



NanoEarth Industry Speaker:

Steffi Friedrichs

Founder & Director of AcumenIST

Date: **Monday, October 8th**

Time: **9:00-10:00 am**

Location: **Biocomplexity Institute,
Steger Hall Conference Center**



Hosted jointly with the Department of Science, Technology, and Society

The 'Rise and Fall' of Technologies *on the Example of Biotech and Nanotech*

Abstract: Biotechnology has often been referred to as the bigger sister of nanotechnology. Indeed, the difference between the two technologies is often reduced to a mere two-decade time warp between the technologies' hype cycles, and both technology analysts, policy-makers and pressure groups continue to entertain each other with numerous stories about the exchangeability of the two technology names in meeting agendas, expert panel discussions, public debates and policy documents. This talk by Steffi Friedrichs, however, will highlight the difference between the two technologies and outline the potential pitfalls (for both the public and the private sector) in reducing the expected trajectory of any technology's development to a mere copy of a previous experience. Steffi will discuss the evidence recently published in two in-depth reports on the development of biotechnology and nanotechnology and their resulting impacts. In addition, the audience will be provided with historic examples of technology developments and challenged to draw its own conclusion with regard to the long-term development of technologies and their resulting socio-economic impacts.

Speaker: Dr Steffi Friedrichs has been a leading scientist, policy advisor and business representative for emerging technological innovation for nearly 20 years. She is currently the Founder and Director of AcumenIST, an internationally active consultancy that drives the advancement of science- and technology-based innovations through proactive initiatives in the public and private sector. Before joining AcumenIST, Steffi worked for the OECD, where she developed its definition, indicators and impact assessment of biotechnology and nanotechnology, and led two international workshops on gene editing. Steffi has a strong track record in the development and representation of companies; she was the Founder and General Director of the Nanotechnology Industry Association (NIA) group, Co-Founder and Member of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Micro- & Nanotechnology Community (CMNC), Director of the Master's Program in Micro- and Nanotechnology at the University of Cambridge, and Lecturer in Inorganic Chemistry and Solid State Chemistry at the University of Oxford.