



CSPO Perspectives

“Neuroethics: New Science, Old Hubris” by Kevin Finneran: *Advances in neuroscience are generating speculation about a completely new understanding of human consciousness, abilities, interests, values, and ethics. Although the research developments are exciting and potentially useful in dealing with some psychological ailments, we should be wary of those promising a fundamentally new model of human nature. A look back at an earlier “window into the human mind” should introduce a healthy dose of skepticism.* Now available on the CSPO website at www.cspo.org/home/perspectives/index.htm.

Science, Policy and Social Inequities

Science and technology have made profound contributions to the alleviation of suffering and poverty in the world, and these contributions help to justify the world’s increasing investment in R&D. However, disenfranchised groups and less-developed nations are often less able to benefit from the continual rapid advance of science and technology than people who are wealthier, better able to participate in societal decision making, and living in affluent nations. Moreover, the continuing concentration of global wealth, combined with the prospect of world-transforming revolutions in such areas as nanotechnologies, genomics, and robotics, demand a careful consideration of the ways in which inequity and inequality may be linked to the R&D enterprise. CSPO hosted a [Workshop on Science, Policy and Social Inequities](#), May 21-23, 2006, to investigate sources of inequity that may be inherent in the organization of research and innovation in the U.S. and internationally. Areas of discussion included clinical trials, genomics, forensics, human subjects research, climate forecasting, and information technology. The workshop aimed to identify and communicate approaches to R&D policy that could help overcome entrenched inequities related to technical advance.

The Policy Implications of Cognitive Enhancement Technologies.

A converging set of new technologies promises to give human beings opportunities to develop, heal, and alter their cognitive abilities in a variety of ways. These technologies (nano-, bio-, info-, and cognitive) all pose challenging issues, deriving from their potential positive and negative implications for individuals and for society. The growing field of “neuroethics” has produced literature and discourse identifying and debating many of these issues, but there has been less discussion of their policy, legislative, and regulatory implications. Governments increasingly will be called upon to support, permit, require, or limit research and application of cognitive enhancement technologies. To begin the discourse, CSPO and the Advanced Concepts Group of Sandia National Laboratories co-sponsored a workshop to explore the potential public policy implications of emerging technologies for the enhancement of human cognitive capabilities, May 3-5, 2006 at Arizona State University. The participants began by exploring the technology landscape—the present and possible future states of the art in cognitive enhancement tools and goals. They then developed, contrasted, and compared four different hypothetical policy regimes, each grounded in a distinct constellation of values and goals. A final report of the ideas and themes of the workshop is under development.

Data Vulnerability is a Systemic Problem

CSPO-affiliate faculty Torin Monahan discusses how focusing on extorting individuals to protect themselves against identity theft neglects the vulnerabilities of a system that catalyzes identity theft

in the first place in a recent opinion piece in the *Arizona Republic*. Read it at <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/viewpoints/articles/0521monahan0521.html>.

Center for Nanotechnology at Arizona State University

CNS-ASU was well-represented at the Public Participation in Nanotechnology Workshop, Washington, DC, May 30-31, organized by the National Nanotechnology Coordination Office. Director David Guston presented "What do we want to learn from public participation in nanotechnology." Dietram Scheufele (Wisconsin), co-leader of the Public Opinion and Values activities, presented "What do we know about public opinion?" For more information on the CNS-ASU, visit cns.asu.edu. To receive news about CNS-ASU activities and other items of interest regarding nanotechnology in society, subscribe to the newsletter by contacting csn@asu.edu.

Knowledge that Matters

ASU will host the 2nd Feminist Epistemologies, Methodologies, Metaphysics, and Science Studies (FEMMSS) Conference, "Knowledge that Matters," February 8-10, 2007, and is seeking proposals for presentations and panels. For more information, visit http://www.asu.edu/clas/womens_studies/pages/FEMMSS2.htm.

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