

STS AUSTRIA EVENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Do you want to organise an event in **fall 2026 or spring 2027**? STS Austria will again financially support 1–2 academic events this year or beginning of next year. 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.

We will fund different kinds of events (workshops, conferences, lectures, roundtable discussions, working groups) supporting the mission of STS Austria. In particular, we invite applications for events which a) address *early-career researchers*, b) involve *cooperation* between different institutions and/or c) take place *outside of Vienna*.

Your application should contain the following:

- Title of Event
- Abstract (300–500 words), addressing the following: description of the topic/theme, how the event relates to STS Austria's organisational mission, the kind of event planned (workshop, discussion, lecture) and elements of the program (presentations, keynotes, inputs, work assignments, ...), target audience and expected number of participants, a rough schedule of the organisational steps (e.g. deadline of CfC)
- Names, affiliation and contact info of organisers
- Date and duration of event
- Venue/location of event
- Envisaged budget (budget overview, specific costs to be covered by STS Austria, as well as other sources of funding)

All applications are reviewed on a rolling basis by the STS Austria board members.

Please send your application to **office@sts-austria.org**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE STS BOARD

General Assembly 2026 STS Austria: self-nominations for the board

We invite all STS Austria members to join us for the 2026 General Assembly on **Monday 14th December, 2026**. The event will take place in **Vienna** in the afternoon, between 13–17 – registration details to follow.

The board will report on the activities of the past year. As per protocol, this year there will also be an **election** for new board members. **Self-nominations for board positions are very welcome**, please also feel free to contact the board (office@sts-austria.org) with questions of the roles and responsibilities.

Early Career Award: call for early-career researchers until August

Calling all **master's students, doctoral students, and early career researchers**: the submission period for entries to the STS Austria Early Career Award 2026 is open until **August 10th, 2026**.

Entries may be dissertations, theses, journal articles, book chapters, etc. from the period of **2023 to 2026**. The award is endowed with €1,500 in total and will be awarded during the next general meeting of STS Austria. Please see closer application information [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 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>

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Humanism Conference, 24-26 June 2026, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Katja Mayer, programme chair of this year's Annual Digital Humanism Conference, highlights several sessions of strong relevance to STS, addressing AI, digital infrastructures, participation, and social justice. One example is From Pessimism to Promise: Practices of Digital Inclusion from the Global South to Europe on 25 June, 16:30 to 18:00. Hosted by Astrid Mager, the session features Payal Arora, Gilberto Vieira, and Juliane Jarke, exploring digital inclusion, collective agency, and alternative socio-digital futures across diverse contexts.

STS people may also be interested in the film premiere of *Ghost in the Machine* by Valerie Veatch on 24 June at Gartenbau Kino. The Sundance-featured documentary offers a timely reflection on technology and society. Tickets are available via the conference website: <https://dighum.wien>

Graz Sociodigital and Participatory Futures Studio has opened

On the 23rd of April 2026, the Graz Sociodigital and Participatory Futures Studio (GraSP Futures Studio) was officially opened! This **collaborative** space for conducting **participatory research** with a range of social actors aims at imagining and co-creating more **inclusive and equitable sociodigital futures**. It will build sustained engagements within the local landscape and in relation to an international network of similar centres. The team of the Digital Societies research group around Prof. Dr. Juliane Jarke and Dr. Laurène Cheilan builds on their experiences in participatory futuring, employing creative and arts-based methods such as body-mapping, erasure poetry, data walks, speculative design or cultural probes. Over 50 guests attended the opening and were invited to explore different activities around the space and start to imagine digital futures otherwise.

If you want to collaborate with the studio or know more about our activities and mission, please contact us via graspfutures@uni-graz.at.



Juliane Jarke welcoming guests. Photo credit: Pia Grumeth-Zechner

Cinema series in Graz: Caring Democracies - Caring Technologies

STS Austria supported a public cinema series in Graz that featured three films concerned with questions around the role of **digital and data-driven technologies for our democracies**. Prior to the general assembly in December 2025, STS board members Juliane Jarke (Uni Graz) and Astrid Mager (ÖAW) joined a panel discussion with director Friedrich Moser (*How to Build a Truth Engine*) and Jana Lasser (Uni Graz). The series was well attended with up to 200 guests for each screening.



Panel discussion after "How to build a truth engine" with Juliane Jarke (Uni Graz), Friedrich Moser (director), Astrid Mager (Austrian Academy of the Sciences), Jana Lasser (Uni Graz). Photo credit: Jahan Hadidi

SUPPORTING STS ITALIA SUMMER SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

The jointly with STS Italia organised *Summer School* for early career researchers is taking place in Trieste in July, 2026, and explore the theme of AI and the future of healthcare. The application period has now finished and upon review 25 out of 44 applications were accepted.

In the interest of removing some barriers for participation, both national associations are also offering a scholarship programme of ten scholarships to cover the participation fee; STS Austria will cover four members' participation fee.

REFLECTIONS ON THE STS AUSTRIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2025

Last year's general assembly took place on a December afternoon at the **IdeaLab** in Graz, with opportunity for virtual participation as well. With some new members joining too, we started the session with an informal small discussion on participants' **STS histories**, reflecting on what it means to identify, or not, as STS, and how and when people had first come to the field.

Part of the afternoon was spent taking stock of the past year's activities, drawing back especially to the concept board workshop from the 2024 meeting that had mapped out key areas of interest for members.



In the second part of the assembly we had an open discussion reflecting on past experiences of **associations and community groups** beyond STS, and then reflecting on what kind of initiatives members would like to be part of building for the future of STS Austria – both in the near and further future. Some of the ideas that were circled around were that of mentorship networks, learning groups, and institutionalised relations between applied research organisations too.

Photo credit for both pictures: Jahan Hadidi

Recent Publications by STS Austria Members

- Davies, S.R., Schikowitz, A., Mora-Gámez, F., Goldberg, E., Dessewffy, E., Pham, B.-C., Avkiran, A. & Gregory, K. (2025). *Revisiting Reflexivity. Liveable Worlds in Research and Beyond*. Bristol University Press.
- Eitenberger, M., & Lehner, L. (2026): Curative justice: Epistemic contestations of health in the case of type 1 diabetes and hepatitis C in Austria. *Social Science in Medicine*, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277953626000389>.
- Poehhacker, N., & Schönbauer, S. (2025). Coming Home to STS: Liminality of Research Positions as Mode of Reflexivity. In Davies, S.R., Schikowitz, A., Mora-Gámez, F., Goldberg, E., Dessewffy, E., Pham, B.-C., Avkiran, A. & Gregory, K. (Eds.), *Revisiting Reflexivity. Liveable Worlds in Research and Beyond* (pp. 295–310). Bristol University Press.