

Making a new community: the 'scaling up' of synthetic biology

Where: IFF, Schottenfeldgasse 29, 1070 Wien

When: February 16, 2017, 18:00 – 19:30

Abstract: In this talk I will explore the emergence of synthetic biology as a (potentially) new scientific field. I draw from the findings of a series of collaborative projects with scientists and engineers to describe some of the shifts in how synthetic biology has been positioned and performed over the last decade. By looking back and also forward, I will discuss the terrain of community making from inside some of the projects funded to build synthetic biology. In particular, I want to use the motif of *scaling-up* to highlight some of the challenges to the stabilization and establishment of a nascent community.

Susan Molyneux-Hodgson, Professor of Sociology, University of Exeter



Susan has worked in the field of social studies of science for over 20 years. She specialises in the sociological analysis of scientific knowledge production, science-society relations and interdisciplinary research, using primarily ethnographic approaches. For the last 8 years she has been tracing the emergence of synthetic biology as a potentially new field of practice. Her research has been supported by ESRC, EPSRC, BBSRC, EU and industry. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

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