



ROBERT F. AND JEAN E. HOLTZ CENTER FOR  
**Science & Technology Studies**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**SEPTEMBER 2021**

## Welcome from the Director

Welcome back Holtz Center friends and colleagues! I hope you've started the semester in high spirits and good health. Although the pandemic still casts a long shadow on campus, I've enjoyed being in the same room with my students again - and sitting at a desk with better ergonomic design than my dining room table.

This year brings a lot of change for our Center. The biggest change is in our staff. We're delighted to **welcome Sainath Suryanarayanan as Associate Director**, a position that has been expanded to include teaching responsibilities and a share in the programmatic and intellectual guidance of the Holtz Center. Sai brings an impressive record of teaching and scholarship in STS and rose to the top of the pool in our national search process. He's also a familiar face at Holtz Center events, and has contributed much to the center over his years as a doctoral student, post-doc, and UW staff member. I'm excited to work with him and encourage you to seek him out.

At the same time, it is sad to say goodbye to the outgoing Assistant Director, Lyn MacGregor, who brought creativity, wisdom, and calm to every facet of the Center's work. If you miss Lyn, you can find her nearby in the Department of Sociology, where she is the new Academic Advisor and Curriculum Planner.

We also have **new offices in Vilas Hall!** See below, and stay tuned for more details.

And we are finally in our **twentieth anniversary year!** We're marking this milestone by focusing on the richness of our own community and network. Our lunch seminar series has been tailored to showcase the strength of STS scholarship on campus, in all of its varied forms. We're also pleased to be welcoming three widely respected (and much loved) members of our extended Holtz Center family back to campus for visiting speaker events - Nancy Langston, Daniel Kleinman, and Warwick Anderson will all be sharing work with us in the months ahead.

Other events will be announced later in the year - we're working on some new possibilities for our recurring Science in Public series, in particular. Our ability to gather is still constrained by the pandemic, but Sai and I are doing our best to find new ways to strengthen our community and celebrate our accomplishments together. I welcome your ideas for programs and speakers, and appreciate any chance to learn more about your remarkable work. Keep me posted, and I look forward to seeing you at seminars and talks, over zoom and in person, in the year ahead.

*Noah Weeth Feinstein*

**Director, Robert E. and Jean F. Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies**

## Introducing the New Associate Director

I'm excited to take on this new role at the Holtz Center, and look forward to helping grow the Center as one of the obligatory passage points for making and doing STS. I have been a part of the Holtz Center since 2007 in a variety of capacities—as a PhD minor student, as a postdoctoral STS scholar, and as an instructor who has taught the Holtz Center's signature courses-- STS 201 and STS 901. I have a multidisciplinary background in science and technology Studies (STS), social insect biology and molecular-cellular biology. My postdoctoral research on the politics of knowledge and ignorance concerning honeybee colony collapse disorder (with former Holtz Center Director Daniel Kleinman) was supported by two National Science Foundation grants, and led to publications in STS journals including *Social Studies of Science*, and a book, *Vanishing Bees: Science, Politics and Honeybee Health* (Rutgers University Press, 2017). With Hispanist Katarzyna Beilin, I developed an "interspecies" conceptual framework for understanding social movements resisting genetically engineered crops in various parts of Latin America. My more recent scholarship examines bibehavioral research on insect societies as a crucial ground for the development of theories and approaches concerning the constitution of society in the contemporary postgenomic era.



**Sainath Suryanarayanan**

## Holtz Center Office Update



*The Holtz Center has a new home!* For everyone who's ever asked "So, where IS the Holtz Center?" - we've moved! In June, we left our offices in Sewell Social Sciences for a new space in Vilas Hall! Although we'll miss the gorgeous view of Lake Mendota from the 8th floor conference room, we're excited to have nicer offices for the Director and Associate Director (6010 and 6012), our own small conference room (6015), and a chance to make the space our own! Thanks to SJMC for the warm welcome, and stay tuned for pictures of the "finished" space later this year.

## 4S Virtual Conference

The Society for the Social Studies of science, or 4S, is the professional association of STS scholars from around the world. Its [annual meeting](#) will be held ONLINE from **October 6-9**. The Holtz Center is reimbursing graduate student registrations, even for those not presenting. [Contact Sai](#) for details and logistics.

We're also organizing post-talk reflections (over zoom) for two of the plenary sessions - watch out for more information on email and social media!

**10/7: Unsettling Science** - Kim Tallbear, Shay-Akil McLean, Aimi Hamraie, & Uahikea Maile

**10/8: Black Technoscience** - Ruha Benjamin & Beth Coleman

And don't forget to tune in for the **outgoing presidential address of the Holtz Center's own Joan Fujimura on 10/6!**



## Member Announcements

***New publications? new grants? new events? Career milestones?***  
***Share them with us by emailing [holtz.communications@ssc.wisc.edu](mailto:holtz.communications@ssc.wisc.edu)***

Look for new work by **Ian Hutchins** on "A tipping point for open citation data" in Quantitative Science Studies.

**Kaiping Chen** has won two grants (from NSF and the American Family Institute) to support her work on digital crowdsourcing and reducing bias Human-AI conversations. You can also read her recent work (with **June Jeon**, a former Holtz Center graduate student!) on diversity in digital knowledge production.

**Morgan Edwards**, a new Holtz Center Affiliate as of last year, has work out on failures in natural gas distribution and coal power phaseout in China, and a new project on the influential roles of climate-tech startups, funded by the Sloan Foundation.

**Jo Ann Oravec**, a Holtz Affiliate from UW-Whitewater, has new work forthcoming on "Robots as the artificial 'other' in the Workplace" - and is looking forward to the release of her book "Good Robot, Bad Robot" in 2022.

**Vicki Bier** is doing crucial science regulatory work as part of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, as well as continuing her research on policies for preparing for coastal flooding due to sea level rise.

**Andrew Ruis** and colleagues were awarded funding from NSF to design and build a free, online land use planning simulator that lets you model the impact of land-use on a wide range of social, economic, and [#environmental](#) indicators anywhere in the contiguous US.

**Multiple Holtz Center Affiliates** are involved in the third annual colloquium of UW-Madison's program on Technology and Adolescent Mental Wellness this September 29-30. Faculty, staff, and trainees are welcome to join!

The La Follette School of Public Affairs is pleased to welcome **Cameron Roberts**, a new postdoc with STS training who will contribute to the GENIE project on geoengineering and negative emissions pathways in Europe.