

MSU C4I Weekly Newsletter

April 4th, 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 [orourke51@msu.edu](mailto:orourke51@msu.edu).


University Interdisciplinary Colloquium — Spring 2022

MSU CENTER FOR INTERDISCIPLINARITY  
*University Interdisciplinary Colloquium*

SKEPTICISM ABOUT  
INTERDISCIPLINARITY

Apr. 15, 2022

MICHAEL O'ROURKE  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY & AGBIOSRESEARCH  
DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR 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 disciplinarity, 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

ROUTLEDGE  
HANDBOOK FOR ART, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY STUDIES  
AUTHOR'S BOOK LAUNCH EVENT

Hannah Star Rogers, Megan K Halpern, Dehlía Hannah, Kathryn de Ridder-Vignone

The editors of the *Routledge Handbook for Art, Science & Technology Studies* invite you to join us for an online launch event to celebrate the authors' contributions.

April 15th  
11 AM EST/4 PM CET

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/tJerderyqTkuE9UYi6QgDemD6xKfz747X5gc>

You will receive a confirmation upon registering.

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



Routledge Handbook of  
Art, Science, and  
Technology Studies  
Editors: Hannah Star Rogers, Megan K. Halpern, Kathryn de Ridder-Vignone, and Dehlía Hannah

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 includes 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.

This event is sponsored in part by Michigan State University's Center for Interdisciplinarity

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

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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 [here](#).

C4I Seed Grant Feature:

This week we are featuring *An interdisciplinary approach to infant growth and development in Mexico: the role of structural, sociocultural, and biological factors*, which is led by Professor Megan Dean (Philosophy).



Pictured: Wall in downtown Xalapa with art done by women protesting femicide and sexual violence.

An interdisciplinary approach to infant growth and development in Mexico: the role of structural, sociocultural, and biological factors

Our project examines infant growth and development in relation to infant feeding practices, immune response, and human milk. Our interdisciplinary team is composed by Megan Dean and Elena Ruiz from Michigan State University's (MSU) Department of Philosophy, Alejandra Núñez de la Mora from Universidad Veracruzana's Instituto de Investigaciones Psicológicas, and by Masako Fujita and Nerli Paredes Ruvalcaba from MSU's Department of Anthropology. Funding from C4I will provide the opportunity to further examine these associations within the context of economic inequalities, racism, and gender-based violence. The goal of this project is to construct an interdisciplinary framework that links the structural, sociocultural context of infant-feeding practices to infant growth and development.

Additionally, funding from the C4I will facilitate the establishment of a collective of mothers and caretakers to build community with each other and to enable future, long-term collaborations to conduct community-based participatory research. This research comes at a critical time and place as the COVID-19 pandemic has constrained medical and community resources contributing to a rise in maternal mortality and the stop of some health services previously provided to pregnant people. Moreover, Mexico has high rates of maternal mortality and gender-based violence, with an average of 10 women being killed per day, giving rise to widescale protests demanding an end to gender-based violence. We've captured some of this context in the photographs included here, which depict community resistance against femicide and sexual violence in one of our research sites.



Pictured: A wall under a main bridge in downtown Xalapa with posters, paintings, and graffiti in protest of the high rates of femicide and sexual violence in the country.