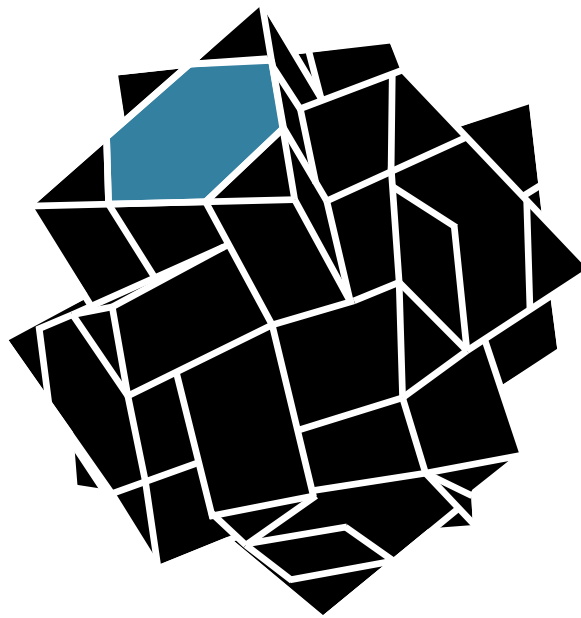


Risk & The Culture of Science

28th – 30th of April 2017

The Junior Parlour & OCR, Trinity College

CSER



Hosted by CSER & WEXD

The Centre for the Study of Existential Risk is an interdisciplinary research centre within the University of Cambridge dedicated to the study and mitigation of human extinction-level risks that may emerge from technological and human activity. We aim to combine key insights from the best minds across disciplines to tackle the greatest challenges of the 21st century to safely harnessing our rapidly-developing technological power.

The WEXD project is interdisciplinary investigation – involving scientists and philosophers – of the ill understood, but socially and politically significant phenomenon of peer disagreement. The ultimate goal of the project is to gain a better understanding of the role and consequences of disagreement among scientific experts and its implications for policy decisions by governmental agencies and the formation of public opinion.

Risk & The Culture of Science

**Friday the 28th – Sunday the 30th of April 2017
The Junior Parlour & OCR
Trinity College**

Convenors

Adrian Currie, CSER
Huw Price, CSER
Maria Baghramian, WEXD
Finnur Dellsén, WEXD

Workshop summary

Many scientists have expressed concern about potential catastrophic risks associated with powerful new technologies. But expressing concern is one thing, identifying serious candidates another. By definition, such risks will be novel, rare and difficult to study; data will be scarce, speculation necessary. This pushes us to the fringes of science, the realm of ‘mavericks’ and the unconventional – often a hostile and uncomfortable place. Scientists value consensus, at least about the big issues.

Catastrophic risk is both a big issue and a highly charged one: so fringe-dwellers may be doubly unwelcome. Do we need to make special efforts to protect our mavericks, if catastrophic risk is to get the attention it deserves? If so, how can we do it? Can we use the values of science to protect useful fringe-dwellers from science's own immune system? Can we engineer a Maverick Room, and would this actually help?

Several different communities have interests and expertise relevant to these questions. Our initial aim is to bring these communities together, to make connections and identify common goals. Our own motivation is the study of new technological risks, but we hope and intend the results to range beyond that focus.

Workshop programme - Saturday 28th April 2017

19:00 – 21:00 Reception at the Allhusen Room, Trinity College

Workshop programme - Saturday 29th April 2017

09:00 – 13:00: Junior Parlour, Trinity College

09.00 – 09.30 Welcome, Tea & Coffee

09.30 – 11.00 **Session 1**

Panel: Motivations, preliminary thoughts with Kyle Stanford, Adrian Currie, Seán Ó hÉigearthaigh

11.00 – 11.10 **COFFEE BREAK**

11.10 – 12.00 **Session 2**

Risky Science & Trust with Maria Baghramian, Luke Drury

12.00 – 12.30 **Session 3**

Talk by Eric Drexler

12.30 – 13.30 **LUNCH**

13:30 – 17:00: OCR, Trinity College

01.30 – 15.30 **Session 4**

Panel: Philosophy of Science & Mavericks with Hasok Chang, Michael Weisberg, Miriam Solomon

15.30 – 15.40 **COFFEE BREAK**

15.40 – 16.30 **Session 5**

Talk by Hugh Hunt

16:30 – 17:00 **Session 6**

Summary of day 1

17:30 – 19:00 Public lecture with Professor Heather Douglas, The Winstanley Theatre, Trinity College

19:30 - Workshop dinner at The Saltmarsh Rooms, King's College

Workshop programme - Sunday 30th April 2017

09:00 – 17:00: OCR, Trinity College

09.00 – 11.00

Session 1

Formal Social Epistemology & Risky Science with Remco Heesen, Cailin O’Conner, Liam Kofi-Bright, Connor Mayo-Wilson

11.00 – 11.15

COFFEE BREAK

11.15 – 12.30

Session 2

Can (formal) philosophy influence Policy? With Shahar Avin, Bennett Holman

12.30 – 13.30

LUNCH

13.30 – 14.00

Session 3

Talk by Alan Smith

14.00 – 14.30

Session 4

Talk by Anna Salamon

14.30 – 14.45

COFFEE BREAK

14.45 – 16.00

Session 5

Summary roundtable with Adrian Currie, Maria Baghramian, Huw Price, Finnur Dellsén

16.00 – 17.00

Session 6

Closing discussion: Possible special issue, where to from here?

Workshop programme (optional) 1st of May 2017

09:00 – 12:00

Survivor’s breakfast, TBD

Convenors

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Maria Baghramian	University College Dublin	Maria.baghramian@ucd.ie
Finnur Dellsén	University College Dublin	finnurd@gmail.com

Participants

Alan Smith	Looking for Heat
Bennett Holman	Yonsei College
Cailin O'Connor	LPS UC Irvine
Conor Mayo-Wilson	University of Washington
Eric Drexler	University of Oxford
Hasok Chang	Cambridge
Heather Douglas	University of Waterloo
Hugh Hunt	Cambridge
Kyle Stanford	LPS UC Irvine
Liam Kofi-Bright	Carnegie Mellon
Luke Drury	Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies
Michael Weisberg	University of Pennsylvania
Miriam Solomon	Temple University
Remco Heesen	University of Cambridge
Sean hÉigeartaigh	University of Cambridge
Shahar Avin	University of Cambridge
Alison Gobnik	University of Berkeley
Naked Scientist	The Naked Scientist
Anna Salamon	The Centre for Applied Rationality