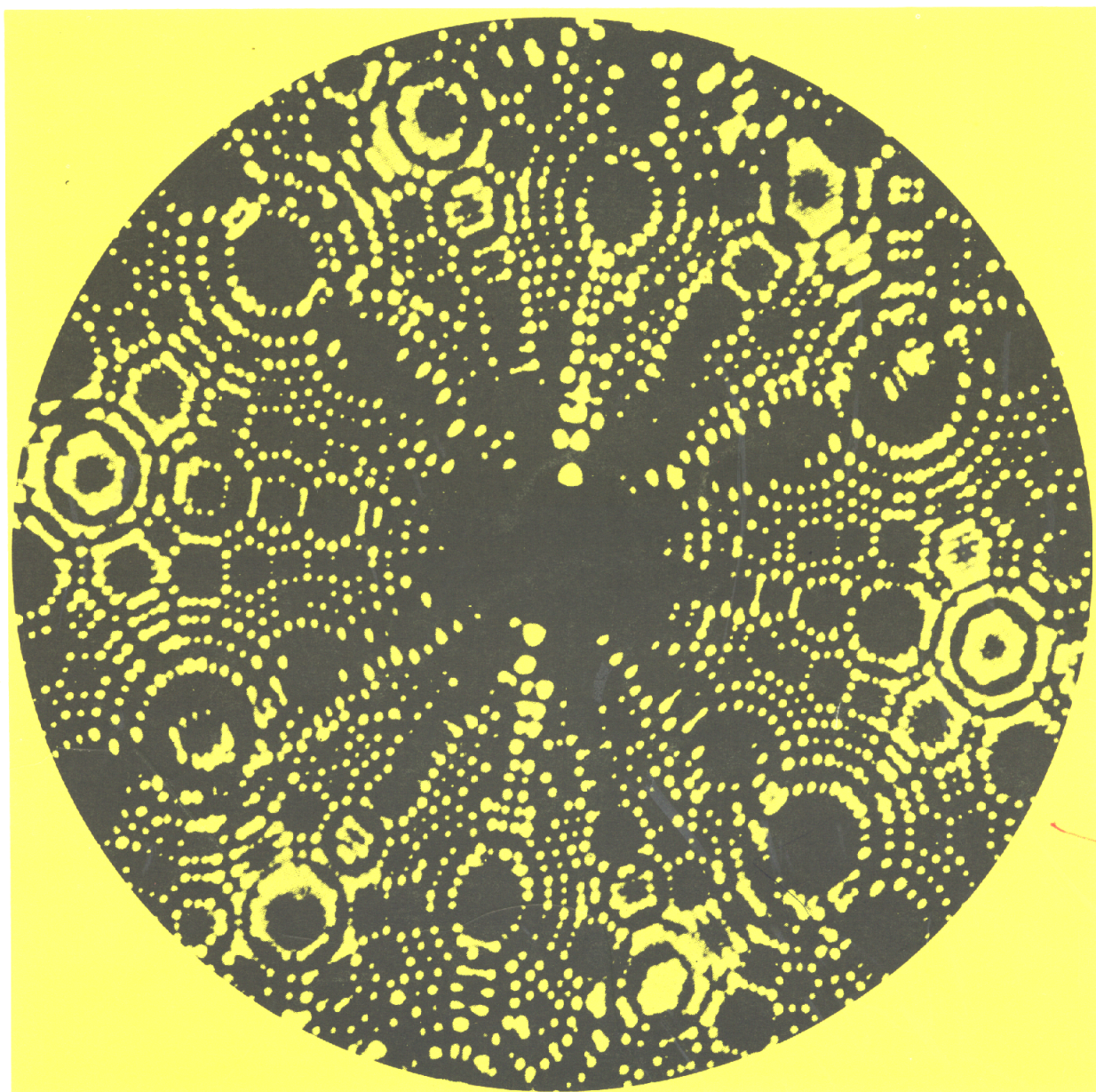


No. 73

World directory
of academic
research groups
in science ethics

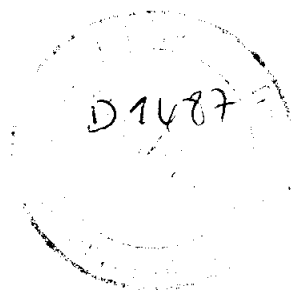
BIBLIOTHEQUE DU CERIST

Science policy studies and documents



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World directory of academic research groups in science ethics



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PREFACE

The UNESCO series "*Science policy studies and documents*" was established in 1963 as part of the Organization's "Programme of information on science policy of Member States" for the years 1963-1964, authorized by Resolution No. 2.312 of the General Conference at its 12th session (1962). The first issue in the series was published in 1965.

The series is intended for science and technology policy-makers and policy analysts in government administration, research organizations, and academic circles as well as for development planners and researchers interested in issues of scientific and technological development.

The series comprises three broad types of documents: country studies, technical documents and reports of international meetings. The **country studies**, which are carried out by national authorities responsible for policy-making in science and technology, contain policy statements and descriptive information on national priorities, organization and resources for science and technology. The **technical documents** cover a range of topics, from methods of policy analysis and organizational analysis to manuals on planning techniques and directories of institutions. The **reports of international meetings** contain the proceedings and decisions of policy forums convened by UNESCO on priorities for cooperation in science and technology, as well as allied documentation covering regional analyses and reviews of scientific and technological development.

This Directory of **organized groups involved in science ethics** is a product of the Science, Technology and Society Unit of UNESCO. It is part of a larger project

whose purpose is to gather and make available information on science ethics. It comes at a time of growing interest throughout the world in the ethical problems involved in scientific research and development.

There is a long tradition of reflection by individual philosophers and scientists on the ethical aspects of the scientific enterprise and on scientists' social responsibility. What characterizes the present situation is the establishment, mainly in academic institutions, of organized groups devoted to exploring these issues. Most of the centers included in this directory have been established within the last ten years, following advances made in the field of biological and medical research. It is thus not surprising that the majority specialize in topics relating to these disciplines. However, new subjects are becoming the focus of organized group research, the most noteworthy at the present time is environmental ethics. The ethics of computer and military research are still studied more often by individuals than by groups; however, a few groups do exist and are included here.

The development of organized research on science ethics can be interpreted as a sign of the vitality of scientific research per se in different countries. In this respect, the large number of centers in the highly industrialized countries is as expected. It must be noted however, that the last few years we have been witnessing the establishment of new centers in many other countries. It is hoped that the information contained in this directory will contribute to this process by facilitating communication between well-established centers and researchers in countries where structures for group research are being planned.

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INTRODUCTION

The Directory is intended to provide information on institutions involved in research, teaching, and documentation in the major areas of science giving rise to ethical questioning today. The emphasis is on on-going research rather than on the production of norms. For this reason, groups representing professional organizations or producing professional codes of ethics, ethics committees, and other official advisory bodies have not been included. However, it has not always been easy to determine the basic research orientation of the groups from the information provided in the questionnaire, and there may be cases where professional or official bodies have been included which should not have been.

In 1991 and early 1992 several hundred questionnaires were sent to groups already identified and individual researchers were asked to assist in identifying research groups in their country. These groups were subsequently sent the questionnaire. Over 250 questionnaires were completed and returned, forming the contents of the directory.

The groups are presented in **alphabetical order by country**. Owing to financial constraints, the information is presented in English only, except for the name of the group and titles of publications which are given in the language used by the respondents.

The directory is meant to be a reference tool; an attempt has been made to present only the most essential factual information on each group. When available, the following information is given for each group:

1. *Name*
2. *Address, telephone and fax*
3. *Date of establishment*
4. *Name of the Director*
5. *Names of other researchers*
6. *Major activities in science ethics*
7. *Major research fields*
8. *Responsibility for publications, and computerized data banks*

In order to facilitate the use of the directory, **four indexes** - *research groups, group directors, researchers and publications* - are included.

In preparing this directory, the Science, Technology and Society (STS) Unit of UNESCO was assisted by Mrs Gwen Terrenoire, Information specialist at the Centre de Sociologie de l'Ethique, Paris, who was responsible for collecting the data on research groups and by Mr. Pascal Billard, Consultant, who set up the computer programme. The data base relating to this directory is developed under CDS/ISIS micro version. The STS Unit wishes to acknowledge here the collaboration of the many researchers throughout the world who provided information on organized research structures in their country.