

# Nano & Society:

## Making nano relevant by making connections to societal impacts and everyday life



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to societal impacts and everyday life

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- **Brad Herring, Museum of Life and Science**
- **Ira Bennett and Andrew Maynard, Arizona State University and University of Michigan**
- **Liz Kunz-Kollmann and Gina Svarosky, Museum of Science, Boston and Notre Dame**
- **Kristi Jean, North Dakota State College of Science**
- **Kevin Jones, Sophia Acord, and Pamela Hupp - Materials Research Society**
- **David Sittenfeld, Museum of Science, Boston**

# Nano & Society Workshops





# Engaging Visitors in Nano & Society

## Overarching goal

*To empower educators and visitors to reflect on the relevance of nanotechnology to their lives.*



# Goals for Engaging Visitors in Conversations

1. Educators and visitors participate in open-ended, engaging conversations.
2. Educators and visitors have distinct, equally important roles in the conversation.
3. Participating in a conversation is a meaningful learning experience for visitors.
4. Facilitating a conversation is a valuable interpretive method for facilitators.



# Two Approaches to Engaging Visitors

## Demonstration

- Scientist/educator has knowledge and expertise to share
- Visitors discover phenomena and laws of nature
- The facilitator communicates facts
- Visitors ask questions and receive answers
- Promotes basic goal public understanding

*Use this approach to explain the Bernoulli Principle to visitors*

## Conversation

- Everyone has their own values and perspective to share
- Facilitators and visitors consider facts and values
- Facilitators and visitors ask questions and receive responses
- Visitors form opinions and explore ideas
- Promotes basic goal of public engagement

*Try this approach to engage visitors in nano and society*



# Nano & Society Big Ideas

Engaging in conversations  
about what nanotechnology  
means to us and our future.



# Values

*Values shape how technologies are developed and adopted.*





# Relationships

*Technologies affect social relationships.*

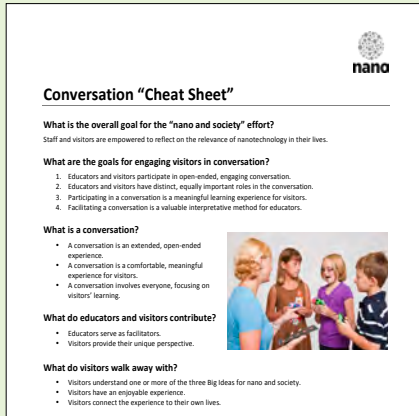


# Systems

*Technologies work because they're part of systems.*



# Nano & Society Tools

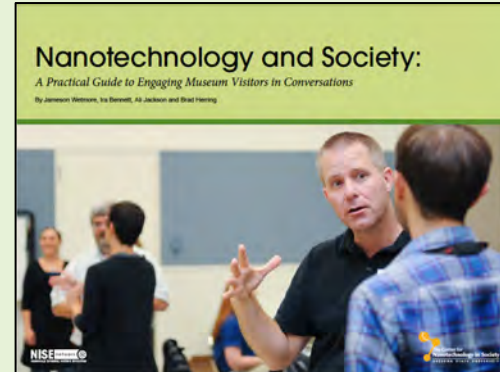


## Nano & Society training materials

- slideshows
- videos
- tip sheets
- team-based inquiry sheets



## Improv Exercises for staff and volunteers



## Technology & Society Guide

**More info:** [www.nisenet.org/catalog/tools\\_guides/nano\\_society\\_training\\_materials](http://www.nisenet.org/catalog/tools_guides/nano_society_training_materials)



# Educational Products in Catalog



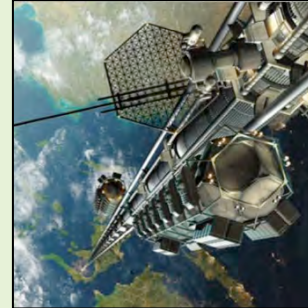
**Nano Around the World card game**



**Exploring Nano & Society – Invisibility Cloak**



**Exploring Properties – Capillary Action**



**Exploring Nano & Society – Space Elevator**



**Exploring Nano & Society – Tippy Table**



**Exploring Nano & Society – You Decide!**

**More info:** [nisenet.org/catalog](http://nisenet.org/catalog)



# IRA BENNETT & ANDREW MAYNARD

Arizona State University  
University of Michigan

# Values and Risk

Ira Bennett & Andrew Maynard

School for the Future of  
Innovation in Society  
Arizona State University



Values are more than a set of morals



# What we find desirable



The most perfect tomato on the internet

# What we find undesirable



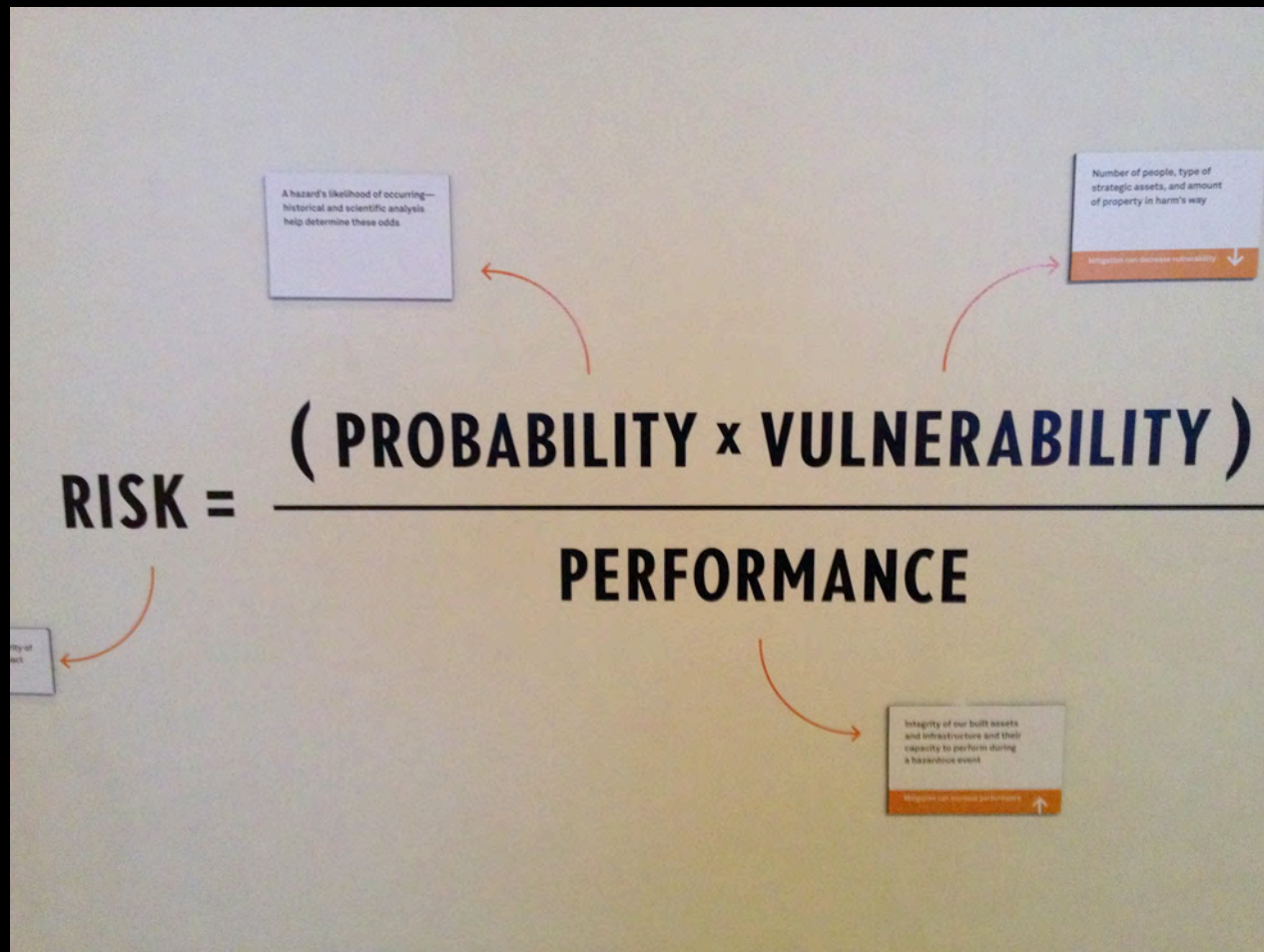
## The worst tomato on the internet



Risk is the idea that things  
we find undesirable could  
happen.

And we can fit more than  
scientific data or  
toxicological screens into  
this conception of risk.

# Risk is represented in many ways



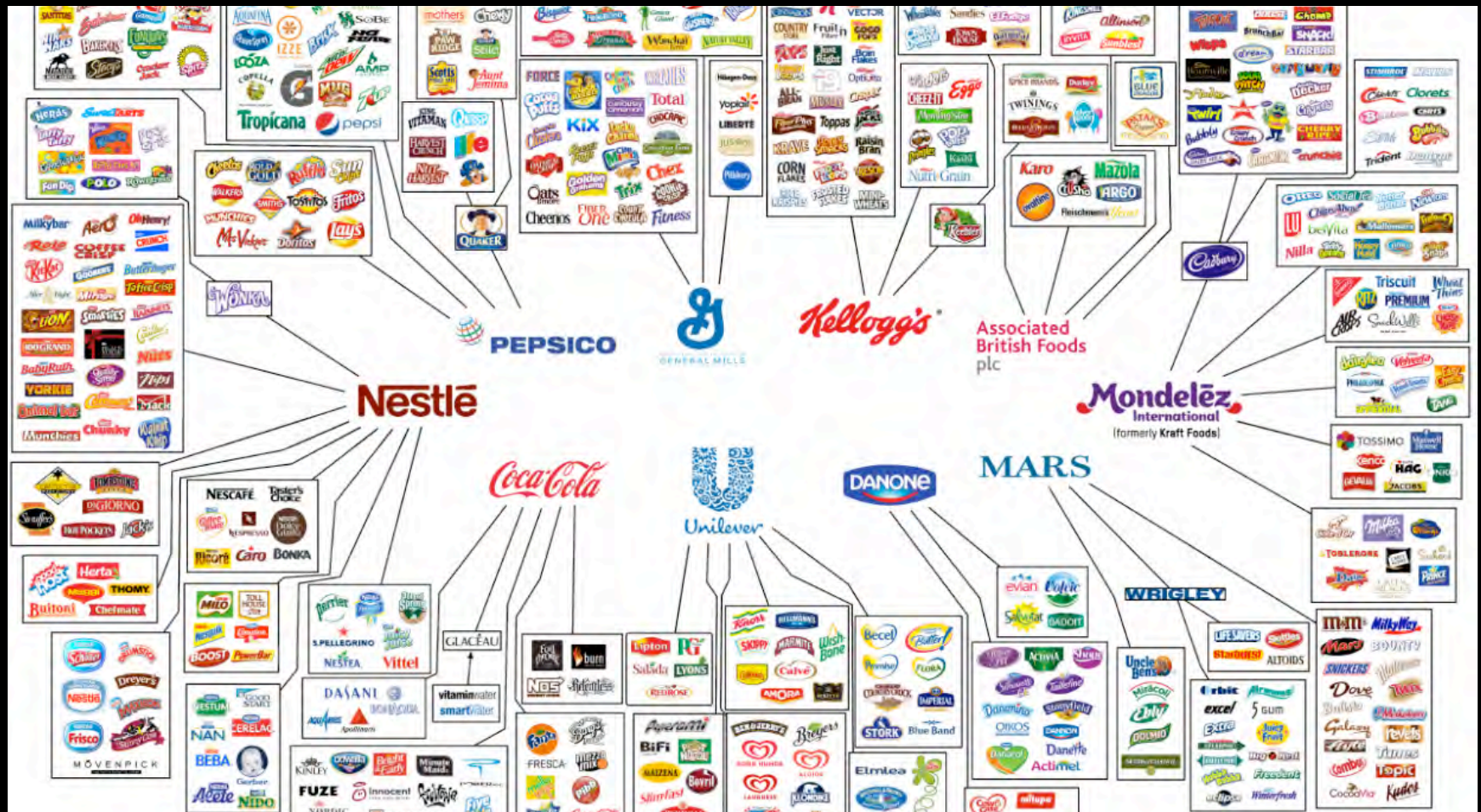
Designing for Disaster, National Building Museum



# GMO Agriculture



# GMO Agriculture





# Distractions caused by mobile phones



Distracted Driving

Distracted Dining



© © davidgoldmanphoto/Corbis

As we figure out what we value, we can decide what we find risky and then decide if we want choices about that risk to be an individual or societal one.





# LIZ KUNZ- KOLLMANN & GINA SVAROSKY

Museum of Science, Boston  
Notre Dame

# Research on connections between *Nano* and relevance



# Nano Summative Evaluation



59% of visitors reported finding connections between the mini-exhibition experiences and their daily lives

(Svarovsky et al., 2013)



# Nano Mini-Exhibition





# Nano Mini-Exhibition



# Nano Mini-Exhibition





# Study Methods



## Data collection:

- 33 visitor groups
- Audio and video recording
- Reflective interview

## Coding:

- 29 groups completed
- Relevance content  
(Kember, Ho, & Hong, 2008)

# Study Findings

All the groups in our sample made some connection between the *Nano* Mini-Exhibition and their everyday lives or experiences





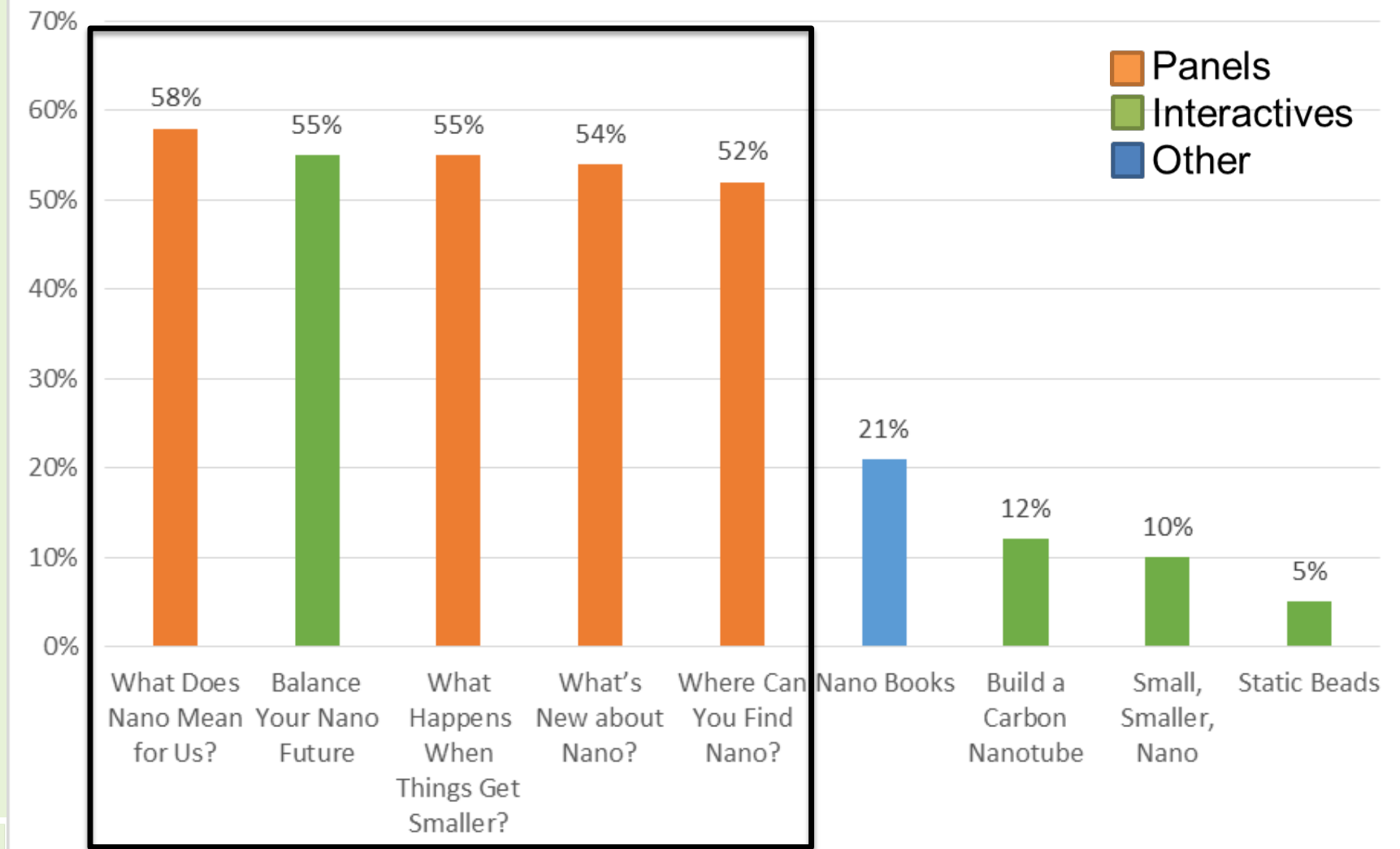
# Study Findings: Relevance Content

**29 of 29 groups talked about current societal topics**

“Like the thing with the water, the water filtration thing, that could save lives.”

“That solar panel thing because I’ve heard a lot of talk about how they’re going to develop that more and more in our country to replace the energy crisis thing...”

# Study Findings: % of Groups discussing Current Topics



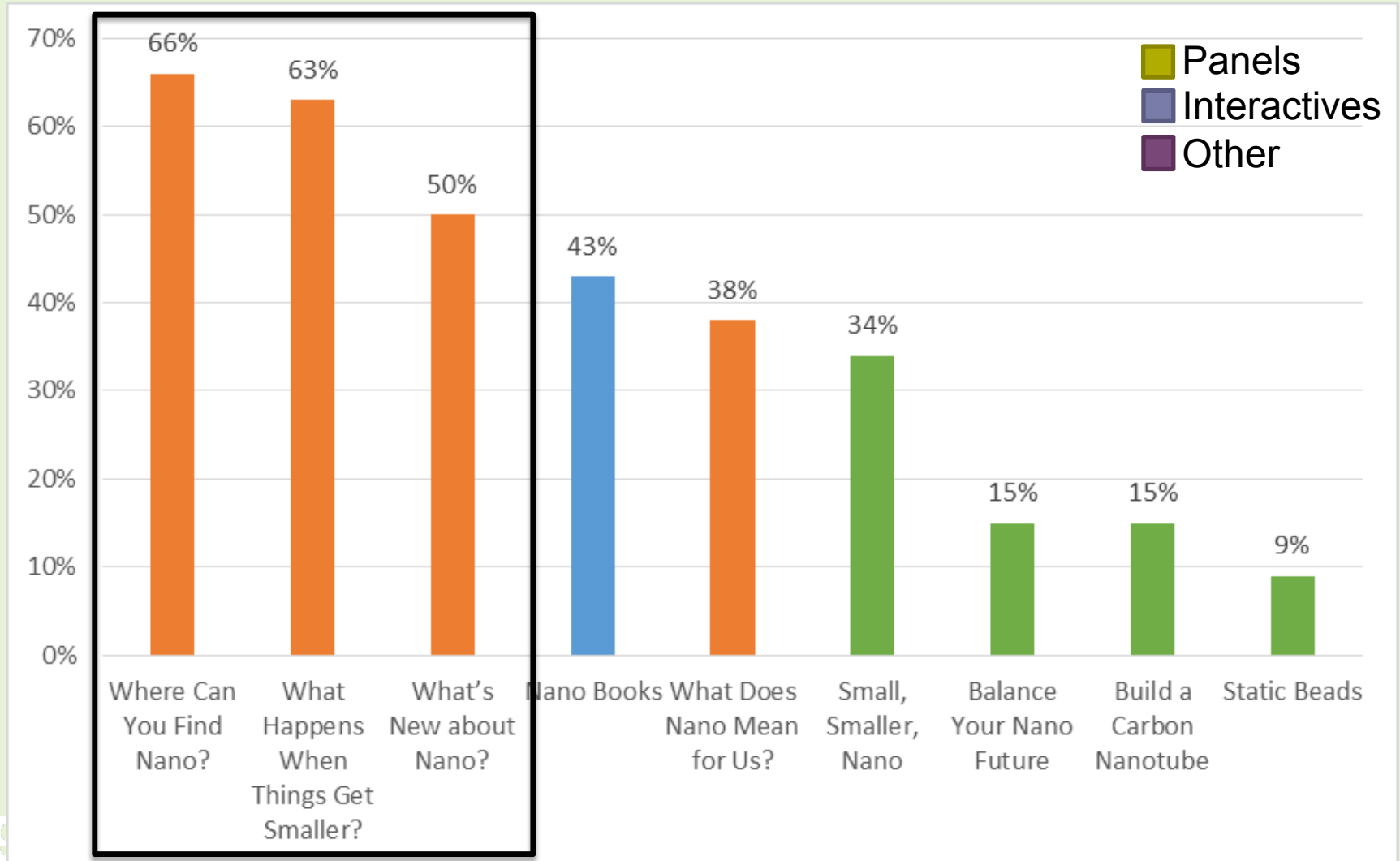
# Study Findings: Relevance Content

**28 of 29 groups talked about everyday applications / personal connections**

“This is what you need! They say that nanotechnology can keep germs at bay. So when we’re in the boundary waters we could, we could get some nano socks...”

“Okay Mark. Here’s the scientific evidence that my Norwex gloves are anti-bacterial. ‘A little bit of nano-sized silver can keep a lot of germs at bay!’”

# Study Findings: % of Groups discussing Everyday Applications





# In Conclusion

- All groups were able to make some kind of relevance connection to the exhibition either at a societal or personal/ everyday level
- Although more study is needed, it seems that purposefully adding content about applications and societal implications can lead people to feel a connection between STEM and their lives



# References

Kember, D., Ho, A., & Hong, C. (2008). The importance of establishing relevance in motivating student learning. *Active Learning in Higher Education*, 9(3), 249 - 263.

Svarovsky, G., Goss, J., Ostgaard, G., Reyes, N., Cahill, C., Auster, R., et al. (2013). *Summative study of the Nano mini-exhibition*. Saint Paul, MN: NISE Network.



# KRISTI JEAN

North Dakota State  
College of Science



KEVIN JONES,  
SOPHIA ACORD,  
& PAMELA HUPP

Materials Research Society





Kevin S. Jones  
Materials Science and Engineering UF  
&  
Sophia Krzys Acord  
Sociology and Humanities Center UF  
&  
Pamela Hupp  
Materials Research Society

A black and white photograph of the University of Florida's iconic tower, featuring a bell tower with arched windows and a series of smaller arches below. The tower is partially obscured by palm trees in the foreground.

## University of Florida Faculty Participants

Kevin Jones (Materials Science and Engineering)

Sophia K. Acord (Sociology)

Sean Adams (History)

Marsha Bryant (English)

Florin Curta (History)

Mary Ann Eaverly (Classics)

Bonnie Effros (History)

Susan D. Gillespie (Anthropology/Archeology)

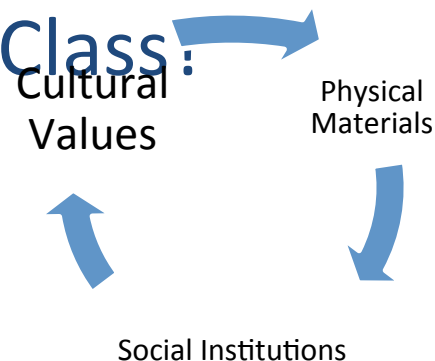
Ken Sassaman (Anthropology)

In collaboration with over 30 other members of  
the

**Materials Research Society.**



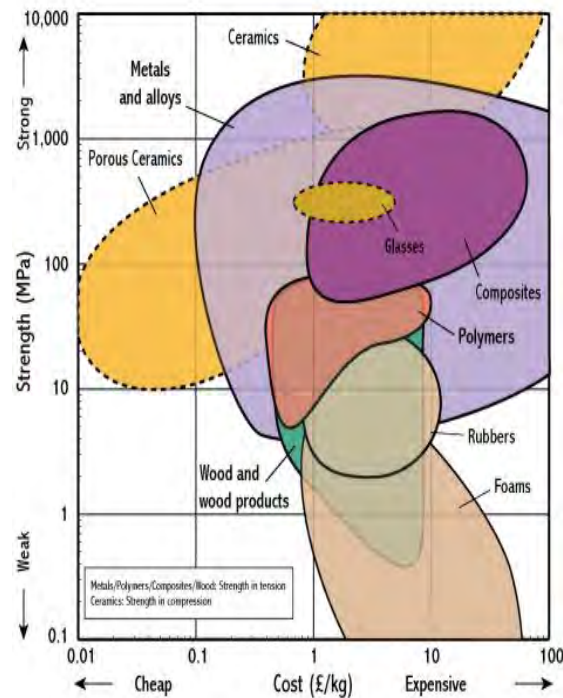
# What is the Impact of Materials on Society (IMOS) Class?



- IMOS is a freshman level class that explores how materials discoveries (metals, polymers, etc.) have shaped society from the past to the future.
- The class demonstrates that (1) society is dependent upon materials innovations **AND** (2) how those innovations are influenced by society.
- Goal: Increase science and social literacies



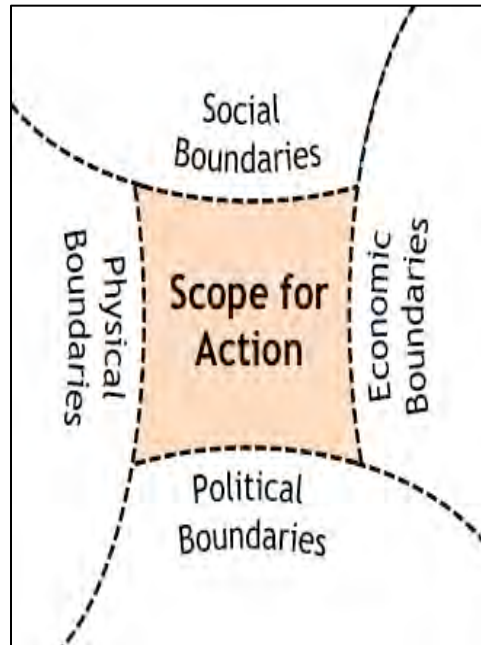
# Materials have physical properties



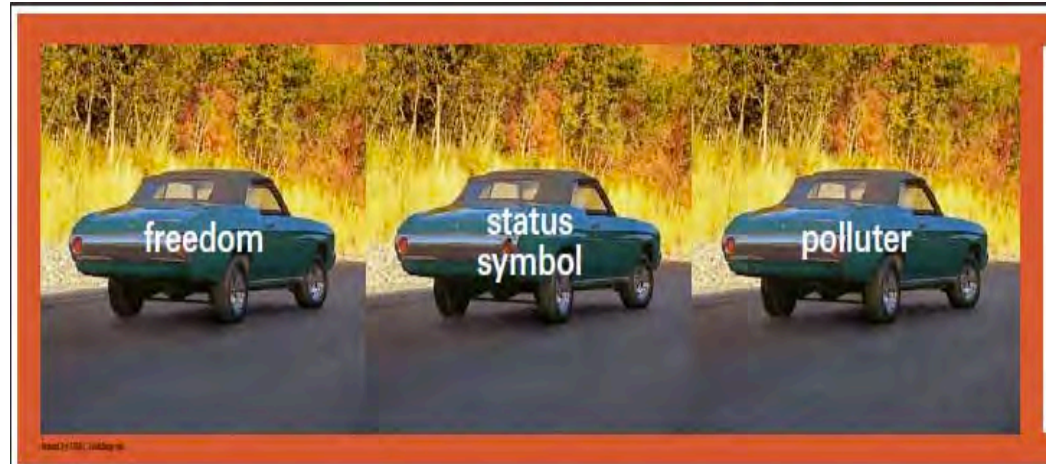
The selection of certain materials involves a cost/benefit analysis of durability, safety, aesthetics, cost, capabilities, human lives, legality, all weighed alongside their properties



# Materials have social lives

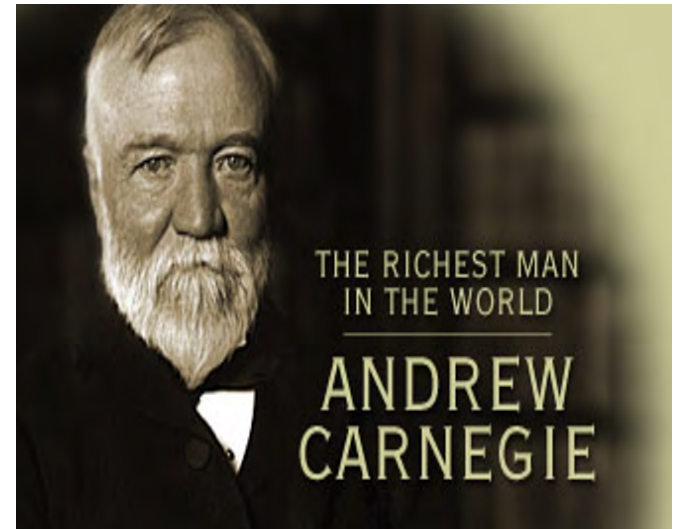


# Materials have cultural meanings





What we can do with materials is  
shaped by human mediators



Some materials are more appropriate than others





# Materials affect how we think and interact





# Materials have relationships to other materials





# Many factors shape materials innovation

## TECHNOLOGY.ORG

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### Ancient Roman glass inspires modern science

Posted on November 21, 2013

A 1700-year-old Roman glass cup is inspiring University of Adelaide researchers in their search for new ways to exploit nanoparticles and their interactions with

Researchers in the University's Institute for Photonics are investigating how to best embed nanoparticles in glass – instead of just on the surface – to exploit the unique properties of the nanoparticles it contains.

"Nanoparticles and nanocrystals are the focus of research as they have properties that have the potential to bring great advances in electronic fields," says Associate Professor Heike Ebendorff-Beckmann of the University's School of Chemistry and Physics. "A way to embed nanoparticles into glass, will open the way for applications in efficient solar cells or advanced sensors that can see inside the

"We will be able to more readily harness these nanoscale properties to create a tangible material with nanoparticle properties that we can use in a range of applications. And the unique properties are actually enhanced by the glass."

The Lycurgus Cup, a 4th century cup held by the British Museum, changes colour from red to green depending on whether light is shined on it. It gets this property from gold and silver nanoparticles

Read more at: [Phys.org](http://Phys.org)



theguardian

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News > Science

### Five wonder materials that could change the world

Materials such as graphene and shrink are so new that the scientists who discovered them hardly know what to do with them – they only know they might yet transform our lives



Ian Sample

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The Guardian, Tuesday 15 April 2014 12.14 EDT

Jump to comments (45)



Fritz Vollrath leads a team of scientists at the Oxford Silk Project who are exploring the biological, chemical and mechanical properties of spider silk. Photograph: Andy Hall

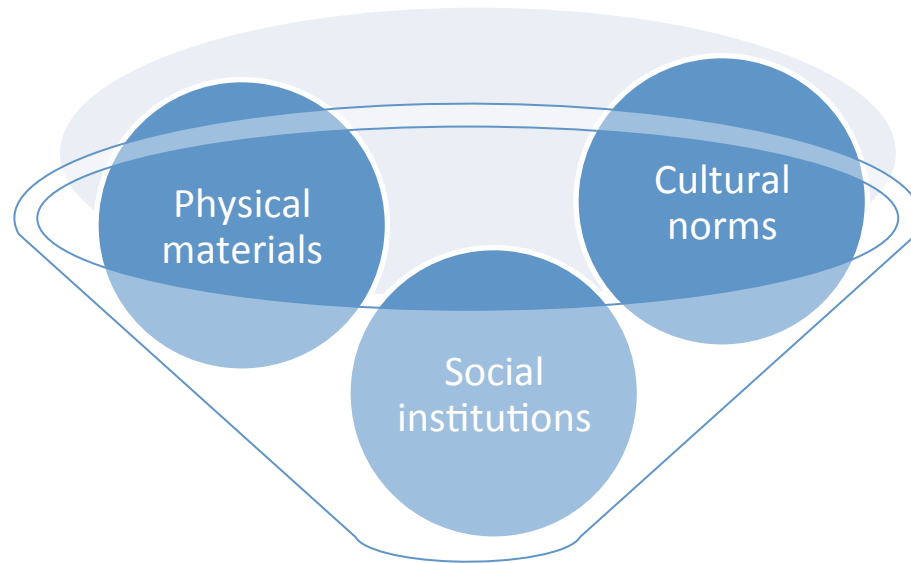
"The history of materials is a history of mistakes," says Mark Miodownik, a materials scientist at University College London, who traces his own fascination with materials to the moment he was stabbed in the back with a razor while ambulating to school one day.



# Engineering can be a diverse field







**Impact of  
Materials on  
Society**



## Class Description

- There is one instructor of record in engineering and nine instructors in liberal arts
- Class structure
  - **Monday: Engineering lecture** on a specific material
    - E.g. Iron and steel
  - **Wednesday: HSS lecture** on material case study
    - E.g. Andrew Carnegie and creative destruction
  - **Thursday: Watch video** on new material
    - E.g. Magnesium (Mg) alloys that are replacing steel
  - **Friday: Flip the classroom and work in groups**
    - E.g. Create a future product with magnesium and discuss its anticipated creative destruction



# IMOS Lessons I

Each week is a new material!

**Week 2 Clay** - Team with Susan Gillespie (Anthropology)

- The Entanglement of Earth: The Age of Clay versus the Age of Rare Earths

**Week 3 Glass** - Team with Ken Sassaman (Anthropology)

- Molding Clay, Breaking Glass, and the Past Futures of Ceramics

**Week 4 Concrete** - Team with Mary Ann Eaverly (Classics)

- Engineering Society through Social Spaces

**Week 6 Copper and Bronze** – Team with Florin Curta (History)

- Trading Material Resources and Knowledge

**Week 7 Iron** - Team with Sean Adams (History)

- Steel and Magnesium: Technology, Markets, and Creative Destruction





# IMOS Lessons II

Each week is a new material!

**Week 9 Aluminum** - Team with Sean Adams (History)

- Aluminum, Amorphous Metals and the Structuring of Markets

**Week 10 Writing Materials** - Team with Bonnie Effros (History)

- The Politics and Preservation of Knowledge

**Week 11 Gold and Silver** - Team with Florin Curta (History)

- Gold, Silver, and the Creation of Value

**Week 12 Plastics** - Team with Marsha Bryant (English)

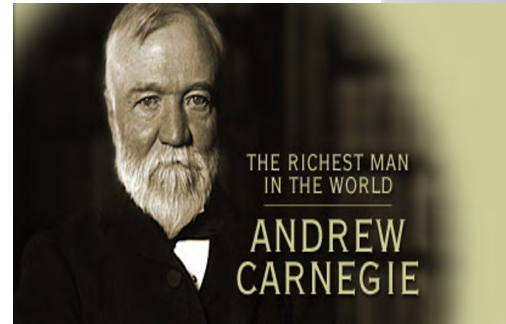
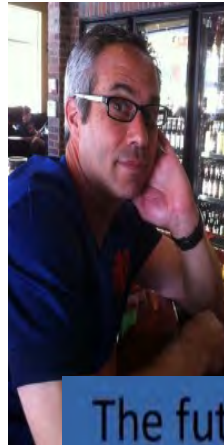
- Earl Tupper, Brownie Wise and Materials Marketing (Tupperware)

**Week 13 Semiconductors** - Team with Sophia Acord (Sociology)

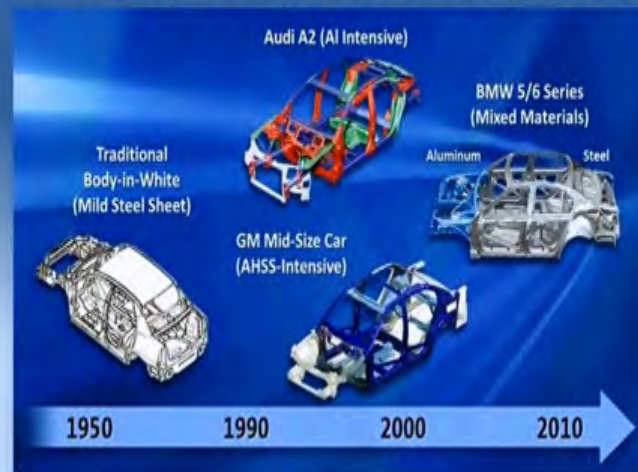
- Semiconductors & Cyborgs: Human-Material Relations in the Networked Society



# Iron, Steel and Creative Destruction (Sean Adams, history)



## The future of automotive body structures



Mg Alloys



## Quotes 1-2 years later

- **Undecided => MSE: YES I LOVED THE CLASS! It was a major factor in determining my major, which is now MSE.**
- **Biomed => MSE: The class helped me land my first internship offer, it was my favorite class at UF.**
- **MSE Major: I feel that I reaped the most benefit from the historical implications and technological insights to research and development of new materials.**
- **History Major: I feel like it gave me an advantage in my future history classes.**
- **MSE Major: I feel that EMA1004 covers very important and some seldom considered information that should indeed be shared with other institutions.**
- **Environmental Major: Great class, I recommend it to all my friends**





# Overview of Status

Class taught 3 times at UF with great success (size ~120)

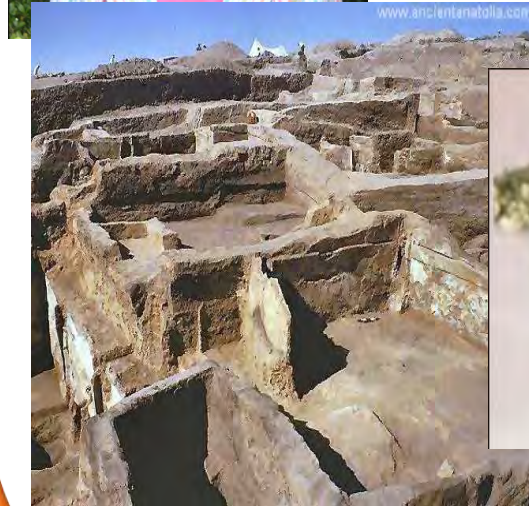
**Goal:** Increase science and social literacy of students and publics.

**Next Steps:**

- UF Faculty producing an Open Textbook (Orange Grove Press)
- DoD grant to produce videos of new materials
- Planning to disseminate the course nationally starting Fall of 2015

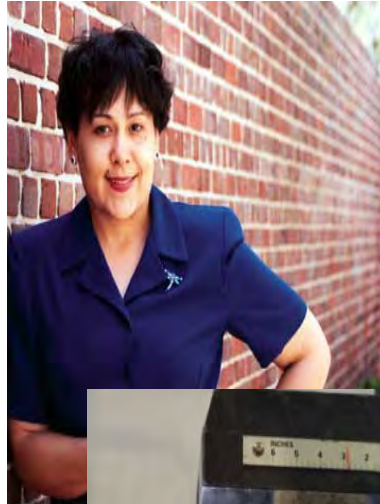








# Engineering Society through Social Spaces (Mary Ann Eaverly, classics)

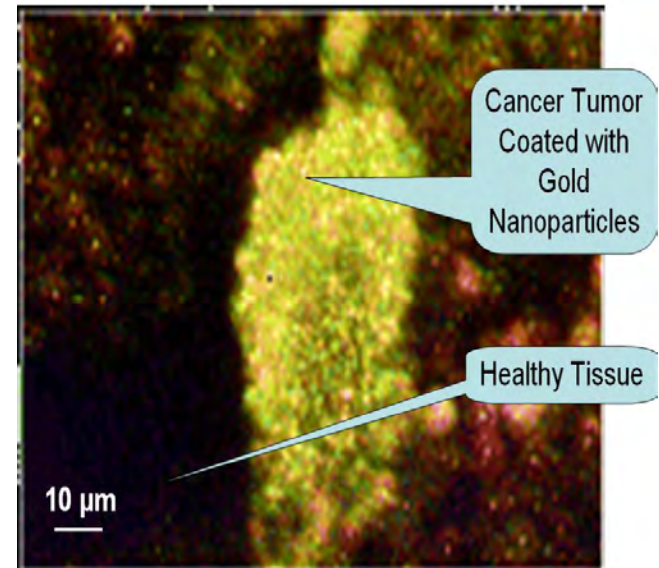


Department





# Gold, Silver, and the Creation of Value (Florin Curta, history)







## Impact Testing Concrete









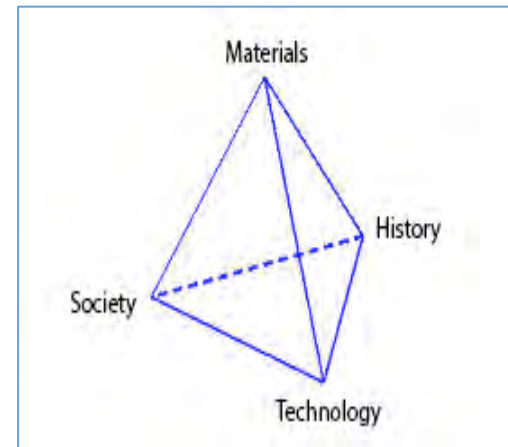
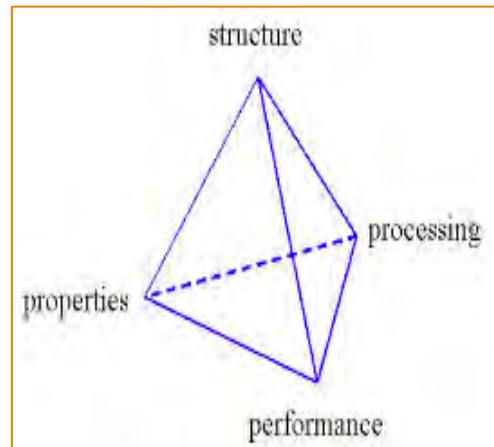


## Survey Results

- 90.1% felt the course would make them a more effective engineer.
- 92.6% felt that the course made them a more aware decision-maker as a consumer or voter.
- 70.4% reported that the course had changed their impression of what an engineer did.
- 92.6% would recommend the course to engineers.
- 72.8% would recommend the course to non-engineers.
- 65.4% were more likely to major in engineering as a result of taking the course.



# The Impact Paradigm



What is the impact of this material on society?

- *Is a society willing to accept it?*
- *How sustainable is it?*
- *What impacts does it have on health?*



# DAVID SITTENFELD

Museum of Science, Boston



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Activities and Conversations about Synthetic Biology

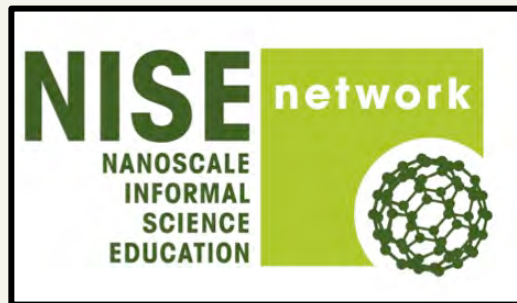
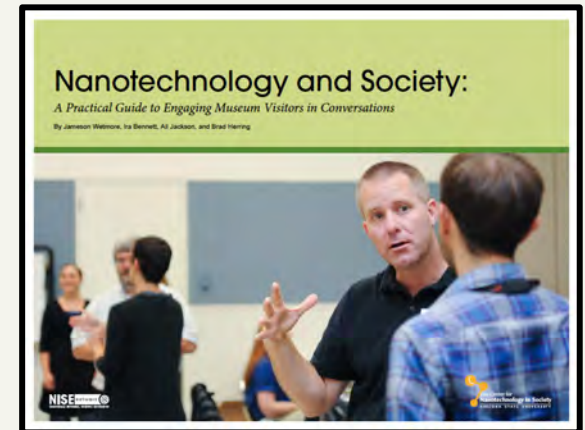
**David Sittenfeld**

**Program Manager, Forum**

**Museum of Science, Boston**







The aim of this project is to foster activities in science museums through which public audiences can engage with scientists and engineers in conversations about what synthetic biology is, how research in the field is carried out, and the potential products, outcomes, and implications for society of this work. Researchers and publics will explore personal and societal values and priorities as well as research outcomes so that both groups can learn from each other.



# Dimensions of PUS to PES

More PUS-like

## Focus

- Natural and human made world
- Processes of science
- Societal & environmental impacts
- Relevant personal, community, and societal values
- Institutional priority or public policy

## Public

- Watch and read
- Ask questions or interact
- Talk and share views
- Deliberate and problem solve together
- Produce recommendations

## Experts

- Advise the ISE folks
- Make presentations to the public
- Work to improve communication skills
- Welcome and value public input
- Act on public input

More PES-like



# SynBio Big Ideas

Synthetic biology builds biological systems as a way to explore how principles of engineering apply to the life sciences.

Synthetic biology welcomes participation of communities with diverse training to foster creativity and growth of the field.

Synthetic biology generates new tools and knowledge to enable biology-based solutions to societal challenges.

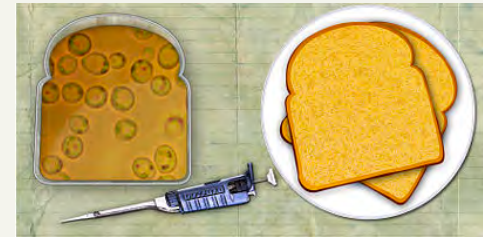
Synthetic biology is interconnected with human values through the uses, costs, benefits, and risks of science and technology.

# Which method of Vitamin A production would you support?

Place a poker chip in the appropriate box:



Atlantic Cod image from NOAA



Credit BioBuilder.org

From non-living  
sources?

From (once) living  
sources?

From biologically  
engineered yeast?

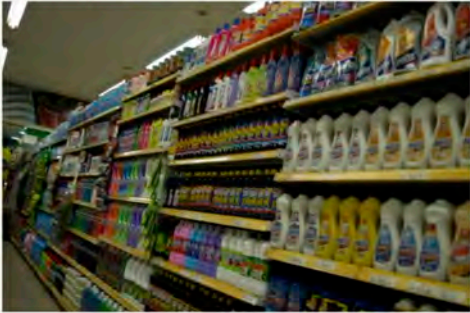
What info would you want to know before deciding?  
How do you think these items should be labeled?

# Co-created engagement activities

**Building with Biology**

## BioBucks!

Look at the cards with different technologies. Which ones would you like to see made available to everyone?



**Gut infections**  
  
Engineered *E. coli* could help fight-off serious infections. Would you use it?

**Rare and expensive Vanilla extract**  
  
Engineered yeast could produce less expensive artificial vanilla. Would you buy it?

**Expensive antimalarial drugs**  
  
Engineered yeast could produce a key ingredient in antimalarials. Would you take them?

**Non-renewable fossil fuels**  
  
Algae could be engineered to produce a green gasoline. Would you use it in your car?

You Have the Power: Synthetic Biology



Name: Karmella  
Occupation: Associate Professor  
Super strength: Production Power

Project Details, Logos

Name: Karmella

Occupation: Associate Professor

Research Goals and Interests:

Karmella's research involves using synthetic systems to engineer useful gene and protein-based biological devices and to deepen our understanding of molecular biology. She hopes to develop therapeutic technologies for issues such as tissue regeneration and customizable treatments.

Other Facts About Karmella:

Karmella runs a research lab at the local university. A group of graduate and undergraduate students work with her in the lab, many of which also are enrolled in the class she teaches. She was recently married and owns two dogs and one cat.

Project Details, Logos



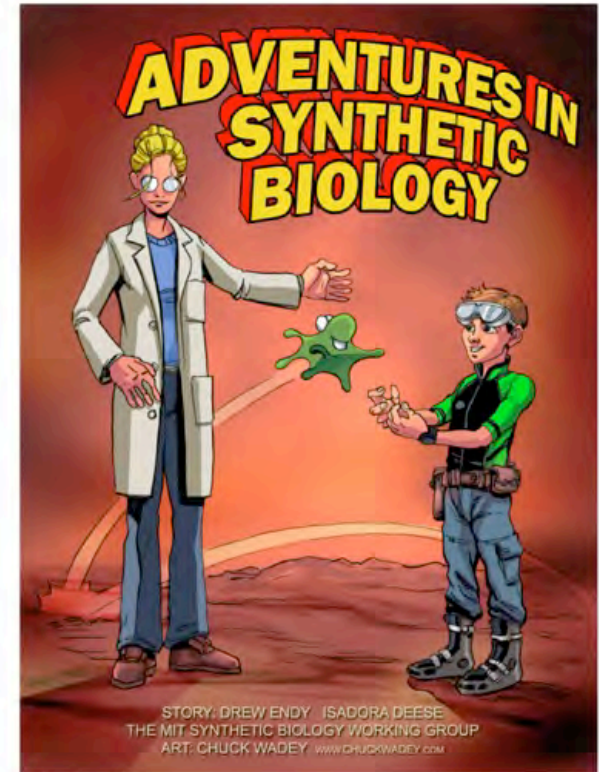
- Forums are dialogue programs
- They usually focus on societal and ethical issues related to science and technology
- They dig into science content but also into personal experiences and social values
- They provide an opportunity to learn from publics that are informed and engaged in a deliberative process



# BwB Forums

# Thank you!

<http://buildingwithbiology.org>







This presentation is based on work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. 0940143. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Foundation.





# Questions & Discussion

