

ISSTI

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE
STUDY OF SCIENCE
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
www.issti.ed.ac.uk

newsletter

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Goodbye 2020 Hello 2021

As we come to the end of a very challenging year, we would like to wish you a safe and very Happy Festive Season. This last ISSTI Newsletter of 2020 includes pleasing news of a range of major new research grants awards secured by ISSTI members. We offer you our best wishes for 2021.

Lukas Engelmann secures European Research Council (ERC) award on The Epidemiological Revolution

Congratulations to Dr Lukas Engelmann (Chancellor's Fellow and recently appointed Senior Lecturer in History and Sociology of Biomedicine in Science Technology and Innovation Studies) who has been awarded a prestigious five year ERC Starting Grant to study the history of epidemiological reasoning and its relevance to pandemics today.



Interdisciplinary Awards..... 2

UKRI Research Node "Governance of Autonomous Systems"
UKRI-NSFC Joint Call "Are Health Inequalities Being Tackled?"
Wellcome Discretionary Award: "ScotPEN Wellcome Engagement Award"
UKRI "PATH-AI Project"

Engagement 3-4

Community News5-6

WANT MORE NEWS?!

Make sure to follow
ISSTI and STIS
Twitter accounts at:
[@UoE_ISSTI](https://twitter.com/UoE_ISSTI) & [@UoE_STIS](https://twitter.com/UoE_STIS)

Interdisciplinary Awards



ISSTI members secure major interdisciplinary awards

UKRI Research node on Governance of Autonomous Systems

Stuart Anderson, Lachlan Urquhart, Burkhard Schafer and Robin Williams are co-investigators in a landmark new interdisciplinary award on [the Governance and Regulation of Trustworthy Autonomous Systems](#) in transport and health and social care.

This £3.2 million award, led by Professor Subramanian Ramamoorthy from the School of Informatics, brings together researchers with backgrounds in Computer Science and AI, Law, AI ethics, Science and Technology Studies and Design Ethnography from King's College London, the University of Nottingham, Heriot-Watt University, University of Glasgow and the University of Sussex. More information regarding this award can be found [here](#).

Grant successes for Prof Martyn Pickersgill

Our colleague Professor Martyn Pickersgill from the Usher Institute is part of two major joint awards

UKRI-NSFC Joint Call: 'Transforming Primary Care in Scotland and China to Meet the Needs of an Ageing Population - Are Health Inequalities Being Tackled?' (£1 107 933; Co-I. with Harry Haoxiang Wang (Sun Yat-Sen University) and Bruce Guthrie, Ellen Stewart, Andrew Thompson and Stewart Mercer (PI) (University of Edinburgh)

Wellcome Trust Discretionary Award: 'ScotPEN Wellcome Engagement Award: Phase 2' (£499 579) Co-I. With Becky Hothersall (U. Glasgow) (PI), Alison Caldecott (U. Glasgow), Barbara Gorgoni (U. Aberdeen), Erin Hardee (U. Dundee), Heather Rea (U. Edinburgh), Mhairi Stewart (U. St. Andrews) (Co-PIs), Carlos Galan-Diaz (U. St. Andrews), Kevin O'Dell (U. Glasgow), Jonathan Pettitt (U. Aberdeen), and Nicola Stanley-Wall (U. Dundee) (Co-Is) (July 2020-Jan 2022) [217078/Z/19/A].



Prof Charles Raab Co-Investigator in UKRI-funded PATH Project

[Professor Charles Raab](#) (Politics) and [Dr Fumi Kitagawa](#) (Business School) are Co-Investigators in the UKRI-funded [PATH-AI research project](#), 2020-22, based at the Alan Turing Institute in the UK and at RIKEN in Japan. PATH-AI is 'Mapping an Intercultural Path to Privacy, Agency and Trust in Human-AI Ecosystems'. Please also click [here](#) for additional project information.



This is the Newsletter of the Institute for the Study of Science, Technology and Innovation (www.issti.ed.ac.uk) This interdisciplinary network, founded in 2000 by Robin Williams, brings together colleagues from across the University studying science, technology and innovation and is hosted by the Science, Technology and Innovation Studies (STIS) Subject Group.

Science, Technology and Innovation Studies (STIS) Subject Group at the University of Edinburgh is internationally recognised as a leading centre of research, teaching and knowledge exchange in this important interdisciplinary field. With more than 40 staff, STIS enjoys outstanding ratings for its scholarly publications and impact, sustains research intensity with a high volume of external research income, and excels in teaching through a suite of undergraduate and postgraduate courses and programmes. For more information, see our website: www.stis.ed.ac.uk.

Prof Francesca Bray gives History of Science Society 2020 Distinguished Lecture

“Underground Inspirations: how and why we write histories of potatoes and other tubers” took place at the HSS Virtual Forum on the 8th of October 2020. Francesca Bray’s lecture can be viewed on [Youtube](#) and will be published in *Isis* in 2021.



Prof Robin Williams Presents to International Science, Technology and Innovation Think Tank

On the 28th of September 2020, Prof Robin Williams gave an online presentation to the “International Science, Technology and Innovation Think Tank” (the Pujang Innovation Forum). His talk entitled “Why science and innovation policy needs Science and Technology Studies?” is available online at the following link: https://media.ed.ac.uk/media/1_so4pbis9



Prof Jan Webb Co-opted onto Scottish Science Advisory Council

Professor Jan Webb has been co-opted onto the [Scottish Science Advisory Council](#) to advise government on energy and climate change policies. Due to their expertise in the development of low carbon infrastructure, Jan was appointed to the Commission and formed part of the team that published the [Infrastructure Commission for Scotland Report](#) this summer.

In the [draft 5 Year Infrastructure Investment Plan](#), Scottish Government have accepted the main recommendations of the Commission's first Report on investing for an inclusive, net zero emissions society, and are seeking views on how to implement these.

Dr Kirsten Jenkins Leads Work on Energy and Just Transitions

Dr Kirsten Jenkins has been appointed as co-chair of the third [Energy Research & Social Science conference](#), which is set to take place in Manchester in September 2021. The conference, which will focus on Climate and Energy Transformations, will bring together hundreds of energy research and social science scholars from across the globe.

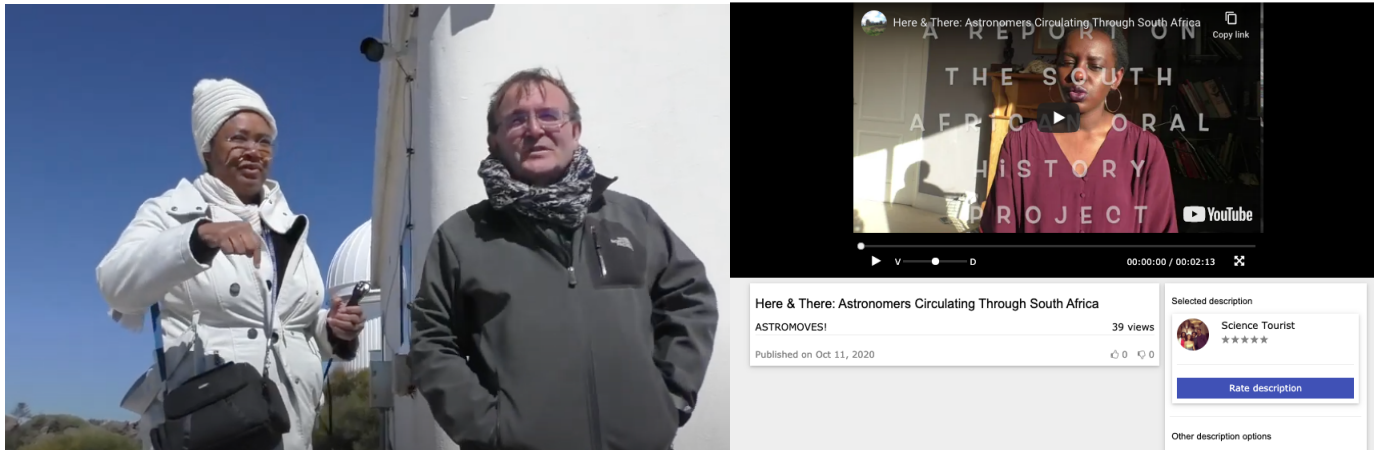
Dr Jenkins has also recently been selected as one of the members of the COP26 Universities Network working group on the Just Transition. As the University of Edinburgh representative, she joins more than 45 UK-based universities and research centres informing the progress of the UN Climate Summit. They have recently published a [briefing summarising their initial findings](#).



Engagement

The past few months have seen researchers increasingly embracing the new digital age brought on by the COVID-19 global pandemic. Many staff members continue to perform and disseminate their work through innovative use of technology.

Dr Jarita Holbrook Wins Awards for “The Science Tourists” and “Black Suns: An Astrophysics Adventure”



Jarita Holbrook has been busy making videos for conferences and the larger public. They won a prize for Excellence at the 2020 WRPN Global Webisode Competition for their episode of The Science Tourists focused on Tenerife, Spain. This award-winning episode is available on [YouTube](#).

Similarly, their film Black Suns: An Astrophysics Adventure has won an award at the 2020 Natourale Nature & Tourism Film Festival in Wiesbaden, Germany, though which award won't be revealed until November 28th!

Contact Jarita if you want to include Black Suns in your 2021 teaching plans. For the Bicentennial celebration of the South African Astronomical Observatory, they made a five-minute poster video covering their oral history project focused on South Africa astronomy. The poster appears on YouTube and on the accessible site [YouDescribe](#) where the audio description can be turned off/on (YouDescribe does not work on the Safari browser). As part of their Research Data Alliance activities (RDA Plenary will be in Edinburgh April 2021!), the CARE principles of Indigenous Data Governance has been published in the [Data Science Journal](#).

Holbrook presented on their ASTROMOVES project at 4S/EASST Prague and will present at the International Astronomical Union Education & Heritage in the [Era of Big Data symposium](#) in December.

Artificial Intelligence Ethics & Society (AIES) Website Now Live

Benedetta Catanzariti, Yazmin Morlet Corti, and Vassilis Galanos from STIS, in collaboration with the main organiser Sarah Bennett from ECA, continue their work as the Edinburgh-based AI Ethics & Society (AIES) group. After a successful round of events last year, the group has continued to organise reading groups, guest talks, and film screenings throughout the 2020-2021 year. The group's brand new [website](#) is now online, while forthcoming events can be found and booked through the group's [Eventbrite page](#).

The group organised the Critical Perspectives on AI Ethics conference which took place on the 22nd-23rd October 2020. The event was very successful, with high attendance and received praise from various parties. For more information please click [here](#).



Congratulations to Dr Ben Collier on appointment to Lectureship in Digital Methods in Science Technology and Innovation Studies

Ben's research explores how digital infrastructures and platforms become implicated in harm, crime, and power; how they become sites at which ideas about deviance and governance are worked out and contested. He recently completed a PhD in STIS at the University of Edinburgh, comprising an STS-criminology study of the Tor Project, and has been working for the past two years as a postdoctoral researcher at the interdisciplinary Cambridge Cybercrime Centre. He has additionally in recent months been working as a statistician in the Scottish Government's COVID-19 health data team.

Welcome Trust PhD Programme Recruiting Now: "One Health Models of Disease: Science, Ethics and Society"



Professor Martyn Pickersgill (Centre for Biomedicine, Self and Society) is Co-Director with Professor Ross Fitzgerald (Roslin Institute) of a £5.3m Wellcome Trust PhD Programme in 'One Health Models of Disease: Science, Ethics and Society'. The

interdisciplinary training the programme provides makes it very suitable for PhD candidates in science and technology studies, and is currently recruiting. Successful applicants will receive a generous tax-free stipend, career transition funding, public engagement support, and full tuition fees regardless of student nationality.

To apply please click [here](#).

Application deadline 12 noon GMT Thursday 14th January 2021

ISSTI member recognised in Queen's birthday honours for 2020.

Congratulations to Jan Webb, Professor of Sociology of Organisations at SPS who was recognized in the Queen's Birthday Honours for 2020.

Jan has been made an MBE for services to Energy Transition in the UK. She is co-director of the UK Energy Research Centre, a member of the Infrastructure Commission for Scotland and adviser to UKRI's Prospering from the Energy Revolution project. She was also recently appointed to the Scottish Science Advisory Council, where she will advise the Scottish Government on climate change policy and governance.

We are pleased to record details of successes of alumni and former colleagues.

Dr Meritxell Ramirez-I-Ollé has published a [new book](#) based upon her Edinburgh PhD thesis and supported by the Sociological Review Fellowship at Keele in 2017



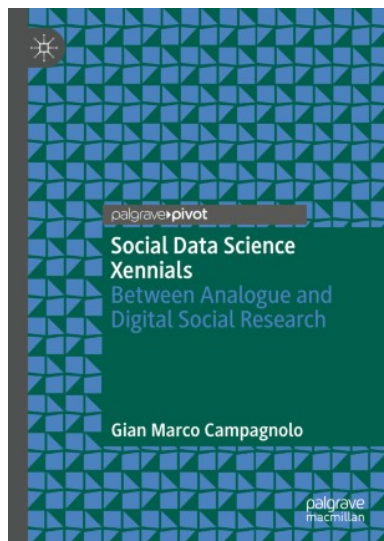
Into the Woods: An epistemography of climate change offers "a detailed exploration of the working practices of a community of scientists exposed in public, and of the making of scientific knowledge about climate change in Scotland"

For more information please click [here](#).

Advanced Care Research Centre Recruiting Now: "Independence in the Elder Experience"

As part of the [Advanced Care Research Centre](#) we are looking for candidates for a PhD studentship in [Independence in the Elder Experience](#). **This will explore how** advanced AI and data technologies can be safely and productively deployed in ways that contribute to the lived experience of elderly users (regarding their independence and quality of life) as well as the confidence of members of their care networks, allowing elders to participate in the world as "first-class" citizens. Deadline 31 January 2021. Further details on the application process can be found [here](#)

Community News



Science Technology and Innovation Studies colleague Dr Gian Marco Campagnolo has also released a [new book](#).

Social Data Science Xennials: Between Analogue and Digital Social Research

“explores the tension between analogue and digital as part of an evolving research programme and focuses on the sequencing of methods within it. The book will be an invaluable reference for scholars who routinely engage in critical sociological analysis of the digital workplace and find it easier to treat the digital as an object of study”

For more information including a free preview please click [here](#).

Dr Sara Bea has joined King's College London [Biotechnology and Society research group](#)



She is working on Amy Hinterberger's Wellcome Trust-funded project '[Biomedical research and the politics of the human](#)'. This involves conducting research on the development of stem cell based biotechnologies, organoids and interspecies chimeras, for human therapeutic applications.

Prof Catherine Lyall's book featured in Times Higher Education article

“Being an Interdisciplinary Academic: How Institutions Shape University Careers” has been showcased in a Times Higher Education article which considers the future of interdisciplinarity. To access the article please click [here](#).

Additional information about Prof Lyall's book which

“highlights the importance of interdisciplinarity in the academic landscape, and examines how it is understood in the context of the modern university”

can be found [here](#).



We were deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Professor Ben Crow who undertook his PhD at the University of Edinburgh. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

More information about Professor Crow's life, work and a memorial site to leave comments can be found [here](#).

