



Dr Jessica Mesman Exnovation - a new perspective on patient safety



Dr Jessica Mesman holds a senior position at the Department of Technology and Society Studies at Maastricht University in the Netherlands. She has a background in Science and Technology Studies, and in particular the Sociology of Health and Illness.

Dr Mesman has researched and published widely on issues concerning medical and ethical uncertainty in neonatal intensive care units; her book *Uncertainty in Medical Innovation: experienced pioneers in neonatal care* won the 'Sociology of Health and Illness Best Book of the Year 2009' Award. Her current work focuses on in situ intelligence and interaction, with the aim to explain the hidden competencies and informal built-in structures that are crucial for the preservation of patient safety. The project aims to question dominant patient safety practices and provide alternative conceptualisations.

In this seminar Dr Mesman will discuss the need to widen the analytical focus

of patient safety studies and include the study of safety itself. This analytical scope and effort can be understood as an act of 'exnovation': the attempt to improve safety practices on the basis of what is already present, but overlooked, in health care settings. Patient safety is about more than the absence of incidents and errors, and it should be considered why things don't go wrong more often in these high-risk, complex care settings. Therefore the focus of patient safety studies should also include the identification of unarticulated resources of strength that enable clinicians to maintain safety despite fallible technologies, sometimes unrealistic rules and incompatible procedures and systems that are inherently imperfect, by their very nature.

Date: Wednesday 20 January 2010

Time: 17.30 followed by drinks at 18.45

Place: Room 2.81, Kings College London, Franklin-Wilkins Building, 150 Stamford Street, London SE1 9NH

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RSVP
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This is the tenth seminar of the King's PSSQ forum. For more information about the Centre please go to www.kingspssq.org.uk

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