
Review 2000/2001: A Report on Fellowships and Workshops

The Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society sees itself as a forum of discussion where international scholars can debate research projects in the field of technology studies. In the first two years since its foundation 16 researchers from 13 different countries came to Graz and entered into an interdisciplinary discussion at the Institute for Advanced Studies. At the same time the Institute offers an opportunity to withdraw from the daily obligations of academic life that leave little time for reflection. The premises at Kopernikusgasse 9 offer an ideal working environment where academics can devote themselves entirely to the writing process. The Institute emerges from its contemplativeness when it opens its doors to workshops quite a few of which were organised in the course of the past year. At these occasions the Fellows of the Institute for Advanced Studies present their work both to their colleagues and to an interested audience. These events show evidence that an investment in the Institute for Advanced Studies is beneficial for the province of Styria, attracting researchers from beyond the borders of Austria. The solid support from the City of Graz gives us confidence for the future of the Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society.

Workshop: Critical Issues in Science and Technology Studies (June 7–8, 2001)

In the course of the year 2001 a number of workshops took place, two of which are worth special notice. An international joint workshop on 'Critical Issues in Science and Technology Studies' was held on June 7 and 8, 2001. The workshop was organised in co-operation with the following institutions: the Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society, Graz, Austria; Virginia Polytechnic Institute

and State University (VT), Blacksburg, USA and the Inter-University Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture, Graz, Austria.

Programme

Introduction

- Arno Bammé (Austria), Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society.
- Maria Rentetzi (Greece), Doctoral Candidate in STS Program, VT and Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society.

Methodology. Chair: Ellen Balka (Canada)

- Joseph Pitt (USA): The dilemma of case studies: Toward a Heraclitian philosophy of science.
- Richard Burian (USA): On the value of case studies of recent science for the history and philosophy of science.
- Aristides Baltas (Greece): History and philosophy of science and STS: The links.

Philosophy of Technology. Chair: Aristides Baltas (Greece)

- Vitaly Gorokhov (Russia): Problems of assessment of scientific and technological development.
- Günter Getzinger (Austria): Technology and the loss of the tactile.

Technology Policy. Chair: Ulrich Dolata (Germany)

- David Mercer (Australia): Institutional ecologies and scientific method discourses in legal and regulatory settings.
- Harald Rohrer (Austria): User participation in environmental innovations.

Teaching STS. Chair: Wilhelm Berger (Austria)

- Ellen Balka (Canada): Moving from chaos to socially aware technology designs: Reflections on the courtship of theory and praxis.
- Bernhard Wieser (Austria): Public understanding of genetic engineering.

International Perspectives in Teaching STS: Experiences and Programs. Chair: Ernst Kotzmann (Austria)

- Panel Discussion: Richard Burian (USA), Joseph Pitt (USA), David Mercer (Australia), Vitaly Gorokhov (Russia), Michalis Assimakopoulos (Greece), Bernhard Wieser (Austria).

Work-in-Progress Workshop (December 10, 2001)

Another workshop on December 10, 2001 should also be mentioned, because it shows how durable the relations to our Fellows are. The very first Fellow of the Institute, Radostina Anguelova used this workshop as an opportunity to speak about the continuation of her research activities following her stay at the Institute for Advanced Studies. Other Alumni also came back to Graz in December to join the scientific dialogue.

Programme

- Ulrich Dolata: Europeanisation of technology and innovation policies? Global innovation: The case of biotechnology.
- Doris Wallnöfer: Mission impossible or the so-called war.
- Sonja Schmid: From soldier to worker: Life and sorrows of the Soviet atom.
- Dimitri Efremenko: Normative and ethical aspects of technology assessment.
- Vera Gouchtchina: Gender-work relations and axiology of work in cross-cultural perspective: A contextual approach.
- Radostina Anguelova: Career decision-making factors and models for choosing engineering as a profession. Cross-cultural study between Austrian and Bulgarian students.
- Maria Rentetzi: Feminist epistemology. How a case study from history of science undermines Harding's standpoint theory.
- Annette Ohme-Reinicke: Horse whispering, teamwork and participation.

Guest Lectures

The Institute for Advanced Studies had the pleasure of hosting a number of guest speakers during the year 2001. The scientific life of the Institute was stimulated and enriched by this opportunity for discussion amongst the Fellows. Apart from those already mentioned the following researchers contributed to the discourse at the Institute.

- 14 February 2001: Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Elisabeth List (Institute for Philosophy, Karl-Franzens-University, Graz) ‘Technische Exzentrizität’ (from List, E.: ‘Grenzen der Verfügbarkeit. Die Technik, das Subjekt und das Lebendige’).
- 24 April 2001: Prof. Dr. Johannes Agnoli (a. D.) (Otto Suhr-Institute of Political Science, Freie Universität Berlin) ‘Technischer Fortschritt und Opposition’.
- 24 April 2001: Prof. Dr. Helmut Reinicke (Institute for Philosophy, University of Flensburg) ‘Technische Zivilisation, Ideologie, Theorie’.
- 16 May 2001: Dr. Walter Peissl (Institute for Technology Assessment/ ITA, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna) ‘Technology Assessment in Austria: State of the Art and ITA Research Activity’.

Fellows of 2000/2001

- (1) Dr. Ellen Balka (Canada): Women users: Re-gendering technology.
- (2) Mag. Gerald Berger M.Sc. (Austria): 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.
- (3) Dr. Ulrich Dolata (Germany): Competition, cooperation and networking in biotechnology. The socio-economic evolution of a new technology.
- (4) Dr. Dmitri Efremenko (Russia): Technology assessment as an instrument of prospective environmental and technological policy.

- (5) Dr. David Mercer (Australia): Institutional ecologies and scientific method discourses in legal and regulatory settings (Visiting Fellow).
- (6) Dr. Annette Ohme-Reinicke (Germany): Technological development and social protest movements.
- (7) Maria Rentetzi M.Sc. (Greece): Gender and Radiophysics in Inter-war Vienna.
- (8) Dr. Ariella Vraneski (Israel): A comparative study on the prevention, mitigation and resolution of conflicts, and on public participation, as means towards sustainable development.
- (9) Mag. Doris Wallnöfer (Italy): Technowar. The diffusion of war into contemporary culture and politics.

Alumni

- (1) Dr. Radostina Anguelova (Bulgaria): Decision making, professional choice and motivation upon entrance at university considering an emphasis on a comparative analysis between Austria and Bulgaria.
- (2) Dr. Daniel Barben (Switzerland): The generation and shaping of biotechnology. The neo-liberal configuration of functions and forms of technological regimes in a comparative perspective (USA-Germany/EU).
- (3) Eva Estók M.Sc. (Hungary): Innovation and technology policy within economic growth.
- (4) Dott.ssa Cristina Marcolin (Italy): Technology policy in the Austrian development aid system.
- (5) Dr. Alan Marshall (New Zealand): Cybernetics and the ecosystem-economy analogy: A study in the history of the transdisciplinary use of the concept of self-regulation in technology, nature and society.
- (6) Mag. Michael Stockinger (Austria): Technology and the text—the interplay of information technology and contemporary narrative (in cooperation with Alan Vitas).

- (7) Mag. Alen Vitas (Croatia): Technology and the text—the interplay of information technology and contemporary narrative (in cooperation with Michael Stockinger).

Günter Getzinger and Bernhard Wieser
Graz, July 2002