

# Fall 2000 SKAT Newsletter

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## **From the Editors**

Hello and welcome to our newsletter. Based on discussions from the meetings in Washington, we have some changes to consider for this medium for the coming year. First of all, we are exploring the possibility of publishing the newsletter in-house from RIT. That, coupled with the possibility of electronic distribution (as an option, not a requirement), is under consideration as a way of reducing publication costs for the section. Your feedback on either of these two options is most welcome. With the election of Kelly Moore to council (congratulations!) and her position as awards chair, we are now looking for a new book review editor. If someone would like that role on a continuing basis, please let us know. Otherwise (or in the meantime) we welcome short (maximum 500 word) reviews of current works, from faculty and students. We also look for reviews of electronic resources and film or video materials that may be of use. Also welcome are news from members: recent or forthcoming works, research notes, discussions of interesting data sets, calls for collaborators, and so on. Please contact us about submissions for future newsletters (February 15 and May 15 deadlines). Finally, there is the opportunity, through the ASA sections office, to develop the section website. If you are interested in taking on this project, contact us or Tom Gieryn to join as an adjunct in the publications committee.

## **From the Section Chair**

Tom Gieryn, Indiana University

Two recent job announcements at major research universities give every indication that the health of our specialty is good--even robust. The University of Wisconsin--Madison and the University of California-Davis announced searches for a director of an interdisciplinary program on science and technology studies (STS). Bravo! SKAT applauds these institutions for their appreciation that the critical analysis of science and technology as cultural phenomena is an integral part of the curriculum at any university

or college. We hope that these programs will flourish, both in research and teaching, and serve as models for other schools to emulate.

Like their more established predecessors at Cornell, UC San Diego, MIT, Penn, RPI, Virginia Tech and elsewhere, the STS programs at Madison and Davis will be interdisciplinary in character--not housed in any particular disciplinary department, but rather drawing faculty, students and expertises from a wide range of fields. And that is probably as it should be. Few of us who study science, knowledge or technology limit our reading to works authored by card-carrying sociologists, and indeed, the research agenda of this field continues to evolve creatively from a messy amalgam of sociologists, historians, philosophers, anthropologists, economists, natural scientists and engineers. ...as it should be.

But I write this as chair of a Section in the American Sociological Association. Is there room for a little DISCIPLINE in science and technology studies? I think so. Set aside two unignorable facts: most interdisciplinary STS units have at least one sociologist, and thus the growth of such programs promises to offer job opportunities to new sociology PhDs who focus their research on science and technology (that is the good news). But how about two cheers for the sociology of science, as a field not quite consumed by STS?

Here's my pitch: doctoral programs in sociology train their students to study science (or whatever) differently than do interdisciplinary STS programs. A Ph.D. student in sociology studies science and technology as they necessarily also study gender stratification, formal organizations, rational choice theory, log-linear statistical analysis, ethnographic methods and identity politics. Such discipline-specific training is hardly narrow, though it could be seen that way from the standpoint of an STS program whose students spread their precious time among sociology, history, philosophy, natural sciences and more.

The breadth of training in the sociology of science comes from its ability to situate these two empirical phenomena--S&T--in a disciplinary context that preempts a risky "exceptionalism." As sociology graduate students learn the history of their home discipline--theory, methods, substance--they acquire the ability to see S&T in terms of orientations and models developed for the analysis of other social and cultural phenomena. At the very least, this reduces the likelihood that wheels will be reinvented again and again. More important, the resulting interpretations and explanations are less likely to be tailored to possibly unique qualities of S&T--and the continuities between S&T and other phenomena better appreciated.

I may be swimming against the tide. An interdisciplinary orientation to S&T makes good sense intellectually, and our meetings and papers would be impoverished without sustained infusion of ideas and perspectives from outside sociology. But perhaps graduate training is an exception to this general rule. The traditional disciplinary drill of theory and methods serves young scholars well by providing distinctive conceptual and analytic tools not instantly or easily acquired. STS will thrive in Madison and Davis--and, we hope, on every other campus--when sociologists trained as sociologists sit down

to talk about science and technology with historians trained as historians, anthropologists trained as...you get the idea.

From the Members

*Recent/Forthcoming Publications:*

Keith N. Hampton and Barry Wellman. "Examining Community in the Digital Neighborhood Early Results from Canada's Wired Suburb." Pp. 475-492 in *Digital Cities: Technologies, Experiences and Future Perspectives*, edited by Toru Ishida and Katherine Isbister. Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 2000. Abstract: Can supportive, sociable and meaningful relations be maintained online? Will life online replace, complement, or supplant life in the flesh? Netville is a residential development located in suburban Toronto equipped with a high-speed network as part of its design. The clustering of homes within this area allowed us to study the social networks, civic involvement, Internet use, and attitudes of residents. We are interested in how living in a residential community equipped with no cost, very high speed access to the Internet affects the kinds of interpersonal relations people have with coworkers, friends, relatives, and neighbors. This paper explores the research goals and methods used in the Netville project and introduces preliminary results on the effect of living in a new residential development equipped with no cost very high-speed access to the Internet on neighborhood social relations.

Emmanuel Koku, Nancy Nazer and Barry Wellman. "Netting Scholars: Online and Offline." *American Behavioral Scientist*, Feb, 2001: forthcoming. Abstract: Has the Internet affected the ways in which people communicate by minimizing the effects of distance and affecting how people communicate? To examine this question, we study scholarly and interpersonal relationships communicating in person and by email in two scholarly networks, one in a large university and one dispersed across North America. Not only are these scholarly networks interesting in their own right, they are harbingers of the turn towards network and virtual organizations. Although the Internet helps scholars to maintain ties over great distances, physical proximity still matters. Those scholars who see each other often or work nearer to each other email each other more often. Frequent contact on the Internet is a complement to frequent face-to-face contact, not a substitute for it. The more scholarly relations network members have, the more frequently they communicate and the more media they use to communicate. Although email helps scholars without strong ties to stay in contact, it is used most by scholars who are collaborators or friends.

**At the 2000 Meetings**

SKAT BUSINESS MEETING, AUGUST 2000, Mary Frank Fox, Secretary/treasurer  
The SKAT Business Meeting was opened by Chair, Tom Gieryn at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 15 August at the Washington Hilton. Tom invited the 41 members in attendance to help themselves to finger-food and soft drinks provided by the Section. The Chair welcomed Kelly Moore and Trevor Pinch as newly-elected Council members, and thanked departing Council members, Ed Hackett and Steve Epstein, for three years of dedicated service.

Finances. Mary Frank Fox, Secretary/treasurer, reported a balanced budget of about \$2,220, provided that the third and final issues of the newsletter are published at the normal expense. Our revenues are spent on three things: the SKAT newsletter, ASA reception, and the student paper award. The budget for 2000-01 was presented, discussed and approved unanimously.

Membership. Steve Zehr, Membership chair, reported that, as of July, SKAT had 354 members, down slightly from the 412 members in September 1999. Membership forms were distributed, and all were encouraged to sign-up new members during the ASA meetings at a reduced rate. Steve was confident that our numbers would go over 400 by the end of September. Tom Gieryn conveyed, additionally, that the Section must stay about 300 members in order to continue to qualify for the base allocation from the ASA.

Nominations. Tom Gieryn relayed Diane Vaughan's request for nominations, including self-nominations. In the year ahead, the Section must elect a chair-elect (to serve as chair after Joan Fujimura, beginning after the 2003 annual meetings), two council members, and up to two student representatives. Members were encouraged to volunteer for Section Committees.

Awards. Ed Hackett, Awards chair, announced the winners of Section awards: the Robert K. Merton Book Award was shared by Daniel Breslau for *In Search of the Unequivocal* (Praeger, 1998) and Anne-Fausto Sterling for *Sexing the Body* (Basic Books, 2000). The winner of the Sally Hacker-Nicholas Mullins Student Paper Award was Christopher Henke for "Making a Place for Science: The Field Trial," which will be published in the journal, *Social Studies of Science*. Unfortunately, none of the winners were able to be present in Washington, and the check for \$200 was sent to Chris Henke. Ed urged members to nominate appropriate books and articles for next year's Section awards, and invited nominations for the new Distinguished Scholarship Award (for "lifetime achievement"), which has not yet been given.

Publications. Jennifer Croissant and Franz Foltz, Newsletter Editors, were thanked for their fine work. Jen discussed the possibility of moving Section communications to an e-mail list and/or to the web. The Section seeks a few people to serve as web masters for a SKAT home page--please volunteer!

Program. Joan Fujimura, Chair-elect, announced provisional plans for Section sessions next year in Anaheim, and sought themes for sessions. If the Section obtains an additional session through increase in membership, Joan Fujimura will organize and chair a session of invited papers on a theme to be announced later.

New Business. Sydney Halpern announced the availability of research grants for the study of scientific misconduct, through a program run by Larry Rhoades of the Office of Scientific Integrity.

Tom Gieryn announced positions and chairs held in SKAT for the coming year: Joan Fujimura (Chair elect and 2001 Program Committee); Mary Frank Fox; (Secretary/treasurer); Jen Croissant and Franz Foltz (Publications); Sydney Halpern

(Nominations); Kelly Moore (Awards); Steve Zehr (Membership). Tom thanked all who have participated in the Section over the past year.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

### **Proposed Budget: 2000-2001**

#### REVENUES

Allocation for Section	\$1824
Dues Income (Section assessment)	406
Total	\$2230

#### EXPENSES

Reception	\$500
Newsletter	1500
Awards	200
Postage	35
Printing	15
Total	\$2250

Approved by SKAT Council, August 14, 2000

Approved by members at the Business Meeting, August 15, 2000

### **At the 2001 Meetings**

#### **SESSIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SKAT SECTION FOR THE 2001 ASA MEETINGS**

Chair-Elect Joan H. Fujimura.

Session 1: "Gender, Science, and Technology"

Co-sponsored by Sex and Gender Section and Science, Knowledge, & Technology Section

(Using session from Sex and Gender Section for 2001)

Organizer:

Mary Frank Fox

School of History, Technology, and Society,

Georgia Institute of Technology

214 DM Smith Bldg.

Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0345

USA

tel: 404- 894-1818

fax: 404- 894-0535

email: mary.fox@hts.gatech.edu

Session 2: "Critical Inquiries into Race, Biology, and Medicine"

Organizer:  
Steve Epstein  
Department of Sociology  
University of California, San Diego  
9500 Gilman Drive, 0533  
La Jolla, CA 92093-0533  
USA  
tel: 858-534-0489  
fax: 858-534-4753  
email: sepstein@ucsd.edu

Session 3: "Science and Technology in Organizational Context"

Organizer: Diane Vaughan  
426 McGuinn Hall  
Boston College  
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467-3807  
tel: 617-552-4645  
fax: 617-552-4283  
email: dvaughanbc@aol.com

Section 4: "SKAT Roundtables"

Organizers: Kathryn Henderson and Jennifer Croissant  
Kathryn Henderson  
Department of Sociology  
Texas A&M University  
College Station, Texas 77845-4351  
tel: 409-845-9706  
fax: 409-862-4057  
email: hendrsn@acs.tamu.edu

Jennifer Croissant  
Program on Culture, Science, Technology & Society  
MSE/CSTS, 16c Harshbarger, Bldg. 12  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, AZ 85721  
tel: 520-626-7110, 520-621-6070  
fax: 520-621-8059  
email: jlc@u.arizona.edu

Session 5: Invited Panel  
(If the section earns an additional slot, I will plan an invited panel and announce the topic and panel members at a later date.)

Organizer:  
Joan H. Fujimura  
School of Social Science  
Institute for Advanced Study  
1 Einstein Drive  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
tel: 609-734-8267 (office)  
fax: 609-951-4434  
email: fujimura@ias.edu

## **Book Notes**

Stephen Hilgartner reports that *Science on Stage: Expert Advice as Public Drama* was published in cloth and in paperback by Stanford University Press in September 2000. For more information, visit:

<http://uk.cambridge.org/politics/catalogue/0804736456/default.htm>

We are looking for either a new book review editor, or seek voluntary submissions of reviews of new works. Graduate students are encouraged to submit reviews.

## **SECTION AWARDS**

### **2000 SKAT Section Awards**

Two books share this year's Robert K. Merton award: Daniel Breslau's *"In Search of the Unequivocal"* (Praeger, 1998) and Anne Fausto-Sterling's *"Sexing the Body"* (Basic Books, 2000). Both are excellent works of scholarship: original, meticulous and lucid. What sets them apart from other excellent scholarly books is the intellectual courage of the authors, their ability to see matters in a distinctive way and to convey their views boldly and compellingly.

The Sally Hacker-Nicholas Mullins award for best paper by a graduate student has been awarded to Christopher Henke (University of California/San Diego) for *"Making a Place for Science: The Field Trial"* (forthcoming in *Social Studies of Science*). This imaginative and well-crafted paper bridges the space between the laboratory and the field trial, drawing lessons about the role of place in shaping research and about the paradoxical control issues that arise between applied scientists and their public. E. Hackett (Arizona State), 2000 Awards Chair.

### **Call for Nominations**

Distinguished Scholarship Award. This new award is given occasionally in recognition of a career of scholarly achievement, represented by a body of published research and outstanding leadership in the study and teaching of the sociology of science, knowledge, and technology. The awardee, who should be a member of the section during the year in which the award is given, will be honored at the ASA Annual Meeting in 2001 at Anaheim. The deadline for nominations is April 1, 2001. For each nomination, please prepare a letter indicating why the nominee is worthy of this award. The letter should be sent to Kelly Moore, Distinguished Scholarship Award Committee, Department of Sociology, Barnard College, 3009 Broadway, NY, NY 10027-6598. [km104@columbia.edu]

Sally Hacker-Nicholas Mullins Graduate Student Paper Award. SKAT invites nominations for the Hacker-Mullins Award. The \$200 award is given to a graduate student for a published article or unpublished paper concerning science, knowledge, or technology that was completed during the preceding 12 months. Students are especially urged to nominate their own papers for this award. The award will be presented at the ASA Annual Meeting in 2001 at Anaheim. The deadline for nominations is June 1, 2001. Please send a copy of the nominated work to Trevor Pinch, Department of Science and

Technology Studies, 632 Clark Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14851.  
[tjp2@cornell.edu]

Robert K. Merton Professional Award. SKAT invites nominations (including self-nominations) for the Robert K. Merton Professional Award. The award is given annually in recognition of scholarly achievement, represented by a book or body of work concerning science, knowledge and technology published during the preceding 5 years. The awardee, who should be a member of SKAT during the year in which the award is given, will be honored at the ASA Annual Meeting in 2001 at Anaheim. The deadline for nominations is April 1, 2001. For each nomination, please send a brief letter identifying the work(s) to be considered, their publisher(s) (presses or journals), and any supporting material that would help the committee understand the contribution (for example, published book reviews). Please send materials to Kelly Moore, Robert K. Merton Award Committee, Department of Sociology, Barnard College, 3009 Broadway, NY, NY 10027-6598. [km104@columbia.edu]

### **Research Opportunities/Call for Papers & Reviewers/Grants & Fellowships/Upcoming Events**

The Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology invites applications to its two fellowship programs for the academic year 20012002: the Senior Fellows program and the Postdoctoral Fellows Program. There will be some twenty Fellows at the Institute each term. The Institute's primary mission is to support advanced research in the history of science and technology, across a wide variety of areas and a broad spectrum of topics and methodologies. The Institute favors projects that address events dating back thirty years or more; and, while recognizing that overlap between the history of medicine and the history of biology makes strict distinctions impossible, the Institute generally does not support projects in the history of clinical medicine.

The Dibner Institute is an international center for advanced research in the history of science and technology, established in 1992. It draws on the resources of the Burndy Library, a major collection of both primary and secondary material in the history of science and technology, and enjoys the participation in its programs of faculty members and students from the universities that make up the Dibner Institute's consortium: The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the host institution; Boston University; and Harvard University.

Senior Fellows Program: Candidates for Senior Fellowships should have advanced degrees in disciplines relevant to their research and show evidence of substantial scholarly accomplishment and professional experience. Senior fellows may apply for a second fellowship appointment five years after their first successful application. Scholars may apply to the Senior Fellows Program for the Fall (Term 1), the Spring (Term 2), or both. Term 1 extends from August 1 through December 31, with full activities beginning on September 1; Term 2 extends from January 1 through May 31, with full activities beginning on February 1. At the time of application, Term 1 candidates may request an arrival date in August; Term 2 candidates may request an extension into June. The Institute prefers, if possible, that senior fellows apply for a two-term full-year residency.

Postdoctoral Fellows Program: Fellowships are awarded to outstanding scholars of diverse countries of origin who have been awarded the Ph.D. or equivalent within the previous five years. Postdoctoral Fellowships run for one year, from September 1 through August 31, and may be extended for a second and final year at the discretion of the Dibner Institute.

The deadline for receipt of applications for 2001-2002 is December 31, 2000. Fellowship recipients will be announced in March 2001. Please send requests for further information and for application forms to Trudy Kontoff, Program Coordinator, or download the application from the website (<http://dibinst.mit.edu/application/diappintro.htm>). Trudy Kontoff, Program Coordinator, Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology, Dibner Building, MIT E56-100, 38 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, Phone: 617.253.6989, Fax: 617.253.9858. Email: [DIBNER@MIT.EDU](mailto:DIBNER@MIT.EDU)

**ATTENTION GRADUATE STUDENTS AND UNTENURED FACULTY:** Call for Papers on Work / Call for Work-Related Conference Proposals. The Berkeley Journal of Sociology (BJS) invites submissions of well researched, theoretically interesting papers and conference proposals on issues related to WORK. Papers submitted by November 1 will be considered for publication in BJS as well as for an opportunity to present at the Work Conference at University of California at Berkeley on March 16, 2001; proposals submitted by November 1 will be considered for the conference. Juliet Schor, Arlie Hochschild, and Michael Burawoy will speak at the conference, alongside a host of graduate student and untenured faculty presentations. BJS will offer funding to all conference presenters coming in from a distance to help defray transportation costs.

The BJS editorial collective is particularly interested in research that relates work to family or gender issues, and we encourage attention to political economy, race, class, and culture. Examples of possible topics include: -Overwork: its causes (gendered notions of success, economic forces, consumer culture) or its consequences (on families, communities, democracy); -The social construction of work: work as a means to culturally shifting ends; -The relationship between work, leisure, and class; -Masculine or feminine identity as it is forged and/or opportunized upon at work; -The shift of personal life from family, neighborhood, and community to worksite; job-sharing, telecommuting, and other alternative job structures; -Cross-national differences in practices and policies, and their outcomes; -Co-ops, ESOPS, Universal Basic Income, or other routes to improve or lessen work

BJS is a forum for graduate students and untenured faculty in the U.S. and internationally to publish and present original, high quality sociological research. Many current academic luminaries published in the BJS early in their careers, including Pierre Bourdieu, Michael Burawoy, Craig Calhoun, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Nancy Chodorow, Randall Collins, Peter Evans, Anthony Giddens, Jurgen Habermas, Arlie Hochschild, Theda Skocpol, and Erik Olin Wright. Students and faculty from departments outside the discipline of sociology (such as political science, women's studies, anthropology) are also encouraged to submit articles pertaining to such issues as listed above. Researchers may include suggestions for constructing social policy, but

these suggestions should be strongly supported by empirical sociological research. BJS Papers are generally 20 to 40 pages in length, and proposals should describe your research, theoretical orientation, and how this project contributes to the field in roughly three to five pages. Send two paper copies of your submission by November 1, 2000, to: Berkeley Journal of Sociology, 410 Barrows Hall #1980, Department of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-1980, e-mail: [thejournal@uclink4.berkeley.edu](mailto:thejournal@uclink4.berkeley.edu)

CALL FOR PAPERS ASA 2001-Anaheim, CA. Sociology of Reproduction: Practices, Experiences and Discourses. SUBSTANTIVE FOCUS of PANEL: This panel will bring together scholars who situate reproduction as a major theoretical and conceptual focus for generating sociological perspectives on social change, social movements, culture, deviance, race, gender, sexuality and family. In addition to these, bio-engineering, the new genetics, welfare reform, and global reproductive policy are only some of the sites where reproduction has emerged as a focus of social concern and regulation, and political contestation. Our intention in this panel is to identify the nature of these new political contests and social structures and examine their implications for women's lives across the globe. Reproductive strategies, interests and decisions are the sites of struggle not only or even primarily between men and women, but across differently situated groups of women and nation states. Sociologists have much to contribute to understanding how the social relations of gender, race, and class structure reproductive events and meanings.

The panel will address issues including, but not necessarily limited to 1) The globalization of reproductive practices and regulations; 2) The conflicting meanings and contradictions of reproduction in public and academic discourse; 3) The meanings of reproductive practices for women and those with whom they interact; 4) The change within social and professional relationships emerging out of increased medicalization of reproductive practices; and 5) Strategies for activists and policy makers for influencing and formulating reproductive policies that are sensitive to global and local meanings of reproductive and sexual freedom.

Jackie Litt  
Department of Sociology  
Iowa State U 317A  
East Hall Ames, IA  
50011-1070  
515-294-8879 phone  
515-294-2302 fax

Christine Morton  
UCLA Sociology Department  
18003 NE 30th Street  
Redmond, WA 98052  
425-883-0950 phone/fax  
[christine@christinemorton.com](mailto:christine@christinemorton.com)  
[jlitt@iastate.edu](mailto:jlitt@iastate.edu)

Disability Studies Online: The purposes of this online magazine are to 1.) Promote disability studies by creating a space for the discussion of issues, trends and current literature pertaining to the field 2.) Provide an opportunity for academics, professionals and graduate students from a variety of disciplines to publish their work on topics related to disability, broadly conceived 3.) Maintain a database of people, programs, conferences, bibliographies, events and other resources available online to the public. We welcome all submissions on academic topics that pertain to disability including reports or research, theoretical discussions, critical reviews, book reviews, essays and editorials. We will also post calls for papers and announcements regarding disability sessions at upcoming conferences. Submissions should include: Name, Affiliation, E-mail address/ Contact information, Title, A brief one-paragraph biographical statement about the author(s). Please send submissions via e-mail to [webmaster@disabilitystudies.com](mailto:webmaster@disabilitystudies.com), Ms. Carolyn Anne Anderson.

NSF has recently announced several research opportunities that may interest you. One announcement, titled "Information Technology Research," can be accessed at <http://www.itr.nsf.gov/> People and Social Groups Interacting with Computers and Infrastructure (PE) is a technical research area in the Information Technology Research Program. Official information about that program is provided in the Program Solicitation, document NSF 00-126. The other announcement, titled "Decision Making and Valuation for Environmental Policy," can be found in the NSF/EPA page: <http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/epa/start.htm>. You can go directly to the various announcement formats at: <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?nsf00152>. Please send queries to the contacts named on the pages and in the announcements.

Call for Papers: Partners in health, partners in crime: Explorations of the relationship between criminology and sociology of health and health care. We invite outline proposals for contributions to the eighth monograph in the series to be published by Sociology of Health & Illness, in conjunction with Blackwell Publishers, in the year 2002. The monograph will explore the borderland between the realm of crime, violence and law enforcement, and the world of medicine and health care. Possible contributions include:

- The medicalisation of crime in courts and law enforcement
- Shifting medical conceptualisations of criminal acts, violence and criminal offenders
- Changes in the criminalisation of contested medical interventions
- Social patterning of crime and its relationship to addiction, violence, mental health and health care in general

We expect the majority of papers to report original empirical research but innovative theoretical and conceptual work will also be considered. We particularly welcome contributions from international researchers. The monograph will appear both as a regular issue of the journal and in book form. Potential contributors from North, Central and South America should send an outline proposal of up to 800 words by November 30, 2000 to: Stefan Timmermans, Sociology Department MS 071, Brandeis University,

Waltham, MA 02154-9110, USA; fax (+1) 781-736-2653; e-mail: Timmermans@brandeis.edu. Authors from Europe and elsewhere should send their outline by the same date to: Jonathan Gabe, Department of Social and Political Science, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX; Fax (+44) (0) 1784 434375; email j.gabe@rhbc.ac.uk. Outlines should take a structured form and for empirical papers should include (a) the major thesis or hypothesis (b) methods (c) data sources (d) a summary of findings and (e) conclusions. We will review all proposals and give notification of the outcome by January 14, 2001. We ask those invited to contribute to the monograph to submit articles of 6000-7000 words by July 1, 2001. All contributions will be refereed in the usual way and should follow the journal's stylistic guidelines. The monograph's planned publication date is September 2002.

[SKAT employment listings](#)

[SKAT Council Members](#)

[Mary Virnoche](#) SKAT Web Manager