ISSP

INSTITUT DE RECHERCHE SUR LA SCIENCE,
LA SOCIÉTÉ ET LA POLITIQUE PUBLIQUE
INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE, SOCIETY AND POLICY

Annual Report
2010-2011

Annual Report 2010-2011

First Steps

uOttawa

issp.uottawa.ca

ISSP

First Annual Report (Year May 2010 to April 2011)

[Follows Standard Form

for University of Ottawa Research Centres and Institutes]

Part 1: **General Information**

a. Name of centre or institute and date of creation (yyyy/mm/dd):

Institute for Science, Society and Policy, 2010/07/01

_____

b. Name of director and start date (yyyy/mm/dd):

Dr. Marc Saner, 2010/07/01

_____

c. Participating Faculty

Faculty of Arts

_____

d. Coordinates of institute:

60 University, Simard 229-C

613-562-5800 (2795) Fax, 613-562-5975

www.issp.uottawa.ca, msaner@uottawa.ca

e. List of members and support staff

i)   Faculty

Name	Department	Role
Dr. Marc Saner	Geography	Director

ii)   Postdoctoral Fellows

Name	Department	Role
N/A		

iii)   Graduate Students

Name	Department	Role
N/A		

iv)   Support Staff

Name	Department	Role
Jeremy Geelen	Geography	Research and Project Coordinator
Fatima Alsalihiy		Work-Study student
Damien Broomes		Work-Study Student

ISSP

Part 2: Draft Mandate & Objectives (1 page maximum)

Recently founded in July 2010 at the University of Ottawa (UO), the Institute for Science, Society and Policy (ISSP) carries out research, teaching and public outreach on key issues associated with emerging technologies, namely communication, governance and adaptation. The ISSP advocates that any intelligent discussion over the governance, benefits, risks and ethics of new applications of science can only be achieved if the front end – innovation – is tied together with the back end – the social implications.

Our proximity and access to decision makers in government, non-government organizations and the private sector gives the ISSP a strategic advantage in helping to learn about and to shape science- and technology-related social policy in Canada and internationally. The ISSP's planned interdisciplinary graduate and professional development programs are under development, and will provide education and expertise about the ethical, legal, management and societal issues arising at the science-policy interface.

We assert that meaningful education on innovation and technology governance requires the integration of three inter-related themes: *Innovation, Regulation and Social Implications*. We believe this fills a unique learning niche in Canada, and will be valuable to employers of our graduates. Furthermore, this integrative approach strengthens our research questions and results, and the approach to public outreach.

Our major task is to improve governance of emerging technologies by integrating research, education and public engagement along the innovation life-cycle (from invention to regulation and social implications) and by networking existing capacity around the country.

Our long term goal is to generate highly-skilled people and research results that improve evidence-based decision-making on emerging technologies, and to become a major contributor to the international public and policy dialogue.

ISSP

Part 3: **Activities (3 pages maximum)**

The aim of the ISSP is to carry out teaching, research and public outreach on key issues associated with emerging technologies. Thus, the Institute has taken on four main functions:

- Teaching: graduate program and executive courses (to be established)
- Research and dissemination
- Network and convening function: connections with UO faculty and organizations, external scholars and several science-policy organizations
- Public outreach: public and community outreach fostering science communication and literacy

a) List research or teaching activities undertaken during the past year.

Though a new institute and currently developing its functions to full capacity, the ISSP has undertaken activities pertaining to all four areas.

Teaching:

Marc Saner has undertaken several teaching activities:

- Course Env.4112A (Geography) Sept-Dec. 2010

- Marc Saner is currently supervising Eve Heafey, the ISSP's law intern.

- The ISSP is also training two work-study students: Fatima Alsalihiy and Damien Broomes.

The ISSP teaching program is currently in development, but the Institute plans to begin its teaching program with executive courses in January 2012.

ISSP

Research and Dissemination:

The ISSP has undertaken several research projects:

- Nanodefinitions Report: Health Canada hired the ISSP to write a report surveying definitions of nanotechnology and nanomaterials.

- Nanoprimer: Health Canada hired the ISSP to write a report outlining the basics of nanotechnology and regulatory issues surrounding nanotechnology.

- Innovation and red tape: the Treasury Board Secretariat commissioned a white paper for the Red Tape Reduction Commission. The paper will be authored by Marc Saner (Faculty of Arts), Jonathan Linton (Telfer School of Management) and Jennifer Chandler (Faculty of Law, Common Law section).

- Marc Saner's publications: the Director of the Institute has published, or is about to publish, several papers in refereed journals.

Network and Convening Function:

The ISSP has established, or is in the process of establishing, several networks:

- uOttawa STS Network: The ISSP has brought together several centres of expertise to form the University of Ottawa Science and Technology Studies (STS) Network. Some of these centres are located on the uOttawa campus; others are external organizations with a significant presence at the University of Ottawa. In either case, as part of the uOttawa STS Network they aim to support and connect member activities and to strengthen university capacity in science and technology studies. Network members are particularly interested in the ethical, legal, managerial and social implications of cutting-edge science and emerging technologies. In addition to the ISSP, the following entities are currently represented in the network:
  - University of Ottawa Centre for Law, Technology and Society
  - Emerging Technologies and Innovation Management Laboratory

- o University of Ottawa School of Information Technology and Engineering
- o The Loeb Chair and Research Consortium
- o University of Ottawa Gender, Science and Technology Working Group
- o *Technovation: The International Journal of Technological Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Technology Management*
- o *International Journal of Technoethics*

- The ISSP has identified over 50 faculty members at the University of Ottawa who are interested in the ISSP and are potential affiliates of the Institute. An Information and Discussion Session is scheduled for April 20, 2011 to give these people a deeper knowledge of the ISSP and get their feedback on the Institute's scope and vision.

ISSP

Public Outreach:

The ISSP has completed and is currently engaged in several outreach projects:

- Website and Web Presence: The ISSP website was launched and is currently being developed. ISSP Facebook, Linked-In and Posterus accounts have been created.

- ISSP Brochure and other print and marketing materials have been developed.

- Nanotechnology Workshop: The ISSP organized and led a workshop on nanotechnology. Sponsored by Health Canada.

- Bioenergy is an Emerging Field: Marc Saner chaired a panel on the topic of a potential energy revolution resulting from bioenergy.

- The Growth of Technology-Based New Ventures: The ISSP organized a talk and informal discussion with Prof. Achim Walter (visiting professor at the ISSP) and Sandra Schillo (founder of Innovation Impact). This was an invitation-only event involving high-level attendees and breakfast was served.

- Bromley lecture: Under the lead of Jonathan Linton (Telfer School of Management) and Nicholas Vonortas (George Washington University), the ISSP is helping to organize the 2011 Bromley Lecture (to be held in Washington).

- IRGC Network: Sponsored by Health Canada, the ISSP is organizing and providing briefing materials for a high-level meeting (to be held on May 31) to discuss the possible formation of a Canadian node of the International Risk Governance Council. The ISSP would be the focal point of the Canadian network.

- Synthetic Biology: A Colloquium on Benefits, Risks and Ethics: In collaboration with the Centre Jacques Cartier, the ISSP will be hosting this colloquium on September 30, 2011.

- Frontiers in Research 2011: The ISSP is taking the lead in planning the content of Frontiers 2011: Our Post-Human Future. The conference date is set for November 15, 2011 and will include the official launch of the ISSP. Marc Saner is a co-instigator of the conference.

ISSP

b) Explain how these activities have contributed to achieve the centre or institute's objectives:

The ISSP aims to carry out teaching, research and public outreach on key issues associated with emerging technologies. The abovementioned activities involve all four ISSP functions and so contribute to achieving the Institute's objectives.

c) Describe the main challenges encountered by the centre or institute (if applicable).

- The departure of David Castle, the ISSP Research Director.

- To commit scholars, none of whom receives a paycheque from the ISSP, to carry out work under the ISSP label.

Part 4: Resources (3 pages maximum)

a) Does the centre or institute have of a physical space (ex: building, meeting rooms, working stations) to carry out its activities? If so, provide a brief description of the space.

- The ISSP does have a physical space. It contains 4 offices (1 currently occupied by the Arts Systems Manager) and 7 cubicle work stations.

b) As part of your leadership role as director, do you benefit from any compensations (e.g. salary supplement, release time stipends, etc.)?

- Yes, both.

ISSP

Institute for Science, Society and Policy

60 University, Simard 229-C
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 6N5

Address inquiries and comments to:
issp@uottawa.ca

uOttawa

issp.uottawa.ca