Call for papers

Critical engagement vs. technophobia: The risks of emerging technologies

Workshop

Organized by Research Network 24 – Sociology of Science and Technology Network (SSTNET) of the European Sociological Association (ESA) and University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, Slovenia

Keynote speakers

Prof. Dr. Armin Grunwald and Prof. Dr. Joost van Loon

October 11 – 12, 2018, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana

The development and proliferation of emerging technologies have a strong impact on current society. While emerging technologies are found in different fields – from biotechnology and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to robotics and cognitive technologies – they share the capacity to transform the social world into a world of becoming. Discussions on the processes through which emerging technologies are developed and disseminated into current society also contain different kinds of risk assessment, including issues of social, ethical, environmental and legal implications. Risk and risk management are thus intimately linked to the proliferation of emerging technologies. Saying this, critical sociological discussion of current concepts of risk, risk management and risk governance of emerging technologies is timely and highly needed. As social scientists, we need to take the current progression of emerging technologies seriously, not by dismissing these technologies altogether, but by *critically engaging* with their developments and our societal capacities to shape them.

During this two-days workshop, we will engage in different aspects of *critical engagement* in relation to emerging technologies. The aim is to open up for discussions regarding the development and proliferation of emerging technologies in today's society.

We encourage contributions that focus on risks with emerging technologies, including issues of social, ethical, environmental and legal implications.

We particularly encourage contributions on the following topics:

- Accounting for the unknown unknowns.
- Social governance of emerging technologies.
- Precautionary and/or proactive approaches.
- The relation between development of emerging technologies and the development of regulatory frameworks.
- Engagement of the lay public and experts in relation to emerging technologies.
- Risk assessment of emerging technologies in the context of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI).
- Promises, future visions, expectations, imaginaries connected to the progress of emerging technologies.
- Techno-utopianism and techno-dystopianism.

However, potential contributions are not limited to these topics and contributors are also encouraged to suggest new perspectives within the field of social sciences.

Key dates:

An abstract of up to 500 words, containing an outline of the paper, including methodology as well as the expected contribution of the paper, should be submitted online trough webpage: https://www.1ka.si/a/156548

June 30, 2018	Deadline for submission
July 16, 2018	Notification of acceptance

Workshop Organizing Committee:

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No fees are charged for participation and no founds are available from the SSTNET to cover travel and accommodation expenses. Further information about the workshop venue, accommodation and useful details about the host-city, will be provided later.