Editorial

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In the four years since our initial publication, *BioSocieties* has sought to develop constructive dialogue between social scientists and life scientists on key conceptual and practical issues from genomics and neuroscience to stem cells and experimental practices. As we enter our fifth year, under new publishing arrangements with Palgrave Macmillan, we are delighted to publish a special issue on drugs and addiction sustaining these efforts. As well as providing important analyses of the key social and neurobiological issues raised by 'the problem of addiction', these papers show that dialogue between distinct and sometimes opposing epistemological and conceptual positions is both difficult and possible. The issue was edited by Professor Howard Kushner, Nat C. Robertson Distinguished Professor of Science and Society, Graduate Institute of Liberal Arts and Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Dr Scott Vrecko, Department of Sociology & Philosophy, University of Exeter and Deanne Dunbar, Department of Behavioral Sciences & Health Education, Emory University.

It is both possible and increasingly necessary for even quite basic researchers in the life sciences and biomedicine to consider, at very early stages in the selection and pursuit of their research agendas, the social, and not merely the biological life of the processes they study. As well, the potential social implications of their work, and the ways in which it is shaped by its cultural context deserve attention. Indeed, it would be naïve to believe that such considerations do not enter into the very choice of research questions and the decisions of research funding agencies. Similarly, it is both possible and necessary for those working in the social sciences to recognize the distinctive forms of truth production within the life sciences, and to understand, acknowledge and integrate the findings of biomedical researchers in their work. Moreover, whether acknowledged or not, much work from the social and human sciences is underpinned by certain presuppositions regarding the biological natures of those human beings who they study.

BioSocieties will continue to give priority to work that seeks to develop conversations across these distinctive domains of expertise while recognizing that each has its own specific character, problems and methods of working. To assist us in reaching these goals, we have changed our editorial structure to incorporate the dynamic expertise of an important group of international scholars. We welcome as associate editors: Andrew Lakoff, Filippa Lentzos, Carlos Novas and Chloe Silverman. The associate editors will work with the co-editors to ensure that we keep attracting, inspiring and publishing work at the cutting edge of the science/society interface. We believe that these changes to our editorial organization and publishing arrangements will facilitate this, and we look forward to working with our contributors and our readers to further this agenda over future years.

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