

📄 SRTP publications

SRTP produces books and reports on a wide variety of topical issues, including:

Synthetic Biology. Does the ability to create artificial life forms put us on a par with God? What are the potential benefits to be reaped from this technology?

Suicide among young men. Suicide rates of young men in Scotland are a third higher than the rest of the UK, and suicide is one of the most common causes of death of a young man. How should the church respond?

Mental health issues. About 25% of us will face a mental health problem at some stage in our lives, and many people carry heavy burdens as a result of such issues. How can our churches be more "mental health friendly"?

Ethics and the internet: In Whose Image? How has the internet changed the way we interact, and the way we view ourselves. Virtual church, anyone?

End of Life issues. This report expands previous work done by SRTP on this topic and concentrates on the palliative care option as an alternative to assisted suicide.

Ethics of Defence. An ethics of defence that allows the church to both challenge political decisions that deal with defence issues and at the same time support service men and women through our chaplain services: a task that is full of tension.

Justice and Markets. A theological critique of economic thinking arguing for a fundamental review of the values that underpin economic decision-making. What has happened to ethics in economics? How can the Church offer Scottish society a new vision of economics?

Embryo Research, Human Stem Cells and Cloned Embryos. A detailed paper examining many aspects of this important but controversial area of research.

Engineering Genesis. Widely acclaimed as one of the most balanced books available on genetically modified food, crops and animals, the product of SRTP's expert working group study.

Biotechnology as a Social Contract. What conditions will future developments of biotechnology have to fulfil to be accepted by civil society?

Cloning Animals and Humans :An Ethical View. Ethical issues of animal and human cloning, drawn from SRTP's knowledge of the issues.

Ethical Concerns about Patenting Genes and Living Organisms: Informed views on a hot debate.



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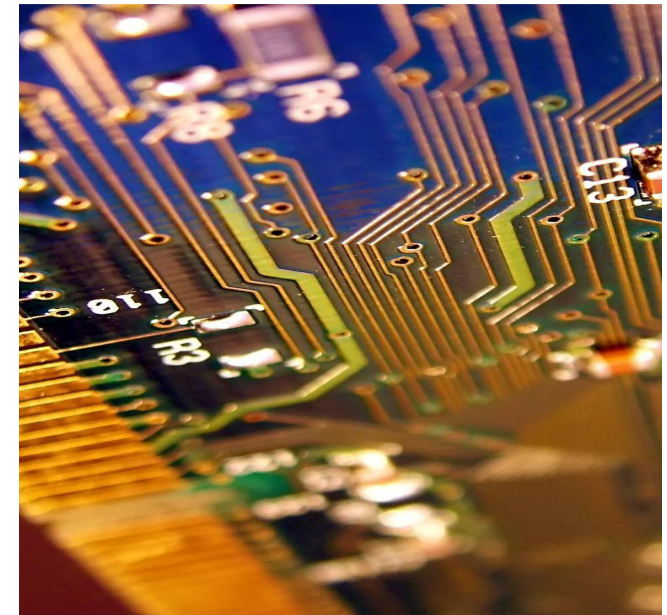
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The Church of Scotland
Church and Society Council

Society, Religion and Technology Project

Today's Church Looking at Tomorrow's Technology



▶ 'He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!'' Revelation 21:5



Today's Church Looking at Tomorrow's Technology

▶ Tomorrow's Technology

Technology has changed the face of our society, often in ways we don't notice. It's hard to stand back and grasp the impact of the car, electricity, telephones, TV, computers and the Internet. They're now part of our life - things we could hardly imagine being without. Yet ethical challenges such as cloning, GM food and environmental impacts such as global warming, have made us aware of the risks of letting our skills run ahead of our judgement. There is now a recognition that we need to take wider ethical and social values into account in technology. This has been the aim of the Society, Religion and Technology Project (SRTTP) for over 40 years.



▶ Today's Church

The SRT Project was set up in 1970 by the Church of Scotland to examine the implications for society of new and emerging technologies. Its multidisciplinary working groups provide a forum for interaction between scientists and specialists in ethics, theology, sociology, ecology, and other fields, to look at the wider dimensions of emerging technologies. The project also acts as a catalyst for public debate on current issues and promotes practical environmental action through association with the Eco-Congregation programme.

▶ Policy Officer

Dr Murdo Macdonald took up the position of SRT Policy Officer in March 2008. He trained as a molecular biologist, studying at Glasgow and St Andrews Universities. Murdo has significant international work experience having spent 8 years as head of a leprosy research laboratory in Kathmandu, Nepal.



▶ SRTTP's Aims

- To foster an informed understanding in society of the issues confronting it as a result of emerging technologies; to bring a voice of balance into complex issues.
- To engage with scientists and technologists to reflect on ethical, environmental and societal implications of their work; to promote ethics teaching to science students.
- To respond with considered judgment to Government and national bodies on technology and environmental issues, and to be active in their European and global dimensions.
- To inform the churches of Scotland and the UK about key developments.
- To act as a Christian witness to the world of science and technology.
- To stimulate good environmental practice in the churches and in wider society.

▶ Become an SRTTP Associate

SRTTP is looking to expand its work and its spheres of communication. It invites any who identify with its aims to become associates, receiving news, articles, and invitations to special events. If you are interested please contact the SRTTP Office.

▶ Communication

Public debate: SRTTP is a catalyst for public engagement on current issues in science, technology and the environment, through talks, conferences and publications. We work with a variety of agencies, including the New Economics Foundation's Democs project to promote public debate. SRTTP runs popular ethical debates at the annual Edinburgh International Science Festival and the British Science Festival. We provide speakers on many of the issues covered here.

Media: Through the Church of Scotland media office, we work closely at all levels with the media in national and local press, TV and radio. Through the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office (SCPO) we also communicate with politicians in Scotland, the UK and Europe. The SRTTP also produces short papers and information leaflets on a wide range of topics.

Website: SRTTP information can be downloaded from the SRT Project website: www.srtp.org.uk