätter, Birgit (2010), 'Gender relations in mainstream teenage films: The Twilight Saga', in Karner, Sandra and Günter Getzinger (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 9th Annual IAS-STIS Conference on Critical Issues in Science and Technology Studies*. 2nd–4th May 2010, (CD-ROM). Graz: IFZ.

Hofstätter, Birgit, Freitag, Daniela, and Thaler, Anita (2010), 'Innovative engineering education? A case study of a women-only college course in mechanical engineering', in SEFI – Société Européenne pour la Formation des Ingénieurs (Ed.), *Proceedings of the Joint International IGIP-SEFI Annual Conference 2010. Diversity Unifies – Diversity in Engineering Education*, 19th to 22th September 2010, Trnava, Slovakia (CD-ROM).

Freitag, Daniela, Hofstätter, Birgit, and Wächter, Christine (2010), 'Investigating representations of people and technology: A gender-sensitizing workshop concept in engineering education', in SEFI – Société Européenne pour la Formation des Ingénieurs (Ed.), *Proceedings of the Joint International IGIP-SEFI Annual Conference 2010. Diversity Unifies – Diversity in Engineering Education*, 19th to 22th September 2010, Trnava, Slovakia (CD-ROM), Brussels: SEFI.

Jenny Käfer

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Jenny Käfer is sociologist and researches on issues of gender and work and gender and technology. Currently she works with the IFZ department 'Women – Technology – Environment' in the EU-FP-7-project HELENA. In addition she writes her doctoral thesis in the field of 'Gender in Information Technologies' at Klagenfurt University.

Recent publications

Käfer, Jenny and Kink, Susanne (2009), 'Teens treffen Technik. Darstellung und kritische Betrachtung eines Projektes an der Technischen Universität Graz', in Thaler, Anita and Christine Wächter (Eds.), *Geschlechtergerechtigkeit in Technischen Hochschulen – Theoretische Implikationen und*

Erfahrungen aus Deutschland, Österreich und Schweiz, München, Wien: Profil, 51–64.

Thaler, Anita, Käfer, Jenny, Kink Susanne, Hofstätter, Birgit, and Wächter, Christine (Eds., 2009), *Geschlechtergerechtigkeit in technischen Hochschulen*, (Begleit-CD-Rom), Graz IFZ Eigenverlag.

Käfer, Jenny and Kink Susanne (2009), “Teens Tackle Technology” – Illustration and critical reflection of a project at the Graz University of Technology’, in Freitag, Daniela, Bernhard Wieser, and Günter Getzinger (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 8th Annual IAS-STs Conference on Critical Issues in Science and Technology Studies*, 4th–5th May 2009, (CD-ROM). Graz: IFZ Eigenverlag, available at http://www.ifz.tugraz.at/index_en.php/filemanager/download/1549/Jenny%20K%C3%A4fer_Susanne%20Kink.pdf [01.12.2009].

Käfer, Jenny and Schögler, Rafael (2009), ‘Mein erster Kontakt mit der Soziologie war eher enttäuschend’, Interview mit Helga Nowotny, in Österreichische Gesellschaft für Soziologie (ÖGS), *Newsletter* 40, No. 3/2009, 11–15, available at http://www.oegs.ac.at/content/download/10611/178775/version/1/file/OEGS_NL40_2009-3.pdf [01.09.2009].

Käfer, Jenny, Kink, Susanne, Prietl, Bianca, Schögler, Rafael, and Winkler, Karin (2007), ‘Top Jobs: Spielt das Geschlecht eine Rolle?’, in Wetterer, Angelika and Daniela Jauk (Eds.), *Baustelle Geschlecht*, Graz: 42–66.

Franc Mali

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Franc Mali is Professor of Epistemology and Sociology of Science at University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences. His main research topics are the social and ethical aspects of modern scientific development, R&D policy issues, science and technology evaluations. He is the head of Centre for Social Studies of Science at the Faculty of Social Sciences (University of Ljubljana). He is author and co-author of numerous articles and book chapters on social studies of science and technology. More detailed bibliography at URL: <http://izum.izum.si/bibliografije-online>.

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He published three books (in Slovenian): *Epistemology of Social Science – Explanation and Understanding* (Epistemologija družbenih ved. Razlaga in razumevanje, Ljubljana 2006), *Modern Development of Science* (Moderni razvoj znanosti, Ljubljana 2002), *Science as System Part of Society* (Znanost kot sistemski del družbe, Ljubljana 1994).

In May 2009 Franc Mali was a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society (IAS-STS) in Graz, where he worked on the theoretical project 'Social and ethical implications of converging technologies'.

Recent Publications (in English)

Mali, Franc (2010), 'Policy issues of international productivity and visibility of the social sciences in central and eastern European countries', *Sociology and Space – Journal for Spatial and Socio-Cultural Development Studies* 48 (3): 415–437.

Mali, Franc (2010), 'Turning science transdisciplinarity: Is it possible for the new concept of cross-disciplinary cooperations to enter Slovenian science and policy', in Mueller, Karl (Ed.), *Modern RISC-Societies. Towards a New Paradigm for Societal Evolution*, Wien: Echoraum, 461–477.

Mali, Franc (2009), 'Bringing converging technologies closer to civil society: The role of the precautionary principle', *Innovation – The European Journal of Social Science Research* 22 (1): 53–75.

Mali, Franc (2009), 'The category of scientific objectivity in the social sciences', in Prpic, Katarina (Ed.), *Beyond the Myths about the Natural and Social Sciences: A Sociological View*, Edition Science and society, 28, Zagreb: Institute for Social Research, 247–274.

Johanna Nather

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Johanna Nather is student of piano at the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz. In 2010 she graduated from Musikgymnasium Dreihackengasse Graz, a high school with focus on music. Being a high school student there, she participated in the project 'Engineer Your Sound!'.

Matthias Naumann

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Matthias Naumann is currently a Research Fellow at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning (IRS) in Erkner (Germany). He graduated in Geography at Humboldt University Berlin and received his PhD in Geography from the University of Potsdam. His research interests include urban and regional development, governance of technical infrastructure systems and radical geography.

Matthias Naumann was Visiting Scholar at the IAS-STS in August 2008. During his stay at the IAS-STS in Graz he worked on the transformation of rural infrastructures in different European countries. Infrastructure systems such as energy, water or telecommunication experienced a complex change marked by national, regional and sectoral specifics. The project tries to explore different pathways of infrastructural and regional development across Europe.

Selected publications

Moss, Timothy, Naumann, Matthias, and Wissen, Markus (Eds.) (2008), *Infrastrukturnetze und Raumentwicklung. Zwischen Universalisierung und Differenzierung*, Munich: oekom.

Naumann, Matthias (2009), *Neue Disparitäten durch Infrastruktur? Der Wandel der Wasserwirtschaft in ländlich-peripheren Räumen*, Munich: oekom.

Naumann, Matthias and Bernt, Matthias (2009): 'When the tap stays dry: Water networks in Eastern Germany', *Local Environment* 14 (5): 461–471.

Giuseppina Pellegrino

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Giuseppina Pellegrino is a lecturer in Sociology of Culture and Communication in the Department of Sociology and Political Science, University of Calabria (Italy). She teaches Communication and Society as well as Cultural Studies and Social Innovation in the Faculty of Political Sciences. After a degree in Communication Studies (1998) and postgraduate studies in Management (1999) and Innovation Policies (2000), she received a

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PhD in Science, Technology and Society (2004). Since her doctoral degree, she has been travelling and attending international conferences in Organization Studies, STS, Sociology of Communication. She was visiting PhD worker at the RCSS (University of Edinburgh, 2002), Visiting Fellow in Sociology at CeMoRe (Lancaster University, 2007), and Visiting Scholar at IAS-STG (Graz, 2008).

Her main research interests concern technology and/in organizations, STS and sociology of technology, gender and media studies. Her current projects focus on technological mediation of mobility, based on two extensive case studies (international consultancy and ubiquitous computing design); future and temporality in sociotechnical discourse; technological complexity and scientific knowledge in the laboratory.

Amongst her recent publications:

The Politics of Proximity. Mobility and Immobility in Practice (Ed., Ashgate, 2011); 'Learning from emotions towards ICTs: Boundary crossing and barriers in technology appropriation', in Vincent, J. and L. Fortunati (Eds.), *Electronic Emotion* (Peter Lang, 2009); 'Convergence and saturation: Ecologies of artefacts in mobile and ubiquitous interaction', in Nyiri, K. (Ed.), *Integration and Ubiquity* (Passagen Verlag, 2008).

Project abstract

Mobilities and technological mediation – Interaction, co-presence and ubiquitous infrastructures in international consultants' work

The project departs from the intimate connection between mobility at large and sociotechnical processes which make people, objects and information move around. It is articulated into two case studies, which compare the practice of 'extreme' work mobility (international consultants working in developing countries with unevenly distributed infrastructures) with the discursive and material practices of 'ubiquitous computing' design. Discourses and artefacts supposed to be mobile and ubiquitous, that means accessible anywhere anytime (at least in principle) aim to imagine and design future contexts of interaction, both public and private, where materiality of technology is redefined. The main focus during the

research period at IAS-STIS was on ubiquity in the media, designers and institutions' rhetoric. In particular, interviews were carried out with researchers of ubiquitous environments and devices at Klagenfurt University.

Helen Peterson

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Helen Peterson is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Thematic Studies – Technology and Social Change at Linköping University, Sweden. She got her PhD 2005 at the Department of Sociology, Uppsala University, Sweden. In her thesis *Gender, Power and Post-Bureaucracy: Work Ideals in IT Consulting* she examines the links between gender, technology, organizational structures and career in the Swedish IT consultant business.

Between 2006–2007 she worked in the European research project PROMETEA – *Empowering Women Engineers in Industrial and Academic Research*. During her stay at IAS-STIS in autumn 2008 she continued to work on articles drawing on the empirical material from this research project.

Selected recent publications

Peterson, Helen (2010), 'The gendered construction of technical self-confidence: Women's negotiated positions in male-dominated, technical work settings', *International Journal of Gender, Science and Technology* 2 (1): 66–88.

Peterson, Helen (2010), 'Women's career strategies in engineering: Confronting masculine workplace culture', in Godfroy-Genin, Anne-Sophie (Ed.), *Women in Engineering and Technology Research. The PROMETEA Conference Proceedings*, Berlin: Lit Verlag.

Neo Shar Ni

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Education

- Nanyang Technological University (Singapore) August 2006–July 2010
Bachelor of Arts (First-Class Honours) in Sociology

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- Shanghai Jiao Tong University (Shanghai, China) August 2008–December 2008
Certificate of Completion for Chinese Culture and Economics, Global Immersion (Exchange) Programme by NTU

Awards and Achievements

- Lee Kuan Yew Gold Award 2010, awarded to top NTU students
- HSS Student Ambassador 2007–2010
- NTU President Research Scholar 2007–2009
- NTU Sociological Society Certificate of Appreciation 2009
- Certificate of Achievement and Accomplishment 2008 for successfully completing the Professional Attachment Programme at Barley and Wheatland Investment Co. Ltd. Shanghai and study programme at Shanghai Jiao Tong University under the Global Immersion Programme of NTU
- International Business Fellowship Award 2008 for acquiring business knowledge and building networks in supported markets of Central Asia (China)

Work Experience

- HRnet One Pte Ltd – HR Business Partner July 2010 till Present
Talent acquisition; partner business leaders to drive performance management and succession planning; drive and implement HR policies and programmes
- Millenia Institute (Singapore) – Teaching Intern May 2009–August 2009

Research

- Research assistant under NTU URECA Programme; published two papers at the Proceedings of URECA@NTU – research question design, literature review, data collection and explaining results; Graduation Project on medical tourism.

Armin Spök

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Armin Spök is a Senior Researcher and Head of the Biotechnology Research Unit at IFZ. He holds a PhD in Molecular Genetics from the University of Graz and a MSc in Science and Technology Policy from the University of Sussex. His research focuses on scientific, regulatory and policy aspects of environmental and health risk assessment in agricultural biotechnology. Inspired by the recent EU debate on broadening GMO decision making and by concepts of integrative risk governance he extended his interests to socioeconomic impacts of GM crops.

Armin Spök is also advisor in various expert groups at national, EU, OECD, and UN level.

Selected recent publications

- Bagavathiannan, M. V., Spök, A., and Van Acker, R. C. (2011), 'Commercialization of perennial GE crops: Looming challenges for regulatory frameworks', *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics* 24 (3): 227–242.
- Spök, A. (2010), 'The pharming challenge', in Barram, M. and Bournier, M. (Eds.), *Governing Risk in GM Agriculture*, Cambridge University Press.
- Spök, A. (2010), 'Assessing socio-economic impacts of GMOs. Issues to consider for policy development', Final Report, *Forschungsberichte der Sektion IV*, Vienna: BMG, http://bmg.gv.at/cms/home/attachments/5/0/0/CH1050/CMS1291038713992/assessing_socio-economic_impacts_of_gmos,_band_2_20101.pdf.
- Spök, A., Twyman, R. M., Fischer, R., Ma, J. K. C., and Sparrow, P. A. C. (2008), 'Evolution of a regulatory framework for pharmaceuticals derived from genetically modified plants', *Trends in Biotechnology* 26 (9): 506–517.
- Millstone, E., van Zwanenberg, P., Levidow, L., Spök, A., and Hirakawa, H. (2008), 'Risk assessment policy – differences between jurisdictions', JRC Scientific and Technical Reports 23259 EN, Seville: IPTS, 2008. <http://ftp.jrc.es/JRC37719.pdf>.

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Jaakko Suominen is Doctor of Philosophy and Professor of Digital Culture at the Degree program of Cultural Production and Landscape Studies, the University of Turku, Finland. Suominen is an author or co-author of four monographs on the cultural history of computing. He has co-edited eight academic books and written about 40 articles. In his studies Suominen has concentrated on the cultural history of information technology and the history of media and technology. Suominen works in a multi-disciplinary academic community at the Pori University Consortium, which consists of units of four different universities. Suominen has led many co-operative projects with companies as well as with municipal bodies and non-profit organizations on different aspects of digital culture.

He was a Visiting Scholar at the IAS-STS from April to June, 2009, while he worked with several projects focusing on cultural history of the Internet as well as digital game cultures.

Some recent publications

Suominen, Jaakko and Parikka, Jussi (2010), 'Sublimated attractions – the introduction of early computers in Finland in the late 1950s as a mediated experience', *Media History* 16 (3): 331–340.

Saarikoski, Petri and Suominen, Jaakko (2009), 'Computer hobbyists and the gaming industry in Finland', *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing*, July–September 2009 (Vol. 31 No. 3), 20–33.

Suominen, Jaakko (2008), 'The past as the future? Nostalgia and retro-gaming in digital culture', *Fibreculture*, issue 11 (digital arts and culture conference (perth) issue), http://journal.fibreculture.org/issue11/issue11_suominen.html.

Anita Thaler

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Anita Thaler is researcher at IFZ and heads the research area 'Women – Technology – Environment'. Beside her research in the field of gender and technology she is also lecturer at the Universities of Graz and

Klagenfurt on topics of 'Methods of Gender Studies' and 'Media and technology-learning'. She has studied Psychology (she is a certified work psychologist), Education Science and Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Graz and Klagenfurt University.

For her Dissertation *Berufsziel Technikerin?* [Professional aim woman engineer? Gender in engineering education] she received the 'Gabriele Possanner Award' 2007 from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research. 2010 she received – together with her colleagues Daniela Freitag and Birgit Hofstätter – the 'Austrian Award for Vocational Education Research' from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture.

Selected publications

Thaler, Anita (2010), 'Career perceptions of women in industrial technology research', in Godfroy-Genin, Anne-Sophie (Ed.), *Women in Engineering and Technology Research*, Proceedings of the PROMETEA international conference, October 26–27, 2007, Zürich: Lit Verlag, 63–84.

Thaler, Anita (2010), 'E-learning und gender', in Mörth, Anita P. and Barbara Hey (Ed.), *Geschlecht und Didaktik*, Koordinationsstelle für Geschlechterstudien, Frauenforschung und Frauenförderung der Universität Graz: Grazer Universitätsverlag, 135–141.

Thaler, Anita and Zorn, Isabel (2010), 'Issues of doing gender and doing technology – Music as an innovative theme for technology education', *European Journal of Engineering Education* 35 (4): 445–454.

Thaler, Anita (2009), "'Und danach?'" Berufliche Perspektiven für TechnikabsolventInnen', in Thaler, Anita and Christine Wächter (Eds.), *Geschlechtergerechtigkeit in Technischen Hochschulen – Theoretische Implikationen und Erfahrungen aus Deutschland, Österreich und Schweiz*, Munich / Vienna: Profil, 233–250.

Thaler, Anita and Dahmen, Jennifer (2009), 'Science education in Europe – images, approaches, innovations', in Malpica, Freddy, Bill Tait, Andrés Tremante, and Friedrich Welsch (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 2nd International Multi-Conference on Society, Cybernetics and Informatics, Volume I*, July 10–13, 2009 – Orlando, Florida, USA, 220–224.

Rene Van Acker

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Rene is a Professor and Associate Dean (External Relations) of the Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph, Canada. Rene's current research interests revolve around the areas of weed ecology, plant biosafety and transgene confinement. Canada has been one of the largest growers of genetically engineered crops. The next wave of novel traits being engineered into food and feed crops in Canada includes traits for plant made pharmaceuticals (PMPs) and industrial bio-products. These traits will bring great value but some will pose risks to food safety if the traits are not adequately confined. A priori assessment and mitigation of these risks is greatly facilitated by the use of dynamic deterministic models of trait movement. The broad objective of Rene's research in this area is to facilitate the future exploitation of novel traits in cropped plants by producing effective, detailed deterministic models of crop to crop novel trait movement (trait confinement models).

Selected recent publications

- Bullied, W. J., Bullock, P. R., and Van Acker, R. C. (2011), 'Modeling the soil-water retention characteristic with pedotransfer functions for shallow seedling recruitment', *Soil Science* 176: 57–72.
- Bagavathiannan, M. V., Gulden, R. H., and Van Acker, R. C. (2011), 'Occurrence of feral alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) populations along roadside habitats in southern Manitoba, Canada and their role in intra-specific novel trait movement', *Transgenic Research* 20: 397–407.
- Bagavathiannan, M. V., Spök, A., and Van Acker, R. C. (2010), 'Commercialization of perennial GE crops: Looming challenges for regulatory frameworks', *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics* 24: 227–242.
- Bagavathiannan, M. V., Gulden, R. H., Begg, G. S., and Van Acker, R. C. (2010), 'The demography of feral alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) populations occurring in roadside habitats in Southern Manitoba, Canada: Implications for novel trait confinement', *Environmental Science and Pollution Research* 17: 1448–1459.

Bagavathiannan, M. V., Julier, B., Barre, P., Gulden, R. H., and Van Acker, R. C. (2010), 'Genetic diversity of feral alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) populations occurring in Manitoba, Canada and comparison with alfalfa cultivars: An analysis using SSR markers and phenotypic traits', *Euphytica* 171: 419–432.

Willenborg, C. J., Brûlé-Babel, A. L., and Van Acker, R. C. (2010), 'Identification of a hybridization window that facilitates sizable reductions of pollen-mediated gene flow in spring wheat', *Transgenic Research* 19: 449–460.

Christine Wächter

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Christine Wächter is founding member and current Director of IFZ, Scientific Director of the Centre of Women Studies and Gender Research at Klagenfurt University and Associate Professor of Continuing Education on a tenured position at the Department of Research on Technology and Science of the Faculty for Interdisciplinary Studies at Klagenfurt University. From October 2010 on she is member of the Senate of Klagenfurt University. Additionally she is member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Coordination Centre for Women's Studies and Gender Research Graz, member of the Expert Group on Women in Science and Technology (WiST2) of the European Commission since 2007, member of the Editorial Board of the 'International Journal of Gender and SET Research (GST)', Open University, Milton Keynes and member of the Board of Joanneum Research Forschungsgesellschaft mbH.

She studied English and American Language and Literature and History of Art at the University of Graz, and Environmental Engineering at the Technical University Graz. She received the 'Käthe Leichter Award for Women Studies, Gender Studies and Equal Opportunities for Women in the Work Place' by the Austrian Ministry for Education, Art and Culture in November 2007 and the 'Dr. Maria Schaumayr Foundation Award' for her Habilitation Thesis in 2003.

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Selected publications

Wächter, Christine (2010), “No one ever expected me to become dean.”

On careers of women engineers in academic technology research’, in Godfroy-Genin, Anne-Sophie (Ed.), *Women in Engineering and Technology Research, The PROMETEA Conference Proceedings*, Reihe: Prometea, Gender issues in engineering and technology research settings, Vol. 1, Zürich: Lit Verlag, 41–62.

Wächter, Christine (2010), ‘Blocks and hurdles, chutes and slides: Women engineers in the automotive industry’, in Bammé, Arno, Günter Getzinger, and Bernhard Wieser (Eds.), *Yearbook 2008 of the Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society*, Munich / Vienna: Profil, 63–85.

Wächter, Christine (2009), ‘Heiße Kartoffeln und Kalte Duschen. Ein kritischer Kommentar zur Forschungs- und Förderungspolitik im Themenfeld “Frauen und Technik”’, in Thaler, Anita and Christine Wächter (Eds.), *Geschlechtergerechtigkeit in Technischen Hochschulen – Theoretische Implikationen und Erfahrungen aus Deutschland, Österreich und Schweiz*, Munich / Vienna: Profil, 17–28.

Wächter, Christine (2009), ‘Challenging cultures of engineering – How words, concepts, and images (de)construct engineering as a male domain’, in European Commission (Ed.), *Women in Science and Technology. Creating Sustainable Careers*, Brussels, 69–81, http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/document_library/pdf_06/wist2_sustainable-careers-report_en.pdf.

Wächter, Christine (2008), ‘Engineering education, die junge Frauen anspricht’, in Herrmann, Joachim and Marion Esch (Eds.), *Durch Chancengleichheit Qualität verbessern – Gender Mainstreaming in der Qualitätsentwicklung Technischer Universitäten*, Bielefeld: W. Bertelsmann, 195–204.

Anna Milena Zivian

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Education

- PhD University of California, Santa Cruz, Department of Environmental Studies, awarded March 2011.

- BA Harvard University. June 1988, *magna cum laude* in Russian and Soviet Studies. Senior honours thesis ‘The Iconography of Power: Soviet Mass Art, 1917–45’.

Anna Zivian was Research Fellow at IAS-STS from November 2008 to August 2009. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Austria from September 2008 until July 2009.

Selected publications and presentations

Zivian, Anna Milena and Mulvaney, D. (in press), ‘Anti-genetic engineering activists, pharm crops, and Franken-fish: Sowing seeds of hope in the fields of social resistance in California?’, in Rajan, Ravi and Colin Duncan (Eds.), *Ecologies of Hope*, Santa Fe: SAR Press.

Zivian, Anna Milena (in press), ‘A guide to designing legal frameworks on biosafety’, FAO, Rome.

Zivian, Anna Milena and Hagen, J. (2009), ‘Mobilizing science: Changing priorities of the USDA biotechnology risk assessment research grants program’, *Soziale Technik* 2/09: 7–9.

Zivian, Anna Milena (2008), ‘La Régulation des Biotechnologies: Une analyse comparative USA-UE’, in the panel *Protection du sol et de la biodiversité*, Colloque Pluridisciplinaire sur l’environnement, CRDP/MRSH, Université de Caen Faculté de Droit, June 2008.

Zivian, Anna Milena (2008), ‘Liberi da Ogm: A drama of the common ground’, in the panel *Geographies of Genetic Pollution: Agricultural Biotechnology, the Life Sciences Industries, Social Resistance*, Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Boston, US, April 2008.

Project abstract

As an IAS-STS Research Fellow and Fulbright Scholar, Anna Zivian worked on a project looking at the role of the Austrian provinces (the *Bundesländer*, hereafter ‘*Länder*’) in policymaking on genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Local governments are emerging as active players in environmental politics and policy, but with what effect? She looked at the Austrian case as an example of a growing trend of environmental

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politics contested at the local level in terms of the turn to local government as a new strategy of environmental mobilization and the rationale of democratic, participatory environmental policymaking as a justification for this strategy. In Austria, regional governments are at the forefront of efforts to control GMOs in the EU. Austria is an important site for assessing the growing phenomenon of local governance. The Austrian *Länder* – all members of the Network of GMO-free European Regions – have been leading actors in GMO policy creation and controversies within Austria and at the EU. The *Länder* have used their authority over agricultural policy to oppose EU decisions on GMOs and to maintain jurisdiction over agricultural and environmental policy.

Zivian's research asked, in particular,

- (1) How and why are social movements using local government in their political strategies to influence and create environmental policies? and
- (2) Does local government offer an opportunity to encourage democratic decision making and to improve public participation in environmental policy?