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CALL FOR PAPERS

Science/Technology in the Humanities and Social Sciences: Sites, Motifs, Prescriptions

GRADUATE STUDENTS' CONFERENCE

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Science and Technology has offered prominent tropes of engagement in the Humanities and Social Sciences: by attending to them as institutions to understand the worlds we inhabit, or by fashioning them as tools for steering our worlds to specific utopias or even as markers that alert us against dystopic visions that embody specific technological trajectories. Unlike C.P. Snow's famous characterisation in 'Two Cultures', one can identify a range of academic engagements where Science/Technology has provided an important site through which social norms, cultural values and governmental practices have been understood, critiqued and policy prescriptions offered in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Digital and media technologies offer new modes of inhabiting the self and the constitution of digital publics even as they generate questions and concerns over regulation and control. New modes of techno-sociality offer novel ways in which social institutions such as the family are re-imagined and re-constituted. Techno-science has been an important motif in literary studies, for instance, featuring prominently in the genres of science fiction and fantasy. A focus on technology in cultural studies and literature, has also been a mode not only to access the contemporary, but also to understand historical milieu, using the novel and cinema as sites of enquiry.

Economists and Sociologists have looked at Technology as a site to approach existing categories of growth and development. The arena of development has been a traditional yet ongoing space for science and technology interventions. Humanities and Social Sciences have studied the intended and unintended effects of these interventions and offered critical analysis from a societal perspective. They have challenged the overarching frameworks within which such interventions are made as well as pointed towards newer directions of inclusive innovation meeting the goals of diversity and justice.

Technologies of automation have offered fresh vistas of practice and theorisation in contemporary linguistics. Linguists have contributed to sharpening research around cognition and intelligent applications in a number of prominent ways.

Science and Technology has also been a recurring site in legal and policy studies, as a prescriptive tool for law, regulation and policy, as well as a site for theorisation and critique of dominant norms and governmental practices. In regulatory studies, norms of regulatory efficiency, legitimacy and effectiveness have been reinforced/ challenged through an attention to the treatment of new technologies.

A variety of questions connected to Science/Technology have occupied historians, philosophers, sociologists and anthropologists in ways that have marked fresher disciplinary terrains like philosophy of Technology/ Science, history of Technology/ Science, anthropology of Technology and sociology of Science. Further, in the last three decades, science and technology studies has transcended disciplinary barriers in traditional sociology, philosophy, history, psychology and economics, posing questions about categories like gender, class, self, agency, power, participation and democracy.

HSS's Graduate student conference this year proposes to feature the many shapes and sites of interventions in the Humanities and Social Sciences that focus on Science/Technology. The conference seeks to bring together emerging scholarship in India, around the theme of Science/Technology from a range of (inter-)disciplines that locates itself within the Humanities and Social Sciences. The call for papers is open for all graduate students engaged in masters or doctoral studies in any discipline of the Humanities, Social Sciences, Law, Architectures, Planning or Engineering.

Abstracts for papers of not more than 300 words should be submitted to gradconf@hss.iitd.ac.in by 1 March 2017. In the submission, the research scholar must clearly mention her/his name, department/centre/institution of affiliation, as well as roll number/registration number and year of admission into the current programme. Selected papers would be notified by 10 March 2017. Participants would be required to submit final papers of 2500-3000 words by 10 April 2017. While there are no funds currently available for travel and accommodation, we are committed to actively search for funding travel costs for deserving candidates from socially/economically disadvantaged background.

Best papers in various categories will be awarded.