

# **MSU C4I Weekly Newsletter**

**April 11th, 2022** 

## C4I News & Events

We're continuing to program virtual events and opportunities here at C4I through Spring 2022. If you are interested in giving a virtual webinar or presentation, please email Dr. Michael O'Rourke (Director of C4I) at orourk51@msu.edu.

University Interdisciplinary Colloquium — Spring 2022

MSU CENTER FOR INTERDISCIPLINARITY University Interdisciplinary Colloquium

# **SKEPTICISM ABOUT INTERDISCIPLINARITY**



2022 University Interdisciplinary Colloquium with Dr. Michael O'Rourke

"Skepticism About Interdisciplinarity"

April 15th, 2022 12PM-1PM EDT via Zoom

Zoom Link: https://msu.zoom.us/j/95048790349 Passcode: msuc4i

Interdisciplinarity has been an important mode of knowledge organization for decades, but there remains a diversity of opinion about what it is. In this talk, I'll consider a range of different ways of thinking about what counts as interdisciplinarity. These include ways of thinking that turn on different conceptions of disciplinarily, as well as different ways of conceptualizing the combination of disciplines. I'll then marshal a few skeptical considerations against the very idea of interdisciplinarity, developing the common charge that interdisciplinarity is just a meaningless buzzword. I will close by evaluating these considerations and their implications for interdisciplinary research and practice.

#### C4I Online Book Launch Event



The Routledge Handbook for Art, Science & Technology Studies Online Book Launch Event with Hannah Star Rogers, Megan K Halpern, Delhi Hannah, and Kathryn de Ridder-Vignone

April 15th 11AM EDT via Zoom

The launch will begin on Zoom, where the four editors will speak briefly about the collaborative efforts to bring the handbook to life.

#### Register for the event:

https://msu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcrdeyrqTkuE9UYi6QgDemD6x <u>Kfz747X5qc</u>

You will receive a confirmation upon registering.

We will continue the event on SpatialChat, a platformed designed for socializing and networking.

#### About the Handbook

The Routledge Handbook of Art, Science, and Technology Studies (ASTS) defines the modes, practices, crucial literature, and research interests of this emerging field. It explores the questions, methodologies, and theoretical implications of scholarship and practice that arise at the intersection of art and STS. More than sixty artists, scientists, STS scholars, and curators contributed to this 42 chapter book. The text contains ten sections, each of which include a short introduction to an aspect of ASTS which helps to situate and summarize the concepts analyzed in each section, and a full color Gallery section with a selection of art-science works. section with a selection of art-science works.

#### The C4I Affiliate Faculty List is Here!

The C4I Affiliate Faculty web page directory has now been launched. Be sure to check out the excellent affiliate scholars

#### **C4I Seed Grant Feature:**

This week we are featuring Unsettling Startup Ecosystems: Geographies, Mobilities, and Transnational Practices in the Palestinian and Israeli Startup Ecosystems, which is led by Professor Steven Fraiberg (Writing, Rhetoric, & American Cultures).



Majd Mashharawi (GRC Staff, 2018) is a founder and CEO of Gaza startup, Green Cake, that designs bricks made of ash and rubble from local buildings destroyed by war. An inexpensive alternative to cement, the technology is helping to rebuild Gaza and create opportunities for female entrepreneurs.

### Unsettling Startup Ecosystems: Geographies, Mobilities, and Transnational Practices in the Palestinian and Israeli Startup Ecosystems

This transnational project, conducted by Dr. Steven Fraiberg (MSU), Arees Bishara (Tel Aviv University), and Aseel Khatib (Independent Scholar), focuses on Palestinian entrepreneurs in an emerging hightech ecosystem located in the occupied Palestinian territory. This area consists of the West Bank and Gaza Strip with approximately 4.5 million Palestinians. Despite or perhaps in response to the current political situation, there is a move by the local population to reach a global marketplace that extends beyond the area's deeply contested borders. Core to these efforts is the development of a startup ecosystem comprising a growing list of venture capitalists, incubators, accelerators, coworking spaces, and meetups. Despite this emerging infrastructure, the industry is still seeking its first major exit or success story. Moreover, the dream of startup success is linked to a wider national narrative and the struggle for Palestinian statehood, liberation, and independence. This study looks more closely at this state of affairs and ways these issues are deeply entangled.

To capture the complexity of the issues, this project traces the trajectories of Palestinian entrepreneurs living in a region that has been fragmented and balkanized by series of checkpoints, policies, other structures that sharply restrict mobility. This study is intended to trace how Palestinian entrepreneurs negotiate these contested spaces. Notably, a contingent of these startup entrepreneurs is further connected to the Israeli startup ecosystem (e.g., outsourcing), which is one of the largest innovation systems in the world. This project maps the historical and political forces shaping this networked interplay.

A transnational and multilingual team has been assembled to accomplish these aims. This collaborative approach is grounded in the notion that it takes a village to study a village—or ecological system with each perspective and background allowing for a broader, richer, and more complex mapping.

#### **Rinkus Featured on Community Possibilities Podcast**



TDI Center Associate Director, Dr. Marisa Rinkus, spoke with Dr. Ann Price about the power of communication and collaboration through her work with the Toolbox Dialogue Initiative for the podcast Community Possibilities. You can listen to the full episode here:

https://communitypossibilities.buzzsprout.com/1585792/10299801-drmarisa-rinkus-the-toolbox-dialogue-initiative-and-the-power-of-<u>collaboration</u>



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