

Nomination Letter (EASST Council)

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I am convinced that, as an academic community, we need to amplify our efforts to strengthen STS. This is a key endeavor not only for the sake of knowledge per se, but primarily because we find ourselves in the midst of significant societal changes. As STS scholars, I feel we can provide a better understanding of the interactions between the politics of knowledge and the transformations of liberal democracies. To this end, we take on three challenges: (i) renewing a bold and ambitious research agenda; (ii) opening STS to society, not just through individual contributions to public debate or in our expert/advisory capacity, but also collectively through partnerships with civil society organisations; (iii) training the new generation of STSers to be prepared to work both within and outside of academia. I will draw on my rich and diverse experience in these activities to help the Council address these challenges. Throughout my career as a researcher, I have learned how exciting it is to work in boundary spaces: boundaries between disciplines when interacting with other research fields such as history, innovation studies, public policy, economic sociology and digital studies; boundaries between different worlds when interacting with public authorities and societal actors; boundaries between different parts of the world when developing international collaborations, especially with countries where STS research is still emerging. With its European identity still 'in the making', EASST has a key role to play in addressing these challenges. If elected, I would be honored to contribute to these efforts.