



Knowledge from the Margins: Social Justice and Sustainability August 18-19, 2015

at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, MSU, East Lansing, MI
(with post conference green tour of mid-Michigan August 20, 2015)

In Science and Technology Studies (STS) there is increasing interest in re-turning to the study of "knowledge from the margins": knowledge from people and institutions who are marginal to modern knowledge production, excluded from it, or said to be lacking in it. This conference aims to further a more comprehensive understanding of knowledge from the margins, with an eye to social justice and sustainability. Plenaries and paper sessions will be organized around four overlapping themes: Participation and Innovation by the Marginalized; Objectivity from the Margins; Marginal Differences; and Production of Ignorance and Marginality. See examples of some of the plenary titles below.



To participate in a paper session, submit your 250 word abstract on the conference website: <http://lbc.msu.edu/KFM/>. Non-traditional presentations welcome.

DEADLINE: JANUARY 26, 2015

Keynote Plenary

"Facilitating Knowledge at the Margins: Epistemic Justice and Participatory Technoscience," Gwen Ottinger, Drexel University

Plenary: Objectivity at the Margins

"After Mr. Nowhere: New Proper Scientific Selves," Sandra Harding, University of California – Los Angeles

Plenary: Reflexivity Exercise

"What am I carrying back to my own situation?: A whole-conference dialogue", Peter Taylor, University of Massachusetts - Boston

We encourage submission from interdisciplinary scholars, policy professionals, activists, and community members who speak to the broader conference theme and the power dynamics of the production and consumption of technoscience. Please contact the Conference Chair Logan Williams (Lyman Briggs College & Department of Sociology, MSU, will2734@msu.edu) with any questions.

Organizing Committee:

- ◆ Thomas Dietz, MSU, Sociology
- ◆ Kevin Elliott, MSU, Lyman Briggs College & Fisheries and Wildlife
- ◆ Aaron McCright, MSU, Lyman Briggs College & Sociology
- ◆ Georgina Montgomery, MSU, Lyman Briggs College & History
- ◆ Shobita Parthasarathy, University of Michigan, Ford School of Public Policy
- ◆ Naoko Wake, MSU, Lyman Briggs College & History
- ◆ Kyle Powys Whyte, MSU, Philosophy
- ◆ (Chair) Logan Williams, MSU

Thanks to our Sponsors:

- ◆ Lyman Briggs College, MSU
- ◆ College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, MSU
- ◆ College of Arts and Letters, MSU
- ◆ Timnick Chair in the Humanities, College of Arts & Letters, MSU
- ◆ Center for Gender in Global Context, MSU
- ◆ Department of Philosophy, MSU

Knowledge from the Margins: Plenary Speakers

Lisa Biggs: Assistant Professor, Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, MSU

Lisa Biggs is a performing artist and performance scholar; her ongoing interest in the performance of justice, law enforcement and prisoner rehabilitation is now expressed through research on the impact of theatre and dance programs for incarcerated women confined in the US and South Africa, and new collaborations with people whose lives are touched in other ways by criminal legal systems.

Sandra Harding: Distinguished Research Professor, Departments of Education and Gender Studies, University of California Los Angeles

Sandra Harding is author or editor of many books and special journal issues on topics in feminist and postcolonial epistemology and philosophy of science. The Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) awarded her the John Desmond Bernal Prize in 2013. Recent books include *Sciences From Below: Feminisms, Postcolonialities and Modernities* (2008), and *The Postcolonial Science and Technology Studies Reader* (2011). *Objectivity and Diversity: Another Logic of Scientific Research* will be published in May 2015.

David Levinger: President, Mobility Education Foundation

David Levinger is a transportation consultant who emphasizes the importance of education and cultural innovation to face challenges wrought by our existing systems of transportation. He founded two non-profit organizations to address shortcomings in our pedestrian environment and system of driver education. He is trained as an engineer and political anthropologist and has worked at the local, state, and national level.

Tolu Odumosu: Assistant Professor of Science Technology and Society & Electrical Engineering, University of Virginia

Tolu Odumosu studies the various processes by which societies select, adopt and implement large technological systems with an emphasis on digital telecommunication technologies, particularly mobile telephony systems and the Internet. He has previously carried out ethnographic work on mobile communications in Nigeria. He is currently working on a book which is informed by the experience of telecommunications research in the United States and utilizes that history to question the current trajectory of US Science and Technology Policy.

Gwen Ottinger: Assistant Professor, Center for Science, Technology, and Society, Drexel University

Gwen Ottinger works at the intersection of STS and environmental justice studies, asking: What would more environmentally just forms of science and technology look like? How can we work together to create them? She is co-editor of *Technoscience and Environmental Justice: Expert Cultures in a Grassroots Movement* (MIT 2011), author of *Refining Expertise: How Responsible Engineers Subvert Environmental Justice Challenges* (NYU 2013), and recipient of an NSF CAREER award.

Ramya Rajagopalan: Research Associate, Life Sciences Foundation and Visiting Research Fellow, University of Wisconsin - Madison

Ramya Rajagopalan studies the social and political dimensions of recent developments in the life sciences, including human genomics and personalized medicine, and their implications for understandings of race, identity and difference. She received her PhD in Genetics from MIT, and trained in Science and Technology Studies as a postdoctoral fellow with Joan Fujimura at UW-Madison. Her co-authored article "Different Differences" won the 2013 David Edge Best Article Prize from the 4S.

Peter Taylor: Professor of Science in a Changing World, University of Massachusetts Boston

Peter Taylor teaches and directs undergraduate and graduate programs on critical thinking, reflective practice, and science-in-society. His research and writing focuses on the complexity of environmental and health sciences in their social context, incl. *Unruly Complexity: Ecology, Interpretation, Engagement* (U. Chicago Press, 2005). On reflective practice, see *Taking Yourself Seriously: Processes of Research & Engagement* (with J. Szteiter, 2012, <http://bit.ly/TYS2012>) and "Cultivating Collaborators" (<http://bit.ly/CulCol11>).