The Technology and Culture Forum is an initiative of the Episcopal Ministry at MIT.
Greetings friends of the Technology and Culture Forum!

T&C has a strong history of moral leadership on justice issues at MIT. Over the past 46 years, more and more organizations have been publicly addressing institutionally contentious topics. During that time, T&C has emerged as the partner of choice for organizations that are exploring the ethical consequences of scientific and technological developments. You will see this reflected in our list of co-sponsorships this year. Another emerging role is the establishment of T&C as a place where students who are taking on ethical questions in science, technology and culture can find logistical support and encouragement.

As you peruse our annual report, you will notice that this year our Forum subjects were as diverse as our collaborators. From gene patenting to sex trafficking to nuclear power, we strove to bring forth critical issues from diverse segments of society that have consequences for us all. Our programs spanned local, national and international issues through films, speakers and box lunches. Our partners in these ventures included Amnesty International, the MIT Museum, MIT Communications Forum, Women and Gender Studies, Community Works, the ACLU and the MIT Faculty Newsletter. Read on to see the fruits of these and other collaborations.

Through the Youth Summit on Global Climate Change, the International Development Fairs and the Ethics Seminar, T&C has continued its goal of keeping students of all ages at the table. We are excited to say that T&C’s institutional leadership among undergrads had become even broader with the addition of a fall semester of our ethics seminar.

Please enjoy this year in review, and watch your inbox for regular invitations to the bold conversations of Technology and Culture Forum!

The Rev. Janie Donohue, Episcopal Chaplain at MIT
End Violence

During 2010–2011, T&C’s End Violence campaign continued under the leadership of Associate Coordinator Patricia Weinmann and T&C’s Graduate Community Fellow, Prassanna Raman. In addition to hosting and co-hosting important events throughout the year (please see program listing), T&C and End Violence were active partners in MIT Medical Department’s SAAW (Sexual Assault Awareness Week). Next year, T&C is committed to further developing this initiative. We plan to work closely with the MIT Medical Department and the Program in Women’s and Gender Studies. A new Graduate Community Fellow will be named in late August. Many thanks to Prassanna for her committed and energetic efforts on behalf of End Violence.

Youth Summit On Global Climate Change

On May 22, the 5th Annual Youth Summit on Global Climate Change, hosted with Boston Latin School’s YouthCAN (Climate Action Network), was held in the Stata Center. The event, always high-energy, was particularly lively this year. Colin Beaven, author of No Impact Man, was our keynote speaker. He did a fantastic job engaging with the students and setting the stage for the day. T&C has been an active partner in the growth of BLSYouthCAN from its inception in 2006 and the growth has been exceptional. This spring alone, BLSYouthCAN has been the recipient of over 8 awards including the President’s Environmental Youth Award and the Eco Schools USA Green Flag Award (first public school to win). In October, YouthCAN representatives will travel to Paris, France where they have been invited to present at a national conference on youth and the environment.

Clockwise from upper right: PHOTO 1: Allison Houghton, MIT alum and a member of City Growers, instructs young participants planting a garden during our 5th Annual Youth Summit on Climate Change on May 21. City Growers generously donated their time in creating a beautiful vegetable garden in MIT’s Children Center in the Stata Center. PHOTO 2: On October 21, Robert Taylor, Chair of the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation, offered his thoughts on reconciling peace-making. PHOTO 3: Amy Smith (R), founder of MIT’s D-LAB, chats with graduate students at ID Night @ the MIT Museum. This annual event, held on April 2, welcomed more than 350 guests.
TAC Programs 2010–11

September 24, 2010
9TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FAIR
Organized by the International Development Initiative at MIT and T&C

October 21, 2010
RECONCILING PEACE-MAKING: A TRANSFORMATIVE ETHIC
Robert V. Taylor, Chair, Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation, New York
Co-sponsored with the Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values

November 4, 2010
FOR NEDA: A FILM SCREENING
True story of Neda Agha-Soltan, a tragic casualty of the 2009 post-election Iranian crack-down
Co-sponsored with MIT Amnesty International and End Violence

November 9, 2010
48 HOURS* EXPLORING THE MYTHS AND FACTS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
*The amount of time it takes a young runaway to be approached by a pimp
Nikki Valila, ACT Program Director, Germaine Lawrence Home
Co-sponsored with MIT Program in Women’s and Gender Studies, MIT Amnesty International, and End Violence

November 16, 2010
GENE PATENTING: BALANCING ACCESS AND INNOVATION
David Altshuler, Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT
James C. Greenwood, President and CEO, BIO
Chris Hansen, Senior National Staff Counsel, ACLU
Leslie Meyer-Leon, President, IP Legal Strategies
Joshua Boger, Biotechnology Industry Organization
Co-sponsored with ACLU of Massachusetts and The Broad Institute

November 22, 2010
HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE BOSTON AREA
Members of the Boston Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force
Co-sponsored with MIT Amnesty

December 3, 2010
SECURITY THEATER OR SERIOUS SECURITY?
Airport Pat-Downs, Scanners and the Fourth Amendment
Nancy Murray, Director of Education, The American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts
Fred McWiliams, MIT Radiation Protection

Spring Undergraduate Ethics Seminar
BEING, THINKING, DOING (OR NOT?): ETHICS AND YOUR LIFE
Professor Sally Haslanger, Department of Linguistics and Philosophy
Patricia-Maria Weinmann, Associate Coordinator, TAC

February 15, 2011
HOPE IN ACTION AT MIT COMMUNITY ORGANIZING DINNER
Organizing students involved in local service into a coordinated network
Mary Beth Mills-Curran, Justice Minister, Episcopal Diocese of MA

March 15, 2011
IRAQI WOMEN IN THE “NEW IRAQ”: LAW, VIOLENCE AND MOBILIZATION
Professor Nadje Al-Ali, University of London
Co-sponsored with MIT Women’s and Gender Studies

March 18, 2011
WOMEN WITHOUT MEN: A FILM BY SHIRIN NESHAT
View of Iran in 1953, when American-backed coup removed the democratically elected government.
Discussion with Shahnush Parsipur, author of Women Without Men
Co-Sponsored with MIT Program in Women’s and Gender Studies and MIT Amnesty

March 23, 2011
BULLYING: FROM BLACK EYES TO BLACKBERRIES
Frida Wosk, M.D., Pediatrics, MIT Medical
Mary Rafferty, M.Ed., Team Chairperson, Student Support Services, Swampscott School District
Karrthik Dinakar, Graduate Student, MIT Media Lab
Birago Jones, Graduate Student, MIT Media Lab
Co-sponsored with Building Inclusion & Diversity Committee at MIT Medical

continues on next page
March 31, 2011

BUDRUS: A DOCUMENTARY
Palestinian community organizer unites local Fatah and Hamas with Israeli supporters
Co-sponsored with MIT Women’s and Gender Studies, The Center for International Studies and Palestine@MIT

April 2, 2011

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT NIGHT @ THE MIT MUSEUM
Co-sponsored with MIT’s International Development Initiative, in conjunction with the 2011 Harvard International Development Conference

April 10–14, 2011

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS WEEK
White Ribbon Project; MIT Residence Parties; Big Movie Night: Speak; Take Back the Night
Co-sponsored with the Program for Violence Prevention and Response, MIT Medical, the MIT Coop, MIT Student Activities Office, Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming, Residential Life and the MIT Women’s and Gender Studies

April 12, 2011

A CONVERSATION WITH SHERRY TURKLE
Professor Sherry Turkle, Science, Technology, and Society; Director, MIT Initiative on Technology and Self, discussed her recent work, Alone Together.
Co-sponsored with the MIT Communications Forum

April 26–28, 2011

WOMEN IN CONFLICT ZONES: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE
A three-part series created by Prassanna Raman, Graduate Community Fellow, Office of the Dean of Graduate Education; T&C Graduate Fellow

IMPUNITY OR JUSTICE: A FILM SCREENING
Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Kenya
Alexander Smith, Director

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VIOLENCE ON THE HOME FRONT: WOMEN IN BOSTON
Carlne Desire, Executive Director of the Association for Haitian Women
Judy Norsigian, Executive Director, Our Bodies Ourselves
Moderator: Fran Froehlich, Executive Director, Community Works
Co-sponsored with Community Works

WOMEN IN CONFLICT ZONES: CULTURAL IMPERIALISM IN THE GLOBAL DISCOURSE
Dr. Abha Sur, MIT School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences

May 3, 2011

WOMEN IN RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP TODAY
Shenila Khoja-Moolji, Research Associate, Harvard Divinity School, The Pluralism Project
Sister Margaret Leonard, Executive Director, Project Hope
Lama Willa Miller, Natural Dharma Fellowship
Judith Rosenbaum, Director of Public History, Jewish Women’s Archive
Co-sponsored with the Addir Fellows, MIT Interfaith Dialogue Program

May 4, 2011

THE INTERNET AND POLITICAL CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST
Ethan Zuckerman, Senior Researcher, Berkman Center for Internet and Society, Harvard

Dr. Marlyn Tadros, Executive Director, Virtual Activism, Visiting Scholar, Northeastern

Speakers in Cairo:
Mr. Abdullah Helmey, Member, Revolution Youth Union (RYU) Executive Office Bureau; representative, Reform and Development Party
Dr. Rana Farouk, Media Officer & Member, RYU Executive Office Bureau
Mohamed Salem, Blogger
Co-sponsored with the MIT Museum, with support from the National Science Foundation

May 4, 2011

PUTTING THE GENIE BACK IN THE BOTTLE: MIT FACULTY AND NUCLEAR ARMS REDUCTION
Aron Bernstein, MIT Professor Emeritus, Physics
Alex Wellerstein, History of Science, Harvard University
Jim Walsh, Research Associate, Security Studies Program, Center for International Studies
Kosta Tsipis, Former Director, MIT Program in Science and Technology for International Security
Co-sponsored with the MIT Faculty Newsletter, the MIT Program in Science, Technology and Society, and the MIT Physics Department

May 13–15, 2011

UNSTABLE PLATFORMS: THE PROMISE & PERIL OF TRANSITION—AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
7th Annual Media in Transition conference
Co-sponsored with the MIT Communications Forum, Comparative Media Studies Literature @ MIT and Writing and Humanistic Studies at MIT

May 21, 2011

YOUTH SUMMIT ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE
Co-sponsored with Boston Latin School’s Youth Climate Action Network
The 9th Annual ID Fair, held on September 24, drew more than 400 participants interested in the many opportunities offered to MIT students in international development work.

Annual Support

Endowment Leadership
The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts
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Albert Wilson
Mrs. Henry Worcester

Visionaries
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Paul Gray
Betsy and William Leitch
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Technology and Culture Forum at MIT
77 Massachusetts Ave.
MIT Building W11
Cambridge, MA 02139
web.mit.edu/tac

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Sally Haslanger, Philosophy; Director, Women’s and Gender Studies Program
S. Carol Huang, G
Henry Jacoby, Sloan School of Management
Evelyn Fox Keller, History and Philosophy of Science
Jay Keyser, Linguistics and Philosophy; Special Assistant to the Chancellor; Professor Emeritus
Jonathan King, Biology
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Sophie Monahan, ’11
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Christina English, Program Associate