

## 5th STS-CH Conference

University of Lausanne, 7-9 September 2020



# Multiple Matters

*From neglected things to arts of noticing fragility*

## Conference Rationale

Over the past decades, in the face of natural hazards, economic collapses, democratic deficits and other forms of daunting setbacks, a prosperous body of literature has emerged to address the precariousness, complexity and plurality of things, beings and their coexistence. Within this literature emerging from Science and Technology studies, as well as from bordering disciplines, various debates have suggested the fragility of not only the Earth and its ecosystems, but also of large technical systems, forms of life, human bodies and scientific knowledge. Different scholars and researchers have argued that such cataclysms offer us potential pathways to rethink the emergence and composition of heterogeneous worlds, the relations between various ecologies of possibility, so as to reconnect with non-human forms, values, actors and species. Many of them argue for re-imagining the politics of inquiry to develop arts of noticing the “thickness” or “togetherness” of the actual and multiple worlds we inhabit.

Building on these debates, this international conference invites contributions that engage empirically, but also methodologically or theoretically, with fragile futures. The aim is to reassess the recent contributions of STS and beyond to the study of emerging worlds by gathering scholars from both inside and outside this field of research. Through different formats (workshops, thematic panels, exhibitions, art performances, round tables etc.), our objective is to address how such approaches can have significant impact on the understanding of contemporary issues such as climate change, artificial intelligence, knowledge politics, maintenance and repair, heritage and futurism, open innovation, migration and border studies and care practices by capturing how they participate in reinventing worlds in the making. We welcome all proposals that allow for fruitful exchanges, experimental collaborations and speculative modes of engagement between academics from various disciplines, but also with and among activists, artists, and anyone concerned.

Like former editions before the Swiss STS Meeting 2020 is intended to encourage and promote the social, historical and philosophical study of sciences in Switzerland. This event lasts for three days and aims at bringing together STS scholars of all career levels.

## Submission formats

It is possible to submit either a paper or a panel. Multiple submissions are permitted in principle. In order to give a maximum of people an opportunity to participate in the conference, the organizers may take multiple authorship into consideration when making final decisions.

## Important dates

March 31, 2020: Deadline for paper and panel submissions

April 30, 2020: Notification acceptance or rejection

May 31, 2020: Publication of the conference programme

June 30, 2020: Closing date for registration

September 7-9, 2020: Conference

## Paper submission

Paper proposals should be submitted via this [form](#), by **31 March 2020**. We welcome proposals covering a wide variety of topics and domains, including (but not limited to) the following:

- Climate change and environmental sciences
- Artificial intelligence and algorithm studies
- Knowledge politics and post-truth
- Maintenance and repair studies
- Heritage and futurism
- Migration and border studies
- Medicine and environmental health
- Gender studies and material feminism
- Communication infrastructure and digital technologies
- Hacking, DIY and open innovation
- Market devices and the platform economy
- Digital cities, open government and platform urbanism
- Participatory design and experimental infrastructures
- Media studies and web philosophy

The organizers will group paper proposals into panels.

Submissions for papers should be written in English. They should include the name and contact details (email address and affiliation) of the proposer, the title of the proposal and an abstract of **no more than 250 words**.

## Panel submission

Panel proposals should be submitted via this [form](#), by **31 March 2020**. Along with traditional academic sessions, the submission of alternative formats is encouraged. These can include (but are not limited to) roundtables, workshop style sessions, art

performances, exhibitions, and other performances. We welcome panels covering the above topics or any other relevant issue.

Panels will be comprised of 3 to 6 papers. Submissions for panel should be written in English and include:

- The names and contact details of convenors (email addresses and affiliation).
- The short description of the proposed theme (**max. 200 words**).
- The list of Participants and Titles of their papers.

Participants in proposed panels must submit their paper individually in addition to the panel submission.

Convenors will be responsible for organizing their panel according to the constraints specified by the conference organizers. The organizers might ask convenors to include additional papers that fit into their panels.

### **Conference Fee (including STS-CH membership for one year)**

Regular: 100 CHF

Student: 50 CHF

Exemptions possible on demand

### **About STS-CH**

Since the Swiss Association for the Study of Science, Technology and Society (STS-CH) was founded in Bern in 2001, several meetings and panels have been organized in cooperation with different universities and research institutes (STS-Summer School in Lausanne, 2001; EASST conference in Lausanne, 2006; Swiss STS Meeting “ScienceFutures” in Zurich, 2008; “Kinds of Science Going Neuro” in Basel, 2010; “Collecting, organizing, trading big data” in Lausanne, 2014).

### **Partner institutions:**

Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences, Institute of social science (University of Lausanne), STS-Lab (University of Lausanne), ColLaboratoire (University of Lausanne), Confucius Institute (University of Geneva), Maison d'analyse des processus sociaux (University of Neuchâtel), Rethinking Public Participation in Science research group (University of Geneva).

**Organizing committee:** Nicolas Baya Laffite (UNIL), Nolwenn Bühler (UNINE/UNIL), Giada Danesi (UNIL), Laetitia Della Bianca (UNIL), Anna Jobin (ETHZ), Julio Paulos (HU Berlin), Loïc Riom (Mines-ParisTech), Tanja Schneider (UNISG).

**Local committee:** Marc Audétat (UNIL), Olivier Glassey (UNIL), Cynthia Kraus (UNIL), Alain Kaufmann (UNIL), Francesco Panese (UNIL), Dominique Vinck (UNIL), Gianluigi Viscusi (EPFL).

**Contact:** [contact@sts-ch.org](mailto:contact@sts-ch.org)