

# RC23

# NEWSLETTER

## December 2022



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# RC23 President's Introduction

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by Nadia Asheulova

Dear RC23 members,

As President of RC23, I welcome you to the Winter'22 Issue of the RC23 Newsletter!

This issue presents the original paper of Alfred Nordmann "Revisiting the Phoenix Phenomenon - A Study of Mertonian Sociology of Science".

The winter edition highlights also the information about the new book "The Anthem Companion to Robert K. Merton" edited by Charles Crothers & Lorenzo Sabetta.

RC23 is actively preparing for the XX World Congress «Resurgent Authoritarianism: The Sociology of New Entanglements of Religions, Politics, and Economies» (Melbourne, Australia, June 25-July 1 2023). You can find the important deadlines in this issue.

We look forward to having an interesting and productive RC23 program at the XX World Congress in Melbourne, Australia!

In this Issue, we include also useful information about future important events and initiatives.

Happy healthy prosperous 2023 Year!

Best regards,  
Nadia Asheulova

# Revisiting the Phoenix Phenomenon – A Study of Mertonian Sociology of Science

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Alfred Nordmann

Robert Merton is known for his life-long engagement with the formation and „moral economy“ (Daston) of modern science, his articulation of the ethos or public morality that is constitutive of the scientific community as a self-governing republic of scholars. This goes along with his interest in the ambivalence that is produced by this ethos and in the ways in which this ambivalence is negotiated in scientific controversies, priority disputes, claims of stature and authority. Thus he famously explored the curious mixture of anxiety and assertiveness, of humility and pride that is at work in Newton’s remark „If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants“.



Technical University of Darmstadt

[nordmann@phil.tu-darmstadt.de](mailto:nordmann@phil.tu-darmstadt.de)

Merton himself stood on the shoulders of Max Weber and the first generation of Weberian sociologists in the United States. When Weber articulated a conception of science as a vocation and implicitly analogized the origins of modern science and modern capitalism by way of their innerworldly asceticism, he did so not in respect primarily to the natural sciences but equally in respect to the social sciences which he helped to establish methodologically. In this regard, Weber's reflections on science as a vocation are meant to be self-exemplifying. When announcing the ideal of value-free science, Weber cannot and does not exempt himself. Robert Merton was profoundly impressed by patterns of self-exemplification especially as they concerned a sociology of science which cannot claim a privileged status vis-a-vis the sciences: It is deeply implicated in what it studies. Its moral economy also requires the precarious balancing act between anxiety and assertiveness, humility and pride, it also needs to demonstrate or exhibit the virtues of science.

All of this provides a very abstract description of Mertonian sociology of science - but it comes to a head and turns out to be very concrete at moments when one is challenged to maintain the ethos of science in a self-exemplifying manner. For Merton, one of these moments came in 1984 with a publication in the American Journal of Sociology by George Becker, a young professor at Vanderbilt University.

In a paper on „Pietism and Science“ he provided „A Critique of Robert Merton's Hypothesis.“ Subject of this paper was not so much the 1938 book which stood at the beginning of Merton's life-long engagement with the spirit of modern science (Science, Technology and Society in Seventeenth Century England). Though he was aiming at the larger so-called Merton-thesis as well, Becker singled out for his critique Merton's 1936 paper not on puritanism and science in England but on pietism and science in Germany („Puritanism, Pietism, and Science“). Becker's critique questioned not only the substance of the hypothesis but claimed also that Merton had misrepresented his sources, insinuating even that he had fabricated some of the quotes in his text.

As a Mertonian sociologist of science, what was Merton to do? Clearly, he had to defend himself but, clearly, he couldn't defend himself since it is not supposed to matter in science what is true or false about oneself. Just as it is painful and fraught with ambivalence for scientists to claim credit or priority if it is not granted to them, it is painful and fraught with ambivalence to defend oneself against charges of misconduct - as if it was somehow necessary to defend oneself, as if these charges wouldn't just evaporate and become insignificant all by themselves in the further course of scholarly debate.

What Merton did and what he had to do was to treat the accusation as a self-exemplifying pattern for which he coined the label „Fallacy of the Latest Word“. There was nothing aberrant or misguided about Becker's critique, he argued. In the spirit of „organized skepticism“ he did what good scientists do. By doing so, however, he brought to the fore a social dysfunction of organized skepticism - thus exemplifying a major theme of Mertonian sociology:

[T]he critique affords an instructive example of the "fallacy of the latest word": the tacit assumption that the latest word is the best word. Elucidation of that fallacy, which has a way of turning up with some frequency in the give-and-take of cognitive disagreements in the domain of science and scholarship, involves the puzzle presented by the Phoenix phenomenon in the history of systematic thought: the continuing resiliency of theories or theoretically derived hypotheses such as Durkheim's on rates of suicide or Max Weber's on the role of ascetic Protestantism in the emergence of modern capitalism even though they have been periodically subjected to much and allegedly conclusive demolition ("falsification").[1]

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[1] Robert Merton, „The Fallacy of the Latest Word,“ *American Journal of Sociology*, March 1984, 89:5, 1090-1121. Because of the seriousness of Becker's charges, Merton was invited to respond immediately to Becker whose paper appeared on pp. 1065-1090 of the same issue.

Becker's earnest critique, Merton argued, went wrong only in that it misunderstood itself in the „give-and-take of cognitive disagreements“. Even as Becker presents conclusive evidence against the Merton-thesis and the nexus of puritanism, pietism, and science, that very thesis might already be re-emerging like a Phoenix from the ashes [2].

Here, only Merton's general strategy can be recapitulated. The details of his argument will be reconsidered more carefully in a study to be performed at the St. Petersburg branch of the Institute for the History of Science and Technology of the Russian Academy of Sciences. For now, I merely want to highlight how Merton defended himself as if it was not about himself at all and whether he was right or wrong. Accordingly, he addressed the most damaging charge of misrepresenting his sources only in an appendix of this paper. And this appendix marvelously exemplified the Phoenix phenomenon: There were indeed some superficial mistakes in Merton's 1936 citations but upon closer scrutiny the source material agreed with Merton's interpretation and offered more solid and interesting evidence than Merton himself was expecting: From the ashes of misquotation the story of pietism and science appeared to reemerge forcefully.

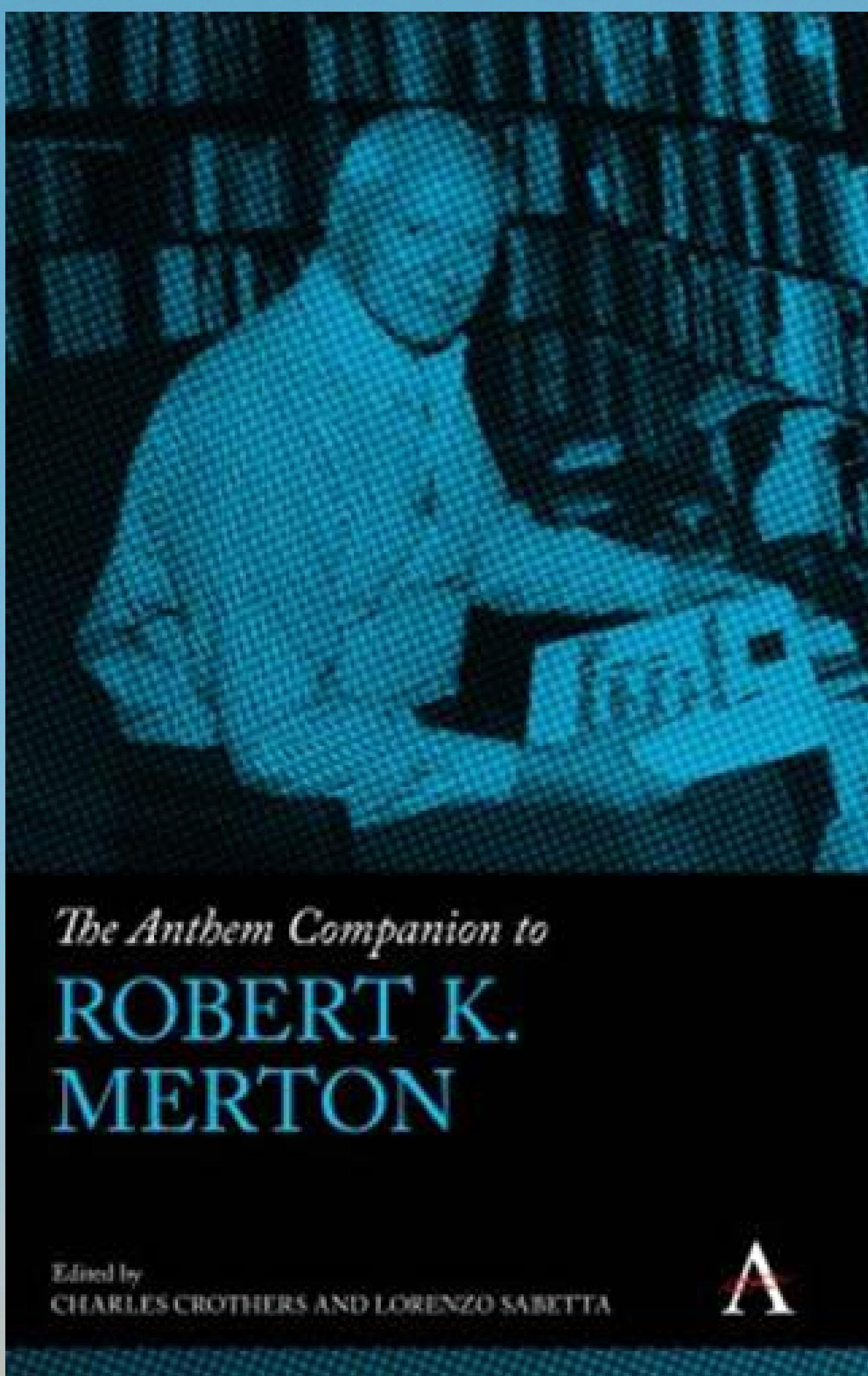
[2] Becker himself, by the way, never relented and kept insisting in many publications on the conclusive demolition of the Merton-thesis. Merton's somewhat condescending suggestion that he was inadvertently caught up in a pattern of fallacious reasoning, may well have proven productive and strengthened his resolve.

In order to revisit his source materials for a paper written some 50 years earlier, Merton needed an eager research assistant who was able to read the mostly German texts about the pietists. As it happened, I had been attending his doctoral and postdoctoral colloquium and thus helped Merton prepare his „Appendix of Sociohistorical Particulars“. After successfully responding to Becker's charges, our collaboration was to be continued. Along the way, after all, Merton had identified and named a new pattern - the Phoenix Phenomenon. Not sure how ubiquitous it really is and how it fitted in with critiques of „falsificationism“ from the side of Ludwik Fleck, Thomas Kuhn, and Imre Lakatos, Merton suggested that we write a paper to establish this Phenomenon. If you never heard about the Phoenix Phenomenon before, the reason might be that this paper never saw the light of day. What still exists are drafts and discussion notes. Insufficient to demonstrate the pattern even as an ideal-type, they shed some light on an encounter between Merton and a young post-Kuhnian philosopher of science — during an intellectually turbulent time when the Sociology of Scientific Knowledge challenged supposedly internalist and institutional Mertonian sociology of science, challenged as well the claims of philosophy to rationally reconstruct the history of science. Revisiting those drafts and discussion notes, perhaps I might venture to rationally reconstruct the significance of this moment in and for the sociology of science.

NEW BOOK:

# The Anthem Companion to Robert K. Merton

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## The Anthem Companion to Robert K. Merton

Edited by Charles  
Crothers & Lorenzo  
Sabetta  
Assisted by Larry Stern

Anthem Companions to  
Sociology

ISBN:9781839981166

Why is Robert K. Merton important? Many treatments of his work focus only on particular components whereas, in fact, his work is far wider and can be summarised for each of his decades of life and work: 1920s (childhood), 1930s (anomie, science, unanticipated consequences), 1940s (housing studies, mass communications, structural-functional analysis, professions, focus groups), 1950s (reference groups), 1960s (ambivalence), and later decades (structural analysis, sociological semantics, cultural sociology).

Merton particularly contributed to sociology during a period when several specialties were being set up and yet his work spans both general and specialist sociologies. He is recognised as the father of anomie/strain theory; focus groups; sociology of science; role-set theory; analytical sociology; structural-functional analysis; ambivalence studies; and sociological semantics. Many commentaries on sociology lament the ways it has slumped into a wide range of threads with not much of a core holding it together. Merton's work always endeavoured to keep the multifarious threads of sociology together, and we might usefully learn some of the ways he accomplished this.

Merton stood at the junction of many other crossroads in sociology and moreover endeavoured to create bridges between these, but more importantly to help launch research programmes along some of these paths.

His work links classical and modern sociology; American and European sociology; theory and research; philosophy of social science and applied sociology; pure academic sociology and applied sociology; cognitive and social; social sciences and humanities; and social sciences and science. This book examines and relates to each other. Because Merton's work spanned so many paths not many sociologists were alert to the overall architecture of his work and perhaps its visibility thereby waned. His viability is relatively less because of an astute writing style. Several of the programmes he helped launch have continued since: for example, media studies, criminology, and science studies.

Merton had a major effect on the baby boomer generation of sociology who joined the ranks of sociology at a time of great expansion of university positions across many developed countries. While other generations since have been less exposed to his work reading the book will provide many valuable insights

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<https://anthempress.com/the-anthem-companion-to-robert-k-merton-hb>

# Deadlines for the XX World Congress «Resurgent Authoritarianism: The Sociology of New Entanglements of Religions, Politics, and Economies»



January 31, 2023 24:00 GMT

- Applications for Registration Grants deadline: Program Coordinator receives applications for ISA grants submitted by the participants

February 15, 2023 24:00 GMT

- Submission of proposed Registration Grants recipients: Program Coordinator sends a list of selected individuals and amounts recommended to the ISA Secretariat [isa@isa-sociology.org](mailto:isa@isa-sociology.org) for verification and approval.

March 22, 2023 24:00 GMT

- Registration deadline for presenters: Registration must be paid by the deadline. Confex matches registrations with accepted presenters and will send out last reminder to register. Presenters who have failed to register will be automatically deleted from the program.

April 3 - 18, 2023 24:00 GMT

- Session Organizer modifies sessions based on withdrawal of non-registered presenters.
  - Chairs and discussants are assigned from among the registered participants.
  - Program Coordinator completes sessions schedule according to the conference timetable.
  - In case the type of an individual's presentation is changed, or if a presentation is transferred to a different session, Confex will send notifications to authors with final session and presentation details after June 15 deadline.

May 9, 2023 24:00 GMT

- Online program published

# Program of the XX World Congress: RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology

## Program Coordinators:

**Nadia ASHEULOVA, Institute for the History of Science and Technology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russian Federation,**  
[asheulovana@gmail.com](mailto:asheulovana@gmail.com)

**Leandro RAIZER, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), Brazil,**  
[leandroraizer@gmail.com](mailto:leandroraizer@gmail.com)

**Alice ABREU, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil,**  
[alicepabreu@gmail.com](mailto:alicepabreu@gmail.com)

### **Sessions:**

**Digital Innovation in the Innovation Society: Sociological Perspectives**

**State Role in the Post-Pandemic Market of Ideas**

**Biopolitics, Culture and Digital Control in the Context of Technology Assessment. Part I**

**Biopolitics, Culture and Digital Control in the Context of Technology Assessment. Part II**

Bringing Intersectionality to Science: How Equity Diversity and Inclusion Impacts Scientific Policies and Practices. Part I

Bringing Intersectionality to Science: How Equity Diversity and Inclusion Impacts Scientific Policies and Practices. Part II

Collaborative Robots: New Socio-Technical Constellations and Dominant Narratives

Digital Futures between Domination and Participation. Part I

Digital Futures between Domination and Participation. Part IV

Digital Neoliberalism and Surveillance Capitalism: Technology Induced Monopoly

International Political Economy of Digital Platforms: Labour-Capital Relations

International Political Economy of Digital Platforms: Sovereignty and Infrastructural Power

# Knowledge Infrastructures in Life Sciences, Biomedicine and Healthcare

## Microbial Knowledge in Biopolitical Times

### Quantification and Power: Values, Normative Agendas and Policy Paradigms behind Numbers. Part I

### Quantification and Power: Values, Normative Agendas and Policy Paradigms behind Numbers. Part II

## Religion and Science

## Sociology and the Climate Science-Politics Gap

### Theoretical Models, Challenges, and Prospects for the Sociological Studies of Artificial Intelligence and Human-Machine Interactions in the Age of Online Culture

# RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology: elections for the Board 2023-2027

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Leandro RAIZER, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), Brazil, [leandroraizer@gmail.com](mailto:leandroraizer@gmail.com)

Dear Colleagues,

Next year we will have new elections for the RC23. The election involves the selection of three officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary) and seven Board Members. The election, as it happened last time, will be held online and finalized during the RC23 business meeting at the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology.

Please wait for guidance on the application process and deadlines.

## Board posts and attributions

*President/Treasurer 01 (according to the RC23 bylaws, one individual holds both positions)*

1. Acts as the official representative of the RC in the Research Council of the ISA, and shall be responsible for the implementation of RC23 mandates.
2. Appoints individuals or committees of the Board and/or membership to carry out specific tasks, such as that of Program Coordinator for Congresses and Forums.
3. Chairs RC23 meetings
4. Collects membership fees and other incomes, keeps financial documentation, prepares the financial report to the Board, and carries out financial relations between RC23 and the ISA.
5. Delivers a statement of financial affairs every four years to the Board of RC23 and to the Business Meeting Assembly

## *Vice-President 01*

- Assists the President and Secretary in decisions concerning the organization and sponsorship of RC23 conferences, seminars and workshops, and work with the President to ensure that a sufficient number and range of nominations are received for the elections of officers of the Executive Committee.
- In the absence of the President, the Vice-President chairs the RC23 meetings.

## *Secretary 01*

- Organizes the General Meetings and the meetings of the Board of RC23 in co-operation with the President
- Assist the President in organizing the work of the Board and observes the fulfillment of its decisions.

## *Board members (7)*

- Helps support the activities of the President/Treasurer, Vice-President, and Secretary regarding the organization of academic meetings, elections, and other initiatives proposed by the Board or other RC23 members, and approved by the Board.
- One (or more on a rotating basis) of the Board members shall volunteer to edit the RC23 Newsletter at least twice a year for the following four years, and distribute it by electronic means to the RC23 members and other interested scholars.

# «Soviet Methodologies in Science and Technology Studies»: An Overview

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*Aleksandra A. Kazakova*

Senior Lecturer, Gubkin Russian State University of Oil and Gas, Bauman Moscow State Technical University; PhD Candidate, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences e-mail: [socphiltech@gmail.com](mailto:socphiltech@gmail.com)



*Natalia A. Nikiforova*

Senior Researcher, Institute for History of Science and Technology (St Petersburg), Russian Academy of Sciences; Associate Professor, Peter the Great Polytechnic University e-mail: [nvv2012@gmail.com](mailto:nvv2012@gmail.com)



*Elena A. Gavrilina*

Senior Researcher, Institute of Scientific Information in Social Sciences, Russian Academy of Sciences; Associate Professor, Bauman Moscow State Technical University e-mail: [e.a.gavrilina@gmail.com](mailto:e.a.gavrilina@gmail.com)



On 6-7 June, 2022, the hybrid international workshop «Soviet Methodologies in Science and Technology Studies» was hosted by State Academic University for Humanities in Moscow (Natalia Emelyanova) with the support of the Institute of Scientific Information on Social Sciences (Elena Gavrilina), and the Institute of History of Science and Technology in Saint Petersburg (IHST, Nadezhda Asheulova). This event was the first of a series of workshops to be organized in the coming years in different countries within the framework of the comparative project «Legacies of Marxism in STS» that was launched by a multidisciplinary team lead by German philosopher Alfred Nordmann. The goal of the project is to create a network of scholars who are interested in forward-looking histories of their disciplines, for a critical reflection on the variety of Marxist approaches in Science and Technology Studies (STS) (including History, Philosophy, and Sociology of Science and Technology, Science Policy Studies, Social Relations of Science, Science of Science, Dialectics of Nature, etc.), and on their relevance for the current developments in this field. The key question of the project is how various Marxisms provided - and why so often no longer provide - theoretical resources for STS.

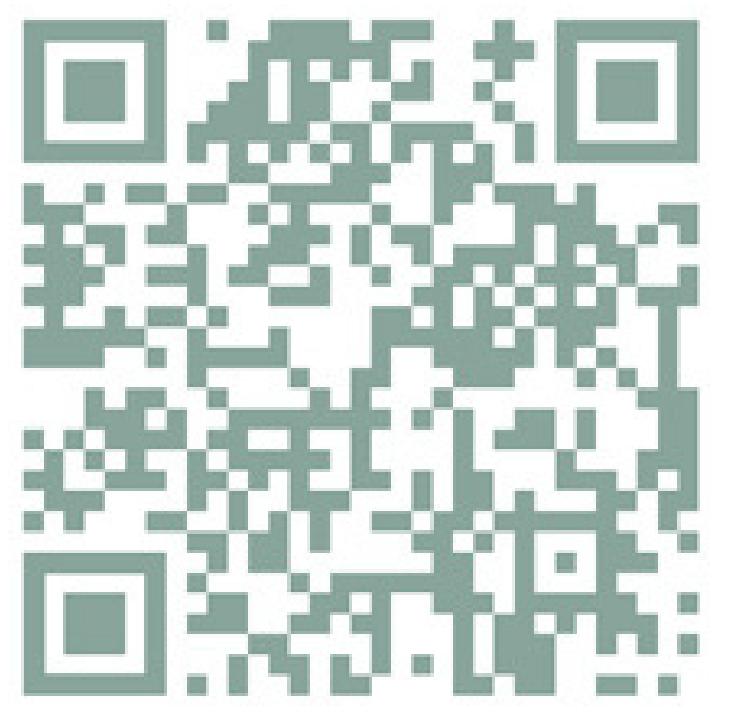
The workshop «Soviet Methodologies in Science and Technology Studies» was focused on the theoretical debate on science and technology within Soviet Marxism and its practical political implications, the historical focal points of its development, and its international influences. The following agenda was suggested for discussion:

- «Dialectics of Nature» and its perception in Soviet philosophy of science
- The Soviets at the International Congress of the History of Science and Technology (1931): Revolutionizing the field
- Epistemology and historicism: From activity theory to the types of scientific rationality
- Soviet history of discovery and invention: Between externalism and internalism
- Lysenkoism and beyond: (De)politicization of Science
- The Great Construction: Nature — Society — Politics relations
- Systems theory and its implications in USSR
- Science as labour, labour as science: Overcoming alienation?

The extended papers of the workshop will be published in a special issue of «Sociology of Science and Technology» in 2023. Further planned events of the network include the Roundtable «Legacies of Marxism in STS: Traces and Trajectories» at the ISA World Congress of Sociology (Melbourne, Australia, 2023), a series of regional workshops, a series of international meetings (on «Dialectical Biologists – from Engels to Bernal», «Lysenko, Lewontin, and a social-ecological science of nature», «Demarcation and Sublimation: Science Wars and the Dynamics of Invisibilization») and a seminar «Re-reading Marxism for the Study of Science, Technology, and Society», to be summarized in a collection of publications. The organizers invite interested scholars to join the network and participate in upcoming events to build international bridges despite deepening global divisions.

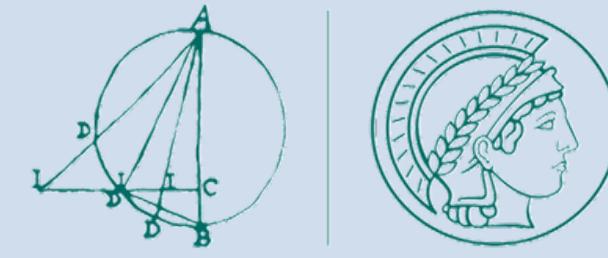
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The full version of the Overview is published in Journal «Sociology of Science and Technology», 2022. Vol. 13, N. 4  
<http://sst.nw.ru/en/>



## INSTITUTE'S COLLOQUIUM · 2022–23

MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE  
FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE



# Science Diplomacy and Science in Times of War

OCT 10, 2022 · 14:00–15:30 MAR 14, 2023 · 14:00–15:30

Were We Ever at Peace? The Irreversible Entanglement of Science, Politics, and Regimes of Knowledge Control

John Krige (Georgia Tech, USA)

NOV 15, 2022 · 14:00–15:30

Pugwash Scientists: Between Science and Diplomacy in the Cold War

Alison Kraft (MPIWG) · Carola Sachse (MPIWG)  
Commentator: Jan Hansen (HU Berlin)

DEC 13, 2022 · 14:00–15:30

Between Convertibility and Perversion: Aviation, Atomic Energy, and the Discourses of Technological Internationalism

Waqar Zaidi (LUMS, Pakistan)

FEB 14, 2023 · 14:00–15:30

Artifacts, Actions, Knowledge and Irregular Warfare in Latin America  
Alexis de Greiff A. (National University of Colombia/MPIWG)

Debating “Scientific Warfare” in Republican China  
Nicholas Schillinger (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)

MAY 16, 2023 · 14:00–15:30

Atomic Junction: Nuclear Power in Africa at the Crossroads  
Abena Dove Osseo-Asare (University of Texas at Austin, USA)

JUN 13, 2023 · 14:00–15:30  
Forensic Diplomacy and International Technical Cooperation: The Case of Mexico's Extraordinary Mechanism for Forensic Identification  
Vivette García Deister (UNAM, Mexico)

**LOCATION:**  
MPIWG MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM AND ONLINE (HYBRID)

## Participation & Registration

The MPIWG Institute's Colloquium 2022–23 is open to all. Academics, students, and members of the public are all welcome to attend, listen, and participate in the discussion. Registration details for external guests are listed on the individual event pages on the MPIWG website: [bit.ly/IC2022-23](https://bit.ly/IC2022-23). The event will be recorded for public relations purposes. Please switch off your camera should you attend online and wish not to appear in the recording.

## Institute's Colloquium Committee 2022–23

This colloquium series has been organized by Dora Varga in collaboration with Trym Eiterjord, Roberto Lalli, Lisa Onaga (ex officio: Ohad Parnes), and with the support of the MPIWG Administration, Communications, and Library Team.

# Doctoral Positions In Economic Sociology and Political Economy

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INTERNATIONAL MAX PLANCK RESEARCH SCHOOL  
on the Social and Political Constitution of the Economy

The International Max Planck Research School on the Social and Political Constitution of the Economy (IMPRS-SPCE), jointly conducted by the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (MPIfG), the Department of Management, Economics and Social Sciences of the University of Cologne, and the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Duisburg-Essen, invites excellent candidates to apply for its doctoral program.

The graduate school features a unique curriculum of courses, research methods, and summer school sessions. Its research explores the social and political foundations of modern economies and examines the interrelation between economic and social action. The positions begin on October 1, 2023.

The deadline for applications is February 28, 2023.

- Job posting
- Information for applicants
- How to apply

International Max Planck Research School on the  
Social and Political Constitution of the Economy  
Paulstr. 3, 50676 Cologne, Germany, Tel. +49 221 27670,  
[www.mpifg.de](http://www.mpifg.de)

# SASE's 35th Annual Meeting

## Socio-Economics in a Transitioning World: Breaking Lines and Alternative Paradigms for a New World Order

July 20-22, 2023



FEATURED

**SASE in Rio de Janeiro - 2023**

Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ)

20-22 July 2023

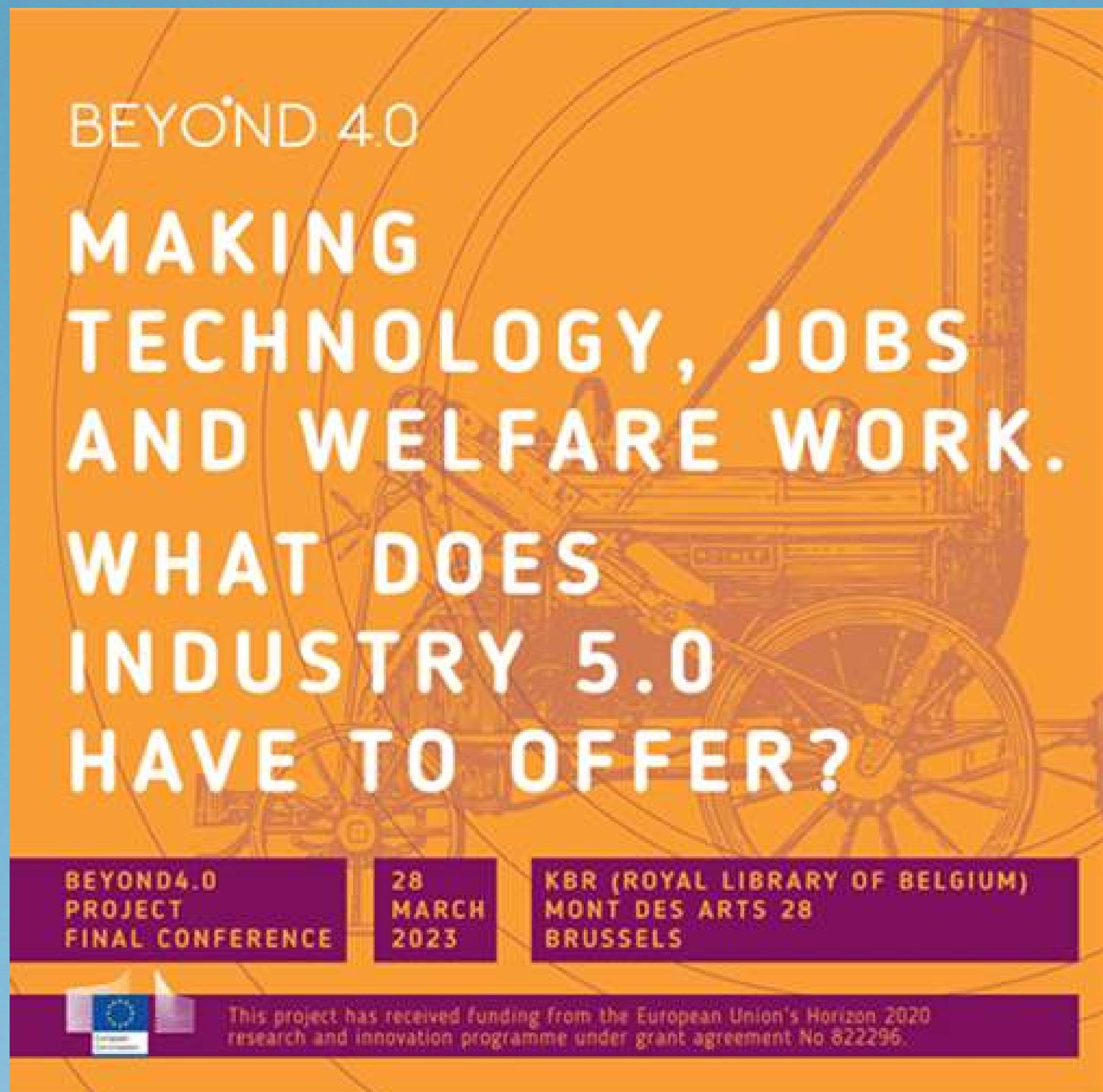
The Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE) is pleased to announce the call for papers and panels for its 35th annual conference, "Socio-Economics in a Transitioning World: Breaking Lines and Alternative Paradigms for a New World Order", hosted by the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, 20-22 July 2023.

Please find information on submissions here [<https://sase.org/conference-submission/>], as well as information on SASE's research networks [<https://sase.org/about/networks/>] and 2023 mini-conference themes [<https://sase.org/event/2023-rio-de-janeiro/#mini>]. General information about the conference, including the theme, fees, and deadlines, can be found here [<https://sase.org/event/2023-rio-de-janeiro/>].

The hard deadline for submissions is Wednesday, 1 February 2023

# Horizon 2020 project BEYOND4.0

## Final Conference



Dear relation,

We are delighted to let you know that you can register for *Horizon 2020 project BEYOND4.0 Final Conference*, which will be held on Tuesday 28 March 2023 (9:30 – 17:30) in Royal Library in Brussels.

During the conference, we will present the project's final results and discuss *The future of work and technology in the times of Industry 5.0*.

We expect more than 100 policymakers, academics and stakeholders from many EU regions to participate in the event. It will also be live-streamed to a large international audience. Attached to this message is the (preliminary) event programme.

We look forward to welcoming you and would be grateful if you could register for your attendance at this link: <https://forms.gle/N2gzNTJeoxRMhtXu6>.

Please note that there is no registration deadline, but the seats are limited. You can choose between two forms of attending:

- Watching via online streaming. (In that case the link will be sent by email to you one week before the conference).
- In-person in Brussels.

In both cases, you need to register through the link above.

## *Scientific Committee*

**Prof. Nathalie Greenan**, Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers (Le CNAM-CEET)

**Dr. Sylvie Hamon-Cholet**, Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers (Le CNAM-CEET)

**Prof. Chris Warhurst**, University of Warwick

**Dr. Josh Ryan-Collins**, UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP)

**Dr. Michael Kohlgrüber**, Technische Universität Dortmund, Sozialforschungsstelle Dortmund (sfs) (TUDO)

**Prof. Olli Kangas**, Department of Social Research, University Of Turku

**Dr. Peter Oeij**, Nederlandse Organisatie Voor Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek (TNO)

**Prof. Steven Dhondt**, Nederlandse Organisatie Voor Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek (TNO)

**Prof. Vassil Kirov**, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

## *Organisational Committee*

Diana Nenkova, Ekaterina Markova, Gabriela Yordanova,  
Mina Kostova, Bagryan Malamin, Vassil Kirov  
Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Bulgarian Academy  
of Sciences

More information about the conference can be read on the  
BEYOND4.0 website:  
[https://beyond4-0.eu/events/finalconference.](https://beyond4-0.eu/events/finalconference)

Peter Oeij, project coordinator

Steven Dhondt, scientific coordinator

Vassil Kirov, communication coordinator

# STS Conference Graz 2023

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The 21th Annual STS Conference Graz 2023 „Critical Issues in Science, Technology and Society Studies“ is the joint Annual Conference of the Science Technology and Society Unit of the Institute of Interactive Systems and Data Science of Graz University of Technology, the Inter-University Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture (IFZ) and the Institute for Advanced Studies of Science, Technology and Society (IAS-STS).



The STS Conference Graz is hosted by Graz University of Technology

Important Deadlines:

14. NOV 2022 Call for Session Proposals

30.JAN 2023 Call for Abstracts

30.MAR 2023 Early Bird

31.MAY 2023 Full Paper Submission

<https://stsconf.tugraz.at/>

May 8 - 10 2023

## **Interesting Worlds to Come**

***Science & Technology Studies facing  
more-than-human challenges***

Read the complete [Conference Theme](#)

The 9th STS Italia Conference invites scholars from Science & Technology Studies and cognate areas to unpack the ambiguous concept of “interest” as a necessary step to tackle the challenges faced by our planet and to design worlds to come from an inter-national, inter-species and inter-generational justice perspective.

<https://eventi.unibo.it/stsitalia2023>

### **Call for abstracts**

The 9th STS Italia Conference welcomes abstracts proposals contributing to the effort of unpacking the ambiguous concept of “interest” from a more-than-human perspective. Deadline January 15, 2023. The conference is intended to provide a dynamic, equal and multidisciplinary context to present conceptual, methodological and analytical insights in the heterogeneous realm of social studies of science, technology and innovation.

Notably, we invite abstract proposals about the list of panels in the full [Call for Abstracts](#).

## Abstract submission

In order to submit an abstract please have a look at the Call for Abstracts and create an account on the conference platform <https://www.conftool.org/stsitalia2023>, then submit your contribution to the correct panel after account creation.

## Venue

The Conference will be held in Bologna, Italy on June 28th-30th 2023 and is organized by the Italian Society of Science and Technology Studies, in collaboration with the Department of Philosophy and Communication and the Department of Political and Social Sciences of the University of Bologna.

# Biennial Call for Special Issue proposals for Centaurus

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Centaurus, the official Journal of the European Society for the History of Science, regularly publishes issues dedicated to a special theme.

The ESHS and the Editorial Board of Centaurus are now soliciting proposals for Special Issues to be published in 2024 and 2025.

Proposals should include the following:

1. A description of the topic and its significance (less than 200 words).
2. A short description of (a) the topic's relationship to the literature; (b) the degree to which the proposal links history of science to other fields of knowledge; (c) the audience that is targeted by the volume; (d) the main innovations of the proposal; (e) why the volume is especially relevant, timely and important (less than 500 words).

3. A list of (approximately) 6 to 10 contributors, together with a title and a short paragraph describing each contributor's individual essay.

4. A brief CV of the guest editor(s).

5. A schedule of production (time needed for internal review by the guest editors; date of first submission; time for peer review; time for revisions; final version ready).

All topics that fall within the scope of the journal can be chosen. We are especially looking forward to receiving proposals for interdisciplinary special issues.

Note that Centaurus underwent some major changes in the last year: we changed publisher, became a fair and equitable Diamond Open Access journal (at no cost for neither readers nor authors) and our 2021 Impact Factor and Scopus CiteScore are (among) the highest in the field. The website of the journal at: <http://www.eshs.org/centaurus/> and <https://www.brepols.net/series/CNT> and follow us on Twitter: @Centaurus\_ESHS.

The committee selecting the special issues will be composed of representatives of the editorial board and the ESHS.

Criteria include the quality, innovative character, relevance, timeliness and interest of the proposal, the expertise of the guest editor(s), the expertise of the authors, the diversity of the group of authors (geography, age, gender, etc.), and the coherence and feasibility of the project.

Deadline: proposals should be sent to the Editor (at the address below) no later than *January 10, 2023*.

Koen Vermeir, Editor of Centaurus

[EiC.Centaurus@zoho.eu](mailto:EiC.Centaurus@zoho.eu)

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