



Call for Contributions

Questions of Justice in Nanotechnological Development(s)

3rd Workshop of the Nano Ethics Network

Oct 31 - Nov 1, 2008 in Aarhus, Denmark

Themes of the workshop include: Global Justice, Social Justice, Environmental Justice, Gender Equity, Risk/Burdens, Distributive Justice in Funding Allocations, Freedom and Security. As part of these themes there are issues of (distributive) justice in the development of nanotechnology at the side of the benefits as well as the possible burdens. Reference is made to a global nano-divide which assumes that there are lots of benefits which should, somehow, be shared more equally. Also, there are questions of research directions, who will benefit, and what are the opportunity costs? As to possible burdens, there is the question of responsibility (does a “licence to operate” in developing nanotechnology include doing assessments of impacts and their distribution?), and the question of risks and who will suffer these risks. The latter opens up a range of investigations into concrete nanotechnological developments and their impacts. There are also second-order questions about impacts of developments that are good in their own right. For example, new developments in chips, sensors etc may require lots of particular metals, and their scarcity will create tensions and new positions of power. These are only examples of issues that can be raised at the workshop.

Please, submit your paper proposal as an abstract of 300 to 400 words to nanoethics@teo.au.dk before **March 1, 2008**. As it is an important aim of the network to establish an interdisciplinary discussion of nano ethics with an equal representation from both the sciences and ethics, we strongly encourage contributions across these fields. If the abstract is accepted, drafts of the presentations are due on **August 1, 2008**. Travel and accommodations of presenters will be covered to some extent by the network, details will be distributed later. The Nano Ethics Network cooperates with the newly established Journal of NanoEthics. Papers presented at the workshop will be considered for publication in the Journal.

The presenters at the workshop and selected discussants will constitute an informal working group developing theses for deliberation before the workshop with the hope of making discussions at the workshop more nuanced. A workshop report that also reflects plenary discussions will be issued shortly thereafter.

The Nano Ethics Network constitutes an informal Europe-based international group of researchers within the fields of philosophical and theological ethics, philosophical, historical and social studies of science and technology and nanotechnology (physics, chemistry, molecular biology and medicine). The network is currently coordinated by the Centre for Bioethics and Nanoethics at the University of Aarhus, Denmark. Its members share a commitment to an ethical reflection of ongoing research, to dialogue and engagement with research-communities as well as advocacy groups, and to the furthering of public discussions of nanotechnological developments. Members of the Steering Committee of the network are: Donald Bruce (Scotland), Mette Ebbesen (Denmark), Andrew Jamison (Denmark), Ulrik Nissen (Denmark), Alfred Nordmann (Germany), Arie Rip (The Netherlands) and Tsjalling Swierstra (The Netherlands).