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UC RIVERSIDE | Science and Technology Initiative

NEWSLETTER

September 2024 Edition (13)

Access previous editions: https://sciencetechstudies.ucr.edu/news

The UCR STS Initiative's 2nd Fall Kickoff event will be held Tuesday, October 22 10:00 - 4:00 in CHASS 1113.

The UCR STS Initiative's goal for the 2024-2025 academic year is to expand and support the projects and ideas of graduate students engaged in research reflecting the STS principle that scientific knowledge and technological advancements are not solely determined by nature but are also influenced by social factors.

Faculty is encouraged to share their ideas about potential keynote speakers, etc. and the names of grad students that they feel will be interested in being a part of this upcoming event **before 5PM, Monday, September 30th**.

Due to the limited event timeframe, grad students will be asked to participate based on the date of the submission of their name by a faculty member. The number of participants who will display posters and share a brief presentation of their work is capped at a total of 25.

Please, forward your recommendations as soon as possible via email to Linda Jean Hall (linda.hall@ucr.edu). If you have questions you can also contact Yolanda Moses (yolanda.moses@ucr.edu), and Juliann Allison (juliann.allison@ucr.edu).

Submitted by Linda Jean Hall, September 2024.

Steering Committee Announcements:

UCR's STS Initiative welcomes Kurt Schwabe on-board as a steering committee member!

Dr. Kurt Schwabe is an adjunct fellow at the PPIC Water Policy Center and professor of environmental economics and policy at UCR. Kurt embodies the transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary objectives of Science and Technology Studies. He is a first-generation college student and compassionate community member who has served on the Board of Directors for Feeding America of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. His university research has focused on economic issues associated with water use, agricultural production, urban water conservation, ecosystem services, and environmental regulation. Dr. Schwabe joins the UCR STS Initiative steering committee following a 2023–24 tenure as a Fulbright Distinguished Chair Fellow for Science, Technology, and Innovation in Australia.

Featured Domestic & International Events/Conferences:

https://meetings.aaas.org/program/meeting-theme/

2025 Theme: Science Shaping Tomorrow

Science-informed policies and decision-making are critical to ensuring a healthy, prosperous, and equitable future. Relationships of trust between scientists and policymakers are foundational to science-informed decision-making. We must work towards an ecosystem where the expertise of scientists and engineers is put to work collaboratively with policymakers and communicators to better identify and address future challenges and opportunities. Whether climate change, public health, or the responsible use of artificial intelligence, science alone cannot solve the most pressing issues of our time. Only when scientists and policy-makers trust and collaborate with one another at the local, national, and global levels can the greatest challenges of our time be overcome.

The 2025 AAAS Annual Meeting—Science Shaping Tomorrow— invites us to celebrate and strengthen the projects and collaborations among science, policy, and communication that already exist and promote the infusion of scientific and technical expertise into the public discourse and policymaking. We will highlight not only the responses to challenges and crises, but also marvel at what our future could be.

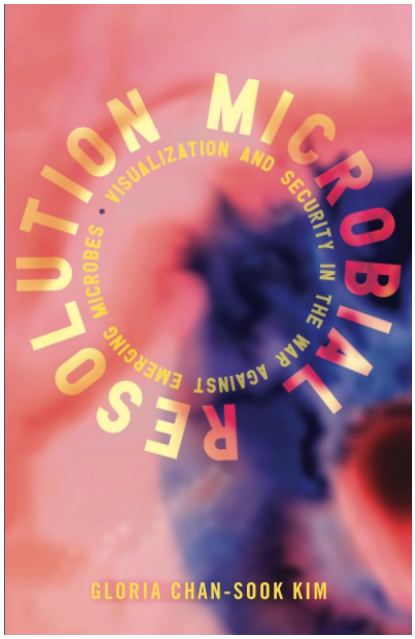
International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
https://thesocialsciences.com/

Founded in 2006, the **Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Research Network** is brought together by a common interest in disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches, within and across the various social sciences, and between the social, natural and applied sciences. We seek to build an epistemic community where we can make linkages across disciplinary, geographic, and cultural boundaries. As a Research Network, we are defined by our scope and concerns and motivated to build strategies for action framed by our shared themes and tensions.

When you join the **Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Research Network**, you become part of an international network of scholars, researchers, and practitioners. Membership makes our independent organization possible. Membership also comes with many benefits, including subscriber access to all electronic publications, discounts to conference registrations, and a range of other opportunities to stay connected and be supported by the Network. If you are not already a member, we encourage you to find out more. Join today to connect with a movement of likeminded researchers, get access to a large body of knowledge, and professional development opportunities, and let our Research Network become the advocate of what you do.

Featured Book/Article

Microbial Resolution: Visualization and Security in the War against Emerging Microbes



UCR Assistant Professor
Gloria Chan-Sook Kim
Media & Cultural Studies

https://www.upress.umn.edu/9781517911706/microbial-resolution/

Why the global health project to avert emerging microbes continually fails.

In 1989, a group of U.S. government scientists met to discuss some surprising findings: new diseases were appearing around the world, and viruses that they thought long vanquished were resurfacing. Their appearance heralded a future perpetually threatened by unforeseeable biological risks, sparking a new concept of disease: the "emerging microbe." With the Cold War nearing its end, American scientists and security experts turned to confront this new "enemy," redirecting national security against its risky horizons. To be fought, emerging microbes first needed to be made perceptible; but how could something immaterial, unknowable, and ever mutating be coaxed into visibility, knowability, and operability?

Microbial Resolution charts the U.S.-led war on the emerging microbe to show how their uncertain futures were transformed into objects of global science and security. Moving beyond familiar accounts that link scientific knowledge production to optical practices of visualizing the invisible, Gloria Chan-Sook Kim develops a theory of "microbial

resolution” to analyze the complex problematic that arises when dealing with these entities: what can be seen when there is nothing to see? Through a syncretic analysis of data mining, animal-tracking technologies, media networks, computer-modeled futures, and global ecologies and infrastructures, she shows how a visual impasse—the impossibility of seeing microbial futures—forms the basis for new modes of perceiving, knowing, and governing in the present.

Timely and thought provoking, *Microbial Resolution* opens the rich paradoxes, irreconcilabilities, and failures inherent in this project and demonstrates how these tensions profoundly animate twenty-first-century epistemologies, aesthetics, affects, and ecologies.