

Science, Technology, and Medicine (STM) Business Meeting
Saturday, November 21st, 2015
AAA – Denver, CO

- Issues Discussed:

- STM Grad Student Paper Award winner announced

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A DISRUPTIVE ODOR: SMELLY WATER AND THE RE-ALIGNMENT OF EXPERT AND LAY KNOWLEDGE

This paper follows the efforts to characterize and control a crude 4-methylcyclohexane methanol (MCHM) spill in West Virginia in 2014 – a topic that needed to be covered by someone in science studies. The author blends a deeply materialist analysis of the substance itself, citizen encounters with it, and the expert practices and technologies used to detect and quantify it with a consistent concern for what all of this scientific analysis means for civic life in contemporary West Virginia. While this has been done along the environmental history/STS interface – most relevantly by Gregg Mitman, Michelle Murphy, Kim Fortun, Adriana Petryna, and most directly of all, Joy Parr (her book is about unexpected smells, how they are detected, and how they affect communities!!) – this is an exceptional version of that kind of analysis. Congratulations and we look forward to seeing the paper in publication.

- This year, \$100.00 was awarded, along with a certificate presented at the Society for Medical Anthropology.
 - This year 3 papers were submitted and we had three peer reviewers submit comments and points. The blind peer review lead to one finalist.
 - Tradition – the winners read the next year’s papers along with other readers; one or two winners. \$100 if single winner. \$75 each for two winners.
- Updates from 2015 4S and AAA conferences
- Feedback/Congratulations to AAA 2015 participants.
 - Stem Cell Socialites: 10 audience members in addition to the 5 participants attended the panel. A small audience but an audience that thoroughly engaged with the issue at hand.
 - Freezing the Future Panel with CAR: 6 audience members in addition to the participants were at the roundtable. Again, the panel was well received, great discussion ensued, AND the participants are pursuing publications of the papers in a co-edited special issue.
 - Feedback/Congratulations to 4S Denver 2015 participants
 - Replaceable Parts: Prosthetic Technologies in Biomedicine: A well attended panel, engaging discussion, and an ongoing discussion of publication potential. This will be the STM group’s first publication attempt, with Nayantara Sheoran and Danya Glabu leading the process as co-editors. All participants have submitted abstracts for their papers and the discussant (Dr. Shobita Parthasarathy) has agreed to write the invited editorial for the special issue.

- AAA Denver 2015 SMA Meeting Updates:
 - SMA- SIGs panel around the topic of “Black Bodies Matter”: This roundtable was successfully organized by the SMA/SIGs. While STM did not have a presence at this particular panel, there is hope that this year’s topic will be of interest to STM scholars.
 - The AAA 2016 SMA-SIG round table will be organized around the topic of “Refugees, Exiles, Prisoners and Migrants: Health and Exclusion in a Time of War and Terrorism.” Any member of the STM community that is interested in this topic, please do to reach out to us via email (nayantara.sheoran@gradauteinstitute.ch and dag66@cornell.edu), so we can connect you with the organizers.
 - Continue with Take-A-Stand initiative: At the AAA 2015 meeting, STM members decided to pursue the Take-A-Stand initiative on the issue of “Sex, Drugs, and Anthropology.” Emily Wentzell, Christine Labuski, and Nayantara Sheoran are working on this currently. One of the first steps was to establish a blog, which is under construction. The next step, before working towards a publication, is organizing a panel at the AAS 2016 on topically relevant issue in terms of “Sex, Drugs, and Anthropology.” They are currently working on the abstract, and will send out a CFP shortly.
 - Funding update – There are \$150.00 remaining in our account, and an additional \$200.00 have been added this year. Brining our total to \$350.00.
- Panel planning for 4S and AAA 2016
 - Interest in co-organizing with CAR and ADTSG: There was a general interest within the STM body to co-organize a panel and/or roundtable with CAR and/or ADTSG. The members in attendance suggested asking the larger STM body if anybody was interested in co-organizing with these groups. Please email us, if there is any interest and we can help co-ordinate.
 - Generate topics of interest for AAA 2016: While there was no clear focus of topics that the STM membership wanted to pursue, the general sentiment was to reach out to the community online to generate interest and provide support for anybody that may be interested in putting together a panel or roundtable. Thus, this is a call to the STM membership, to reach out if there are panels they would like us to help support/organize for the AAA 2016.
- Activities for 2015-2016
 - Engage with Somatosphere about writing commitments from STM community. A great opportunity for showcasing your scholarship, and we highly encourage the STM community to participate.
 - Owe one short piece for Somatosphere. Is there any further interest? I can connect them with Eugene Raikhel.

- Writing Commitments for 2015-2016 – The STM group would like to think about widening its scope and thinking about:
 - Take 4S panel and convert into special issue for journal. The special issue on prosthetics is a first step in this direction.
 - First STM publication project, but might be an wonderful way forward to the group.
- Organize and implement SMA’s plan for the TAS (Take A Stand) policy initiative.
 - Emily Wentzell, Christine Labuski, and Nayantara Sheoran are currently working on this by way of a panel at the AAA 2016, a blog, and finally a publication that builds on all the previous efforts.
- Organizations issues to address:
 - STM sponsorship versus announcing papers of interest.
 - Need to formalize process and what is best: The membership suggested emailing the listserver four weeks prior to the 4S and AAA conference asking for announcements that could be sent out as a group and promoted by STM as “panels/papers of interest.” Those can be papers that we “promote,” but if papers have to be sponsored by the STM, the group should be involved from the earliest stages of the planning and organizing process, in order to ensure involvement with the STM groups mission.
 - In order not to spam the STM listserve, one email with all the information collected regarding panels, roundtables, and other events at the conference will be announced twice – two weeks prior and then again one week prior to the conference.
- Discuss ways to formalize/improve our SIGs organizational structure
 - Generate an “official” membership list
 - Structure to include 3 year term for Chair and Secretary
 - Chair elect and Secretary elect come in on the third term
 - Steering committee members include former chairs
 - Generate Institutional Memory
 - Get this information online
 - Meeting Agendas and Minutes online
 - Use social media more effectively
 - Create a twitter account, if the STM body agrees
 - Generate suggestions about making the STM facebook page more user friendly
- Follow up on creating institutional memory
 - We are pursuing a conversation with the SMA webmaster to allow us to post the following information online:
 - Meeting agendas and minutes online.

- Graduate Paper Prize winners over the years, along with titles of their papers.
- The names of STM office holders and advisory committee members.

- People in Attendance

- NayanTara Sheoran
- Danya Glabu
- Anna Zogas
- Elena Sokolova
- Damien Droney
- David Gallop
- Bharat Venkat
- Jospeh Powell
- Marieke vanEijh
- Christy Spackman
- JoAnne Fordham
- Emily Wentzell

STM Advisory Committee

Lara Braff
Betsey Brada

Secretary

Danya Glabu

Chair

Nayantara Sheoran