

STS-HUB.de 2023 | CIRCULATIONS

March 15th-17th 2023 | Human Technology Center Aachen | Call for abstracts

ABOUT THE HUB MEETING

Circulation is one of the key organising principles of present-day societies, but at the same time constitutes contested dynamics. We call for empirical studies and critical reflections on the circulation of research objects, knowledge, instruments, experts, and skills in technoscientific configurations. Contributions could approach circulation with familiar STS sensitising concepts, such as infrastructure, translation, power, and care. So, let's circulate! (<https://sts-hub.de/CallForPanelsSTS-hub.de2023.pdf>)

CIRCULATIONS | INFRASTRUCTURE & MATERIALITY

If circulations are assumed "one of the key organizing principles", so is infrastructure - either as a circulations enablement, or as the result of ongoing circulation, the erosion and homeostatic grind of a river's bed. Although circulations can be conceived as a rather abstract and mental process, there is no such thing as circulation that can flow without the use of floating files, channels, common language, pipelines and circuits. With them, efforts of maintenance become due, and like physical circulations must cause entropy, social circulations must perform shifts within consistencies.

However, infrastructure is one conceptual response to this insight. It lays weight particularly on the materiality that accompanies practice and grounds discourses. Hence, we are going to refer to classic conceptualizations of the social: discourse, practice and infrastructure. We argue that those vantage points erect a vast field including different features of research objects, which are sufficiently distinct to demand differentiation in study, yet do require each other at their scope's horizon in order to respect completeness. In conclusion, we argue that this triad is an outstandingly effective and apt vehicle of understanding socio-technical complexes.

Discourses in and with their orders can also be understood as entities and formations that can be thought of as infrastructures and linguistically materializing forms of what is sayable, doable and thinkable. Discourses thereby follow certain regulations and policies that have a decisive influence on the construction and constitution of reality and thus also to the possible malleability of infrastructures and materiality.

Likewise, praxis, practice, or - more complicated phrased - ecologies and circulations of behavior are established theories of the social to understand the realms of possibilities (or that which is thinkable, doable, or sayable within discourse) and specific, materially embedded routines, that - like infrastructures - render events and ontologies possible, feasible, and eventually real.

Therefore, we want to call for contributions that illustrate the need or use of those concepts in different disciplines and the different fields and cases of science and technology studies they produce and process. In this panel we want to approach these questions of materiality and infrastructures from a discursive and praxeological perspective.

Possible questions we want to explore together are:

- | How can discourses and practices in different contexts and with the 'glasses' of different disciplines be understood against the background of infrastructural formations and materiality and its agency?
- | What *conditions* underlie discursive and praxeological formations?
- | How do discourses and practices of *negotiation* take shape and
- | what structural *effects* result from them?
- | What's risks and opportunities derive from the use of such concepts in specific, empirical cases?

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT

Please send your abstract (**300 - 500 words**) and a short biographical note until **October 16th 2022** to **all three** panel organizers:

- | Nicole Lühring | Augsburg University | nicole.luehring@phil.uni-augsburg.de
- | Suzette Kahlert | European New School of Digital Studies | skahlert@europa-uni.de
- | Peter Kahlert | European New School of Digital Studies | kahlert@europa-uni.de