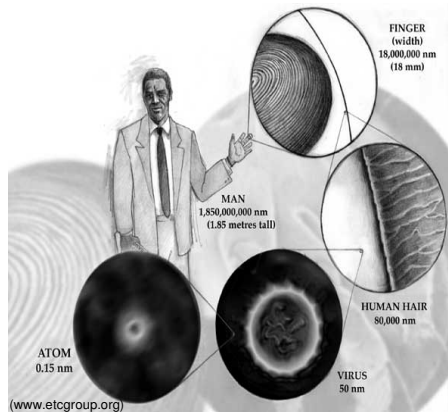
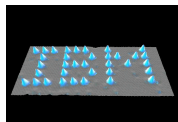




### Nano?

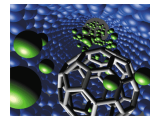


Simplified, the term 'Nanotechnology' refers to technologies at the nanoscale.



### Nano!

The advantage of working at the nano-scale is that matter can be analyzed and built from the bottom up - atom by atom. At the nanoscale, the characteristics of elements change. The expectations in nanotechnologies are exceptionally high, it is regarded as the 'key technology of the 21st century'.



### What is ,nano', anyhow?

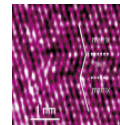
There is a considerable lack in the progress of nanotechnology-applications compared to the revolutionary promises.

I argue that the emergence of the 'nano-hype' was possible because of a certain void of content ('empty signifier') which enables the term to unify the discursive terrain of 'the' new technology.



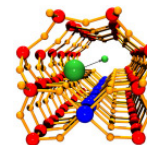
### Setting the Stage

The dramaturgy of "Nano-Politics" plays a crucial role. Its performance has many connotations to Science Fiction. The stage on which the Nano-Performance takes place is constituted by discourses of innovation, of risk and uncertainty, of trust and of democratisation. Policy discussions take place within this discursive field.



### The Research

The thesis is going to compare the governance of nanotechnologies in Great Britain, Japan and the US. The three nation states share a strong commitment to investments in knowledge, are leading nations in innovation and have been engaged in the development of nanotechnologies from the beginning.



### Research Design

The study examines three sets of research questions:

- societal goals, power relations and actors in the field?
- transformation of the governance of risk and uncertainty?
- cultural differences or hegemonic discourses?



### Case-Studies

In order to narrow the field, I concentrate on two case-studies: nano-medicine and nano-food.

Following an argumentative approach, I look for political meta-narratives, policy narratives and arguments supporting them.



### The Researcher

Heidrun Huber was born in Leoben (Austria) in 1981. She studied Political Sciences and Communication Sciences at the University of Vienna. In 2004/2005, Heidrun was one year abroad in Lund (Sweden). In her research, she pays special attention to the constitutive role of language, rhetorical strategies and performances in governance.

[heidrun.huber@univie.ac.at](mailto:heidrun.huber@univie.ac.at)