

Queer Science and Technology Studies in Empirical Research – Ideas how to Implement Queer Concepts in 'Traditional' STS Research

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Meanwhile Science and Technology Studies (STS) are looking back on a long theoretical and empirical tradition. Therefore, from a Gender Studies perspective, the scientific working group Queer STS is interested in interrelating traditional approaches of STS with newer ideas of gender, in particular queer perspectives.

The original idea behind the term queer refers to the critics of heteronormative concepts, a binary, dichotomous gender order, sexual- and gender-norms, identity attributions that are seen as 'normal', hegemonial concepts of a dual sexuality as well as institutions and ways of thinking that are determining and use hierarchization and binarization to marginalize. In our sense 'queerness' - above all - not only has to do with sexuality and gender, but goes beyond that. With reference to Degele (2008, 2014) it is about queering traditional methods and reassessing their unquestioned and not reflected naturalizations and mechanisms of exclusion.

We implement a queering angle in our focus on science and technology studies. Our declared object of investigation includes normalization and hegemonial systems in science, science organizations and science policy as well as technology development, technological organizations and policy. Queer STS therefore shows how to enlighten and deconstruct heteronormative knowledge, assumptions and relations through a science critical and social critical perspective. In our focus there are not only – apparently – established binarities of sexes, but power relations, that are being justified through this binarity and on whom discrimination, stereotyping, marginalization and misuse of power are based on.

On the basis of empirical research examples we present our ideas of queering Science and Technology Studies and therefore illustrate how to apply our queer STS approach in empirical projects.

Our presentation refers to SESSION 13: Queer Feminist Science, Technology and Society studies.

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