Società Italiana di Studi sulla Scienza e la Tecnologia
Italian Society of Science and Technology Studies

4º Convegno Nazionale
Rovigo, 21-23 Giugno 2012

4th National Conference
Rovigo (Italy), 2012, June 21-23

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, SOCIAL WORLDS

The **4th National Conference of STS Italia** (Italian Society of Science and Technology Studies) will be held **in Rovigo from 21 to 23 June 2012**, and will be organised in partnership with CIGA of the University of Padua (Centre for Environmental Law Decisions and Corporate Ethical Certification).

The conference will provide an opportunity to present empirical and theoretical works focusing on different aspects related to the study of science, technology and innovation processes, drawing on a variety of disciplines and fields of study (sociology, anthropology, law, philosophy, design, psychology, semiotics, history, economics).

The 4th Conference will focus on the idea of studying *emerging technologies*. Although the definition of emerging technologies specifically refers to the creation and dissemination of new technologies (such as nanotechnologies, biotechnologies, neuro-cognitive sciences and robotics), more generally, emerging technologies can also be regarded as social worlds: complex objects, inseparable and inextricable from the practices and knowledges where they originate and transform themselves. As such, they are therefore a cross-disciplinary topic, which can be examined from a variety of points of view, approaches and methodologies.

Call for Tracks

The 4th edition of the national conference of STS Italia involves, in its first stage, a call for tracks. This is intends to select the thematic areas on which the national conference will be focused and on the basis of which the call for abstracts will be issued. Each track is presented and managed by one or more convenors, responsible for the formulation, selection and organization of their tracks.

Track proposal should be sent to 4convegnoSTS@gmail.com **by December 10, 2011**. Proposals can cover all the topics related to the social studies of science, technology and innovation. Particular attention will be given to proposals related to the following topics:

- Processes and practices of scientific research
- Mobile, media and communication technologies
- Technologies, medical practices and health care environments
- Methodologies and techniques for the study of technoscientific processes
- Innovation and Corporate Social Responsibility
- Communication of science and technology
- Research policies and knowledge production
- Use and consumption of technologies and technical devices
- Relationships between technological innovation, ethics and society
- Regulation and *governance* of innovation
- Design processes and emergence of technical objects
- Groups, organizations and places of innovation
- Body, gender and technoscientific performances
- Expectations and promises related to technological innovation processes

Submissions for thematic tracks are expected to be written in **Italian and English**, and to include a short description of the proposed theme and area of interest (maximum 500 words), as well as some information (max 3 lines) about the convenors. Convenors will be notified about the acceptance of their track **by December 15, 2011.**

Convenors will autonomously set the session topics and the overall organization of each track. Should the convenors consider an abstract interesting, but not fitting with their thematic tracks, they will be free to re-address the abstract to the convenor of the track they think is most appropriate or to the convenor of the open track. If a track collects less then 3 abstracts, the convenor will confer with the Programme Committee to decide whether to run the track anyway or merge it with another track.

There will also be an open stream, whose convenors will be indicated ex-post by the Programme Committee of the Conference.

IMPORTANT DATES

10 December 2011: Deadline call for tracks
15 December 2011: Notification of track acceptance
19 December 2011: Official announcement of the conference with the final list of tracks and relative call for abstracts
1 March 2012: Deadline for abstract submission
20 March 2012: Notification of acceptance / rejection of abstracts to authors
30 April 2012: Confirmation of attendance by authors (for inclusion in the final program).
15 May 2012: Publication of the final program of the Conference on the website
21-23 June 2012: Conference

In collaboration with: