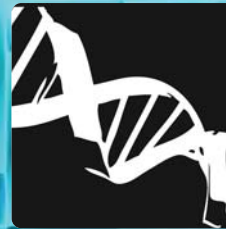
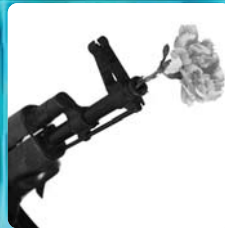


Technology and Culture Forum at MIT

Annual
Report

2010-11



T&C: The Year in Review

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



Heidy Gonzalez

On March 15, T&C Coordinator The Rev. Janie Donohue (R) welcomed guest speaker Prof. Nadjie Al-Ali (L) and Dr Abha Sur of MIT's Program in Women's and Gender Studies. Prof. Al-Ali addressed the serious and myriad challenges facing Iraqi women in the "New Iraq".

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!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janie Donohue" with a small cross symbol at the end.

The Rev. Janie Donohue, Episcopal Chaplain at MIT



Undergraduate Ethics Seminar

In Spring 2011, T&C once again offered a six-credit undergraduate seminar on ethics, co-sponsored with the Linguistics and Philosophy Department. The seminar, *Being, Thinking, Doing (Or Not): Ethics and Your Life*, provided an opportunity for students to explore ethical issues over a lively informal dinner each week. Our guests this year included Professor Bish Sanyal from the Department of Urban Studies and Planning; Stona Fitch, author and founder of the Concord Free Press; Robert Taylor, Chair of the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation in New York; Debra Levy, Tufts University; and Julia Markovits from the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy. Professor Sally Haslanger, T&C Steering Committee member, Department of Linguistics and Philosophy and Director of Women's and Gender Studies, and Patricia Weinmann, Associate Coordinator of T&C, served as advisors.

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.



Nathan Cooke

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.



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*.

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 McWilliams, *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 Nadjie 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 Shahrnush 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*

Karthik 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*

**VIOLENCE ON THE HOME FRONT:
WOMEN IN BOSTON**

Carline 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 Helmei, *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



Kurt Hasselbalch

John Durant (R), MIT Museum Director and T&C Steering Committee member, led a discussion on the internet and political change in the Middle East with Ethan Zuckerman (L), Maryln Tadros (C), and guests in Cairo via a video link. This early morning program drew a large audience of MIT community members eager to hear from both our in-house speakers and our participants in Cairo.



Nathan Cooke

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

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Nazli Choucri, *Political Science*
John Durant, *Director, MIT Museum*
James Fay, *Mechanical Engineering; Professor Emeritus*
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*
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Bishwapriya Sanyal, *Urban Studies and Planning*
Ali S. Wyne, '08

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Patricia-Maria Weinmann, *Associate Coordinator*
Christina English, *Program Associate*