



## Engaging science: Exploring the enactment of ELSA in bio- and nanotechnology

**Workshop, Trondheim, 19-20 February 2015**

Organizers: Knut H. Sørensen, Heidrun Åm & Gisle Solbu, Centre for Technology & Society

### Background

ELSA (Ethical, Legal and Social Aspects) research may be seen as an effort to embed emerging technologies in society through what may be broadly considered regulatory activities. Traditionally, these activities have mainly been based on legal restrictions and institutional supervision. Recent developments in the governance of science and technology represent increased demands for self-regulation with respect to accountability and responsibility in both research and development and the entire innovation process. This raises questions regarding the uptake of these visions and the capability of scientists and innovators to meet these demands, including their ability to enact ELSA in their research and innovation practices: do they deliver with respect to their new duties, and how they enact these demands?

Much research has been conducted generally on “science with and for society” (SWAFS) as well as more narrowly on ethical, legal, and social aspects (ELSA), and since recently under the label “responsible research and innovation” (RRI). At this workshop, we aim to reflect on ‘doing society and emerging technologies’ with a focus on scientists and innovators. We are concerned with challenges related to the translation of SWAFS/ELSA/RRI research into concrete insights and above all with applying the results so they have an impact on research communities in general. We would like to address questions such as the following:

- What actually is it that we expect scientists and innovators to do differently from now?
- Where do science-society interactions already take place in scientists’ and innovators’ practices?
- What do we know about conditions of possibility for transformations of science governance?

This is a start-up workshop of the PerformE project, which is funded within the Research Council of Norway’s ELSA program. Discussions on future research plans will be a central element of the event.

A few slots for presentation remain open. If you wish to contribute, please send an abstract to Heidrun Åm ([heidrun.aam@ntnu.no](mailto:heidrun.aam@ntnu.no)) by 14 January 2015.

This workshop is free and open to all. Advance registration is required, however; please register with Lotte Sæther ([lotte.saether@ntnu.no](mailto:lotte.saether@ntnu.no)) by 6 February 2015. Further information on the PerformE project can be found at <http://www.ntnu.edu/performe>.

## Tentative schedule

### *Thursday, February 19, Scandic Nidelven Hotel, Trondheim*

- 09:30 Coffee. Welcome
- 10:00-11:00 Prof. Ulrike Felt, University of Vienna  
*On the "responsibility conditions" of contemporary academic research*
- 11:00-12:00 Two presentations and discussion
- 12:00-13:00 Prof. Harro van Lente, Maastricht University  
*Steering with big words: how ideographs are articulated in research programs*
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch
- 14:00-15:00 Prof. Barbara Prainsack, King's College London  
*Biohacking democracy: How do "citizen scientists" participate in science and medicine?*
- 15:00-16:00 Two presentations and discussion
- 16:00-16:30 Coffee
- 16:30–17:30 Prof. Robin Williams, University of Edinburgh  
*Responsible Research and Innovation: Elsification and beyond*

(Dinner)

### *Friday, February 20, NTNU, Dragvoll, Trondheim*

- 09:00 Prof. Knut. H. Sørensen  
Imagined publics and mediatization – a comparison among research contexts
- 10:00 Dr. Heidrun Åm  
Innocents abroad or useful facilitators? Experiences with an integrated ELSA project
- 11:00 Coffee
- Presentation and discussion of the PerformE project
- 11:30 Presentation and discussion of PerformE's project design
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:30 Gisle Solbu & Heidrun Åm - Presentation and discussion of preliminary results
- 14:30–15:00 Concluding discussion