



Beyond Imagination

The Ethics and Applications of Nanotechnology and Bio-Economics in South Africa

Nanotechnology is changing our world, often without us knowing it. This science of very small particles, which includes genetic modification and reconfiguring the arrangement of atoms, presents possibilities beyond imagination.

What does it mean for us in South Africa?

MISTRA's new book, *Beyond Imagination: The Ethics and Applications of Nanotechnology and Bio-Economics in South Africa* looks at countries like India, where nanotechnology is being supported as a source of income and innovation. The technology's potential to improve both the human condition and a country's productivity and competitiveness is being recognised. The book discusses the question of whether South Africa is doing what it should and could to foster similar nanotechnology advances within our country.

Beyond Imagination also asks what the new technology mean for us as consumers. How many of us know that this technology is already being employed in substances like suntan cream and lipstick, with potential health implications for users? The application of nanotechnology poses risks as well as huge benefits, so we need to be particularly vigilant about the ethics, and the dangers, of this emerging technology.

This book provokes discussion around these important topics and is an eye-opener to those of us who thought all of this was sci-fi.

ABOUT MISTRA

The Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA) is an independent research institute that takes a long-term view on the strategic challenges facing South Africa.

MISTRA was founded by a group of South Africans with experience in research, academia, policy-making and governance who saw the need to create a platform of engagement around strategic issues facing South Africa. It is an institute that combines research and academic development, strategic reflection and intellectual discourse. It applies itself to issues such as economics, sociology, history, arts and culture and the logics of natural sciences.

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ISBN 978-0-6399238-0-2

GENRE Current Affairs/Popular Science

FORMAT Trade Paperback

SIZE 235x155mm

EXTENT 296pp

PRICE R295

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RELEASE April 2018

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