



Centre for
**Applied Philosophy
and Public Ethics**
An Australian Research Council funded Special Research Centre



The Governance of Science and Technology

A Joint GovNet/CAPPE/UNESCO Conference
9-10 August 2007, The Hall, University House, Australian National
University

Outline

Actual and potential developments in new and converging technologies including nanoscience and technology, biotechnology, information technology, cognitive science and neuroscience have led to calls for moratoria, and for the precautionary principle to be applied to various aspects of research and development. There have been strong reactions against these calls, reiterating the view that there should be no controls on research and development in the pursuit of new knowledge.

Themes

This roundtable conference will examine the arguments underlying the ethics of science and technology and on various positions on the governance of research. What are the arguments about censorship of results of research findings, dual use, the precautionary principle, cost-benefit analysis and risk assessment, and the rights and responsibilities of scientists and technologists? How can we apply the international declarations on the ethics of science and technology, including the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights? What are the implications of the freedom of thought and research for the pursuit of wise science and technology? On the basis of these examinations it will explore the role of governments, professional organizations and civil society in regulating research and development. The meeting will allow ample time for discussion stimulated by experts from Australia and abroad.

Sponsors

- Governance Research Network (GovNet)
- Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics (CAPPE)
- Australian Research Council through funding of GovNet and CAPPE.
- Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific, UNESCO Bangkok

Organisers

- Professor John Weckert, Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics (CAPPE), Charles Sturt University (jweckert@csu.edu.au)
- Professor Darryl Macer, UNESCO Bangkok (d.macer@unescobkk.org)

Registration: There is no registration fee but participants are requested to indicate their intention to attend by emailing Andrew Long at andrew.long@anu.edu.au

Conference dinner: The conference dinner at 7:00pm on Thursday 9 August, at Teatro Vivaldi Restaurant on the ANU campus. The cost will be \$40 per head. Please let Andrew Long know whether or not you will attend the dinner.

Campus map: campusmap.anu.edu.au

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Programme

Thursday 9 August

09:30 Registration

10:00 Welcome Darryl Macer and John Weckert

10:15 **Keynote Philip Kitcher** Department of Philosophy, Columbia University
Scientific Research: Who Should Govern?

11:15 Morning tea

11:30 **Daniel Star** CAPPE, ANU
Epistemic authority and reasonable disagreement
Fritz Allhoff Western Michigan/ CAPPE, CSU
Regulating Biotechnology and Nanotechnology
Jason Grossman CAPPE, ANU
Study design and the regulation of pharmaceuticals

01:00 Lunch

02:00 **Julian Cribb** UTS and Julian Cribb & Associates
The Dwarf Lords – tiny devices, tiny minds and the new enslavement
Greg Tegart Victoria University
The National Academies Forum Report-an Australian Viewpoint on Issues in Nanotechnologies
Renee Kyle University of Wollongong
Nanotechnology: Changing Social Relations

03:30 Afternoon tea

03:45 **Diane Sisely** Director of Australian National Centre for Human Rights Education
04:15 **Keynote Ian Ramshaw** John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU
Oryx and Crake – a Dystopian View of Science?

DINNER

Friday 10 August

09:15 **Keynote Justice Michael Kirby** High Court of Australia
Regulating Technology - Paradoxes and Lessons from the Recent Past

10:15 Morning tea

10:30 **Darryl Macer** UNESCO
Implementing UNESCO Universal Bioethics Declarations into Different Communities and Cultures
Warwick Anderson National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia
The revision of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research
John Buckeridge RMIT University and IUBS, Paris
Making ethical decisions within a non-consensus environment

12:00 Lunch

01:00 **Michael Gorton** Chair of the Victorian Bioethics Advisory Committee
Statement of ethical principles for biotechnology in Victoria
John Weckert CAPPE, CSU
Science, values and control

02:00 Discussion and follow-up

02:30 Afternoon tea End of formal program

03:15 Discussions on future priorities for UNESCO Ethics of Science and Technology – Darryl Macer