

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY (IAS-STG)

Fellowship Programme 2021-2022

The IAS-STG in Graz, Austria, promotes the interdisciplinary investigation of the links and interactions between science, technology and society, as well as technology assessment and research into the development and implementation of socially and environmentally sound technologies. Broadly speaking, the IAS-STG is an institute for the enhancement of science, technology and society studies.

The IAS-STG invites researchers to apply for a stay between 1 October 2021 and 30 June 2022 as a

- **Research Fellow (up to nine months); or,**
- **Visiting Scholar (shorter period, e.g. a month).**

The IAS-STG offers excellent research infrastructure. Close co-operation with researchers at the IFZ (Interdisciplinary Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture; see: www.ifz.at), and the Science, Technology and Society Unit (STS) of Graz University of Technology; see: www.sts.tugraz.at) guest lectures, colloquia, workshops, and conferences provide an atmosphere of creativity and scholarly discussion.

Furthermore, we can offer three grants, worth EUR 940,- per month, for long-term Research Fellows at the IAS-STG.

The Fellowship Programme 2021-2022 is dedicated to projects investigating the following issues:

1. Gender – Technology – Environment

This area of research particularly focuses on gender and queer-feminist dimensions in science and technology. On the one hand, individual perspectives of actors in the technological field are taken into account; on the other hand, educational, organisational, societal, environmental, and political issues (e.g. the debate of sexism in academia; inclusion of gender criteria in research funding policies) are gaining more and more relevance.

Of special interest are: Studies and practical experiences about structural change policies and activities of academia and research to overcome social injustices and increase gender equality and diversity. Queer-feminist perspectives on science and technology, including analyses of the reproduction of sexual binaries or reproductions of marginalized/hegemonic positions and 'normalizations' in and through science and technologies.

2. Life Sciences/Biotechnology

Applications are sought in two thematic areas: First, following some 30 years of public debate, agricultural biotechnology continues to be a deeply controversial issue in the EU, partly fueled by progress in science and technology innovation such as GM industrial and energy crops, new plant breeding techniques including CRISPR/Cas, or gene drives. Research should contribute to a better understanding of the regulatory, broader policy and governance challenges of agricultural biotechnology, and/or explore strategies to manage these challenges. Second, in recent years, social studies of the life sciences were bound to large scale research programmes. In many countries, these funding schemes have now come to an end. This is an opportunity to review these previous programmes via collaborative engagement with the life sciences, as well as to explore new ways of inquiry. Applicants are encouraged to address these issues when analysing the life sciences as a social process.

3. Sustainable and Innovative Public Procurement & Ecodesign

The supply side policy “Ecodesign”, and the demand side policy “Public Procurement” are used to support the transition towards green, socially responsible and innovative markets. Nonetheless, scientific research in these respective fields is still limited. Researchers investigating the following areas are encouraged to apply: The environmental impact or the innovation potential of green public procurement and ‘Ecodesign’; the impact of socially responsible public procurement; the hurdles, success factors, efficacy, and wider implications of European or national policies for sustainable and innovative public procurement and ‘Ecodesign’.

4. Towards Low-Carbon Energy and Mobility Systems

Based on analyses of social, technological and organisational frameworks of energy use and mobility systems, projects should contribute to the shaping of sustainable energy, mobility, climate and technology policies and the mitigation of climate change. They should focus on socio-economic aspects of energy and mobility technologies or on strategies of environmental technology policy. They should develop measures and strategies for the promotion of renewable energy sources; for the transition to a sustainable energy and mobility system; or, contribute to the field of sustainable construction. Regional governance, climate policy strategies, innovation policy, participation and the role of users are important themes. In addition, the Manfred Heindler grant is awarded to research projects concerning the increased use of renewable energies and the more efficient use of energy.

5. Sustainable Food Systems

Food security, nutrition, food quality and safety, resource scarcity, carbon footprints and other challenges faced in urban or rural areas are currently dominating the industrialized and globalized food systems. Research applications exploring different forms of sustainable food systems, as well as related social practices and socioeconomic/technical processes in the production, distribution, marketing, and consumption of food are encouraged. A particular focus lies on governance mechanisms, policies, and their (potential) contribution to a wider transformation towards more sustainable cities, regions and societies.

6. Cultures of prediction

The future is a pervasive motif in both science and technology—the former struggling to produce foreknowledge to support decision-making, the latter understanding itself as the essential force in shaping how our lives will look like in the decades ahead. However, verification of predictive claims is not possible, and predictions—unless concerned with closed and completely theorized systems—are therefore perforce unstable. Scientific and engineering fields have developed various strategies and practices to cope with this instability. They rely on a “vast apparatus, partly material, partly human, and partly spiritual, by which man is able to cope with the concrete, specific problems that face him.” (Malinowski 1960 [1944], 36). In a word, both scientists and engineers construct, enact, and rely on cultures of prediction. We welcome project proposals that help foster the understanding of different cultures of prediction in science, engineering, and beyond.

Applications must be submitted to the IAS-STS by 15 June 2021.

For application forms and further information:

Please visit our website: www.sts.tugraz.at > IAS-STS

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