

## REVIEW

## Models as Technological Artefacts

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Mary S. Morgan and Margaret Morrison (eds), *Models as Mediators: Perspectives on Natural and Social Science* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), 401pp., £42.50, £15.95 pbk. ISBN 0-5216-5097-6.

Sergio Sismondo and Snait Gissis (eds), *Modeling and Simulation*, Special Issue of *Science in Context*, Vol. 12, No. 2 (Summer 1999), 130pp., individual annual subscription £44.00, back volumes £80.00. ISSN 0269-8897.

Steve Rayner and Elizabeth L. Malone (eds), *Human Choice and Climate Change*, 4 Volumes (Columbus, OH: Battelle Press, 1998), 1564pp., \$100.00 (4 volume set), pbk. ISBN 1-5747-7040-3.

Are humans currently changing the climate? Ask a policymaker and s/he will probably reply that climate scientists, in the context of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), have indeed drawn a positive conclusion. How do scientists reach such conclusions, and why do policymakers trust them? From the perspective of science and technology studies (S&TS) an adequate answer to these questions requires sociological and philosophical research on the rôle of models in science, and on the translation of model results into a political context.

In the first chapter, 'Science and Decisionmaking', in Volume 1 of *Human Choice and Climate Change* (a four-volume review of the social-scientific literature that is of relevance to the problem of climate change), Sheila Jasanoff and Brian Wynne argue that the way in which the problem of climate change had initially been studied – and especially also the way in which societal response strategies had been formulated – was inadequate.<sup>1</sup> They subsequently claim that a perspective on science and decision-making fed by S&TS could lead to more adequate response strategies. This normative claim is supported with a discussion of social-scientific research on computer modelling of natural and social systems. Jasanoff and Wynne state that relatively little social-scientific research has been carried out on