

Journal of Technology Studies

Forewords by:

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This issue of the *Journal of Technology Studies* is addressing a topic that has been characterized as the most important technology since semiconductors and the future of manufacturing opportunities over the next few decades. While this possibly is an overstatement, nanotechnology is creating numerous, exciting possibilities. It is very early in the development of the technology. In some areas, the development of nanotechnology is just approaching where semiconductors were when Intel introduced the 4044 micro-processor! A growing future lies close by with limits beyond imagination. This is a critical time in the evolution of this technology.

This issue of the *Journal of Technology Studies* is a beginning step in creating an understanding of the needs for the appropriate applications of nanotechnology.

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The multi-disciplinary aspect of nanotechnology is providing an opportunity to break down the traditional walls between disciplines that exist at research institutions. Conveying concepts, providing hands-on experiences and denoting practical applications are challenges that every educator faces. These challenges are particularly significant when the technology or subject is new – which is the case for nanoscience. Researchers, educators, industry, and government are all on unfamiliar ground when dealing with nanoscience. By working together, sharing information and discoveries the map of that terrain will be efficiently map – however it will be a long and arduous process. This special topic journal issue is a step in the right direction.

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