



CALL FOR PAPERS

Governing Science: Towards an Interdisciplinary Narrative of Change?

**The SURF Centre, University of Salford
Manchester
24-25 November 2005**

Rationale

The relationship between science and governance is becoming more complex as the boundaries between previously disparate fields of activity – society, politics, culture, economy and science – shift and become increasingly blurred. ‘Governance’ itself has multiple interpretations relating, for instance, to the shared responsibility for social and economic issues between diverse institutions or power dependence in the relationships between institutions involved in collective action.

What is understood by the ‘governance of science’ can thus be seen from a variety of perspectives. For some, it requires a focus on the range of organisations, elected and non-elected, public and private, through which scientific life is managed and controlled. For others, the governance of science may equally relate to the values, norms, codes of conduct, justifications and rationales that underpin and inform particular sets of scientific activities - it may also be seen as pertaining to issues of democratic accountability, expertise and scientific credibility. Considering the changing relationship between science and society, politics, culture and economy requires a re-evaluation of the issues associated with governing science across these spheres.

By bringing together international, well-established and newer academics working across a number of disciplines, the seminar will consider these multiple understandings and diverse interpretations of the governance of science and the resulting implications for theory, policy and practice.

Aims and Objectives

The seminar aims to explore the development of an interdisciplinary perspective on the dynamics and changing relationships between science and governance by:

- bringing together fragmented and disconnected academic communities in different disciplines (STS, political science, geography, sociology etc);
- critically examining existing narratives of the changing relationship between science and governance across a range of disciplines, in terms of drivers of change, causal influences, implications and effects;
- interrogating and discussing a range of empirical research projects that seek to explore the relationship between science and governance.

The seminar is funded by the ESRC Science in Society programme and will consist of a series of invited talks and papers. Professors Helga Nowotny, Sheila Jasanoff, Nik Rose and Steve Fuller have agreed to speak at the seminar about their current work and its relationship to science and governance.

Call for Papers

Papers are invited that address a range of themes, including but not restricted to, the following: theories and concepts in science and governance; science in government and governance; democratising science; science, governance and economic development; changing modes of knowledge production and organisations of knowledge.

Papers will be made available in advance and presented by discussants, followed by an opportunity for the author/s to respond and a group debate. Places will be restricted to approximately 30 people and priority will be given to those who have been selected to present papers. The emphasis will be on a constructive exploration of disciplinary perspectives on science and governance by well-established and newer researchers, in a supportive environment in which participants may learn from each other.

The seminar will take place over two days on the 24th and 25th November at the SURF Centre, 113-115 Portland Street, Manchester, M1 6DW (see www.surf.salford.ac.uk for directions).

Participation in the seminar is free of charge, including lunch on the 24th and 25th November and a complimentary evening meal on the 24th November. Participants will be responsible for their own accommodation, other expenses and travel costs. Please note: a cancellation fee will be charged for non-attendance or withdrawal without four weeks prior notice.

Submission Procedure

If you wish to participate at the seminar, please send an abstract of 250 words to Pam Allen, p.allen@salford.ac.uk outlining the main structure and points of your paper and how they address the themes of the seminar. Abstracts must be submitted by 1st May 2005 at the latest.

Core Dates

1st May 2005 – Submission of 250 word abstract to Pam Allen, p.allen@salford.ac.uk

1st June 2005 – Notification of accepted papers and registration

1st October 2005 – Submission of papers suitable for circulation

14th October 2005 – Finalisation of programme and circulation of papers to participants

Outputs

The organisers will seek to identify selected papers from the seminar to form a special edition of a journal or to constitute a book within the Science in Society book series on the themes of the ‘Governance of Science’.

Further Information

For further information, please contact the SURF Centre on (0161) 295 4018.

The ‘Building Science Regions’ project

This event is funded by the ESRC Science in Society programme (www.sci-soc.net). It stems from a large project grant under the Science in Society programme, ‘Building Science Regions in the European Research Area: Governance in the Territorial Agora’. The project runs from June 2004 to November 2006 and brings together researchers at the Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures (SURF) and the Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies (CURDS). For further information on the project, please see

<http://www.surf.salford.ac.uk/TerritorialKnowledge/BuildingScienceRegions.htm>.