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STS Encounters
Research papers from DASTS
Volume 15 • Issue 2 • 2023

Introduction DASTS 2022 special issue

In alphabetical order
Peter Danholt
Julia Kirch Kirkegaard
Kasper Ostrowski
Irina Papazu

STS Encounters is published by the Danish Association for Science and Technology Studies (DASTS). The aim of the journal is to publish high quality STS research, support collaboration in the Danish STS community and contribute to the recognition of Danish STS nationally and internationally.

www.dasts.dk
ISSN: 1904-4372

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Editorial introduction

This *STS Encounters* special issue is a collection of articles that has been developed from conference papers presented at the bi-yearly Danish Association for Science and Technology studies (DASTS) conference in 2022. The conference was held at the Department of Digital Design and Information studies, Aarhus University and hosted by the STS center at Aarhus University on June 2-3. 2022. The theme of the conference was: '*Living with Ruptures: Repair, Maintenance, and (Re)Construction*'. The call for papers stated:

> "The world seems to be filled with ruptures. Ongoing migration issues, pandemics, mistrust in institutions, climate change catastrophes, among other chronic and unresolved crises. It is compelling to interrogate the status and demands of STS-oriented research in the moment *during*, *after*, *with*, and *despite* ruptures: How do we live with them? Should we (re)construct or maintain the "normal"? What do we leave behind and what do we repair? DASTS 2022 provides a platform to gather and share ongoing and emergent STS-related research, particularly in Denmark and the Nordic space. Here, we want to discuss how the current landscape of STS methods and theories inform and impact maintenance practices and reactions to ruptures."

All conference participants were invited to submit an article developed on the basis of their presentation. 13 papers were submitted out of the 57 papers and two keynotes presented at the conference. The keynotes were presented by Anders Blok and Sheila Jasanoff. The submitted papers were peer-reviewed by the editors and the special issue authors.

The special issue does not cover a specific theme, problem, or topic but is comprised of papers presented at the various panels of the conference. As such, the issue represents a motley crew of contributions. Central to STS is the concern with the construction of representations. What comes to count as 'representative' is not given or self-evident, but an outcome of work and a whole lot of contingencies. Equally so with this special issue. It is a partial and incomplete representation of the DASTS 2022 conference. It shows a part of what went on, but each of the articles is not representative of, say, a handful of 'similar' papers on the same topic. Some of the articles are, and others are not. Furthermore, some, if not quite a lot of the research presented at the conference, is not represented in the issue. That said, what the issue *does* represent, to the best of our understanding, is a broad and diverse field of research in STS. The issue as a whole also represents a diversity in research methods, concepts, and writing styles. It includes both a keynote presentation and panel presentations. Some articles are written in collaboration with others, some are single-authored, and all academic career levels from PhD to professor are represented in the issue. Lastly, the length of the articles also alternates between 10 and 20 pages. More could be said about what the issue represents – and not – but we will leave it to you, the reader, to ponder this as you read. In the following, we briefly introduce the articles included in the issue:

'The sustainable state' of STS was given as a keynote presentation by Anders Blok at the 2022 DASTS conference. In it, he discusses the role of STS as the field searches for a new 'constitutional vision' of the sustainable state; a state that respects planetary boundaries and is capable of accomplishing the necessary green transformation of state, society, and infrastructures. Blok suggests four dimensions of an STS-research agenda offering alternative socio-technical, or socio-ecological,

imaginations of the 'sustainable state': new ecological citizenships, new civil society transition alliances, new institutions of ecological democracy, and new socio-ecological markets.

In the paper *Mobilising Uncertainties in Air Pollution Science*', Steffen Dalsgaard and Rasmus Tyge Haarløv trace three different ways of measuring air pollution in Copenhagen, Denmark: stationary measuring stations operated and monitored by Danish scientists, citizens using hand-held particle trackers, and the specially equipped Google vehicle collecting data about particles in the city's streets. The study displays how measurements of emerging pollutants by Google's Project Air View project and by citizens themselves on the city's air pollution have compelled policymakers in Copenhagen to accept, to engage with and act upon new scientific uncertainties. Using Jasanoff's lens of 'humility', the authors discuss the implications for a governance, or a politics, of air pollution when different perspectives interact or are contrasted to each other.

In their article: *Is Denmark a green entrepreneurial state? Mapping Danish climate politics between civic mobilization and business cooptation*, Adam Veng, Irina Papazu, and Mads Ejsing use digital methods to explore the green transition policies following the Climate Act in Denmark in 2019. The act was claimed to be the "most ambitious Climate Act in the world". It included among other things business and industry collaborations tasked with developing frameworks for green transition. Through their network analysis, Veng, Papazu, and Ejsing show that the business community has come to dominate climate policy with their emphasis on "innovative and technological solutions", despite the articulated political ambition to engage multiple voices and interests regarding climate action.

In their article, *Taking a bird's-eye view: infrastructuring bird-turbine relations during wind power controversies*, Daniel Nordstrand Frantzen, Sophie Nyborg, and Julia Kirch Kirkegaard explore what they name 'bird-turbine relations', that is, controversies relating wind turbines and birds. The authors conceptualize the wind projects and their planning processes as 'infrastructural arrangements' whereby

the environment in which the wind farms are to be placed is known and affected. In this process, Frantzen, Nyborg and Kirkegaard point to how birds can be potential allies to both opponents and proponents of wind farms. Based on this, the authors discuss the forms of politics that occur in relation to wind energy planning. These politics have consequences for whether or not wind projects are realized and how they affect their environments.

Marie Larsen Ryberg takes us to the realm of doubt in relation to processes of scientific reasoning and critique in her paper *The Benefit of the Doubt: Rethinking critique in/of scientific knowledge*. Drawing on American pragmatism and French pragmatic sociology, Ryberg inquires into reactions of doubt of university students taking courses where faculty experimented with integrating research in teaching. Through her ethnographic study, Ryberg explores the relation between doubt and critique in processes of scientific inquiry and research, probing 'the positivity of doubt', and discussing implications for how we might approach the cultivation of critique in and of scientific knowledge today.

In his paper, *War, PowerPoint, and hypnotised chickens: standards and templates at work in a military staff*, Søren Sjøgren provides new insights into the inner workings of the war machinery and how it is influenced by standardisation technologies (e.g. power points and templates). Based on interviews and ethnographic fieldwork – collected 'as an insider in a uniform' in military headquarters - Sjøgren adopts the concepts of assemblage and breakdowns to understand organisational life as socio-material practices. Sjøgren displays how standards and templates actively affect (and limit) what problems and solutions can be considered when actors in military staff organisations perform their jobs.

In their collective paper *Curating Complexities in Art, Science, and Medicine: Art, Science, and Technology Studies (ASTS) in Public Practice*, Hannah Star Rogers, Kristin D. Hussey, Louise Whiteley, Adam Bencard, Christopher Gad, and Eduardo Abrantes explore the role that art and art-science collaborations in museums and galleries can play in STS scholarship. Through an analysis of the *The World is in You*

collaboration between Medical Museion and Kunsthal Charlottenborg in Copenhagen as well as the ITU-based installation Udredning-Udtrykt, they emphasize the museum as a material public forum and curation as a form of knowing relevant to STS research. They identify emerging roles for STS scholars as facilitators, curators, and collaborators in art-science institutions. The collaboration grew out of a panel at the 2021 DASTS conference.

Nina Frahm and Kasper Schiølin in their paper *Toward an 'Ever Closer Union': The Making of AI Ethics in the EU* unfold a co-productionist reading of recent attempts on the part of EU policymakers and experts to develop a distinctive European approach to and rationale of 'AI Ethics'. The authors display how ethics guidelines presented by EU expert committees can be read as powerful instruments of socio-technical ordering around what AI - and a corollary of 'human-centric approach' to its governance - constitutes, but also how acts of delineating the ethics of AI allow us to better understand how the EU (re)constitutes itself through a dedicated commitment to 'AI Ethics'.

In *Making the 3000m2 Prototype*, Ruth Neubauer, Ksenija Kuzmina, Elke Bachlmair are also concerned with prototyping. The authors analyse and reflect on the making of one of the authors' own house as a site of negotiation between professional building practices, user practices, and material resources. Neubauer, Kuzmina and Bachlmair bring science and technology studies together with a material–reflective approach of practice–based design. The article investigates how the design and construction of the house, and everyday living technologies, like the warm water and bathroom installations, are negotiated between the users, the builders and the environmental forces. These processes prescribe the future use of the house and its technologies. The paper proposes the alignment of professional, use, and resource considerations as a form of co–design of everyday living technologies. The authors suggest that a collaborative design that incorporates both professional, use, and resource considerations can produce technologies for more sustainable living.

In the article *Everything is a prototype, but not at all in the same way: Towards an ecology of prototyping*, Liam Healy reflects on discussions from the 2022 DASTS conference concerning prototyping in design research. Specifically, Healy reflects on Ruth Neubauer and colleagues' work on 'prototyping living spaces' and Simy Gahoonia and Christopher Gad's study of the Danish Technical Comprehension ('teknologiforståelse' in Danish) pedagogical experiment. Healy relates these to his own design-research involving speculative prototypes, such as a tandem bicycle designed as an 'interview machine'. On that basis, Healy proposes a prototyping ecology of the different modes and methods involved in prototyping practices and the ways they stabilise and destabilise the situations they are part of. Healy points out that such an ecology can help us to become attuned to the ways prototypes encourage the unexpected by forming new relations and events through material intervention.

Torben Elgaard and Ann-Sofie Thorsen's empirical study *The Mixed Blessings of an Iterative Design Strategy: A case study of the handling of user representations* complicates the widely accepted idea that an iterative style of software development offers feedback from users at key points in the design process and hence creates a user-oriented type of design. Based on ethnographic fieldwork of a design team, they argue, surprisingly, that certain aspects of the iterative organization of design work may in face impede the aim of integrating user-feedback into the design process. They do so by tracing how user representations are constructed, handled, and incorporated in the design process.

In his article T*hinking Participatory Design workshops in the presence of cosmopolitics*, Peter Danholt claims that, with Isabelle Stengers' cosmopolitics and Annemarie Mol's ontological politics, it can be argued that Participatory Design workshops are events that have the capacity to produce not just new types of knowledge or new technologies and practices, but new worlds and realities. As such, he proposes to view workshops as potential 'world-building events', even if this requires a cultivation of both controversy and mutual learning, as well as a willingness to 'put accounts at risk' in order to construct better ones.

The special issue editors would like to thank the authors for their contribution to the issue and for acting as reviewers. Also, we would like to thank the organizers of the DASTS 2022 conference committee for their great work and effort. Our thanks to Astrid Meyer, Asbjørn Malte Pedersen, Claus Bossen, Kalle Kusk Gjetting, Kasper Ostrowki, Kasper Schiølin, Pablo Rodrigo Velasco González.

We hope you enjoy the issue as a whole - or in parts.