

# OrkneyLab

## The Futures Workshop

The Pier Arts Centre, Stromness, Orkney

22 September 2009

OrkneyLab draws on the 'Relocating Innovation' research project at the Department of Sociology, Lancaster University. This questions assumptions about what 'innovation' is and where and how it happens. For example: why are some places considered centres of innovation, and others as peripheral? How are 'new' things – technologies, industries, communities, political systems – made, and how does that process change from place to place?

Professor Lucy Suchman, PhD student Endre Dányi, and Dr Laura Watts will be visiting Orkney to present and discuss case studies of how innovation happens: at a high-tech corporation in Silicon Valley; at the Hungarian Parliament in Budapest; and across diverse communities in Orkney. Dr Laura Watts has worked in Orkney to understand how innovation and futures happen in the islands – in renewable energy, archaeology, arts and literature, community organisations, public architectures, and local government.

The workshop will be a forum for discussion and debate on innovation and the future, both generally and in relation to Orkney. It will ask how the future is imagined and made on the islands, compared with other places, and how it might be understood differently.

The researchers will discuss the results of their international project, and create a lively and informal space to think differently about Orkney futures and innovation.

### *OrkneyLab AM*

*Relocating Innovation:* Drawing on the international institutions and locations of the project, how can we reconceptualise 'innovation'? What are the effects of landscape, technology, and politics on innovation? How does this change the way we imagine the future?

### *OrkneyLab PM*

*Relocating Orkney:* How is innovation and the future conceptualised in Orkney? How does the archipelago resist some innovations, and promote others? How might Orkney futures be imagined differently?

**To attend please contact Laura Watts ([l.j.watts@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:l.j.watts@lancaster.ac.uk)) as places are limited.** For more information see <http://www.sand14.com/relocatinginnovation>

Relocating innovation  
places and material practices of future-making

