



7. Natural Sciences (Biotechnological studies)

INVITATION: Working Group

1. Marine Studies, 2. Aviation and Aeronautical Studies, 3. Automotive, 4. Energy, 5. Space Study and Square Kilometer Array, 6. Fourth Industrial Revolution and Digitalisation, **7. Natural Sciences (Biotechnological studies)**, 8. Health Studies/Medicine, 9. Feminist, Womanist, Bosadi Theorisations, 10. Student Support and Co-Curricular Activities.

Working Group Session

You are cordially invited to the 1st 2026 series of CGS-facilitated Catalytic Niche Area Working Group meetings for Biotechnology. The theme for series 1 is “Advancing Multi-, Inter- and Transdisciplinarity in Catalytic Niche Area Research”. In this series, we will anchor our 2026 approach by reaffirming the commitment to expansive conceptualisations of, and multidisciplinary avenues of participation into, the catalytic niche areas. Our framing for this session is: Biotechnology at the intersection of science, ethics, policy, economy and society.

Readings:

- Jasanoff, S., Hurlbut, J. B. (2018) A global observatory for gene editing. *Nature* 555. <https://sts.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/328/2021/08/Jasanoff-and-Hurlbut-2018-A-global-observatory-for-gene-editing.pdf>
- O'Mathúna, D. P. (2007) Bioethics and biotechnology. *Cytotechnology* 53 (1-3). <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC2267612/#:~:text=Biotechnology%20can%20produce%20unanticipated%20consequences,a%20different%20approach%20to%20ethics>
- Trump, B., Cummings, C., Klasa, K., et al. (2023). Governing biotechnology to provide safety and security and address ethical, legal, and social implications. *Frontiers in Genetics* 13. <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/genetics/articles/10.3389/fgene.2022.1052371/full>
- Stilgoe, J., Owen, R., Macnaghten, P. (2013) Developing a framework for responsible innovation. *Research Policy* 42 (9). <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048733313000930>

Discussion prompts:

- How do the readings challenge the idea of biotechnology as a purely laboratory-based or technical field?
- How can biotechnology research integrate ethical and societal dimensions from inception?
- Who should be involved in shaping biotech research agendas?
- What does responsible innovation mean in the Global South context?



Tuesday, 24 March 2026
11:00 – 12:00

REGISTER HERE

<https://forms.office.com/r/FTmfRUssEk>

ENQUIRIES:

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FACILITATOR:

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