



Austria

Community and Identity in
Contemporary Techno-Sciences

Vienna, Feb. 16 – 18, 2017



Workshop on 'Community and identity in contemporary techno-sciences'

Time: Thursday, Feb. 16th, 1:30 pm – Saturday, Feb. 18th, 1:30 pm

Locations:

IFF, Schottenfeldgasse 29, 1070 Vienna, Austria (workshop & keynote I)

Universitätszentrum Althanstraße I / Althanstraße 14, 1090 Vienna (keynote II)

Organising committee: Karen Kastenhofer (Institute of Technology Assessment, Austrian Academy of Sciences), Martina Merz (Alpen Adria University Klagenfurt), Ulrike Felt, Max Fochler, Anna Pichelstorfer (University of Vienna), Niki Vermeulen (University of Edinburgh)

Public keynote lectures:

Susan Molyneux-Hodgson, University of Exeter

Alfred Nordmann, TU Darmstadt

Participants: Markus Arnold (Univ. Klagenfurt), Rosalind Attenborough (Univ. Edinburgh), Clemens Blümel (Humboldt Univ. Berlin), Bettina Bock von Wülfingen (Humboldt Univ.), Beatrice Cointe (Univ. Aix Marseille), Sarah R. Davies (Univ. Copenhagen), Alexander Degelsegger-Márquez (Centre for Social Innovation, Vienna), Ulrike Felt (Univ. Vienna), Maximilian Fochler (Univ. Vienna), Celso Gomes (University Sheffield), Barbara Grimpe (Univ. Klagenfurt), Karen Kastenhofer (Austrian Academy of Sciences), Regine Kollek (Hamburg Univ.), Anja Königeter (Austrian Institute of Technology), Chris Mellingwood (Univ. Edinburgh), Martina Merz (Univ. Klagenfurt), Susan Molyneux-Hodgson (Univ. Exeter), Marianne Noel (Univ. Paris-Est), Alfred Nordmann (TU Darmstadt), Imme Petersen (Hamburg Univ.), Andrea Schikowitz (Univ. Vienna), Sarah Schönbauer (TUMunich / Univ. Vienna), Simone Schumann (Univ. Vienna), Claudia Schwarz-Plaschg (Univ. Vienna), Lisa Sigl (Univ. Vienna), Inga Ulnicane (Univ. Vienna), Niki Vermeulen (Univ. Edinburgh), Caitlin Donahue Wylie (Univ. Virginia)

Sponsored by: STS Austria, EASST, Univ. Klagenfurt, Univ. Vienna, ITA/ÖAW, FWF (Elise Richter project V-383)

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For further information, see also: <http://www.sts-austria.org/events/>

COMMUNITY AND IDENTITY IN CONTEMPORARY TECHNO-SCIENCES

“We look with our own eyes, we see with the eyes of a collective body” – With these words the physician/biologist turned philosopher of science, Ludwik Fleck, pointedly summarized the relation between the individual mind and a related thought collective some 70 years ago. This very relation has ever since been an inspiring starting point to reflect upon the conditions of doing and being in science, from the coining of the concepts of scientific community and epistemic cultures to the analyses of academic socialisation processes and the emergence of new specialties. But not only did our theoretical conceptions evolve, so did the empirical situation within the scientific world, a change hinted at by some scholars with the new label of ‘technoscience’.

While there is up to now plenty of empirical evidence for new socio-epistemic phenomena in technoscience (including analyses of the synthetic biology iGEM competition, DIY or citizen science) and historical analyses of the changing nature of (techno)science have been put forward (see for instance Pickstone 2001, *Ways of Knowing*, or Shapin 2008, *The Scientific Life*), the question of whether and how contemporary scientific communities and identities are subject to more fundamental changes, reframing their very roles and character, is largely underexplored.

This first workshop launched by STS Austria addresses the thesis that not only communities and identities change over time; we also observe changes in the general organisation and relevance of community and identity. Presently, the institutional importance of disciplinary categories and their affiliation to specific faculties seems to fade along with a Humboldtian ideal of closely connecting research (as the realm of specialities) to teaching (as the realm of disciplines) in the European context; inter-nationally, scientific identities have become far more flexible, reactive, if not provisional, with an ever increasing influence of new funding regimes replacing an era of grown local structures, traditions and hierarchies. Individual identities and collective structures co-evolve in sometimes fast and unforeseen ways; at other occasions they serve as levers for attempts at meticulously planning and socially engineering technoscience.

With these shifts in the (techno)scientific sphere, our scholarly conceptions of scientific identity and community refer to an empirical situation that has changed fundamentally during the past decades – that is, since their initial formulation and discussion within science and technology studies. An empirically grounded re-evaluation of how doing and being in (techno)science is shaped by specific forms of community and identity and how specific modes of being and being together in techno-science co-emerge, targeting at a re-discussion of their theoretical conception, seems timely.

The workshop focuses on phenomena of stability and/or change, homogeneity and/or diversity in the contemporary technosciences' community and identity constellations, including:

- **Socialisation and enculturation:** how are (techno)scientists' identities and communities formed and performed in potentially new ways (e.g. iGEM competitions adding to or even replacing the enculturating role of university curricula; the academic persona being replaced by an engineering identity)? What (new) roles do these (new) identities and collectives play?
- **Differentiation and boundary work:** how are contemporary (techno)scientific communities structured and performed (e.g. are new transdisciplinary research fields, collaborative research projects and clusters of excellence adding to or replacing sub-disciplinary, disciplinary and supra-disciplinary structures)? Are individual identities tied to one or many collectives?
- **Governance regime:** What role do (provisional) identities, (global) communities, (local) institutional structures, (national) funding programmes and the prevailing transnational innovation discourse play in the (de)stabilisation of contemporary (techno)sciences (e.g. have hypes replaced the role of more traditional phenomena in pre-defining technoscientific problems)?

This meeting hence gathers empirical analyses that engage different theoretical conceptualisations of scientific community and/or identity. Invited contributions address and discuss (trans)disciplinary, provisional, patchworked, networked and (trans)national identity and community within con-temporary technosciences. In the concluding discussion, findings are compared and the thesis whether we have to conceive of scientific identity and community in a fundamentally new way is re-addressed. By analysing the formation, performance and transformation of technoscientific identities and communities, we aim at deepening the understanding of change, stability and difference related to newly emerging (techno)sciences.

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

The workshop comprises four sessions: two sessions focussing on aspects of community in contemporary technoscience, two sessions focussing on aspects of identity in contemporary technoscience. All papers investigate empirical material from so-called 'emerging fields' in the realm of science (such as supramolecular chemistry, systems medicine, systems biology, synthetic biology, microbial fuel research and nanotechnology) or cutting edge science and engineering more generally.

The **first session** combines very similar papers: all of them address the impact of the current funding regime on community building and characteristics in synthetic biology / microbial fuel research. Community is addressed as 'paradoxical establishment', as project-ed community or described as community of needs or community of utilisation. With the changing context of community formation, the very character and function of community changes.

After this first session, Susan Molyneux-Hodgson will give a public **keynote** on 'Making a new community: the 'scaling up' of synthetic biology' in the very same room.

The **second session** combines papers that allow for contrasting different conceptions of sociality in inter-disciplinary fields, spanning from sociality as institutionalisation to collective reactions towards the dominant funding regime to stabilising collaboration networks; here, the old debate of communality as culture and community or as collaboration and network lures in the back.

The **third session** addresses the precarious situation of technoscientific identity and related identity games. Two papers focus on socialisation processes, one on discrepancies between science ideals and the actual reality of every day experiences, the other on the often ignored impact novices can have on technoscientific fields. Two further papers address how technoscientists make strategic use of identity work, by playing the game and adopting provisional identities.

After this third session, Alfred Nordmann will give a public **keynote** on 'Mastery through Calculation – The Pleasurable Lives of Science and of Technoscience'. Please note that this second keynote takes place at a different location – the Universitätszentrum Althanstraße, a site of biological research located in the 9th district of Vienna and easy to reach via tram 5.

The **fourth session** also addresses the precarious situation of technoscientific identity and related identity games, with case studies from different organisational contexts. The papers analyse a COST action, the FP 6 framework programme, a science festival and a transdisciplinary funding programme. Authors speak of hybrid actors, multiple identities, reactive identities and identity work as choreography.

A **final wrap-up** will help summarise central issues, the progress we made during the workshop and themes that warrant further elaboration. It will also prepare for the ensuing publication process.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

THURSDAY, FEB. 16, 2017

WELCOME / INTRODUCTION: 1:30 pm – 2 pm, Karen Kastenhofer

SESSION I 'FUNDING REGIMES GONE COMMUNAL IN SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY':
paradoxical establishments, project-ed communities, communities of needs and utilisation

Feb. 16, 2017, 2 pm – 5 pm, discussant: Niki Vermeulen

Clemens Blümel: Tensions between technoscientific community building and disciplinary formation? A view on scholarly practices in the emerging publication landscape of synthetic biology

Béatrice Cointe: Day-to-day excellence: interdisciplinary collaborations, promising applications, and basic research within one large regional project on microbial bioenergy

Celso Gomes: Funding communities: a case study of (European) synthetic biology in the making

Alex Degelsegger-Márquez: Research collaborations from practices to technoscientific communities & back

Coffee break (ca. 3:30 pm – 4 pm)

Input by Niki Vermeulen + plenary discussion

Break (ca. 5 pm – 6 pm)

Keynote I: Molyneux-Hodgson 'Making a new community', 6 – 7:30 pm

FRIDAY, FEB. 17, 2017

SESSION II 'MODES OF INTER-DISCIPLINARY SOCIALITY':
historical reconstruction, views from scientists, collaboration networks and a conceptual discussion

Feb. 17, 2017, 9:30 am – 12:30 am, discussant: Max Fochler

Marianne Noel: Being Central and Interdisciplinary. Conditions for Success of a Research Speciality at the University of Strasbourg (1961-2011)

Imme Petersen, Regine Kollek: Governance of technosciences by funding regimes: perspective of scientists

Inga Ulnicane: Influence of the changing research governance on European collaboration in nano S&T

Markus Arnold: Questioning scientific collectives? Arguments on collaborative knowledge production

Coffee break (ca. 11:00 am – 11:30 am)

Input by Max Fochler + plenary discussion

LUNCH BREAK (12:30 AM – 2 PM)

SESSION III 'IDENTITY CONSTRUCTION AND IDENTITY GAMES':

frictions, adoptions, navigating and manoeuvring

Feb. 17, 2017, 2 pm – 5 pm, discussant: Martina Merz

Sarah Schönbauer: 'and everybody was drinking Gin Tonic' Imaginations of scientific identities - now and then

Caitlin Donahue Wylie: "Engineering" a sense of identity: undergraduate workers in engineering laboratories, Program in Science, Technology, and Society

Claudia Schwarz-Plaschg, Ulrike Felt, Simone Schumann: Playing the Nano Game: The (Identity) Politics and Ethics of Doing Nanoscience

Lisa Sigl: Permanently provisional. An empirical exploration of forms of subjectification in life science research

Coffee break (ca. 3:30 pm – 4 pm)

Input by Martina Merz + plenary discussion

TRIP TO BIOZENTRUM ALTHANSTRABE 14 (CA. 5 PM – 6 PM)

Keynote II: Nordmann on 'Mastery through Calculation', UZA I 'Biozentrum', 6 – 7:30 pm

SATURDAY, FEB. 18, 2017

SESSION IV 'IDENTITY BEYOND DISCIPLINARY STRUCTURES':
hybrid actors, multiple and reactive identities, choreographies

Feb. 18, 2017, 9:30 am – 12:30 am, discussant: Ulrike Felt

Anja Köngeter: Analysing the Integration of Non-academia in Scientific Communities Introduction of an Analytical Framework Using the Example of COST Actions

Sarah R Davies: 'It's kind of my thing': Public communication and scientific identity

Barbara Grimpe: Second-order responsibility in research and innovation processes: insights from interviews with participants in EU projects

Andrea Schikowitz: Narratives of 'Being a Good Researcher' in Transdisciplinary Research - Identity Beyond Community?

Coffee break (ca. 11:00 am – 11:30 am)

Input by Ulrike Felt + plenary discussion

WRAP-UP 12:30 am – 1:30 pm (Vermeulen, Kastenhofer, Molyneux-Hodgson, Nordmann)