

WELCOME FROM THE NEW BOARD



Dear STS Austria Members,

We are pleased to inform you that a **newly composed STS Austria board** took up its work at the last general meeting in December 2024. They are Juliane Jarke (*President*), Astrid Mager (*Vice-President*), Christian Dayé (*Treasurer*), Dana Wasserbacher (*Secretary*), Katharina Kinder-Kurlanda (*Board Member*), Masafumi Nishi (*Board Member*), Ronja Borgmästars (*Student Representative*) and Jahan Hadidi (*Student Representative*).

We want to thank Doris Allhutter, Erik Aarden and Bao-Chi Pham for their work and time on the previous board. Over the next two years we want to build on and continue STS Austria's mission to promote STS in and from Austria. In this newsletter you will learn about some of the exciting work that our members have accomplished and about activities that we are planning. Our next general assembly will take place on 10th December 2025 in Graz and will include a workshop. Please mark the events in your calendars and join us!

Juliane Jarke & Astrid Mager on behalf of the STS Austria Board



ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE STS BOARD

General Assembly 2025

The next general assembly will take place in Graz on Wednesday, 10th December 2025. It will be preceded by a workshop. More information will be communicated in the next newsletter.

Early-career researchers prize

We are currently drafting the call for the next 'STS AUSTRIA EARLY CAREER AWARD' which awards prizes for publications. Due to the high number of submissions in the previous round and to allow for more participation and transparency we want to involve external reviewers. If you are interested to join the review board please get in touch at office@sts-austria.org. Details can be found [here](#).

STS Austria event funding

To foster exchange among the Austrian STS community and increase its visibility, STS Austria will financially support 1-2 academic events in 2025. A total of 1500€ is available for this purpose. Only members of STS Austria are eligible to apply, but potential co-organisers of the event do not need to be members. Funding is available regardless of the specific format of the event (workshop, conference, lecture, roundtable discussion, working group) as long as it arguably supports the mission of STS Austria. In particular, we invite applications for events which address early-career researchers and/or involve cooperation between different institutions and locations. For examples of recent events funded by STS Austria, please see the report in this newsletter issue as well as in past issues that can be found on our website. Details can be found [here](#).

Want to become an STS Austria member? Complete the [form](#) on the website or send an e-mail to office@sts-austria.org

Already a member? Please remember to [pay](#) your membership fees for 2025

Have news to share with the STS Austria community? Send a short [email](#) to office@sts-austria.org to be included in the next newsletter

STS AUSTRIA MEET & MINGLE

STS Austria is planning to hold regular Meet-ups and Stammtische" all over Austria. The goal is to bring together and engage with STS researchers from different disciplines, institutions, and places.

Meet-up at STS Graz conference & esc medien kunst labor

The next STS Austria Meet-up will take place in the evening of 6th May 2025, as part of the STS Graz conference. At 5pm, we have reserved a space in the Atrium Room to gather STS researchers and announce recent developments of STS Austria. Afterwards, at 7pm, you can join an event on Digital Humanism in the 'esc medien kunst labor' (Bürgergrasse 5, 8010). The event is organised by Katja Mayer together with esc. There'll be time to discuss and hang out with the local community (including snacks and drinks). <https://esc.mur.at/>

Stammtisch in Graz and STS Reading Group

In January, colleagues at the Uni Graz and TU Graz started a monthly STS reading group and Stammtisch. If you would like to join us, please contact Carla Greubel (carla.greubel@uni-graz.at). The upcoming dates are: 15th May and 18th June 2025 (from 5pm to 7pm).

Stammtisch in Vienna and elsewhere

We will schedule a Stammtisch in Vienna and will announce it in the coming months. If you have other locations in mind where you'd like to host a Stammtisch in the future, please get in touch with us: office@sts-austria.org. All Stammtische will be announced on our website too.

Katja Mayer and Astrid Mager hosting sessions at Digital Humanism Conference, Vienna

The first Digital Humanism Conference will take place from 26 to 28 May 2025 at the Museumsquartier in Vienna; its motto is Shaping our Digital Future. At the heart of digital humanism is the commitment to ensure that technology enhances our shared human rights and freedoms rather than undermining them. Katja's session is on 'Social Innovation in and with AI'. Together with leading experts Reema Patel (Ada Lovelace Institute), Mirko Tobias Schäfer (Universiteit Utrecht), and Gabriella Waters (Morgan State University), she will explore how AI can drive meaningful social transformation rather than concentrate power. Together, Katja and Astrid host a session on "AI and Democracy: From values to action" with Teki Akuetteh (Africa Digital Rights Hub), Siddhi Gupta (Inclusive AI Lab), Sebastian Kneidinger (epicenter.works), and Michael Veale (UCL). In times of political polarisation and increasing global competition, this workshop explores how to embed democratic principles in AI development —turning values into action for a more inclusive and accountable AI ecosystem.

Register & explore the program: <https://dighum.wien/>

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ÖAW Commission Democracy in Digital Societies

Founded in October 2024 by Barbara Prainsack and Astrid Mager, the Commission Democracy in Digital Societies (DEMGES) deals with digital transformations and their impact on democracies. Democracies around the world are facing profound challenges. While digital transformations have contributed to positive developments, some of the digital practices that were hoped to contribute to more democratic and equitable societies have had the opposite effect. Digital technologies are frequently utilized to manipulate voters, spread dis- and misinformation, and propagate violence. Algorithmic systems have led to bias and discrimination of marginalised or vulnerable groups in public and private sectors. The main aim of DEMGES is to explore how digital practices harm, but could also strengthen democracies and the values that underpin them. <https://www.oeaw.ac.at/en/demges/home>

Position Paper: Participation in and as Research

From 27-29 November 2024, a scoping workshop funded by the Volkswagen Foundation took place at Herrenhausen Palace in Hanover on Participation in and as Research ("Partizipation als Zu-Mutung"). 30 German-speaking researchers took part to discuss the challenges and opportunities of participatory research. During the three-day event, they developed a joint position paper. You can find the position paper (in German) here <http://partizipation-als-zu-mutung.de/>

New Publications by STS Austria Members

- Dayé, C. (2025). The Legislative Effect of Ignorance: Institutional Risk and the Regulation of New Genomic Techniques. *Science and Public Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/scipol/scaf011>.
- Fahimi, M., & Kinder-Kurlanda, K. (2025). Friction in the Materialities of Value. Relating Transparency, Algorithms and Credit Scoring. *Digital Culture & Society* 9(2), 141-160. <https://doi.org/10.14361/dcs-2023-0208>
- Jarke, J., & Manchester, H. (2025). Datafied ageing futures: Regimes of anticipation and participatory futuring. *Big Data & Society*, 12(1). <https://doi.org/10.1177/20539517241306363>
- Macgilchrist, F., & Jarke, J. (2025). Who said only military officers can deal with uncertainty? On the importance of uncertainty in edtech data visualisations. *Discourse: Studies in the Cultural Politics of Education*, 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01596306.2025.2467365>
- Mager, A., Eitenberger, M., Winter, J., Prainsack, B., Wendehorst, C., & Arora, P. (2025). Situated ethics: Ethical accountability of local perspectives in global AI ethics. *Media, Culture & Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01634437251328200>
- Mayer, K. & Jarke, J. (2025). Situierete Daten. Wie Datenspaizergänge unser Verständnis von Daten in der Praxis verändern können. In Hofhues, S. & Schütz, J. (Eds.) *Plattformen für die Bildung*. Transcript. (301-314). <https://www.transcript-verlag.de/media/pdf/99/29/72/oa9783839475164.pdf>