

Agenda and Notes Doc for 6S Open Meeting 2021 (Toronto/Virtual)

Thursday OCTOBER 7, 2021

5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (90 minutes)

For: Any and all student members of 4S. Feel free to invite your STS friends to the meeting.

Where: link in the [program](#)

We are recording the meeting for the 6S archive, but will not make it public. We will be taking descriptive notes (not attributed to any individuals) and will also save the chat as a public artifact from the meeting. Please do not post anything in the chat that you do not want made fully public for all.

Welcome!

1. Intros of 6S and 6S reps (@Katie, @Angela, @Misria)
 - a. Aim of today's meeting to recap and hear what you want moving forward. Student and junior scholar are a growing part of the society ($\frac{2}{3}$) - we are a big voice in the society so important for us to organize.
 - b. Thank you so much to Katie for all of your work over the last 3 years of service!! We are so grateful for everything you have done.
2. Recap on what 6S has done this year:
 - a. 6S Rep monthly meetings (including one in-person in Berkeley!)
 - b. 3 working groups
 - Research design and methods; writing and peer review; transnational STS.
 - Working groups met regularly and decided on their own schedules. Research design and methods ran a workshop at the 6S annual workshop.
 - c. Annual workshop (find infrastructure [here](#))
 - d. 6S Engagement Liaisons -
 - Council formally approved this position in January 2021: students who go above and beyond to help us carry out the 6S workshop, the working groups, etc.
 - Only three reps but always many people interested and able to dedicate time to 6S, so we wanted to create a formal structure for this.
3. Introductions by attendees
4. Feedback on 6S workshop.
 - Really enjoyed the activity and it was eye opening to get to explore other kinds of methodologies. Found out by coincidence about the workshop. Want to better understand how we can access these kinds of opportunities.
 - It was a really nice experience.
 - The method sketch was very useful for me as I am writing my research proposal.

- a. Reflect on the virtual format of the 6S workshop.
 - Virtual workshop seems to have been going well; “homework” in advance and then several live zoom calls for people to choose from.
 - But we had a bit of drop-off this year (100 sign-ups, 20 participants). Are people interested in spacing these workshop exercises/calls across the year? This would help us have more ongoing engagement throughout the year, rather than just one super intense week around the 4S meeting.
 1. Hard to prioritize 6S workshop stuff amid preparing for panel presentations, etc. So extending the workshop beyond the annual meeting would be nice to mitigate this.
- b. Does this kind of virtual, platform based conference help to make the international format of the conference more possible?
5. Involvement in other student STS groups (shared the [link](#) for the database of these):
 - a. NEST
 - Some of these have been kind of quiet the past few years
 - b. Technoscience Salon
 - c. METALab
6. Feedback on 6S working group.
 - a. Were you a part of any working group? Would you like to talk about your WG's activities?
 - b. Did the working group help you stay engaged with the 6S community at large?
 - c. Reflections on constraints, possibilities and format of the working groups.
7. Feedback for 6S more generally.
 - a. How would you like to get involved and what would you like reps to facilitate moving forward?
 - b. What kinds of activities would you like to see?
 - c. Gaps you'd like to see 6S fill? Challenges in your program/professionalization that 6S can help support?
 - Challenge about being not in an STS department
 - Challenge about not having coursework component in Australian PhD programs, thus doing a lot of self-educating, reading groups.
 1. Reading groups could be something 6S can offer, and we could even connect these groups with the authors of the texts. But not necessarily synchronous/in-person, something more synchronous.
 - Reading lists could be useful for people.
 1. We could add these to the 4S website.
 - Mentoring programme and 6S relationship
 1. Conception that it's not meant for students, more for junior faculty
 2. Hesitation about getting effective/useful/non-exhausting pairings, e.g. being the only black person in the room and not being able to be paired with a black mentor.

- a. More than a topically focused system of pairing: many kinds of mentoring (sociocultural, professional, etc.)
 - b. Think about different experiences and relationships we want from mentoring.
 - c. Race is a category!
 - d. Important for building diversity.
3. Hesitation that it'll be a one-time meeting with a person and nothing else.
4. "a space for thinking and talking about how we mentor. Not just finding mentors and negotiating our relationships to research advisors, but also how we engage advising of our peers and of undergrads ..."
5. Want something that's not just for students going on the academic job market (not having that be the sole focus).
6. Hesitation around the power dynamic, the implication that you're gaining something from the faculty mentor and they're only giving their time, not also getting something out of it. So thinking about activities, etc. that push against that assumption.
 - a. Even the 6S sketches function as a kind of mentoring activity! Building off of the sketch mechanism, and having that over time, could allow for more organic relationships. Let's work together and have a discussion. Could also help with retention.
 - b. E.g., a series of related sketches over the course of a year with the same faculty mentor.
 - c. Maybe the reading group is incorporated into this.
7. Some way of connecting people with certain panelists they're interested in; a purposely constrained/bounded interaction but still enriching. Helping structure that quick one-on-one interaction with panelists after a talk, especially in a virtual context.

Next steps: We will be in touch with outline of activities for the coming year and will share both on the grad mailing list, Slack, and through Technoscience newsletter.

At close, we will have 1 rep stick around in a breakout room afterwards in case anyone wants to talk to us individually.

Communication Channels:

Email list-serv - <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/stsgrad>

Join our open 6S slack channel! <https://communityinviter.com/apps/6sgroup/student-section-of-the-society-for-social-studies-of-science>