STS Austria Early Career Workshop 2024 Agenda

Time: 15:00-18:00, 21.11.2024
Location: Austrian Academy of Sciences, Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz 2, 1010 Vienna (room: Museumszimmer)

15:00	**Welcome & Introduction (Museumszimmer)** Masafumi Nishi & Doris Allhutter • About STS Austria • Background and purpose of the workshop

15:10	**Panel discussion by the speakers**
	Speakers + Masafumi Nishi & Doris Allhutter & Dana Wasserbacher
	• Brief introductions of the speakers
	• Discussion on early career development of STS people
	    o "Undiscussed job" – career options outside of universities/academia
	    o "Liveable job" – financial & mental issues
	    o "Sustainable job" – STS & individual contribution to sustainability
	• Q&A

16:00	**Coffee break**
16:15	**"Living book" sessions (Museumszimmer & ITA Campus)** • Breakout sessions (3 sessions in total: 2 x 25 min for one location + 10min changing location + 25min for the other location) • Participants have exchanges with speakers of their choice
17:45	**Informal exchange and finger food (ITA Campus)**
18:00	**End of the workshop**

Anna Rathmair

Anna Rathmair is a master's student at the STS Department at the University of Vienna. In her master's thesis, she examines how, in parliament, expertise of AI must be performed in order to be interpreted as authoritative knowledge. She holds a master's degree in political science from the University of Vienna and worked in media and security research. Since 2022, she has been working in the Legal, Legislative and Research Services of the Austrian Parliamentary Administration, where she is responsible, among other things, for the Foresight & Technology Assessment, as well as AI literacy for employees and members of parliament.

My focus today, as in the past, has always been on questions of power. Why and how is it that some people are heard more than others? Who or what makes the rules and how does doing nothing contribute to this? What is the role of (social) technologies? Parliament is an exciting place to ask these questions, but it was only through STS that I discovered new ways of asking questions that analyse existing power structures in ways that many would find unconventional. And unconventional questions are important because they allow us to rethink old structures.

Cyntha Wieringa

My university background is a bachelors in Liberal Arts and Sciences with a focus on Artificial Intelligence, and my masters (of course) Science, Technology, Society at the University of Vienna. My master thesis I wrote at the visual computing research company VRVis in Vienna. During my research I focused on potential gender aspects imbedded of the work of the researchers. After some time away from the university after my graduation I started working as a Grant Writer at the Viennese start-up Revo Foods, a company that focuses on the creation of plant-based fish alternatives. Two years ago, I started my job as a Researcher & Artist at the Ars Electronica Futurelab in Linz. As part of the larger Ars Electronica, we are a research institute that focuses on applied research in the fields of Art, Technology, and Society. We specialize in artistic exploration, practical problem-solving, open dialogue with society on future scenarios, and working with new technologies in transdisciplinary and international teams. Currently I am the project manager of two projects working on the future of XR technologies and am active as a researcher in another project about 'Data Art & Science'.

Marc Cudlik

I'm currently working as an information security manager at a telecommunications and internet provider in Austria. My focus in this position combines the areas physical security, business continuity management, crisis management as well as third-party risk management. What makes this line of work so interesting are the interactions, dependencies and overlapping technologies you encounter. Being labeled as critical infrastructure, telecommunications forms an integral part for the function of societies. Thinking about possible ways to protect the whole technology stack, from the physical cables to data flows, is a challenging task. I have to keep up with emerging threats, technologies, products and functionalities. Together, security is an interesting field, from the basic ways of transferring information to disrupting events in case something goes awry.

STS helped me in understanding technology as something inherently social. In particular the field of Critical Security Studies, an area of studies STS touches upon, in combination with more "traditional" approaches such as ANT and SCOT, inform my thinking. This not only explains certain flaws that get build into it, but also why there are so many ways to break it – in the direct sense as to destroy it, but also in ways to use it differently that it was intended to use, to tweak it that it does your bidding or to make people interact in ways that you want them to. The interconnectedness of social and technical worlds, the complex structures those technologies then build and how our engagement ultimately forms "society" still accompanies my daily business.

First and foremost, critically thinking about and trying to understand the construction of complex topics helps to guide me through my workday. Drawing connections between vastly different areas of interest inform this position, which may range from telecommunication technologies, computer science/IT, financial interests/economics, political motivations to social aspects. Also, being able to discuss and break down complex issues helps in discussing those issues in a respectful, fact-based manner and to present stringent arguments.

Arianna Ferrari, PhD
Dr. Arianna Ferrari is a researcher at the Austrian Institute of Technology AIT GmbH in the research area Societal Futures at the Center for Innovation Systems and Policy since 2024. Arianna Ferrari previously worked at various universities in research and teaching in Germany (philosophy) and at the Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS) at KIT (Germany). She then worked as Head of Strategy and Content at Futurium gGmbH, a museum in Berlin dedicated to the future. In addition, she most recently worked as Policy Officer for New Technologies at NABU (Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union) in Berlin. She specializes in the ethics of new emerging technologies, technology assessment, vision assessment, strategic foresight and human-animal studies.