

# Preface

In November 2011, the Centers for Nanotechnology in Society at Arizona State University (CNS-ASU) and at the University of California, Santa Barbara (CNS-UCSB) collaborated to host the third annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Nanoscience and Emerging Technologies. S.NET, as it is known, is a young, international professional society created, in part, as a legacy of a Nanotechnology-in-Society Network instituted by the U.S. National Science Foundation. The meeting was hosted physically in Tempe, AZ by CNS-ASU and virtually by CNS-UCSB (<http://www.cns.ucsb.edu/snet2011>). It drew more than two hundred registrants from more than twenty countries. Scholars, students, and professionals participated in more than forty-five panels and other activities, such as walking tours of Tempe and Phoenix, short theatrical performances, a poster session with videos and tabletop demonstrations, and student-organized social activities. The conference provided ample evidence of a flourishing international community of scholars dedicated to describing, theorizing, and debating the societal aspects of new and emerging technologies—including not only nanotechnology, but also synthetic biology, geoengineering, DIY manufacturing, and more.

This volume is the third in a series of edited volumes featuring selected material from the S.NET meetings. The editorial team reflects the hybrid interdisciplinarity and international composition of the young society, and also the encouraging investment in this new area of scholarship by a rising generation of emerging technology scholars. The chapters in this book capture a range of key discussions and issues raised by participants in S.NET 2011; additional collections anticipated in the journals *Review of Policy Research*, *NanoEthics*, and *Nanotechnology Law and Business* further extend the published record of the emerging debate on emergent techno-societal issues.

While it is nice to see the scholarship presented at S.NET 2011 appearing in print, and gratifying to have this third edited volume to accompany the other two, it is truly inspiring to be able to continue to showcase new, high-quality research by scholars who are coalescing into a community.

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