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## NEWS

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### SCIENCE STUDIES: SOME SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

... What is to be done "if we are going to be counted among those who have sought to alleviate and eradicate the social ills of science and humanity? The most important thing we need to do at the level of perspective and theory is to recognize that the sociological dimension in science studies is not merely a matter of disciplinary politics but part of a Copernican revolution in the social sciences. This revolution, rooted in the works of such social theorists as Karl Marx, Max Weber, Emile Durkheim, and Pyotr Kropotkin, has shifted the individual from the center of the social universe and replaced it with the collectivity. The more profound implications of this shift have yet to make their mark on science studies. As these implications are realized, we will witness the rapid development of still-primitive sociological conceptions of self, mind, and cognition. ... Constructivism in science studies

has been throttled by scientific orthodoxies. In order to get rid of old baggage, we need to recognize that modern science is an institutionalized cognitive strategy, complete with worldview and a theory of social relations. It developed in, and has changed with, the social changes in modern industrialized society. Let us not mistake the social institution called modern science for the core epistemic strategy it shares with all more or less successful cognitive strategies, the basic rationalities and methods of all human inquiry." [Sal Restivo (Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst., Troy, NY) in *Science, Technology, & Human Values* 12(2): 13-18, Spring 1987. Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 25, June 22, 1987, p. 9. (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]

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### INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PLANT PHYSIOLOGY

The International Congress of Plant Physiology will be held under the auspices of Society of Plant Physiology and Biochemistry, Indian Society for Plant Nutrition, and International Association for Plant Physiology, during February 15-20, 1988 at New Delhi.

For details please contact: Dr S. K. Sinha, Secretary General, Water Technology Centre, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi 110 012.

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