

## **Science and Technology Studies of Social Media**

*Joachim Allgaier, Matthias Wieser*

There is a growing community within STS and related areas analysing the role of social media and new communication technologies for the public communication of science and also for inner-scientific communications. In addition, a new and increasing interest in overlapping research topics in media research and science and technology studies came to light in the recent years. Media studies discovered STS in order to revitalize discussions about the materiality of media, as well as empirical research into (online) media practices. At about the same time many STS scholars have recognized that information and communication technologies are prevailing technologies today that are having an impact on many areas of society, also on science and technology. Contemporary scientific practices and communication are heavily influenced and may sometimes even be dependent on new digital media. Moreover there is a growing body of literature and research on using new media for STS research under the banner of digital methods, which do at the same time contribute to methodological questions in media studies research. In this contribution we are introducing and explicating the topic of the session and we are providing some illustrative examples.