Anticipatory Governance: A Strategic Vision for Building Reflexivity into Emerging Technologies

David Guston

The Center for Nanotechnology in Society at Arizona State University (CNS-ASU) is a Nano-scale Science and Engineering Center (NSEC) funded by the US National Science Foundation (NSF). It implements an agenda of "real-time technology assessment" (RTTA) in pursuit of a strategic vision of the "anticipatory governance" of nanotechnologies. To achieve this vision, CNS-ASU unifies research programs not only across several universities but also across three critical, component activities: foresight (of plausible future scenarios), integration (of social science and humanities research with nano-scale science and engineering), and engagement (of publics in deliberations). CNS-ASU also performs educational and training activities as well as public outreach and informal science education. This talk will focus on the Center's strategic vision of anticipatory governance and its component activities, especially in the context of extending the concerns of societal dimensions research across nanotechnologies and other emerging technologies in the context of sustainability.