

<i>TITLE OF WORKSHOP:</i>	Scientific Authority within Democratic Societies
<i>DATE(S):</i>	June 27, 2011 to June 28, 2011
<i>PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:</i>	Mark Warren
<i>UNIT(S) OF APPOINTMENT:</i>	Professor, Political Science and 2010 Distinguished Scholar in Residence
<i>FACULTY:</i>	Arts
<i>CO-SPONSOR(S):</i>	<p>The Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of British Columbia, under the Distinguished Scholars in Residence program, awarded to Dr. Mark Warren, Professor, UBC Political Science and 2010 Wall Distinguished Scholar in Residence</p> <p>Situating Science SSHRC Strategic Knowledge Cluster</p> <p>The W. Maurice Young Centre for Applied Ethics</p> <p>The UBC Department of Political Science</p> <p>The Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions</p> <p>The EU Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowship, which is supporting Dr Alfred Moore on the project <i>Epistemology and Democracy in Complex Societies</i> (project 237230).</p>
<i>KEY SPEAKER(S) & AFFILIATION(S):</i>	<p>All speakers (alphabetical order)</p> <p>Bentley Allen, PhD Candidate, Department of Political Science, Ohio State University</p> <p>John Beatty, Professor, Department of Philosophy, UBC</p> <p>James Bohman, Professor, Department of Philosophy, Saint Louis University</p> <p>Mike Burgess, Professor and Principal, Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies, UBC</p>

Thomas Dietz, Professor, Department of Sociology,
Michigan State University

Lisa Disch, Professor, Department of Political Science,
University of Michigan

Albert Dzur, Associate Professor, Department of Political
Science, Bowling Green State University

Robert Evans, Reader in Sociology, School of Social
Sciences, University of Cardiff

David Guston, Professor of Political Science, Co-Director of
Consortium for Science, Policy and Outcomes, School of
Politics and Global Studies, Arizona State University,

Heidi Grasswick, Professor, Department of Philosophy,
Middlebury College

Maarten Hajer, Professor, Department of Political Science,
University of Amsterdam and Head of the Netherlands
Environment Agency

Anita Ho, Assistant Professor in Philosophy, Centre for
Applied Ethics, UBC

Sheila Jasanoff, Professor, Kennedy School of
Government, Harvard University

Alfred Moore, Research Fellow and Visiting Assistant
Professor, Department of Political Science, UBC

Stephen Turner, Professor, Department of Philosophy,
University of South Florida

Mark Warren, Professor, Department of Political Science,
UBC

DURATION OF EVENT: 27-28 June 2011

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 16 speakers
7 graduate student discussants
Audience circa 30 (over the two days)

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

The workshop on Scientific Authority in Democratic Societies, organised by Mark Warren and Alfred Moore, brought together a group of high quality scholars and practitioners from political theory, science studies, and scientific governance to discuss the authority of science and expertise in the context of institutional innovations in the democratic governance of science. Graduate students from UBC acted as discussants for the workshop papers, and the workshop was well attended by colleagues from around the university, as well as from further afield (Calgary). The climate science controversy emerged as a useful case for anchoring discussion from different perspectives, and some of our participants were able to enrich this case with firsthand experience of contributing to policy development, and of dealing with public controversy connected to the issue. This served to focus some excellent conceptual discussions on the nature of trust in expertise and the conditions for trustworthy governance of science, and a series of fascinating papers reflecting on institutional innovations in scientific governance. The workshop demonstrated the value of bringing together conceptual analysis with research on specific institutional designs, practices and policies.

OUTCOMES:

We produced a workshop booklet (available through the website below), which comprises all the think-pieces produced for the workshop. This was distributed to participants and the audience prior to the event, and more widely after the event through the Situating Science Canada. In order to build on this initial interdisciplinary engagement, we are discussing possible follow-up events with various participants and other colleagues in North America and Europe.

MEDIA INFORMATION:

Event Website: <http://www.situsci.ca/event/scientific-authority-within-democratic-societies-workshop>

Representatives of Genome BC attended the event and will be reporting on it in their next newsletter.