

# Program on Science, Technology & Society

Harvard Kennedy School

## 2025 Newsletter

Harvard University

### A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of STS@Harvard,

As 2025 winds down, I am happy to share another report of a busy year in Harvard's STS Program. A quarter-century into a new millennium should be a moment of positive reflection, but in these uncertain and often dispiriting times, hope and a sense of forward movement seem in shorter supply than usual. For our growing STS community, however, there were many things to celebrate this year, and I am delighted to end it on a note of optimism.

The brightest news concerns the many **junior and early career scholars** who contributed to the Program, itself approaching its 25-year mark. Last May, the Kennedy School graduated the first crop of students enrolled in the **Ph.D. and M.A. tracks** that attract STS students concerned with ethics, public policy and emerging technologies. Our freshly minted Ph.D.'s all landed prestigious postdoctoral positions, testifying to the broad appeal of STS training at Harvard. In October, the organizers of the **Graduate Research in STS (GRiSTS)** conferences hosted the sixth event in the series, featuring work by mainly regional scholars on **resistance movements** against intrusive technologies. The **STS Summer School** held in August welcomed presentations of works-in-progress by about a dozen junior scholars. Throughout the year, the **Undergraduate STS Fellows** continued their enthusiastic encounter with STS, hosting a workshop last April on the theme of **Universities in Crisis**.

The **Global Observatory for Genome Editing**, with invaluable support from the Templeton Foundation and McQuillan Institute for Science, Technology and the Human Future, completed its milestone final year with an **International Summit** in May. The event brought together high-level international and interdisciplinary conversation partners committed to exploring the ethical implications of biotechnologies that have the power to change human nature. It produced a call for a **Charter on Emerging Technologies and Human Dignity** authored by the Organizing Committee, as well as a group of essays in a special issue of *The CRISPR Journal*.

As always, the **Fellow milestones** offer an ongoing picture of the research projects and publications emerging from our far-flung network, including books this year by **Aziza Ahmed, Justin Raycraft, Trina Vithayathil**, and **Alex Wellerstein**.

The Program also continued its regular activities with the weekly **STS Circle**, the **Science and Democracy** lectures, and the **STS Undergraduate Essay Prize**, as well as numerous workshops and events on contemporary national and international issues organized by resident **STS Fellows**. We hope you enjoy reading the details of all these engagements in this newsletter.

With cordial wishes for 2026,



Program on  
**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY**

HARVARD Kennedy School

[sts.hks.harvard.edu](https://sts.hks.harvard.edu)

# Science and Democracy Lecture

**Science and Democracy** is a lecture series exploring the promised benefits of our era's most salient scientific and technological achievements and the potentially harmful consequences of developments that are inadequately understood, debated, or managed by politicians, publics, and policy institutions. The lectures are supported by the McQuillan Institute for Science, Technology and the Human Future and co-sponsored by the Harvard University Center for the Environment and the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs.

## Allison Stanger

December 11, 2025

**Allison Stanger**, Distinguished Endowed Professor at Middlebury College, delivered the Fall 2025 Science and Democracy Lecture. Her talk “**Who Elected Big Tech?**” previewed her forthcoming book with Yale University Press which explores how private technology companies have come to wield political control without traditional modes of constitutional accountability. Stanger calls for a digital future built by public coalitions for not-for-profit technology development in order to rectify what she describes as a “First Amendment mismatch” between the Constitutional guarantee that governs free speech and the realities of today's digital landscape. The panel of respondents featured **Marc Aidinoff** (History of Science, Harvard University), **Nicole West Bassoff** (Digital Technology for Democracy Lab, University of Virginia), and **Christian Sandvig** (School of Information, University of Michigan). **Sheila Jasanoff** moderated a discussion reflecting on the relationships between governments and corporations across scales and the ways that citizens might regain democratic control over the technologies of the digital age.



From top to bottom: Stanger; poster by Alex Wellerstein; panel discussion.





# Events and Initiatives

The STS Program offers a vibrant model for One Harvard through outreach not only to the College but to other professional schools and research centers, most notably the Institute for Global Law and Policy at Harvard Law School, the Harvard University Center for the Environment, the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. These broad and diverse connections have powered the Program's range of activities, including many of our public events.

## Workshops

In April, STS Fellows collaborated with the **Science Policy Group** from Harvard's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences to host a [workshop](#) titled “**What's Happening With Federal Funding of Research? Understanding the administration's recent changes.**” The event included presentations by **Willie May** (Former President, American Association for the Advancement of Science), **Lisa Margonelli** (Editor-in-Chief, Issues in Science and Technology), **Yasheng Huang** (Economics and Management, MIT Sloan), **Arthur Daemmrich** (Director of Arizona State University Consortium for Science, Policy, and Outcomes), and **David Guston** (School for the Future of Innovation in Society, Arizona State University). The cross-panel discussion, moderated by **Sheila Jasanoff**, contextualized recent disruptions to higher education funding within longstanding *de facto* constitutional arrangements between the American state and its support for academic research.



STS Ph.D. candidate Pariroo Rattan and Madhulika Banerjee

In May, STS Fellow **Akshay Bhambri** invited **Madhulika Banerjee** (Professor in Political Science, University of Delhi) to [present](#) her work on “**Exploring the Materiality of Indian Knowledge Systems: Ayurveda, Artisans and Tribal Initiatives.**” Her presentation explored the dynamic nature of Ayurveda and “traditional” knowledge systems. She argued that the adaptiveness of these systems gives them contemporary relevance, notably offering alternatives to dominant ways of ordering knowledge and production in contemporary societies.

## STS Circle

The [STS Circle](#) continued to present work by Harvard and area researchers on contemporary issues in science, technology and society, with support from the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Chaired by STS Ph.D. candidates **Lou Lennad** in the Spring and **Justin Wong** in the Fall, the line-up included a mix of 21 junior scholars and senior faculty working in STS and related fields, such as **Mason Barnard** (HLS) and **Gili Kliger** (Stanford). Talk topics ranged from the politics of innovation and environmental controversies across national contexts to the governance of digital transformations from urban to global scales. STS Secondary Fielders **Jeff Fossett**, **Kyle Schirmann**, **Michael Zanger-Tishler**, and **Shira Zilberstein** presented in the series, alongside longtime friends of the Program such as **Graham Jones** (MIT Anthropology) and **Venky Narayanamurti** (Harvard SEAS).



Left to right: Narayanamurti & Wong; Gili Kliger; former STS Fellow Mason Barnard; Aishani Aatresh, Katie Burstein, and Pariroo Rattan at Nicole Bassoff's Spring 2025 Circle talk.

# Events and Initiatives (cont.)

## Graduate Research in STS (GRiSTS)

The 6th annual conference for **Graduate Research in STS (GRiSTS)** at the Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard University Center for the Environment revolved around the theme **Resistance Unbound: Technologies of Imagination in the Public Square**. The conference brought together 22 student speakers and 5 faculty discussants from 12 universities in the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada to reflect on how actors envision and contest what makes for good forms of knowledge and collective life. Presentations across 5 student panels addressed ideas of legitimate expertise, good citizenship, and accountable governance raised by resistance movements around the world in relation to technological development. The keynote, **On the March or in Retreat? Testing Times for Democracy and Technology**, featured Professors **Aziza Ahmed** (Boston University Law), **Archon Fung** (Harvard Kennedy School), **Neal Leavitt** (Boston University Philosophy), and **Sebastian Pfotenhauer** (Technical University of Munich STS), moderated by **Sheila Jasanoff**. A public dialogue between **Nicole West Bassoff** and **Mark Lannigan** (Office of U.S. Senator Ed Markey) addressed prevailing narratives about AI and policy-making, as well as promising ways to recenter human dignity and democracy in the governance of emerging technologies. **Aishani Aatresh**, **Henry Austin**, **Lou Lennad**, **Conor McGlynn**, and **Justin Wong** organized the conference, with support from **Nicole** and fellow recent Ph.D.'s **Hilton Simmet**, who designed the visuals for GRiSTS, and **Pariroo Rattan**. The full program can be viewed on the [GRiSTS website](#).



From top to bottom: Student panel with STS Fellows Krystian Łukasik and Guilherme Rosso and STS Secondary Fielder Guy Priver; Keynote Panel; Bassoff and Lannigan.

## Director's News

This year brought opportunities for new explorations and new conversations across disciplines and cultures. In June, Sheila attended (together with Global Observatory team-mates **Henry Austin** and **Ben Hurlbut**) a conference on [Buddhism and Bioengineering Life](#) hosted by the Woodenfish Foundation in Taipei, Taiwan. Along with the invitation to present the Global Observatory's work in Asia, that visit also brought welcome occasions to reconnect with close colleagues from **East Asian Science, Technology and Society**. Visiting East Asia gave Jay and Sheila the launch pad for a memorable second trip to Cambodia to revisit Angkor Wat after more than 50 years. After the Summer School and SDN meeting, the fall semester continued on a high, if also demanding, note with Sheila's [Clarendon Law Lectures](#) in Oxford in November, and a chance to connect with many friends in the UK, including former students and advisees from STS@Harvard. A dense ending to the year brought lectures in Paris and Karlsruhe, as well as former Fellow **Marlise Schneider**'s successful Ph.D. thesis defense at the STS Department, Technical University of Munich (TUM). For a fuller account of her research, writing, and service, visit Sheila's [website](#).



Top: Angkor Wat; Bottom: Dinner with students in Oxford.



# Science and Democracy Network

## STS Summer School

2025 introduced a new format for the STS Summer School @ Harvard. Supported by the McQuillan Institute for Science, Technology and the Human Future (MIST), the Summer School paired 13 junior scholars as students with 13 faculty guests from the U.S. and Europe. Student papers drew on research conducted in approximately 10 different countries on topics such as the politics of ecological transitions and the registers of persuasive evidence for public policy. The summer school also involved plenary learning sessions on academic writing and the STS analytic lexicon. **Hilton Simmet** created an arresting new way to present and integrate the crib sheet of core STS concepts that he designed together with **Sheila Jasanoff** and **Ben Hurlbut**. The [Summer School website](#) offers additional details about the attendees and program, which was coordinated by MIST Researcher and Editorial Manager **T.J. Foley**.

*Bottom: Hilton Simmet, Melanie Smallman, Gabriel Dorthé, Hadrien Macq.*



## SDN Annual Meeting

For its 24th annual meeting, the **Science and Democracy Network** convened at Harvard University from August 28-30. The program featured 7 paper panels and drew over 60 attendees, including students of the STS Summer School. Participants also engaged in 3 special sessions to discuss contemporary challenges and possibilities of renewal in critical scholarship and academic institutions. The public panel “**Has Legal Critique Run Out of Steam?**” brought together **Aziza Ahmed** (Boston University Law School), **David Kennedy** (Harvard Law School), **Zinaida Miller** (Northeastern School of Law), and **Kaushik Sunder Rajan** (University of Chicago) in conversation with **Sheila Jasanoff**. Sheila also led a discussion on how “**STS Meets the Moment**” in research centers around the world, with reflections from **Pierre Delvenne** (University of Liège), **Ben Hurlbut** (Arizona State University), **Brice Laurent** (Centre de Sociologie de l'Innovation), **Sebastian Pfotenhauer** (Technical University of Munich), and **Melanie Smallman** (University College London). Finally, Melanie moderated a roundtable on **Universities and Academic Freedom** with **Craig Calhoun** (Arizona State University), **Julie Reuben** (Harvard Graduate School of Education), and **Margo Boenig-Liptsin** (ETH Zürich). The full program is publicly available on the [SDN website](#). SDN members can log in to watch recordings of the sessions.



Top: Reuben, Boenig-Liptsin, Calhoun; Left: Lou Lennad; Right: T.J. Foley, Nicole West Bassoff, Alberto Aparicio, Alexander Wentland, Conor McGlynn.



# STePS at Harvard

Veteran STS Fellows **Nicole West Basso**, **Pariroo Rattan**, and **Hilton Simmet** defended their dissertations this year! They are the first three graduates from the Science, Technology and Policy Studies track (STePS) of the Harvard Kennedy School Ph.D. program in Public Policy.



Nicole's dissertation, "**Can Cities Be Smart? Urban Governance in the Digital Age**," is a comparative study of the different ways that U.S. cities and citizens over the 2010s advanced powerful imaginaries of digital democracy by foregrounding local expectations for political agency and representation in setting the terms of urban progress. Nicole continues her work on urban politics and digitization as a postdoctoral research fellow at the Digital Technology for Democracy Lab at the University of Virginia.

*Committee, left to right: Archon Fung, Sheila Jasanoff, Diane Davis, and Mathias Risse, with Nicole center.*

Pariroo examined the relationship between digitization and nation-building through an ethnographic and historical study titled "**A Marketplace for Populism: The Moral Politics of Digitization in India's Informal Economy**." She explored how street vendors in a New Delhi market have embraced digital biometric and payment platforms despite frequent technical breakdowns and how these technologies have supported a populist politics favoring the incumbent government. Now at Northwestern University, Pariroo is the Weinberg College Postdoctoral Fellow in Science in Human Culture and the Department of Sociology.



*Committee, with Pariroo center: Sheila Jasanoff, Will Deringer; Jean Comaroff, Sai Reddy (not pictured).*



*Committee, left to right: Eric Beerbohm, Lucas Chancel (on screen), Sheila Jasanoff, Brice Laurent, and Ben Hurlbut, with Hilton center.*

In "**Just Economics: Inequality and Political Culture in Cross-National Perspective**," Hilton studied how leading economists in the US, France, and India developed scientific methods to translate political understandings of justice and inequality into paradigms of public policy reflecting national political cultures. As a Research Associate at the Research Institute for Sustainability in Potsdam, Germany, he is looking at the emergence of the "growth paradigm" in economic thought, highlighting how economists have repeatedly turned to technological development as a solution to the problem of planetary limits.



*Pariroo, Nicole, and Hilton receive commemorative etchings from former Fellow Mak Takahashi at the SDN meeting in August, shortly after Pariroo's defense.*



*Nicole, Sheila, and Hilton at Harvard Commencement in May.*



# Training and Curricular Activities

## Fifteenth Annual STS Undergraduate Essay Contest

The annual Undergraduate STS Essay Prize competition drew several dozen submissions from Harvard College students concentrating in subjects across the humanities and natural and social sciences. Social Studies concentrator and STS Undergraduate Fellow **Maya Rosen** '25 won the competition with the chapter "Typhoid Jenny" from her thesis "Prescribing Liberty: Medical Freedom Movements in America, 1910-1931." Honorable mentions were awarded to **Eamon O'Cearuil** (Environmental Science and Public Policy '25) and STS Undergraduate Fellow **Katie Burstein** (Classics & History and Science '25). Learn more about the prize and see past winners speak about their work [here](#).



*Eamon O'Cearuil, Maya Rosen, and Katie Burstein.*

## STS Undergraduate Fellowship

The STS Undergraduate Fellows concluded the 2024-2025 school year by hosting a second [workshop](#) in the "University in Crisis?" series. With two cross-student and faculty panels, "**Smart Education in the Age of Artificial Intelligence**" critically examined what technology is doing to student experiences and classrooms in order to consider how to reform technology's place in education. In preparation for the event, the STS Program co-hosted two dinner workshops with the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics and the Fellows in Values Engagement. Responding to the University's "responsible experimentation" approach, college students from different disciplines and class years reflected on how generative AI has reshaped their academic and social expectations both inside and out of the classroom. STS Fellows **Dan Affsprung**, **Lou Lennad**, and **Justin Wong** took the lead in organizing these dinner discussions.

In Fall 2025, 11 students joined the 4th fellowship cohort. **Lea Wang** '26 and **Kevin Yang** '28 led the group in weekly meetings with guidance and support from STS Ph.D. students **Aishani Aatresh** and **Justin Wong**, STS Fellow **Henry Austin**, and **Sheila Jasanoff**. The Undergraduate Fellows began to explore the crib sheet of core STS concepts by discussing topics including public health policy under the Trump Administration, social media and government overthrow in Nepal, gender identity in contemporary and Victorian Anglo-American societies, and American regulations for beach conservation. Later in the semester, small groups led sessions on Palantir and surveillance capitalism, nature and property, and rights of refusal for technology. Guest presenters **T.J. Foley** and **Nicole West Bassoff** discussed their recently published STS articles with the Undergraduate Fellows, and Thanksgiving week featured a workshop for senior thesis writers. In 2026, the group hopes to extend the "University in Crisis" series. The Undergraduate Fellowship is generously supported by the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs.

Fall 2025 Undergraduate Fellows: Sydney Black '27, Sara Dahiya '25, Hugh Hankenson '26, Sophie He '27, Lauren Hollis '26, Andrew Kang '27, Kate Kaufman '27, Mohamed Mohamed '26, Andrés Muedano '27, Sunny Vo '28.



*Panel moderated by Undergraduate Fellows Emil Massad & Catherine Mignone '25.*



*2025-2026 co-chairs Kevin Yang and Lea Wang.*

## Global Observatory for Genome Editing



GLOBAL OBSERVATORY  
for Genome Editing

In May 2025, the Global Observatory convened the **International Summit on Human Genome**

**Editing**. Hosted at the Norton's Woods Conference Center in Cambridge, MA, the three-day program complemented the work of three prior International Summits on Human Genome Editing hosted by the National Academies of the United States, China, Hong Kong, and the United Kingdom over the past decade. The 2025 Summit foregrounded the need for modes of deliberation in the governance of biotechnologies that do not start with scientific breakthroughs alone but rather explore multiple understandings of the meaning of being human and their implications for such projects. With over 45 speakers and 11 panels, discussions featured a diverse range of perspectives from organized religion, disability groups, civil society, global governance institutions, and public health. The meeting culminated in a **Summit Statement**, co-authored by the Organizing Committee, that calls for a **Charter on Emerging Technologies and Human Dignity** to carry forward the inclusive approach to deliberation pioneered by the Observatory.

In addition to the Summit proceedings, the Observatory published a **special issue** in *The CRISPR Journal* with 18 pieces by members of the Organizing Committee and invited guests. The special issue advanced existing literature on bioethics, public policy, and technological development and extended the Observatory's impact in scholarly discourse around innovation and cosmopolitan ethics.



Left: Organizing Team Henry Austin, Katherine Helms, and Dan Affsprung with Co-Directors Ben Hurlbut, Sheila Jasanoff, Kris Saha, and Jacob Moses; Right: International Summit Organizing Committee.

## FALL 2025 FELLOWS

### Theo Alders

Postdoctoral Fellow  
Humboldt Foundation

### Aishani Aatresh

Ph.D. student in Public Policy  
Harvard Kennedy School

### Henry Austin

Program Manager

### Nathan Davies

D.Phil. candidate  
Oxford Internet Institute

### T.J. Foley

McQuillan Institute for Science,  
Technology & the Human Future

### Anne Kristin Kristiansen

Ph.D. candidate  
Munich School of Philosophy

### Lou Lennad

Ph.D. candidate in Public Policy  
Harvard Kennedy School

### Krystian Łukasik

Ph.D. candidate in Sociology  
University of Warsaw

### Conor McGlynn

Ph.D. candidate in Public Policy  
Harvard Kennedy School

### Sebastian Pfotenhauer

Carl von Linde Professor of  
Innovation Research  
Technical University of Munich

### Guilherme Rosso

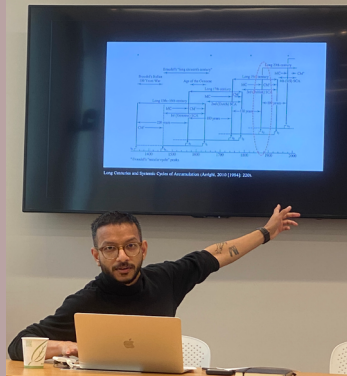
Ph.D. student in Technology and  
Society, Federal University of  
Technology Paraná



# Research News (cont.)

## Economy, Environment, and Innovation

In May, **Timothy Mitchell**, William B. Ransford Professor of Middle Eastern Studies at Columbia University, conducted a master class for STS Ph.D. students interested in the intersection of politics and economics. Harvard participants included **Nicole West Bassoff**, **Pariroo Rattan**, and **Hilton Simmet** from HKS, and STS secondary fielders **Jeff Fossett** and **Kyle Schirmann** from HBS, and **Swarnabh Ghosh** (left) from GSD.



STS faculty affiliates Professors **Jason Jackson** (DUSP, MIT) and **Victor Seow** (History of Science, Harvard) also participated in an intense and wide-ranging daylong seminar showcasing the array of comparative, ethnographic, and historical work being done on the construction of economic systems, instruments, and logics at Harvard.

Later in May, STS affiliates **Stefan Schäfer** and **Hilton Simmet** of the **Research Institute for Sustainability** at Potsdam, together with **Sheila Jasanoff**, organized a workshop in Berlin resuming earlier work on the **Multiple Carbons** project funded by the Harvard Solar Geoengineering Research Program. The project has evolved beyond its pre-pandemic framing because of renewed interest in geoengineering in the face of continued shortfalls in global carbon emission reductions and the Trump administration's decisions to push for increased fossil fuel extraction and use. Featuring a mix of newcomers and authors who have been involved from the project's beginnings, the workshop made progress toward a collected volume that will explore the diverse sociotechnical imaginaries playing out in global geoengineering debates.

In December, former STS Fellow Professor **Sebastian Pfotenhauer** of **TU Munich** hosted a small workshop in Munich focusing on the ongoing concerns of a cross-section of STS researchers and affiliates on the role of the Silicon Valley imaginary in fostering urban and regional tech innovation in Europe and the global South. Key to the theoretical evolution of this project is a recognition that Silicon Valley itself has transformed from its earliest appearance as *the* model to emulate in regional development. As discussed at the workshop, the **traveling imaginary of Silicon Valley** has acquired darker overtones with the rise of the tech right in the US and new questions about the constitutional implications of AI and other tech sector developments that the project aims to explore.

## FELLOWS cont.

### **Aditi Barman Roy**

Ph.D. candidate in Department of Humanities & Social Sciences  
Indian Institute of Technology,  
Roorkee

### **Tiziana Schopper**

Visitor, Ph.D. candidate in  
Business Research  
LMU Munich

### **Rose Sebastian**

Bajaj Postdoctoral Fellow  
Harvard Mittal Institute

### **Justin Wong**

Ph.D. candidate in Public Policy  
Harvard Kennedy School

## AFFILIATES

### **Hilton Simmet**

Research Institute for  
Sustainability, Potsdam

### **Alex Wellerstein**

Stevens Institute of Technology  
and Sciences Po



*Traveling Imaginaries in Munich: Margo Boenig-Liptsin and Sebastian Pfotenhauer.*

# Fellow Milestones

*The STS Program is pleased to recognize the news and accomplishments of current and former fellows.*

**Aziza Ahmed** (Faculty Affiliate) [published](#) *Risk and Resistance: How Feminists Transformed the Law and Science of AIDS* with Cambridge University Press in September.

**Nicole West Basso** ('19-25) had a big year! It marked her graduation from the Public Policy Ph.D. Program at Harvard Kennedy School and her last year as a graduate fellow in the Harvard STS Program. In the fall she joined the Digital Technology for Democracy Lab at the Karsh Institute of Democracy at the University of Virginia. She is also happy to share her first two pieces of published writing: an [article](#) entitled “Constitutional Infrastructures: The Politics of Urban Sovereignty in the ‘Race to 5G’” in *Science, Technology, & Human Values*, and an [op-ed](#) about the New York City mayoral election and the politics of urban progress for *The Conversation*.

**Rachel Biderman** ('09) has been co-leading the secretariat of the [Pan Amazonia Bioeconomy Network](#), which is dedicated to proposing and promoting the adoption of policies to enable an inclusive economy for peoples of the Amazon. The effort focuses on streamlining investments and efforts around sustainable value chains. The organization has 50 members from 7 of the 9 Amazonian countries.

**Gabriela Bortz** ('21-22) was promoted to Associate Professor affiliated to the Research Center for Transformation, Economics and Business School, Universidad Nacional de San Martín. Her team just [published](#) a new Inter-American Development Bank study on the systemic problems surrounding the importation of biological materials in Latin America. With **Samantha Vanderslott** ('15), Gabriela helped launch the Forum on Vaccines and Social Sciences (FOVAS) at the University of Oxford in November. Bringing together 17 senior scholars from 16 countries, FOVAS aims to build a reflexive, interdisciplinary, and forward-looking agenda on

how the social sciences can contribute to current and emerging challenges in vaccination.

**Keaton Boyle** ('23-25) completed his M.A. in Public Policy at HKS and resumed graduate study in heterodox economics at the New School for Social Research. Part-time, he runs software development for Invicta, a political campaign tech company.

**Laurence Delina** ('13-16) is a Substantiated (Tenured) Associate Professor at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He was listed in the Stanford/Elsevier Top 2% of Scientists in 2025 for both career-long and single-year citation research impact.

**Gabriel Dorte** ('14-15; '20-23) [published](#) “Conspiracy theories as engines of connection for enriched public debates on emerging technologies” in *Nature Communications Earth & Environment*.

**Karl Dudman** ('22) completed his [Ph.D. corrections](#), wrote an [article](#) on Trump’s withdrawal from the Paris Agreement for the *Conversation*, was a guest speaker for a climate psychology [podcast](#), and published a commentary on this subject in *Nature Communications Earth & Environment*. He recently was offered a Lectureship in Nature, Environment and Society at University College London STS.

**Dustin Holloway** ('11) is serving as Vice President and Global Head of Responsible Innovation and Bioethics at Sanofi.

**Christopher Kirchhoff** ('05-08) concluded his [book](#) tour for *Unit X: How the Pentagon and Silicon Valley are Transforming the Future of War*. He joined Scale AI as Head of Applied AI Strategy and Global Security. Chris also returned to the Kennedy School to join Stephanie Carter in a celebration of the legacy of Ash Carter, with Sheila in the front row.

**Sophia Knopf** ('22) completed her doctoral thesis at the Technical University of Munich and will defend it in January.



## Fellow Milestones (cont.)

**Krystian Łukasik** (current) received a “Preludium” — pre-doctoral research grant from Polish National Science Centre for his project “Constructing the future: the interplay of dominant and alternative sociotechnical imaginaries in shaping Poland’s digital policy.”

**Oliwia Mandrela** ('24-25) helped organize the biweekly [Capturing Invisible Seminars](#), which connect scholars from STS and other disciplines. She continues to work on her project addressing geroscience and longevity biotechnology, “The Quest for Longevity: Biotechnological Revolution and Public Reason”. She also supports technology co-creation and social impact assessment in the EU-sponsored project on “Sustainable, Reliable and Socially Acceptable Modular Floating Islands for Multi-use Offshore Spaces”. Her [article](#) on public sociology was recently published in *Current Sociology*.

**Ian McGonigle** ('13-14) was awarded an Honorable Mention for the Gad Barzilai Early Career Award at the 41st Annual Conference of the Association for Israel Studies at University of Haifa in September in recognition of his scholarship and contributions to the study of Israel.

**Rose Sebastian** ('25) developed her postdoctoral project analyzing national science museums in independent India as sites of display and dissemination of a distinctively postcolonial policy and culture of science. She recently presented her research in a [seminar](#) at the Harvard Mittal Institute, “Postcolonial Science on Display: Science, Technology, and the Nation State in Indian Science Museums,” moderated by Sheila Jasanoff.

**Angela Simone** ('10) is the coordinator of the EU-funded [REINFORCING](#) project on mainstreaming Open and Responsible Research and Innovation across Europe and beyond. She was a selected expert by the European Commission for the [Mutual Learning Exercise on Public Engagement in R&I](#), leading the 4th Thematic meeting and report “Public Engagement in ERA.”

**Holger Straßheim** ('14) was one of three founding directors of the [Institute for Studies of Science](#), which was founded as a Central Academic Institution at Bielefeld University in May 2025. It is dedicated to the pursuit of interdisciplinary studies of science and society, bringing together perspectives from STS, philosophy, history, sociology and medicine. Holger also was elected as a member of the Social and Human Working Group of the International Arctic Science Committee.

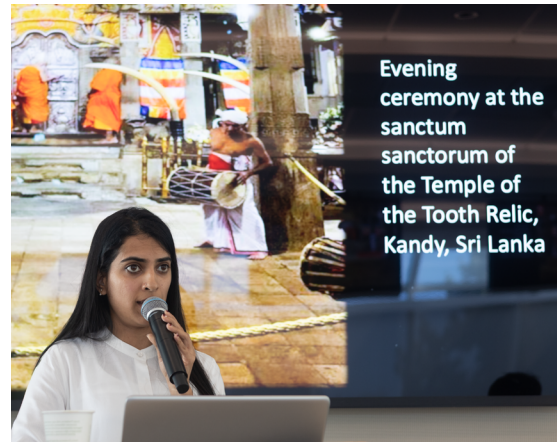
**Justin Raycraft** ('22-23) published his [book](#) *Conservation in Common: Managing Wildlife and Sustaining Community on the Maasai Steppe* with University of Georgia Press in December. It provides the first anthropological account of a conservation area in Tanzania that serves the interests of its local community.

**Guilherme Rosso** (current) attended the G20 Social Summit 2025 in Johannesburg, South Africa. He represented the G20 Youth Delegates and observed Science20 activities as part of his research on science diplomacy.

**Melike Sahinol** ('09) has been serving as Head of “Science, Technology and Society” at the Orient-Institut Istanbul (Max Weber Foundation) since February 2025. Melike recently acquired a major research grant from the German Research Foundation (DFG) for a new comparative STS study titled ‘[MediCluster](#)’ which examines medical instrument innovation across the clusters of Tuttlingen (Germany), Sialkot (Pakistan), and Samsun (Türkiye). Melike also received the “Wissen der Vielen – Research Award for Citizen Science” (3rd place) for her participatory research on 3D-printed prostheses for children. Her new correspondence article advocating for children’s meaningful participation as citizen co-researchers in health technology has just been published in *Nature*. Additionally, she has continued her work as co-editor of the open collection “Disability, Technology and Change” in *NanoEthics*.

# Fellow Milestones (cont.)

**Marlise Schneider** ('22-23) successfully defended her Ph.D. in STS at the Technical University of Munich. Her dissertation is entitled “From Rust Belts to Silicon Heartlands: Microchip Futures and Innovation’s Others in New York, Ohio, and Flanders.” Her committee included Sheila Jasanoff and advisor Sebastian Pfotenhauer. Marlise has two forthcoming papers in *Science, Technology, & Human Values*: “Serving Epistemic Justice Through Critical Writing Pedagogies in STS” (Domingues, Schneider & Quave) and “Go to another state:” Rust Belts, microchip futures, and innovation’s others in Upstate New York (Schneider & Pfotenhauer).



**Trina Vithayathil** ('12-13) recently published *Counting Caste: Census Politics, Bureaucratic Deflection, and Brahmanical Power in India* (Cambridge University Press, 2025).

**Alex Wellerstein** (Design Coordinator) published his second book, *The Most Awful Responsibility: Truman and the Secret Struggle for Control of the Atomic Age*, with HarperCollins in December. He has become a Visiting Researcher at the Nuclear Knowledges program at Sciences Po for at least the 2025-2026 academic year.



**Nicolas Zehner** ('21-22) is part of TU Berlin’s Collaborative Research Center 1265 “Re-Figuration of Spaces” project, which just was renewed for another four years. There is currently a call for a range of Ph.D. and post-doc positions, and always the opportunity to invite guest researchers.

**Dmitrii Zhikharevich** ('18) is a postdoc at the University of Vienna and recently published “From jurisdiction to veridiction: Expertise and economization of immunization policy in the United States.”



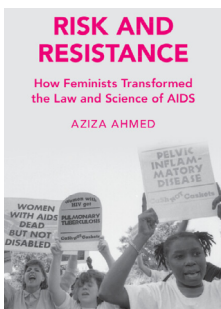
From top to bottom: Rose Sebastian at the SDN meeting; Marlise Schneider and Sebastian Pfotenhauer at her defense; Harvard STS Fellows, May 2025.



# Parting Shots



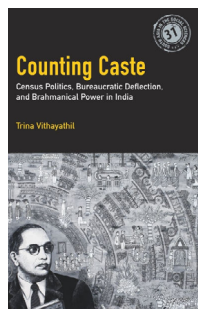
*This map resides in the Fellows Office and shows the global scope of the STS Program over the last 23 years.*



Aziza Ahmed



Justin Raycraft



Trina Vithayathil



Alex Wellerstein

*Books in 2025 from the STS Program community*



*Harvard STS Fellows, October 2025*

## STAY CONNECTED

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# STS

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