

Feminist Diffractions for Critical Transformations in Science & Technology Studies

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Open Panel abstract:

Feminist Science & Technology Studies (Feminist STS) have grown to a vibrant, constantly evolving and differentiated research field that provides a wealth of insights into how the critical in STS can be developed further. As part of Feminist STS, concepts of situatedness (Haraway 1988) and diffraction (Barad 2003) as research practices embrace the critical. Feminist STS scholars in German contexts pursued these approaches to develop self-reflexive research that investigates social inequalities, capitalist, imperialist and neo-colonial practices in science & technology. To name a few, Bath et al. (2017) suggests response-ability for critical STS, Ernst (2017) argues for emancipatory interferences in engineering, Erlemann (2024) develops re-figurations of epistemic practices to diffract the critical and Schmitz, Papenburg & Lucht (2023) identify meeting points of Feminist STS with Postcolonial Studies. In this open panel, we aim to foster dialogues among scholars who work on interventions into science and technology from Feminist STS perspectives. We invite contributions that address societal challenges that are engrained in the techno-sciences and that discuss whether and to what end science & technology can be transformed through integrating feminist paradigms into STS research including intersectional, postcolonial, de-colonial, post-humanist and queer research perspectives as well as participatory and/or experimental approaches.

Bios of panel convenors:

Martina Erlemann holds a professorship on Sociology of Science and Gender, affiliated at the Physics Department at FU Berlin. She is head of the Research Group of Gender & Science Studies in Physics. Grounding her research in STS and Feminist Science Studies, she has conducted research on workplace cultures in STEM, on nanotechnologies, sustainable food, environmental disasters and science communication throughout her career. Recently, she started a research project on quantum technologies in a feminist perspective.

Petra Lucht holds the chair "Gender in STEM and Planning / Feminist Studies in Science, Technology and Society" at Technische Universität Berlin. She has contributed to transdisciplinary research in STS on physics, nature conservation, nanotechnology, digitalization and climate change. Petra Lucht develops teaching formats and qualifying certificate programs in Feminist STS, for the Study Program Gender Pro MINT (TU Berlin), the Berlin University Alliance (Berlin) and the ENHANCE Alliance (European network of Universities of Technology).