

Editorial

Science Studies was first published in 1988. Originally the journal was intended to have a Scandinavian orientation, but the enthusiasm that it raised among scholars soon led to a broadened scope. In 1993, Chief Editor, Marja Alestalo (today Häyrynen-Alestalo), proclaimed that a new era had started and that Science Studies would become more international in its focus. This was marked by a rapid internationalization of the editorial board. At the same time, the name was changed from "Science Studies: A Scandinavian Journal published by the Finnish Society for Science Studies" to the present one, "Science Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal for Science and Technology Studies." Since then Science Studies has developed into a high quality peer review journal that stands well in comparison with the leading journals of the field.

As I take over after the long-time Chief, Marja, I inherit an infrastructure that forms a good platform for further development of the journal. We have highly committed staff, funding has been secured, distribution is wide both physically and electronically, and most importantly, scholars all over the world are excited about Science Studies and believe in its future. The latter was well illustrated by the warm responses I got as I enrolled members to the new editorial team. The state and reputation of Science Studies is the fruit of Marja's determined work over the years, and I am sure that both readers and the members of the Finnish Society for Science and Technology Studies join me in thanking her for her important input.

As is easily realized, the production of a scientific journal requires quite an apparatus. Most importantly, there is the Assistant Editor, who does much of the practical work of keeping in touch with authors and reviewers, and assisting the Chief Editor in the processing of incoming papers. Marja was assisted by a number of assistant editors, including Eva Heiskanen (1989-93), Petri Ylikoski (1994-2000) and Aaro Tupasela (since 2000), and they deserve a special mention for their work. Without them, Science Studies would not be as alive and kicking as it is. Luckily for me, Aaro decided to continue working for the journal.

The editorial team has changed since my appointment. Some of the editors felt that younger people should take over, and others had drifted to different areas of research. I want to thank all the resigning editors for their support and contributions. The changes in the composition of the editorial team gave me an opportunity to enrol some new associate editors and members of the editorial board. The aim was to have an editorial team that would be broad both scientifically and geographically, in continuation with the tradition of the journal. I am happy about the outcome, and welcome all new and old editors to the new editorial team.

A most unfortunate demise was the death of John Ziman, one of our associate editors, who was very fond of Science Studies and actively participated in its development. Ziman's writings express a deep understanding of the complexities of science and scientific work. In times of relativistic trends in STS, he stood firm in his

opinion that science is driven by a set of universal norms. In fact, he argued that many of the trends that fragment science, such as specialization and the production of new disciplinary combinations, are results of such norms, particularly the norm of originality. These and other insights of Ziman need to be preserved, and Science Studies will contribute to that by encouraging submissions that honour him by assessing, developing further or even contesting his ideas about science.

My vision for Science Studies is a combination of old and new. In my hands Science Studies will continue to be an international, multi- and interdisciplinary forum for high quality scholarship in science and technology studies. “Multi-disciplinary” means that we will publish papers representing a heterogeneous set of research traditions, thus exploring the range of perspectives from which science and technology is researched. “Interdisciplinary,” on the other hand, refers to studies that go beyond the conventions of established disciplines and STS schools, by way of novel combination or integration. I believe that it is quite possible to combine scientific rigour with the encouragement of both disciplinary and interdisciplinary exploration. The scientific breadth of our editorial team will guarantee that we find appropriate expertise for refereeing papers that go deeply into narrow subjects. The very same breadth will also allow us to do more complex refereeing in the case of experimental papers that need to be judged for their explorative merits. In all cases, papers should be readable for the general public of STS scholars. Science Studies is not a forum for specialized jargon. All papers should address a broad audience, inviting dialogue across disciplines and specialties rather than increasing fortification.

My vision contains few restrictions when it comes to the actual topics of research. One of the trends that I want to encourage, though, is the broadening of the geographical scope of STS to include work by scholars from outside Western Europe and North America. Despite the international ambitions of Science Studies, there have been only a few papers on science and technology in Asia, Australia, South America, Africa and Eastern Europe. I hope to enrol a few more editors from these parts of the world, and set this as an explicit aim for the present year. It is time for Science Studies to become truly global! In addition to contents-related change, there are also a few practical issues that need to be addressed in the near future. Most importantly, the small number of issues – two a year – is an impediment for the vision of a vibrant, global forum for STS scholarship. One of the options that will be considered is the electronic solution, that is, to make Science Studies partly (special issues) or completely electronic.

I would like to see the development of Science Studies as a shared journey through which we make the journal one of the most exciting in the field of STS. You can join us as a reader or by submitting papers. I encourage you to do that.

Henrik Bruun
Chief Editor