

FILM SERIES ON 'CARING DEMOCRACIES – CARING TECHNOLOGIES' IN GRAZ

STS Austria is supporting a three-part film series in Graz. The film series focuses on how technologies transform practices and politics of care in democracies and asks: *'Who assumes responsibility for sustainable and inclusive design, use and regulation of data-intensive technologies when big tech firms do not seem to care about democratic values?'*

- Tue, November 4, 2025, 5:30 PM – **Coded Bias**
- Tue, December 9, 2025, 5:30 PM – **How to Build a Truth Engine**
- Tue, January 13, 2026, 5:30 PM – **Her**

Discussants: Gwendolin Barnard (Uni Graz), Michela Cozza (Uni Trento), Saemi Jung (Simon Fraser University), Friedrich Moser (director), Jana Lasser (Uni Graz), Astrid Mager (ÖAW), Michaela Pfadenhauer (Uni Vienna), Juliane Jarke (Uni Graz), Ulla Kriebner (Uni Graz)

More information can be found [here](#).



ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE STS BOARD

General Assembly 2025

Wednesday, **10th of December** from 11am to 3pm
Graz, IdeaLab, [Leechgasse 34, 8010 Graz](#)

The STS Austria Board is pleased to invite all STS Austria members to our annual general assembly meeting to Graz. The board will report on their activities during the last year. We will then use the remainder of the meeting for a workshop on the direction we want to go in next with STS Austria. This builds on an exercise that we started during our last year's meeting (see the results of our workshop [here](#)).

If you would like to participate, please **register [here](#)** before 2nd of December so that we can order catering accordingly.

Early Career Award: Call for early-career researchers and external reviewers

The submission period for the STS Austria Early Career Award 2026 is open until August 10, 2026, for **master's students**, **doctoral students**, and **early career researchers** to submit their work from 2023-2026; please see closer information [here](#).

Further, upon consideration of transparency and high numbers of previous submissions, we would also like to invite external reviewers to the review board.

If you are interested, please get in touch with us at office@sts-austria.org.

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 2026

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

Want to stay up to date? Follow our new LinkedIn page at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/stsaustria>

STUDENT & EARLY CAREERS EVENT WITH AIT

In the beginning of October we organised an event in collaboration with peers from **the Austrian Institute of Technology's Young AIT** group, bringing together current and past STS students to the AIT campus in Vienna. The idea for the half-day event, and in fact the theme of the first session, was a **"What I wish I knew..."** reflection together with early-career researchers Angel, Masa, and Andrea, at AIT on their journeys, and advice they would give to those currently wishing to **pursue careers in research**. Something which resonated with STS students were the considerations of positioning oneself either (or both) as **a generalist with knowledge and skills across a range of empirical topics and disciplines** – which tends to be an experience of many through moving from a different disciplinary background to later studies in STS – and also **honing in on a very specific personal specialisation**.

Later in the day, there was a session with Marie-Theres, from HR, taking **a practical approach to the job application landscape**, highlighting pitfalls as well as productive practices in CVs and cover letters. The topic of **AI** and **LinkedIn** use, both on the side of applicants and those hiring, also came up as **technologies playing a prominent role especially in early stages of selection processes across industries**.



In the final part of the day we met many new faces and spaces through a **"speed-sharing"** session and **lab tours**. During the speed-sharing, we encouraged researchers at AIT and STS students respectively to share with one another **what they are currently working on, and how they have gotten where they are**. The conversations were indeed meant to be short and speedy, but in some cases also stretched out into longer conversations, which unfortunately then had to be cut off for the last activity of the day, namely, lab tours. We had representatives from the **5G, Environmental Testing, and Smartest lab** who kindly showed us around, sharing **insights about the day-to-days** in their labs. For some students, particularly those with backgrounds beyond social sciences, elements of the labs felt familiar, and for others completely new. Nevertheless, it was an engaging way to end the day and have a feel at **"opening the black box" of science and taking a peek in!**

UPCOMING STS EVENTS IN AUSTRIA

STS Austria Stammtisch

If you have locations in mind where you'd like to host a Stammtisch in the future, please get in touch with us: office@sts-austria.org.

The next Graz STS reading group and Stammtisch is on the **10th of December**, 4 pm/6pm (after the general assembly). If you would like to join us and get updates on future meetings, please contact Carla Greubel (carla.greubel@uni-graz.at).

Save the date: 24th Annual STS Conference Graz

The 24th Annual STS Conference Graz, *"Critical Issues in Science, Technology and Society Studies"* will take place from the **4th to 6th of May 2026**. The call for session proposal is already closed, so please check out the website <https://stsconf.tugraz.at/> for the planned sessions. Abstracts for presentations are due on the **20th of January 2026**. The STS Austria board plans to organize a meet-up during the conference–hope to see you there!

DIGITAL HUMANISM CONFERENCE

Katja Mayer writes, in reflection on the Digital Humanism Conference in May 2025:

"We are happy to report that both sessions we co-organised were true STSsy highlights at the Digital Humanism Conference 2025. In *"Social Innovation in and with AI,"* Reema Patel (Ada Lovelace Institute), Mirko Tobias Schäfer (Utrecht University), Gabriella Waters (Morgan State University), and Katja Mayer (ZSI) explored how AI can foster social innovation in practice—beyond the hype and promises of disruption. The discussion showed that meaningful innovation with AI requires responsibility, participation, and a clear focus on the common good.

Our workshop *"AI and Democracy: From Values to Action"* brought together an outstanding panel moderated by Astrid Mager (ÖAW), featuring Teki Akuetteh (Africa Digital Rights Hub), Siddhi Gupta (Inclusive AI Lab), Sebastian Kneidinger (epicenter.works), and Michael Veale (UCL). Together, they explored how democratic principles can be embedded in AI development—through equitable data infrastructures, participatory governance, and community-led approaches. The interactive discussions offered inspiring ways to turn values into concrete actions for a more just and accountable AI ecosystem."

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

International Workshop: Immunity & Resistance (re)valuing vaccines and antibiotics in the shifting terrains of global health

Members of STS Austria (Christian Haddad and Katharina T. Paul) are organising, in cooperation with Samantha Vanderslott (Oxford), an international workshop on current issues surrounding immunity, microbes, and antibiotics within the broader transformations of global public health.

This workshop will explore the socio-political, institutional and economic dimensions of this topic, inviting critical and interdisciplinary contributions that engage with this pivotal moment in public health through the twin themes of immunity and resistance. The workshop will also feature a public keynote event, which all members are welcome to attend, with Claas Kirchelle (Paris) and Janina Kehr (Vienna), discussing pertinent questions on 'Microbial infection, biomedicine and the Anthropocene'.

Monday, **15th of December**, 17:00 at the Marietta Blau Saal, University of Vienna, Universitätsring 1, 1010 Vienna

Coding Faces in Medicine

In October 2025, Paul Trauttmansdorff started his new project, "Coding Faces in Medicine" which explores the sociopolitical and ethical implications of constructing "medical faces" through automated face recognition in diagnostic settings. The project is part of the Friedrich Schiedel Fellowship for Technology in Society and is located at the Chair of Philosophy and History of Science and Technology, as well as TUM Think Tank at Technical University of Munich.

Feminist Ageing Futures in Datafied Worlds

Juliane Jarke has been granted an Elisabeth List Fellowship on "Feminist Ageing Futures in Datafied Worlds". In this project an interdisciplinary team of senior and junior fellows will develop speculative arts- and design-based approaches. They will work at the intersection of feminist STS, anticipation studies and critical data studies to co-design, make and test new arts- and design-led methods for critical engagements with questions around datafied futures as they relate to the lives and (perceived) vulnerabilities of older women. Results will be presented in a public exhibition in Graz. Further details can be found [here](#).

Recent Publications by STS Austria Members

- Trauttmansdorff, P. (2025). Against interoperability? Terrains of technopolitical contestation and the remaking of EU border infrastructure. *Big Data & Society*, 12(2). <https://doi.org/10.1177/20539517241307909>
- Mager, A. (2025). Digital Europe from below: Alternative routes to the Digital Decade, in Luca Marelli, Jim Dratwa, Gert Verschraegen, Ine Van Hoyweghen (eds) *Project Europe. The Making of European Digital Innovation, Policy and Society*, Elgar Publishing: 48-67: <https://www.elgaronline.com/edcollbook/book/9781800886629/9781800886629.xml>
- Dayé, C. (2025). *Futures Thinking: Epistemic Tribes and Territories*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Rudolphina, the research magazine of the University of Vienna, recently published [a piece](#) with Sarah Davies as part of the series "Rudolphina Reads", which showcases selected books from the University's researchers. Sarah Davies was interviewed about her recent book *"Science Societies,"* her rationale for writing it, the problematic view of science and society as separate entities, and more. She also recommends other readings for exploring the intersections of science and society further.