Methods presentation February 2013

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Moore No More (?): expectations dynamics about materials in the quantum frontier.

Abstract.

In this presentation I will discuss the methodological dilemmas and challenges I am encountering in my research in one of my case studies, in the area of new and emergent materials in nanoelectronics. My research project deals with the forms, modes and way in which expectations (promises and concerns) come about, grow, change, and disappear in nanotechnology; and how these expectations affect innovation strategies and are affected by these decisions. It is a mainly **descriptive** and it aims to understand:

(1) Content of expectations (mapping), that is, which expectations are circulated and discussed in the context of nanotechnology.
(2) Practices of expectations building – formal and informal. Where, how and by whom do these practices take place? It implies identifying expectations actors, expectation platforms and to characterize the practice itself.
(3) Feedback mechanisms in relation to expectations and innovation, what has been called 'governance of and by expectations' (Konrad, 2010).

Currently I am conducting semi-structured interviews in the field of nanoelectronics, in relation to materials and devices that do not follow Moore's law. These interviews touch upon two aspects: on the one hand to hypes (if any) in materials in the recent years and changes in FTA and informal expectations practices associated to the emergence of this materials.

The discussion of the presentation will focus on preliminary interview results as well as propositions for mapping innovation and conventional and non-conventional arenas of expectations; as well as methods to conceptualize and analyze roadmaps and other forms of expectations/anticipatory practices.