

Negotiating New Sciences in Society

Symposium hosted by Celsius research group, DCU, supported by Office of the Vice-President for Research and Foresight Unit, DCU

Thursday 22 January and Friday 23 January 2009
Seminar Room S206, Research & Engineering Building
Dublin City University

Thursday 22 January 2009

2pm-3pm

Prof Alan Irwin (Copenhagen Business School)
New sciences, new risks, new science governance

Chair: Dr Seamus O Tuama (University College Cork)

3pm-4.15pm

Prof Miles Turner (National Centre for Plasma Science and Technology, DCU)
New Nuclear – the promise of fusion

Prof Mark Brake (University of Glamorgan, Wales)
Nuclear power, before it was new

Chair: Prof Helena Sheehan

4.45pm – 5.30pm

Prof Dietram Scheufele (University of Wisconsin, USA)
How publics make sense of nanotechnology

Chair: Dr Pdraig Murphy (School of Communications, DCU)

7.00pm

Dinner hosted by Foresight Unit, DCU

Friday 23 January

9.30am-10.30am

Dr Pdraig Murphy (School of Communications, DCU)
Discourses and discourse sites of nanotechnology

Dr Pat Brereton (School of Communications, DCU) and Dr Donal O Mathuna (School of Nursing, DCU)
Cinema representations of nanotechnology

Chair: Dr Ian Hughes

11.00am – 12.30pm

Dr Suzanne de Cheveigné (CNRS, France)

What can surveys tell us about Europeans' attitudes to new sciences?

Brian Trench (School of Communications, DCU)

New sciences in a 'new country' – the Irish paradox

Chair: Emma O'Brien (Biomedical Diagnostics Institute, DCU)

2pm – 3.30pm

Prof Bert Gordijn (Institute of Ethics, DCU)

Ethical issues in tissue engineering

Dr Fiona Coyle (Centre for Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics, Cardiff)

Stem cells, spaces and the performance of 'the public'

Chair: Sorcha Ni Chonnachtaigh (NUI-Galway)

3.45pm – 5pm

Closing panel discussion

Chair: Prof Ronnie Munck (Foresight Coordinator, DCU)

Invited speakers and chairs

Mark Brake is professor of science communication, University of Glamorgan, Cardiff, where he established the Masters in Communicating Science and BSc in Science and Science Fiction and runs astronomy outreach programmes. He is co-author, with Neil Hook, of *Different Engines: How Science Drives Fiction and Fiction Drives Science* (Macmillan 2007) and of *Future World* (Boxtree Macmillan 2008).

Pat Brereton is Associate Dean for Research in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, DCU. He has been co-ordinator of the BSc in Multimedia and director of the research centre for Society Information and Media (SIM). His research focuses on environmental and ethical themes in film. His books include (with Roddy Flynn) *Historical Dictionary of Irish Cinema* (Scarecrow Press 2007) and *Hollywood Utopia: Ecology in Contemporary American Cinema*, (Intellect Press 2004)

Fiona Coyle was until recently a research associate with the Centre for Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics (CESAgen), based at Cardiff University, and researching public discourses about stem cell research. Previously, she did her PhD research on environmental illness at Carleton University in Canada and post-doctoral research in New Zealand on public reception of biotechnology.

Suzanne de Cheveigné is a senior researcher at the Shadyc unit (Sociologie, Histoire, Anthropologie des Dynamiques Culturelles) of CNRS in Marseille. After 18 years as a physics researcher, she moved to science-society research in 1993, and has published analysis of coverage of science and the environment in the press and on television, and studies of the reception of that coverage. She co-ordinated French participation for a decade in a European project on attitudes to biotechnology that led to several publications.

Bert Gordijn is professor of ethics and director of the Institute for Ethics in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, DCU. He joined DCU from the University of Nijmegen, Netherlands, in 2008. He is editor-in-chief of the journal, *Studies in Ethics, Law and Technology*. He co-edited *The Silent Revolution in Neuroscience: Scientific, Philosophical and Ethical Perspectives* (Cambridge University Press 2009) and *Medical Enhancement and Posthumanity* (Springer 2008), and is author of *Medical Utopias. Ethical Reflections about Emerging Medical Technologies* (Peeters Publishers 2006).

Ian Hughes is a senior policy analyst in the Science and Technology Policy division of Forfás, the Irish government's industrial policy agency. He was formerly Head of the School of Humanities at the Institute for Art Design and Technology, Dun Laoghaire. Before that, he was a lecturer in the Department of Physics, Queens University Belfast, where he co-founded the DCU-Queens Masters in Science Communication.

Alan Irwin is Dean of Research at the Copenhagen Business School and former professor of sociology at the University of Liverpool, at the University of Manchester and Brunel University. He has published influential work on science and technology studies, 'citizen science', scientific governance, risk communication, environmental sociology and science-public relations. He chairs the 'Bioscience for Society' Strategy Panel of the UK BBSRC (Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council). His books include *Science, Social Theory and Public Knowledge* (with Mike Michael, Open University Press 2003), *Sociology and the Environment* (Polity 2001) and *Citizen Science* (Routledge 1995).

Ronnie Munck is academic theme leader for internationalisation, interculturalism and social development and coordinator of the Foresight exercise at Dublin City University. Before joining DCU in 2004, he was professor of sociology at University of Liverpool and University of Durban - Westville. His books include *Globalisation and Contestation: The Great Counter-Movement* (Routledge 2006), and *Globalisation and Social Exclusion: A Transformationalist Perspective* (Kumarian Press 2004).

Padraig Murphy is a post-doctoral research fellow in the School of Communications, DCU, studying environmental and health issues in nanotechnology under a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. He completed a PhD at DCU in 2007 on young people's representations of genetic and reproductive technologies.

Sorcha Uí Chonnachtaigh is completing a PhD at REMEDI, the Regenerative Medicine Institute, in National University of Ireland – Galway. The thesis examines, in an Irish context, philosophical questions raised by embryonic stem cell research.

Emma O'Brien is the Education & Outreach Manager at the Biomedical Diagnostics Institute (BDI), DCU. The BDI was established in October 2005, through an award from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) under their Centres for Science Engineering & Technology (CSET) programme. The Institute has a comprehensive education and outreach programme with biomedical science initiatives for primary through to fourth level students and teachers

Donal O Mathúna is senior lecturer in healthcare ethics and risk decision-making in the School of Nursing, DCU. His research focuses on issues of personhood, human dignity and moral reasoning and their interplay with biotechnology (especially stem cell research) and nanotechnology. He is co-author, with W. Larimore, of *Alternative medicine: the Christian handbook* (Zondervan 2001 / 2007).

Dietram Scheufele is Professor of Life Sciences Communication in the College of Agricultural & Life Sciences at the University of Wisconsin, and co-leader of the Public Opinion and Values Research Team for the Center for Nanotechnology in Society at Arizona State University. He has served as Director of Graduate Studies at Cornell University and University of Wisconsin. He has published extensively on public opinion, political communication, and public attitudes toward new technologies, including nanotechnology, stem cell research, and GMOs.

Helena Sheehan is associate professor in the School of Communications, DCU, where she lectures in television studies, history of ideas and philosophy of science. Her books include *Marxism and the Philosophy of Science: A Critical History* (Humanities Press 1985 / 1993), *Irish Television Drama: A Society and Its Stories* (Gill and Macmillan 1987 / 2004) and *The Continuing Story of Irish Television Drama: Tracking the Tiger* (Four Courts Press, 2004). She is a co-editor of *Mapping Irish Media: Critical Explorations* (UCD Press 2007).

Brian Trench is senior lecturer and former Head of School in the School of Communications, DCU, where he founded the Masters in Science Communication and has supervised many research projects in science communication. He is a member of the scientific committee of the international PCST (Public Communication of Science and Technology) network. He is co-editor, with Massimiano Bucchi, of the *International Handbook on Public Communication of Science and Technology* (Routledge 2008).

Miles Turner is associate professor in the School of Physical Sciences, DCU, and director of the National Centre for Plasma Science and Technology. He has received two principal investigator grants from Science Foundation Ireland for work on plasma technology for nano-manufacturing. He is the head of the Research Unit of Association EURATOM-DCU, the organising body for fusion energy research in Ireland.