

Fellowship Programme 2026-2027

Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society (IAS-STS)

The IAS-STS 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-STS is an institute for the enhancement of Science, Technology and Society Studies.

The IAS-STS invites researchers to apply for a stay between **1 October 2026 and 30 June 2027** as a **Research Fellow** (up to nine months) or **Visiting Scholar** (shorter period, e.g. a month).

The IAS-STS offers excellent research infrastructure, and close co-operation with researchers at the the Science, Technology and Society Unit (STS) of Graz University of Technology (<http://www.sts.tugraz.at>) and the IFZ (Interdisciplinary Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture (<http://www.ifz.at>)).

Guest lectures, colloquia, workshops, and conferences provide an atmosphere of creativity and scholarly discussion.

Furthermore, we can offer three grants, worth EUR 1.140,- per month, for long-term Research Fellows at the IAS-STS.

Applications must be submitted via E-mail to the IAS-STS **by 30 April 2026**

Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society
(IAS-STS)

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8010 Graz – Austria

E-Mail: office.sts@tugraz.at

For application forms and further information, please visit

<https://ifz.at/en/ias-sts/home>

The Fellowship Programme 2026-2027 is dedicated to projects investigating the following issues:

Towards Low-Carbon Energy and Mobility Systems

We welcome applications from researchers engaging in social studies of energy and mobility, in particular concerning transitions towards low-carbon energy and mobility systems. Projects may address sociotechnical systems and practices in heating and cooling, electricity provision and use of mobility. We also welcome projects exploring interrelations between energy or mobility transitions and wider processes of change, such as digitalisation.

Projects may analyse the roles of different actors in energy or mobility system transitions (e.g. incumbents, policy makers, energy communities, etc.) or aim for actively engaging various stakeholders with participatory methods. Furthermore, we encourage projects analysing visions and expectations concerning future energy or mobility system configurations as well as projects developing strategies for overcoming carbon lock-in in energy and mobility systems.

The Manfred Heindler Grant can be awarded to research projects concerning the increased reliance on renewable energy and more efficient energy use.

Digital Technologies

The IAS-STs invites researchers studying digital technologies from an STS perspective.

We especially welcome research who study:

Critical data science; reflecting on the ways in which we produce, collect, process and use data by means of digital technologies. We especially encourage scholars who study knowledge practices related to digital data.

Artificial Intelligence; as a reconfiguration of existing socio-technical assemblages. How do such processes of change unfold and what are possible ways forward to engage in the shaping of these new socio-technical configurations?

Computational Social Science, promises new methods to study social life. What are the epistemological implications of the new ways studying social life, both its limitations but also the opportunities that may come with it?

Gender and Intersectionality in Science and Technology

We would like to strengthen the current debate around intersectionality as a feminist concept rooted in critical race theory, and broaden the discourse in feminist STS.

On a science policy level – for instance in the European Research Area – a shift from “fixing the numbers” to “fixing the institutions” and “fixing the knowledge” was proclaimed in the last years. This meant instead of only bringing more women into science and technology, organizational cultures should be fixed with gender equality plans, and knowledge and innovations should be analyzed and developed with a gender lens. However, scholars from gender studies, critical race theory, postcolonial and queer as well as critical diversity studies criticized that these propositions were often executed as ticking the boxes exercises, and the powerful feminist and critical race theories about systems of oppression and structures of discrimination stayed untouched and unchallenged.

We are inviting gender scholars challenging the current gender science policy discourse respectively expanding our knowledge about intersectionality in theory and methodology.

This comprises research about “fixing the numbers”, analyzing race, class, sexualities and other social and/or identity markers along gender, as well as research on “fixing the institutions” asking how for instance gender equality plans can be truly informed by intersectionality or critical diversity theory. Another relevant issue in this area is the transformation of academia and research itself towards more inclusiveness, academic kindness, responsible and ethical research, recognizing academic care work, and challenging neoliberal mechanisms in academia etc. – in short a cultural change.

Finally, we are interested in research in the realm of “fixing the knowledge”, which recognizes the complexities of intersectionality in research and innovation. We are especially inviting scholars working on topics connected to our research areas: biodiversity, sustainable food systems and urban green spaces; sustainable mobility and logistics; energy, construction and housing; sustainability and security discourses in public procurement; health technologies and medical engineering; science and technology education; and digitalization and artificial intelligence.

Sustainable Food Systems

Ensuring food and nutrition security, food quality and safety, handling resource scarcity and 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 is on governance mechanisms, policies and integrated approaches, and their (potential) contribution to a wider transformation towards more sustainable and socially just cities, regions and societies. Applications, which address issues around the topic of food justice are highly welcome.