Editors' Note

This third issue of "Tecnoscienza" is a special one, from various points of view and in many respects.

Its special value mainly lies in the fact that it is entirely dedicated to the EASST010 Conference, the biennial forum of the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST – www.easst.net), held, for the first time, in Italy (at the University of Trento) in September 2010 and co-organized by STS Italia.

As from its title ("Practicing Science and Technology, Performing the Social"), the particular focus of the conference was on science and technology as performative domains of an ecology of sociomaterial practices. In fact, if a key characteristic of the contemporary world is the role played by scientific knowledge and technological artefacts in the production and reproduction of that peculiar configuration that is often called "society", then the concepts of practice and performance provide a unique perspective for studying and observing scientific and technological innovations, as well as the articulations of different forms of sociality and ideas of the social. This is the challenge that researchers are nowadays called to face in key areas such as medicine and genomics, body and gender, work and organizations, communication and consumption, geographies and space.

As a partial but representative follow-up to the aims and results of the conference, in this issue we propose a selection of excerpts deriving in different ways from the experience of the Trento colloquium.

The first section ("Lectures") is devoted to keynote speeches, following the same order in which they were delivered at the conference. Retrospectively, it is interesting to notice how each of them challenges current STS perspectives.

Adopting a storytelling approach, in the first lecture, Silvia Gherardi tells the story (or rather stories) of the ongoing conversations that, over time, have given a situated meaning to the black box of STS. Focusing on intellectual traditions and research trajectories, Gherardi narrates the intricate (as well as intimate) texture of books, authors, images and metaphors that have contributed to build a STS-oriented perspective. At the same time, she highlights some of the key challenges currently facing STS, such as how a generation of academics is going to pass the baton to a younger one.

Lucy Suchman deals with the problem of how STS researchers make the objects of their research, considering that researchers are an integral part of the practices through which their research objects are made. The situated use of a schedule in a "centre of coordination" is turned by Suchman into a generative example for questioning the order and mess regime that informs what researchers regard as productive and coherent units of analysis. "The delineation

TECNOSCIENZA
Italian Journal of Science & Technology Studies

of a practice is always and irremediably part *of* a practice", she writes, so that the responsibility of our research lies in the systematic and necessary exclusions performed in our practice.

The collage by Pelle Enh is a work consisting of three different layers of images and texts, which aims at envisioning ways to combine creative design with participatory approaches. Referring to a few "circulating references" (texts, EU research project, teaching experiences), this speech addresses the challenge of encompassing aesthetic and democratic practices and values in designing "things". In particular, as Ehn argues, by "drawing things together" and "making things public".

Mike Michael's lecture treats of the technoscientific body, focusing on the role of peculiar objects whose effect upon bodies enables the emergence (and conventionalization) of new emotions and feelings. Stem cells and rolling luggage may seem not to have much in common with each other, but in this contribution they provide different occasions for reflecting on the construction of the technoscientific body, both in scientific and mundane domains. Finally, Michael pushes his reflection further, calling for the use of anecdotes as a methodological strategy to account for emerging phenomena (in our case, emotions and configurations of the technoscientific body).

The last lecture, by Amade M'charek, engages with the question of race in practices, reframing two dominant and dichotomous notions as mutually constitutive: race as a fact and race as a fiction. Presenting the intriguing case of the discovery (in the Netherlands) of a grave of a ten-year-old child dating back to the 13th century, M'charek shows how race is enacted through factual and fictional practices. The challenge is thus not to distinguish "facts" from "fictions", but rather to trace the connections between the two.

As conference participants, we have been struck these contributions, not only for their analytical quality, but also for the way they were performed and their evocative power. As editors, we think they are a perfect representation of the highly articulated and differentiated landscape of contemporary science & technology studies and of how STS can contribute to the understanding of a wide range of social phenomena and issues. Moreover, each speech adopts a twofold, reflexive logic: authors do not just make a point at the theoretical and/or methodological level, but they question the relevance and the implications of the point made for science and technology studies, showing their willingness not to take for granted knowledge categories and classifications (not even the ones produced in the field of STS!). Finally, from our point of view, it is quite evident how, in each speech, language, narration and analytical reflection are not 'wor(l)ds apart', but constitutive of one another. This is something STS learned quite a long time ago, and we think it is not just a matter of rhetoric to remind it.

The section "Debates" hosts two other texts deriving in some way from the EASST010 Conference. The first one consists in a debate around one of the books presented at the conference – *Care in practice* –, discussed for "Tecnoscienza" by three Italian scholars, to whom the book's authors reply. The se-

cond text presents an interview with Christine Hine, a well-known author in the field of STS, but also the person who (during her past EASST presidency) created the first connection between EASST and STS Italia.

Last but not least, the cover captures an instant of a performance hosted by the Trento conference, based on the work of the Slovenian artist Sašo Sedlaček and its Beggar Robot.

In order to enhance not only the international scope of this issue, but also its willingness to widen the geographical focus on the STS world, the Journal features a new section called "Cartographies", with the aim of mapping the reception and diffusion of STS in countries different from the ones traditionally taken into account (Netherlands, United Kingdom, North America and Scandinavia). We start this new section by presenting a review of Spanish studies influenced by Actor-Network Theory. Following the same logic, the book review section is also given a "renewed look", featuring reviews of mainly non-Anglo-American books.

As a result, and for the first time, "Tecnoscienza" is in English only. This is a particular achievement we aimed to pursue as part of the journal project; it is not a coincidence that, since the very beginning, "Tecnoscienza" has been supplemented by an English subtitle ("Italian Journal of Science and Technology Studies"), featuring bilingual abstracts of articles and debates and soon proposing increasing parts of the journal entirely in English.

Our aim for the future is to preserve the national character of the journal project – offering an otherwise absent space for debate and discussion to STS Italian scholars – but always finding strategies and occasions for dialoguing and connecting with the international English-speaking arena. We take this as a necessary but also challenging horizon to look at, in order to make sense of the never-ending, fluid and hybrid character of contemporary society and… of STS as well.

The Editorial Board

These particular acknowledgements are not intended to slight the commitment and hard work of all the other authors (Jorge Castillo Sepúlveda, Christine Hine, Annemarie Mol, Ingunn Moser, Jeannette Pols… just to name our 'international guests') who contributed to make this issue a special one. Our gratitude also goes to them.

The EASST010 Conference, as well as this "Tecnoscienza" issue, would not have had its 'logo' (and 'mascot') without the kindness and cooperation of Sašo Sedlaček and its Beggar Robot. This is just an ironic, easy way to thank an artist whose work has also triggered serious reflections.

Finally, our warmest thanks go to the EASST Board and to its current President, Fred Steward. The whole EASST010 experience would not have been possible without their supportive attitude and practical help. We therefore owe EASST a special debt of gratitude and, in this sense, we are glad to recognise its valuable role in the making not only of the EASST010 Conference, but also of this special issue.

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