

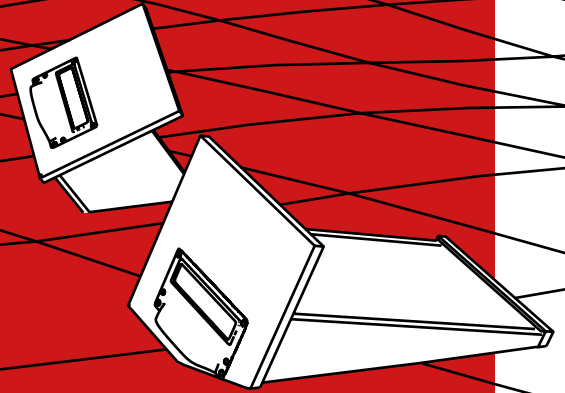
RRC and c:o/re international conference

# Nowhere(to)land?

What Science Studies Contribute  
to Science Communication

14–16 June 2023

Forum Internationale Wissenschaft  
University of Bonn



rhine ruhr  
center for science communication  
research



Käte Hamburger Kolleg  
Cultures of Research

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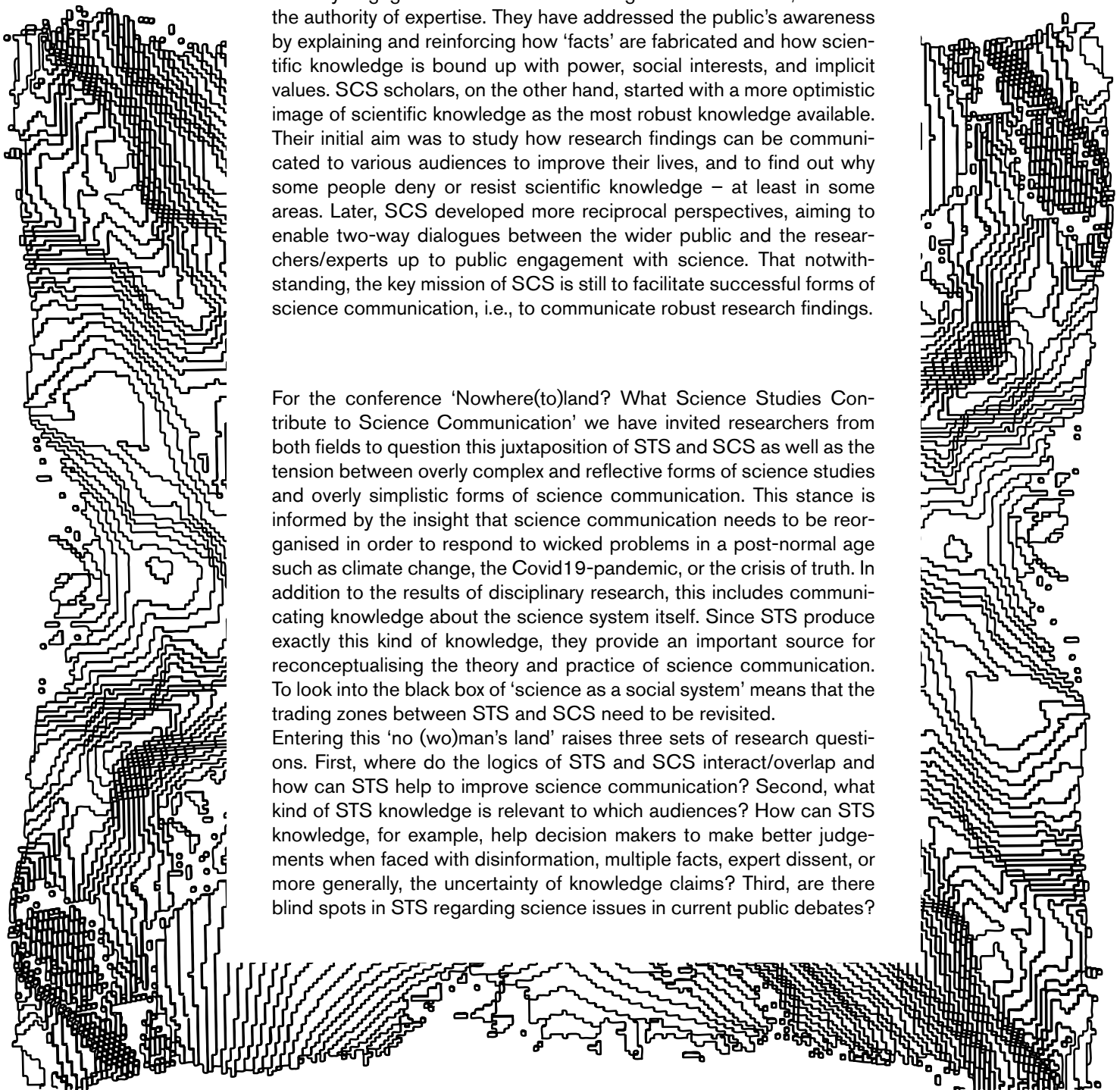
# Concept

Collaboration between Science and Technology Studies (STS) and Science Communication Studies (SCS) has not been strong so far. At first glance, this is surprising since STS and SCS scholars deal with similar subject areas such as the practice of academic research, the development of scientific knowledge, or the role of scientists in society. A closer look, however, reveals that, as communities, STS and SCS have followed different trajectories that result in different identities, motivations, and interests.

On the one hand, STS scholars have regularly aimed to open up the black box of the laboratory and the inner world of research. They have critically engaged with scientific knowledge and truth claims, and with the authority of expertise. They have addressed the public's awareness by explaining and reinforcing how 'facts' are fabricated and how scientific knowledge is bound up with power, social interests, and implicit values. SCS scholars, on the other hand, started with a more optimistic image of scientific knowledge as the most robust knowledge available. Their initial aim was to study how research findings can be communicated to various audiences to improve their lives, and to find out why some people deny or resist scientific knowledge – at least in some areas. Later, SCS developed more reciprocal perspectives, aiming to enable two-way dialogues between the wider public and the researchers/experts up to public engagement with science. That notwithstanding, the key mission of SCS is still to facilitate successful forms of science communication, i.e., to communicate robust research findings.

For the conference 'Nowhere(to)land? What Science Studies Contribute to Science Communication' we have invited researchers from both fields to question this juxtaposition of STS and SCS as well as the tension between overly complex and reflective forms of science studies and overly simplistic forms of science communication. This stance is informed by the insight that science communication needs to be reorganised in order to respond to wicked problems in a post-normal age such as climate change, the Covid19-pandemic, or the crisis of truth. In addition to the results of disciplinary research, this includes communicating knowledge about the science system itself. Since STS produce exactly this kind of knowledge, they provide an important source for reconceptualising the theory and practice of science communication. To look into the black box of 'science as a social system' means that the trading zones between STS and SCS need to be revisited.

Entering this 'no (wo)man's land' raises three sets of research questions. First, where do the logics of STS and SCS interact/overlap and how can STS help to improve science communication? Second, what kind of STS knowledge is relevant to which audiences? How can STS knowledge, for example, help decision makers to make better judgments when faced with disinformation, multiple facts, expert dissent, or more generally, the uncertainty of knowledge claims? Third, are there blind spots in STS regarding science issues in current public debates?



# Program

## 14 June 2023 (Wednesday)

13:00–14:00 Registration

14:00 Welcome

14:30 **Keynote: Sarah Davies (University of Vienna)**

*Science communication as world-making: What STS can offer SCS*

Chair: David Kaldewey

15:30 Coffee

16:00–17:30 Workshops

### Workshop 1: Scientific controversies in the post-truth era

Chair: Pascal Berger

- **Katharina Berr** (Weizenbaum Institute, Berlin):  
*Allies of expertise: The boundary-work of science fans*
- **Helen Fischer** (Leibniz Institut für Wissensmedien, Tübingen):  
*The zone-flooding strategy: Cognitive effects of noisy vs. false-only information on politicized science*
- **Youssef Ibrahim** (University of Hamburg) & **Julia Schubert** (University of Speyer):  
*Why climate communication has gotten worse – and how Science (Studies) might help*
- **Nona Schulte-Römer** (Humboldt University of Berlin):  
*Towards diplomacy – an STS approach to incompatible worlds of science. Communication regarding the effects of Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)*

### Workshop 2: The diversity of knowledge transfer practices

Chair: Tobias Kreutzer

- **Hanne Marit Henriksen** (Norwegian University of Science and Technology):  
*The entanglement of knowledge production and science communication*
- **Melike Janßen & Annika Just** (German Center for Higher Education Research and Science Studies, Berlin):  
*On epistemic properties and field-specific logics: Examining the potential of STS for the study of discipline-based knowledge transfer practices*
- **Silvio Suckow & Jan Wetzel** (WZB Berlin Social Science Center):  
*What can science communication do? Reflexive practice, target audience and evaluation*
- **Clarissa Elisa Walter** (Weizenbaum Institute, Berlin):  
*Between scientific and journalistic practices: Co-creating science communication in the digital*

18:00 **Keynote: Martin Bauer (London School of Economics and Political Science)**

*The language games of science communication*

Chair: Julika Griem

19:00 Reception (in the garden)

# 15 June 2023 (Thursday)

9:00 **Erika Szymanski** (Colorado State University)  
*Re-examining (shared) knowledge grounds to avoid reinscribing the deficit model*  
Chair: Holger Wormer

10:00 Coffee

10:30–12:00 Workshops

## Workshop 3: The transformation of publication practices

Chair: Stefan Priester

- **Isabelle Dorsch** (Leibniz Information Center for Economics, Kiel):  
*Assessing the impact of Open Science publishing practices in the course of the Covid-19 Pandemic*
- **Sebastian Koth** (Weizenbaum Institute, Berlin):  
*Techno-epistemic organizing for science communication: Between platforms and protocols*
- **Steffen Lemke** (University of Kiel) & **Meik Bittkowski** (SMC, Cologne):  
*How to make open scholarly data beneficial to science and journalism? A generative dataset on Covid-19 preprints*
- **Phillip Roth** (RWTH Aachen, Käte Hamburger Kolleg Cultures of Research):  
*How media imagine publics in science. On the material conditions of scientific communication and their cultural implications*

## Workshop 4: Ways of participation

Chair: Stefan Böschen

- **Claudia Mendes** (University of Hamburg):  
*Fostering co-creative research at the University of Hamburg*
- **Monique Oliveira** (State University of Campinas, Brazil):  
*Scientific controversies in Brazil and STS*
- **Nithyanand Rao** (University of California, San Diego):  
*Science communication and the political: How we (in India) have always been post-truth*
- **Philipp Schrögel** (University of Heidelberg, Käte Hamburger Centre for Apocalyptic and Post-Apocalyptic Studies):  
*Science communication and participation - Looking behind the labels*

12:00 Lunch

13:30 **T.Y. Branch** (University of Cologne):  
*How POS 'Scaffolding' can support the bridge between STS and SCS*  
Chair: Gabriele Gramelsberger

14:30 Coffee

15:00–16:30 Workshops

## Workshop 5: Art-based conversations

Chair: Kris Decker

- **Daniela Boraschi** (University of Cambridge):  
*Discovery ethics: A framework for fostering art-based conversations between scientists and the public about the ethics of scientific discovery*
- **Clarissa Lee** (RWTH Aachen, Käte Hamburger Kolleg Cultures of Research):  
*Artscience: Intervening in the wicked problems of technoscience*
- **Zinaida Vasilyeva** (TU Munich):  
*Doing STS in/with Space Art: Between science communication and collaborative approach*

## Workshop 6: Mapping the interconnectedness of STS and SCS

Chair: David Kaldewey

- Workshop with **Ewa Zegler-Poleska** (University of Warsaw), using bibliographic databases and visualization tools

18:00 Dinner (at DelikArt)

## 16 June 2023 (Friday)

9:00 **Fabien Medvecky** (University of Otago, New Zealand):  
*Normative twists and turns in social knowledge-making:  
Insights from Social Epistemology*  
Chair: Pascal Berger

10:00 Coffee

10:30–12:00 Workshops

### Workshop 7: Science communication as an emerging intermediary field

Chair: Holger Wormer

- **Liliann Fischer** (University of Passau):  
*New intermediaries – what STS and SCS can contribute to understanding professional science communicators*
- **Claudia Göbel** (University of Mainz):  
*Boundary management: Complementing the understanding of science-public relations with an organizational perspective*
- **Frauke Domgörgen** (University of Bonn), **Tobias Kreutzer** (TU Dortmund):  
*Images and imaginations of science in the science journalism community*
- **Pascal Berger** (University of Bonn), **David Kaldewey** (University of Bonn) & **Oliver Ruf** (Bonn-Rhine-Sieg University of Applied Sciences):  
*Citizen Science Communication*

### Workshop 8: Technological futures and vision assessments

Chair: Stefan Bösch

- **Dominic Lammar** (TU Munich):  
*The German AI communication ecosystem: Tracing the contested meanings of an emerging technology in public debates*
- **Maximilian Roßmann** (Maastricht University):  
*Communicating technology futures – between scientific scenarios and science fiction*
- **Franziska Weidle** (Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg):  
*Serious games as a vehicle to mediate response-able action (tbc)*

12:00 Lunch

13:30–14:30 *Wrap up and co-creating content for the RRC Living Handbook*  
Chair: Martina Franzen

14:30 End of Conference

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