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## History

The Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society in Graz is a Fellowship programme initiated by the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies (IFF). The establishment of the Institute began after the provision of a financial guarantee from the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Culture, the Province of Styria and the City of Graz in autumn 1998. The adaptation work on the premises was largely completed by the end of 1999, allowing the Institute to welcome Dr. Radostina Anguelova from Neofit Rilski University of Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria as the first Fellow in February 2000.

## Adaptation of the premises

The premises of the Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society at Kopernikusgasse 9 are in close proximity to the Technical University. The offices are fitted with modern equipment and provide ideal working conditions for up to ten Fellows. A discussion room with seminar equipment – the Nikolaus Kopernikus Seminar Room – is available for meetings, workshops and seminars. The connection to the Technical University network by means of fibre-optic cables and structured cabling (Category 5) provides ideal data processing facilities. The workplace computers and peripheral devices such as printers and memory devices for data backup also meet the latest standards. Continuous maintenance of the technical infrastructure is guaranteed, for which we would like at this point to thank the Data Processing Support Unit of the Technical University of Graz.

## Advertising and public relation

The Fellowship programme at the Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society has been announced nationally and internationally, and advertised directly to the target group. The objective and focal points of research of the Institute have been summarised in a 6-page folder that has been sent to numerous international STS institutes. The Fellowships currently advertised have been published by posters and advertisements in national newspapers and in specialised academic journals. In this context, electronic media are playing an ever-increasing role, in particular in the form of mailing lists. The latest information on the Institute can be found on our homepage, <http://www.sts.tu-graz.ac.at/>, from which the application forms can also be downloaded. The Institute for Advanced Studies is also attracting an increased interest on the part of the media, with research projects focusing on women in natural science and technology having attracted most attention.

## Feedback, interest and appointment of the Fellows

The interest in the Institute for Advanced Studies has been extremely lively, and has increased with each new Fellowship advertisement. The inquiries come from countries around the world, including Egypt, Ethiopia, Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Germany, Finland, France, Greece, Great Britain, India, Israel, Italy, Canada, Kenya, Croatia, New Zealand, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Austria, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russia, Switzerland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Czech Republic, Thailand, the Ukraine, Uganda, Hungary, the USA and Belarus. In addition there has been extensive e-mail correspondence aiming at optimising the information flow to potential candidates and encouraging them to submit an application.

In total, the Scientific Advisory Board of the Institute for Advanced Studies, the body that decides on the appointment of Fellows and the award of grants, has hitherto received 55 complete applications relating to the focal points of research advertised. The Scientific Advisory Board consists of its Chairman, Univ. Prof. Dr. Arno Bammé, who is also the Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies, Univ. Prof. Elisabeth List as representative of the Karl-Franzens University of Graz, Univ. Prof. Dr. Hartmut Kahlert as representative of the Technical University of Graz, and Dipl.-Ing. Mag. Harald Rohrer as representative of the IFF Graz/IFZ. Mag. Bernhard Wieser is the Executive Manager of the Advisory Board. Dipl. Ing. Dr. Günter Getzinger was appointed Managing Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies.

### First term: February to October 2000

Seven Fellowships were advertised for the period from February to October 2000, and were awarded to the following persons:

- Dr. Radostina Anguelova from Neofit Rilski University, Blagoevgrad/Bulgaria: Decision Making, Professional Choice and Motivation upon Entrance at University – a Comparative Analysis between Austria and Bulgaria. In the framework of her research project, Dr. Anguelova conducted an empirical study on the motivation of young women in choosing their future course of study at the Technical University of Graz.
- Dr. Daniel Barben from WZB (Social Science Research Centre Berlin) at the Technical University of Berlin/Germany: The Generation and Shaping of Biotechnology: The Neo-liberal Configuration of Functions and Forms of Technological Regimes in a Comparative Perspective (USA-Germany/EU). Dr. Barben is currently continuing his work during a research stay at Rutgers

University in Newark/USA.

- M.Sc. Eva Estók from the University of Budapest/Hungary: Innovation and Technology Policy within Economic Growth.
- Dott.ssa Cristina Marcolin from the Università degli Studi di Trieste/Italy: Technology Policy in the Austrian Development Aid System. Dott.ssa Marcolin received a research grant from IHS (Institute for Advanced Studies) in Vienna in October 2000.
- Dr. Alan N. Marshall from the University of Wollongong/Australia: The Ecology-Economy Analogy. A History of the Transdisciplinary Use of the Concept of Self-organization in Ecology and Economics.
- Mag. Michael Stockinger from Karl-Franzens University in Graz/Austria: Technology and the Text: The Interplay of Information Technology and Contemporary Narrative (in cooperation with Alen Vitas).
- Mag. Alen Vitas from Karl-Franzens University in Graz/Austria: Technology and the Text: The Interplay of Information Technology and Contemporary Narrative (in cooperation with Michael Stockinger).

A further advertisement was issued in spring 2000 for the 2000/2001 academic year. The following Fellows were appointed for this second term:

### **Second term: October 2000 to September 2001**

- Dr. Ellen Balka from Simon Fraser University in Burnaby/Canada: Skill, Gender and User Involvement in the Design Process: A Comparative Study of Participatory Design and Ergonomics.

- Mag. M.S. Gerald Berger, formerly at Cardiff University/Great Britain: Design-for-the-Environment as Part of a Strategy Towards Ecological Modernisation: Evaluating Technological Innovations in Industry and their Promotion through Instruments of Environmental Policy-Making. After his Fellowship Mag. Berger will work for IFS (Interdisciplinary Research Centre for Social Sciences), Vienna.
- Dr. Ulrich Dolata from artec at the University of Bremen/Germany: Competition, Cooperation and Networking in Biotechnology. The Socio-Economic Evolution of a New Technology.
- Dr. Dmitri Efremenko from the International Institute for Global Problems of Sustainable Development, International Independent University of Environmental & Political Studies in Moscow/Russia: Technology Assessment as an Instrument of Prospective Environmental and Technological Policy.
- Dr. Annette Ohme-Reinicke from the University of Flensburg/Germany: Technological Development and Social Protest Movements.
- M.S. Maria Rentetzi from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg/USA: Women Physicists and the Material Culture of Physics: Women's Participation in the Institute for Radium Research in Vienna and the Gendered Production of Knowledge.
- Ariella Vraneski from Technion – Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa/Israel: Planning for Urban and Regional Sustainable Development. Prospects for Prevention, Mitigation, Transformation and Resolution of Existing, Expected and Unexpected Conflicts.
- Mag. Doris Wallnöfer from the University of Vienna. Technowar: The Diffusion of War into Contemporary Culture and Politics.

## Organisational and scientific assistance

The Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society assists the Fellows in the organisation of their research stay in Graz. We do our best to help them overcome all the bureaucratic obstacles necessary for their stay. This includes the visits to public authorities, the opening of an account at an Austrian bank (to permit the payment of the grant) and the issue of a library user card. In addition, information is supplied about the possibility of attending German courses, if needed. The further education budget of the Institute for Advanced Studies provides financial support in this case. In this connection, the collaboration with the Austrian Academic Exchange Service (Österreichischer Akademischer Austauschdienst, ÖAD) has proved particularly helpful, for which we would like to express our thanks at this point. The ÖAD assists the Fellows above all in finding initial accommodation in Graz and in concluding the necessary health and accident insurance. In particular, this greatly facilitates the entry formalities for visiting researchers from non-EU countries.

A half-day secretariat assists the Fellows in administrative matters. In his capacity as secretary, Reinhard Wächter solves all the major and minor problems that arise particularly in the first few weeks of their stay.

In academic terms, the Institute for Advanced Studies assists its Fellows through regular workshops and colloquia and supports them in establishing contacts with scientists at the Graz universities. The Fellows also have the possibility of inviting researchers to a guest lecture at the Institute for Advanced Studies on STS. The first guest lecture of this kind was given by Dr. Tania Leontieva on November 28, 2000, and considered the topic of "Degradation of Science and Technology in Russia at the Dawn of the 21st Century". The text of this lecture has been included in this year-

book. Finally, the Institute for Advanced Studies organises regular meetings, which give Fellows the opportunity to discuss their various research projects, common theoretical approaches or administrative matters.

Our experiences with the first Fellows at the Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society are the occasion for a joyous retrospective. Not only are we proud of the quality of the academic discussion on the interaction between science, technology and society that arose through the Fellows' expertise, we also have fond memories of our personal conversations with Alan, Alen, Cristina, Daniel, Eva, Michael and Radostina. We hope we have been able to help them in their academic career and wish them every success for the future.

*Günter Getzinger and Bernhard Wieser*  
*Graz, April 2001*