

Young Researchers in the 21st Century. Possibilities and Problems

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An Interdisciplinary and International PhD Course, addressing the philosophical, sociological and ethical aspects of contemporary science, organized by International Network of Engineers and Scientists for global responsibility and Center for the Philosophy of Nature and Science Studies at the University of Copenhagen.

November 6 to 10, 2006, International Network of Engineers and Scientists for global responsibility (INES) and Center for the Philosophy of Nature and Science Studies at the University of Copenhagen (CPNSS) will organize an international and interdisciplinary PhD course with the tentative titled "Young Researchers in the 21st Century. Possibilities and Problems". The course will address possibilities and problems of contemporary science, which will be analyzed from philosophical, sociological, and ethical perspectives.

The PhD course should be seen as a follow-up initiative to the Copenhagen Symposium on Teaching Ethics to Science and Engineering Students – an event organized in April 2005 by INES, CPNSS and others. Hence, the PhD course aims at creating a space where PhD students can qualify their reflections on their role as young researchers in turbulent times where clear-cut distinctions between pure and applied science can no longer be upheld.

Course participants will be asked to analyze real dilemmas taken from the intersection between science and society – often taking the experiences of individual researchers as the starting point for the analysis. The cases to be analyzed – which currently are being developed by scholars at CPNSS – will be related to one of the four main themes treated during the course: i/ Scientific Dishonesty, ii/ Instrumen-

talization of Science, iii/ Social Responsibility of Scientists, and iv/ Risk & Uncertainty. Prior to course take-off the course participant is required to select a case / dilemma, do a literature search on this topic, and thereby identify no more than four relevant texts, which he or she will present during the course.

To qualify the participants' analyses, newer philosophical, sociological and ethical theories of science will be presented to course participants by the CNPSS staff, and a compendium including relevant theoretical literature will be prepared and distributed to the course participants. Also guest lecturers (including two INES speakers) will talk during the course. Each guest speaker will present an exemplary analysis of a specific scientific dilemma or challenge that he or she sees existing or emerging. During the course generous time will be allocated to group work and group discussions.

Course participants are expected to hand in a group-essay no later than December 10, 2006. In the essay a concrete analysis of the case / event / dilemma, that he or she has been working on during the course, must be addressed. One of the philosophical, sociological or ethical theories of science, presented at the course, must be used in the essay as an analytical tool. Essays that pass peer-review, and hence hold a certain standard, will be published in the "ISYP Journal on Science and World Affairs" – an interdisciplinary peer-reviewed research journal issued by International Student / Young Pugwash (www.scienceandworldaffairs.org).

The venues of the course will be Niels Bohr's famous institute in Copenhagen. Further information on the course – including the specific cases / events / dilemmas that can be chosen for further scrutiny by participating PhD students, the presented philosophical / sociological / ethical theories of science, details on how to enroll, and a course plan – will soon be available at the course website: www.inespe.org. Students, who are not registered as PhD students at Danish Universities, will be asked to pay a tuition fee for entering the course.