

TIK4011:

Science and Politics in Controversies on Nature – Spring 2013

This course is giving a broad presentation of important research in the field of science and technology studies (STS). It shows that research on controversies, expertise, science and policy relationships, and lay people knowledge has been going on for many decades, while it has developed theoretically it has also become more relevant when societies dependence of expertise deepens.

Course coordinator: Göran Sundqvist. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday.

Room 529, Eilert Sundts Hus

Time: 09:15-11:00

Week 5 (28.1-1.2): During this first week the importance of studying controversies is discussed. For scholars in STS controversies are normal, while agreements and consensus should be explained. Controversies between scientists in the laboratory setting are studied as well as so-called science-based controversies leading to public discussions in society. The limits of focusing on controversies are also discussed. What is and what is not a controversy?

Date/time	Lecturer	Title	Readings
Tuesday January 29 9.15-11.00	Göran Sundqvist	Course introduction The production of knowledge – from uncertainty to certainty	Collins 1981 Latour 1998 Latour 2004
Thursday January 31 9.15-11.00	Göran Sundqvist	Studying controversies Science-based controversies	Travis 1981 Venturini 2010a, 2010b Brante 2000 Brante & Hallberg 1991
Friday February 1 9.15-11.00	Göran Sundqvist	Group discussions on controversies as an entry to STS: Is there a controversy on climate change?	

Week 6 (04.02-08.02): This week we learn about expertise, what it is and what it is not. After presenting the long tradition in STS of studying the role of experts in policy making, a recent contribution trying to sort out what is expertise and presenting a periodic table of expertise is discussed. This attempt is then critically discussed together with the critical issue on what STS can and should say about expertise, what it is and who has it, and not least what kind of expertise STSers possess.

Date/time	Lecturer	Title	Readings
Monday February 4			
Tuesday February 5 09.15-11.00	Göran Sundqvist	Experts in science- based controversies	Nelkin 1975 Sundqvist 2000 Sundqvist 2002 Collins & Evans 2007
Wednesday February 6			
Thursday February 7 9.15-11.00	Göran Sundqvist	A theory of expertise and its critics	Collins & Evans 2007 Wynne 2003 Marres 2007
Friday February 8 9.15-11.00	Göran Sundqvist	Group discussion: What can STS say about expertise? Is there a “core set” on the climate change issue?	

Week 7 (11.02-15.2): When controversies about a scientific object become of relevance also to objects outside laboratories scientific results are mixed with public concerns, implying increasing uncertainty and the multiplying of concerned actors. Such processes of “overflow” could be understood as “research in the wild”, in contrast to “research in the laboratory”, and means that scientific experts are forced to take part in discussions they no longer can control in the way they do in their laboratories. During this week we learn how to study such “overflow”, and also how society should deal with it. Nuclear waste management is taken as an example.

Date/time	Lecturer	Title	Readings
Monday February 11			
Tuesday February 12 09.15-11.00	Göran Sundqvist	Science and democracy	Callon, Lascoumes & Barthe 2009 Barthe 2009
Wednesday February 13			
Thursday February 14 9.15-11.00	Ann-Sofie Kall	Research in the laboratory vs. Research in the wild	Anshelm & Galis 2009 Callon 1998 Callon & Rabeharisoa 2003
Friday February 15 9.15-11.00	Ann-Sofie Kall Göran Sundqvist	Workshop: Nuclear waste – what kind of issue?	

Week 8 (18.2-22.2): How does knowledge and technology travel? What happens in the process? During this week we investigate the dynamics of technology transfer and knowledge production in general, and more specifically within the field of international development and foreign aid, with a special attention to the efforts made by aid agencies to monitor and evaluate aid projects.

Date/time	Lecturer	Title	Readings
Monday February 18			
Tuesday February 19 09.15-11.00	Hilde Reinertsen	Knowledge on the move 1: understanding development aid	Cooper & Packard 1997 Law 2003 Rottenburg 2000, 2009
Wednesday February 20			
Thursday February 21 9.15-11.00	Hilde Reinertsen	Knowledge on the move 2: translations, displacements, negotiations	Asdal 2008a, 2011 Elam & Sundqvist 2011 Latour 1999
Friday February 22 9.15-11.00	Hilde Reinertsen	Workshop: The controversy of the Theun Hinboun hydropower project in Laos	

Week 9: (25.2-1.3): During weeks 9 and 10 attention is given to the making of boundaries ("boundary-work") between different disciplines, and between science and non-science, and on knowledge-production as a form of co-production of science and society in different settings made by different actors (scientists, science critics, journalists, bureaucrats, lawyers, and others).

Date/time	Lecturer	Title	Readings
Monday February 25			
Tuesday February 26 09.15-11.00	Sissel Myklebust	The history and sociology of science and the concept of boundary-work	Polanyi 1962 Porter 2009 Bensaude-Vincent 2009
Wednesday February 27			
Thursday February 28 9.15-11.00	Sissel Myklebust	Boundaries of science	Gieryn 1995 Shackley & Wynne 1996
Friday March 1 9.15-11.00	Sissel Myklebust	Seminar: Boundary work in the making of STS	

Week 10: (4.3-8.3): See week 9!

Date/time	Lecturer	Title	Readings
Monday March 4			
Tuesday March 5 09.15-11.00	Sissel Myklebust	Science and the order of society	Shapin 1994 Jamieson 1996
Wednesday March 6			
Thursday March 7 9.15-11.00	Sissel Myklebust	The idiom of co-production	Jasanoff 2004a Jasanoff 2004b Miller 2004 Wynne 2010
Friday March 8 9.15-11.00	Sissel Myklebust	Seminar: Co-production of science and society in the climate change debate	

Week 11: (11.3-15.3): In recent years, there has been an increased interest in public participation in decision-making around science and technology. The main question this week concerns how the relationship between science and citizens is understood and constructed in governance. What is the contribution of STS to this understanding?

Date/time	Lecturer	Title	Readings
Monday March 11			
Tuesday March 12 09.15-11.00	Ásdís Jonsdottir	Science, citizenship and governance	Callon 1999 Irwin 2006 Leach & Scoones 2005
Wednesday March 13			
Thursday March 14 9.15-11.00	Ásdís Jonsdottir	Incommensurable ontologies	Cruikshank 1998 Leach et al 2005 Verran 2002
Friday March 15 9.15-11.00	Ásdís Jonsdottir	Workshop: Public participation – what counts as “local” knowledge?	

Week 12 (18.3-22.3): Exam week

Deadline for handing in exam: Friday, March 22, at 12 noon (Fronter)