

Found in Translation: Cosmopolitics and The Value of Biotech

Organized by:

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November 3-5, 2016

York University

Abstract:

This workshop will explore the nature of profound biotech change at the fundamental level of constitutional rights and the political structures of individuals and collectives. We will focus on cosmopolitan and biocapital perspectives on translation, exploring how tacit reliance on certain notions of value, epistemology, and global governance institutions transform, as science and reason travel between lab and market, lab and universities, market and society and vice versa. Another concern is the translation of biocapital and making value out of biomedical research, including its translation from lab to benchmark and benchmark to society, attending to the co-production of moral cosmopolitan worlds. We will engage with how programmes and agendas of restructuring (i.e., austerity, precariousness, growth) as well as new experiments with different publics globally are changing the very institutions of capital including the way certain publics are experimented with and mobilized, and research and innovation (R&I) is carried out. We will examine the ways certain cosmopolitan visions and proposals are made and not others, how they compose themselves, and through what kinds of translation, invention and ethical attention (Jasanoff 2016). Finally, we will examine geopolitical translations with links to the cosmopolitan argument: What happens when science and reason travel between different sites and in different parts of the world? In a conversation about the interfaces between biotech, capital, law and among different sites of knowledge production (i.e., international relations, politics, anthropology, business, geography and STS (science and technology studies)) and innovation, we plan to explore the multiple interfaces as sites where entanglements are also sites of difference where publics, practices, groupings, ideas, valuation processes (i.e., biocapital), values, analytical grammars, overlap and also exceed each other composing links in deliberations that sometimes either produce ethical closures or connections.

Questions for our discussion:

- How are the co-production of publics and bio-economies of research and innovation made possible?
- How are these emerging sciences and bio-technologies shaped by politics, global markets, law, and governance and vice versa?
- What are the stakes in biotech and innovation debates and how do we frame what is at stake in their outcomes?
- In what new ways does translation inform how the bodies of citizens are subjected to bio-technological interventions?
- What new forms of politics emerge together with science, translation and bio-technological emergences and what new forms of science and biotechnologies emerge together with bio-financialization?
- How do we expand our ethical deliberations about the impacts biotechnologies to extend far beyond their operators or beneficiaries by finding ways to solicit and consider the views of affected populations?

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November 3-5, 2016

Thursday, November 3
5:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Schulich
Executive Center
Opening Plenary Speaker
Professor
Sheila Jasanoff

Friday, November 4
8:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m.
South Ross 802
Panels: Translation,
Value and Valuation,
Capitalism

Saturday, November 5, 2016
8:30-4:30 p.m.
South 802 Ross
Panels: Ethics, Innovation, and
the Global South

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SCHEDULE

November 3, 2016

Opening

- 5:00-5:15 p.m. Welcome Address, Anna M. Agathangelou
- 5:15-5:30 p.m. Dean Ananya Mukherjee-Reed
Welcoming Comments and introduction of Professor Jasanoff
- 5:30-7:00 p.m. “Modern Metamorphoses: Bodies and Subjects in Cosmopolitan
Space”
Opening Plenary Speaker Sheila Jasanoff
Pforzheimer Professor of Science and Technology Studies
Director, Program on Science, Technology and Society,
Harvard Kennedy School

Reception: 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Schulich Executive Dining Center

November 4, 2016

South Ross 802

8.00 – 8:30 a.m. Coffee and Pastries

8:30-9:15 a.m.

Professor Sachdev Sidhu, The Donnelly Center, University of Toronto
“Synthetic Protein Therapeutics and Global Society”

Chair: Kean Birch

9:15-9:30 a.m. Coffee

9:30- 10:30 a.m.

Kaushik Sunder Rajan, Department of Anthropology, Chicago University
“Trans-science: The (Dis)contents of Global Biomedical Collaboration”

Chair: Ben Hurlbut

10:30-11:15 a.m.

Fazila Seker, Director MaRS Innovation
“The 5 Essential Viewpoints Behind Every Medical Innovation”

Kean Birch, Associate Professor, Social Science, York University
“From Entrepreneurship to *Rentiership* in the Bio-Economy”

Jessica Kolopenuk, University of Victoria

“Gone Girls?: Genetic (Re)articulations of Female Indigeneity through Canada’s DNA-Based Missing Persons Index”

11:15 a.m. -11:45 a.m.

Chair: Cameron Murray

Discussants: Elizabeth Abergel and Kelly Fritsch

11:45 -12:30 p.m.

Ronni Alexander, Professor, Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies
Kobe University
“Re-mapping the Everyday: The Impact of Decontamination after the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant Disaster”

Elizabeth Abergel, Sociology Department and Institut des sciences de l’environnement,
UQAM

“The Bio-objectification of Seeds: Gene Grabbing as a new mode of Governance”

Deboleena Roy, Associate Professor, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology Associate Faculty, Emory University
“Germline Ruptures: Methyl Isocyanate Gas and Transpositions of Life, Death, and Matter in Bhopal”

Varun Bhatta, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Indian Institute of Science
“Uncertainties of Technology: Perspectives from the Case Study of BT Products”

12:30-1:00 p.m.

Chair: Jobin M. Kanjirakkat

Discussants: Prasad Amit and Kaushik Sundar Rajan

1:00-2:00 p.m. Lunch

2:00-3:00 p.m.

Cameron Murray, Ph.D. Candidate, STS, York University

“Necessities and Impossibilities: Engaging the Deliberative Possibilities of Translational Medicine”

Erik Aarden, University of Vienna

“Beacons for the World? An Exploration of Population Health Research Projects and their Global Imaginaries”

Amit Prasad, Associate Professor of Sociology, Director, South Asian Studies Program, University of Missouri-Columbia

“Evocative Experimental Subjects: Clinical Labor, Cultural Imaginaries, and Overseas Stem Cell Therapy”

3:00-3:30 p.m.

Chair: Kelly Fritsch

Discussants: Arun Bala and Jenny Reardon

3:30-3:45 p.m. Coffee/Tea

3:45-5:15 p.m.

Sundar Sarukkai

Plenary Talk

National Institute of Advanced Studies

Indian Institute of Science

Biotechnology: Between Translatability and Performativity

Ethics of Innovation and Cosmopolitanism

November 5, 2016

South Ross 802

8:00-8:30 a.m. Coffee/Tea

8:30-10:00 a.m. Honoring Professor Jasanoff and her Contributions to STS and Global Politics: Ethics of Innovation, Constitutionalism, and Cosmopolitan Worlds

Chair: Siba Grovogui

Discussants: Professors, Jenny Reardon, Stephen Hilgartner, Ben Hurlbut, Trudo Lemmens, Robert Latham, Anna M. Agathangelou

Commentary: Professor Sheila Jasanoff

10:00-10:15 a.m. Coffee/Tea

10:15- 11:00 a.m.

Peter Chow

GeNA lab Director and Professor School of Communication, Fraser University

Plenary: “What Should We Do with Big Data?”

Chair: Robert Latham

11:00-12:30 p.m.

Burak Erkut, Faculty of Economics and Business, Dresden University of Technology, Germany

“From Markets to Market Shaping”

Kelly Fritsch, Banting Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Toronto

“Crippling Biocapitalism and the Future of Enhancement”

Trudo Lemmens, Professor and Scholl Chair in Health Law and Policy Faculty of Law, University of Toronto

“Ethical, Legal and Policy Challenges of Niche Markets and Pharmacogenomic Drug Development”

Stephen Hilgartner, Department of Science & Technology Studies Cornell University

“‘Breaking the Rules’ in the Bioeconomy”

12:30-1:00 p.m.

Chair: Ronni Alexander

Discussants: Venilla Rajaguru, Dept. of Science & Technology Studies, York University

Robert Latham, Department of Political Science, York University

1:00-2:00 p.m. Lunch

2:00-3:00 p.m.

Ben Hurlbut, Associate Professor, Arizona State University

“The Mined Body Problem: Ethical Efficiency and the Production of Value in Biomedical Research”

Robert Latham, Associate Professor, York University

“The Left and Biotechnology: Toward a Politics of Extrication”

Siba Grovogui, Professor Cornell University, Title in development

Jenny Reardon, Professor and Director, Science and Justice Research Center, University of Santa Cruz, “Life on Third: Blood for Oil, Justice for Ethics”

3:00-3:30 p.m.

Chair: Kira McCutcheon

Discussants: Sundar Sarukkai, Gordon McQuat, Aryn Martin

3:30-4:15 p.m.

Final Roundtable: Next Steps and Articulating a New Research Program on Value, Translation, and Cosmopolitanism

Chair: Robert Latham

Panelists: Ben Hurlbut, Fazila Seker, Jenny Reardon, Gordon McQuat, Siba Grovogui, Sundar Sarukkai, Sheila Jasanoff and Anna M. Agathangelou,

4:15-4:30 p.m. Professor Jasanoff, Concluding Commentary