NEWSLETTER #7

STS Austria

UPCOMING GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

A small reminder of the upcoming STS Austria General Assembly, this year in **Vienna** on the **14th of December** at the **Austrian Academy of Sciences (2-5pm)**.

The awardees of the **Early Career Awards** will be announced and they will present their work, followed by a panel discussion on **where STS is heading in Austria**, and the **election of the new board**. We'll have four wonderful panelists from different Austrian institutions (and generations): Elaine Goldberg, Juliane Jarke, Sarah Davies & Anja Bauer.

As spaces are limited, please register by the 30th of November. More information here.

STS ITALIA & STS AUSTRIA JOINT SUMMER SCHOOL

The first joint summer school of STS Italia and STS Austria took place from **7th to 10th July 2026** in **Trieste**. 20 early career researchers from across Europe, the U.S., Japan, and Brazil explored and discussed **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the future of healthcare** with STS scholars from both associations. Presenters and facilitators included Silvia Gherardi and Attila Bruni (Università di Trento), Assunta Viteritti, Paolo Giardullo, Francesco Miele and Simone Arnaldi from STS Italia as well as STS Austria members: Doris Allhutter and Juliane Jarke. Invited speakers included Francis Lee and Dorthe Kristensen.





The summer school was **a mix of lectures, hands-on sessions, panels and group work**. It also allowed for time to enjoy the beautiful city and great Italian food. Thanks so much to the local organisers Francesco Miele and Simone Arnaldi! Also thanks to the Italian ECRs who facilitated the group work! **A big thank you, to our colleagues from STS Italia** for embarking on this summer school jointly and strengthening cross-national STS collaboration.



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

EASST2026 CONFERENCE

The **EASST2026** conference, hosted by the **AGH University of Krakow**, took place from **8th-11th September** with a diverse array of panel topics and activities centered around the conference's theme of **'More than now: exploring resilient futures'.** Austria was a standout contributor to the conference, with many of its academic and research institutions representing the breadth of STS research that it has to offer.

STS Austria marked its presence during a meet-up session (Meet01) where the board's Dana Wasserbacher, Masafumi Nishi, and Jahan Hadidi explained to attendees the origins of the national association, what our core missions are, what activities we've arranged, and the services we provide to STS Austria members. In addition, we hosted several activities to spark discussion around questions of ***'What are you looking for from a national STS association?'***, ***'How do you engage with the broader STS community?'***, and to describe their experiences as researchers. A few notable points included appreciation for the Dutch National Research Schools (Landelijke Onderzoeksscholen) system that supports PhD students with training The findings from these discussions, along with discussions at the last General Assembly meeting we held in Graz (10th December 2025), help guide the STS Austria board to promote the value of the association for existing members and potential newcomers.

Following the 'STS Austria Meet-up', our board members also attended the **'National STS Associations of Europe'** lunchtime sessions (Meet13) to discuss with **other regional and national associations** (UK, Finland, Germany, Sweden, Italy, Türkiye, Switzerland, and Netherlands) on how to **create meaningful opportunities for international collaboration** between one another. Discussions included building upon the recent STS Italia and STS Austria Summer School collaboration through other such partnerships. Furthermore, attendees raised the possibility of creating an online-accessible syllabi for STS students and early-career researchers have access to additional learning material and engage with the variety of different flavours that STS has to offer across institutes. The STS Austria board will now look to combine the discussion findings from both meet-up sessions to see how we, on a national and international level, can attend to our members' needs.

VARIETIES OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN EUROPE: SHIFTING FORTUNES OF STS IN TURBULENT TIMES

Over two days in November, STS Austria, alongside members from other European STS associations, took part in the ***'Regional Reflection'*** sessions at the annual **GWTF conference**, organised in Aachen, thinking together about hybrid knowledge production and academic career paths from both national and regional standpoints.



A wide breadth of presentations by colleagues explored topics from **researcher positionality** and **epistemic resources**, **justice**, and **inequality to research funding** and **evaluation structures**, as well as making and doing. For the regional reflection sessions, the idea was to collectively tie these insights together, working towards **a mapping of a research agenda** on varieties of science in Europe.

On forms of hybrid knowledge production, discussion was especially animated around the experiences of **organising STS research** and spaces to come together under shifting and at times constraining political conditions, such as in Türkiye, as well as around experiences of trading zones as shared in the experiences of STS in Edinburgh. On academic careers, national and institutional-level instatements of **evaluation metrics** – as well as how individuals navigate these – took centre stage.

A big thank you to the Gesellschaft für Wissenschafts- und Technikforschung e.V. and Käte Hamburger Kolleg: Cultures of Research (c:o/re), for an insightful few days!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cinema series: Human-Technology Entanglements in Graz

The **GraSP Futures Studio** team at the University of Graz are running a **3-part cinema series** in collaboration with **CIRAC** (Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Aging and Care). Through the films and preceding discussions we ask: *What do we expect from technologies as companions but also mediators of social relations and care practices? How do we configure technologies as (desirable) part of our social fabrics and individual lives? What ghosts haunt technical innovations?*

If you are based in Graz or visiting please come along! ***Admission is free at KIZ Royal cinema****. All screenings commence at* ***5.30 pm****.*



26th November 2026 - Short films: Uninvited Guests + The oasis I deserve + Reality+
10th December 2026 - Ghost in the Machine
14th January 2027 - Klara and the Sun

After each film, we will have a **panel discussion** and look forward to exploring human-technology entanglements with Juliane Jarke (GraSP Futures Studio, Uni Graz), Ulla Kriebernegg (CIRAC, Uni Graz), Guilherme Wood (Psychology, Uni Graz), Eva-Maria Trinkaus (Uni Klagenfurt), Katja Mayer (STS Uni Vienna & Center for Social Innovation), Helen Manchester (Uni Bristol), Christopher Frauenberger (it:u Linz), Julia Hoydis (Uni Graz), Laurène Cheilan (GraSP Futures Studio, Uni Graz)

Handcrafted Coalitions: Tantear beyond Borders through Digital Mapping (HANDigiCRAFT)

HANDigiCRAFT is a five-year European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grant project led by Fredy Mora-Gámez at the University of Klagenfurt. It explores the **social life of handcrafted objects made by people on the move**, examining how they **mediate social relations**, **negotiate belonging**, and **foster collaboration across borders**. Combining ethnography, digital mapping, and Tantear (collectively knowing through the hands), the project develops the concept of handcrafted coalitions to **rethink migration through material practices and embodied knowledge**.

Recent Publications by STS Austria Members

- *The Politics of Open Infrastructures: Power, Governance, and Justice in Digital Knowledge Practices*, edited by Mayer, K.; Mager, A.; & Ridgway, R., Open Book Publishers: https://www.openbookpublishers.com/books/10.11647/obp.0528
  - This volume examines how openness is designed, governed, contested and lived in contemporary digital knowledge infrastructures. From open source software and internet standards, to citizen science platforms, public sector data systems and alternative computing practices, the book shows that infrastructures are never neutral technical backbones. They are deeply political arrangements that embed values, distribute power and shape whose knowledge counts. A companion website, www.openinfrastructures.net, extends the volume through author interviews, supplementary materials and additional resources.
- Büchner, S., & Jarke, J. (2026). Data work and social policy implementation. In T. Klenk & L. Lahat (Eds), *Handbook of Social Policy Implementation* (pp. 376–389). Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Cheilan, L. (2026). Survival of the Queerest: Queer Survival and Future Possibilities. *Futures*.
- Mager, A. & Allhutter, D. (2026) Algorithmic welfare. Disaggregating semi-automated fraud detection by spotlighting human judgment in organizational practices, *Communications* 51(3): 588-608.
- Schaffar, A.; Balcinovic, A.; Fischer, F. (2026) [Feld]Typik des Dazwischens: Die Gestaltung disziplinübergreifender Herausforderungen, *Gruppe. Interaktion. Organisation. Zeitschrift fur Angewandte Organisationspsychologie* 56(3): 639-651.