

(<https://4sonline.org/>)

News Archive

Search Category: Backchannels - All

Search

Clear Search

ESTS 3.1: A peek at what's in store for 2021 and beyond

01/04/2021

By *ESTS Editorial Collective*

[Return to Search Results](#)

[Share Article](#)

ESTS Editorial Collective

January 4, 2021 | [Projects \(http://www.4sonline.org/projects.php\)](http://www.4sonline.org/projects.php)

Engaging Science, Technology, and Society (<https://estsjournal.org/index.php/ests>) (ESTS), the Open Access (OA) journal of the Society for Social Studies of Science (<http://4sonline.org/>) (4S), was launched in 2015 under the leadership of Daniel Kleinman as Founding Editor, Katie Vann as Managing Editor, and Gary Downey as then-4S president. ESTS has quickly become a vibrant venue for publishing high-quality research in STS. It has also launched several experiments in short-form writing that seek to engage and interact with both scholarly and broader audiences in new and innovative ways. As one of the few OA journals in the field, ESTS has initiated reflection on the significance of OA publishing for STS, important especially given the field's critical attention to the socio-technical infrastructures that undergird contemporary life-worlds.

As of Volume 7 (2021), a new transnational Editorial Collective (EC) with team members based in Australia, Brazil, India, New Zealand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States, will take over the editorship of ESTS. Our EC will work to build on the foundational work of the outgoing editors, continuing experiments in developing new genre-forms for presenting STS scholarship and deepening its OA infrastructure. We also bring new intellectual and political commitments to the journal.

Prominent among these are commitments to:

1. diversifying the geographical base of the journal, making concerted efforts to connect with STS scholars and communities that are otherwise under-represented in prominent STS journals,
2. strengthening Open Access infrastructure, including new experiments in opening research data, seeking to understand how open access scholarship can be infrastructured in ways that help potentiate and sustain a transnational research commons,
3. innovating genre-forms and content, including multimedia content, that can help engage a diverse range of audiences, and
4. cultivating sustained attention to pedagogy in STS scholarship and helping generate resources for using ESTS in the classroom.

A more detailed elaboration of our editorial vision can be accessed at this link (<https://stsinfrastructures.org/content/transnational-sts-ests-journal>).

Since mid-2019, our EC has already been reviewing manuscripts submitted to the journal. During this period, we have started implementing several of our editorial commitments. One key move has been to deliberately diversify the range of reviewers that we have reached out to, mindful especially of North-South asymmetries in knowledge production and authorization. We are currently planning the first of our author workshops, focused on the (English) language politics of STS, planned tentatively in the first quarter of 2021. We are also working to constitute the journal's new Editorial Board, with an eye to productively leverage various diversities in our field. Under our editorship, ESTS is also partnering with other STS journals to host the Transnational STS Publishing Group (<https://stsinfrastructures.org/content/transnational-sts-publishing-group>), organizing quarterly virtual calls to deliberate on various aspects of academic publishing in STS. We intend such collaborative transnationalism to permeate every aspect of the journal's content and operations.

Over the last few months, EC members have also begun working behind the scenes to extend journal operations in new directions. Building on the *STS Across Borders* (<https://stsinfrastructures.org/content/sts-across-borders-digital-collections-4s-sydney-2018/essay>) and *Innovating STS* (<https://stsinfrastructures.org/content/innovating-sts/essay>) exhibits at the 2018 Sydney and 2019 New Orleans 4S annual meetings, Duygu Kaşdoğan and Angela Okune are currently developing a collection, *STS: Places & Spaces*, with contributions from Ecuador, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, and Turkey. The forthcoming collection highlights regional groups around the world leveraging a relational perspective in order to situate research in particular contexts and intellectual histories. Emily York and Angela Okune are also developing a collection, *STS: Pedagogies and Engagements*, with contributors from Canada, Denmark, Ecuador, India, and the United States focused on how STS teaching and learning might be understood as practices of knowledge production and critical participation. These collections are leveraging the open source platform, STS Infrastructures (<https://stsinfrastructures.org/>), to publish linked data together with narrative text and will inaugurate ESTS's efforts to understand how open data repositories in STS need to be infrastructured, as well as the kinds of review mechanisms that need to be developed to authorize newer genre forms in the field.

A key dimension of our work in the previous months has been *infrastructural*. ESTS will soon upgrade its content management system: from version 2 to version 3.1 of Open Journal Systems (<https://pkp.sfu.ca/ojs/>) (OJS) provided by the Public Knowledge Project (PKP). This upgradation, however, has been more than just simply moving to a newer version of OJS: in making the decision to upgrade to OJS 3.1, we conducted a survey of ESTS readers, ran a comparative analysis with other journal hosting platforms, and consulted scholars and users of open access journal management systems. Grant Jun Otsuki has been leading these efforts in our EC; some reflections on what we have learned in our search for a good journal management system can be found on his blog (<https://www.gjotsuki.net/the-search-for-a-good-online-journal-platform/>).

The upgrade to a newer version of OJS has also been an occasion for redesigning the existing ESTS website (<https://estsjournal.org/index.php/ests/index>). This, too, has been far from straightforward, pushing us to grapple, for example, with the deceptively simple question of what purpose the ESTS website serves. Incoming Managing Editor, Amanda Windle, has played a crucial role in helping identify and articulate associated issues, working in meticulous detail (and with a 27-page to-do list!) to organize us in response. We are also working toward making the ESTS website W3C (<https://www.w3.org/standards/>) compliant and, in the process, getting educated about information and graphics design, accessibility, privacy, and other important considerations in configuring digital space and the various infrastructures that undergird it.

We say this to emphasize the often "invisible work" that goes into sustaining our scholarship. As STS scholars, our EC works with a keen awareness of how such invisible infrastructural choices profoundly shape the kinds of scholarship and communities that they support. We are hence committed to making visible, and indeed open sourcing, much of this infrastructural work. Our intention is that this will be reflected in the form of both ESTS publications as well as widely shareable resources that will help sustain scholarly formations in STS and beyond.

Starting with Volume 7, ESTS will move to an issue-based (rather than continuous) publication model, publishing 3 issues annually and expanding as needed in subsequent years. The goal is to achieve greater impact by adding to the "eventfulness" of the journal, and making it easier to plan the journal's production process and post-publication promotions. The journal will continue publishing both long-form research articles and short-form writings, but simplified into three broad categories: *Original Research Articles* (6000+ words), *Engagements* (2000 – 6000 words), and *Perspectives* (2000 words and less). Original

Research Articles will comprise scientific publications that showcase the breadth of STS scholarship. Engagements will gather together contributions from various existing publication genres (<https://estsjournal.org/pages/view/GENRES>) (Considering Concepts, Critical Engagements, Debates/Interactions, Traces, etc.) and more that experiment with the form of scholarly presentation. Perspectives will include topical reflections on matters of interest to STS as well as broader audiences. We will continue maintaining an open call for "Thematic Collections" which can cut across various categories. All content in ESTS will continue to be peer reviewed.

We are grateful for the strong support and goodwill towards ESTS within the 4S community and especially for past and current 4S presidents Kim Fortun and Joan Fujimura's enthusiastic championship of our editorial vision and efforts. We look forward to continue receiving submissions to the journal engaging the full spectrum of STS scholarship. We are also planning several new initiatives; we will circulate open calls for these in the coming months. We are excited about the possibilities that the journal offers and look forward to working actively with the 4S community in shaping ESTS as a vital community resource. Follow us on Twitter (@eSTSjournal (<https://twitter.com/eSTSjournal>)) for the latest announcements and links to blog posts, podcasts, etc. by the ESTS EC, including sneak peeks into projects in production. Stay tuned!

The incoming Editorial Collective for ESTS includes:

Editor-in-Chief:

- Aalok Khandekar (Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, India)

Associate Editors:

- Noela Invernizzi (Universidade Federal do Paraná, Brazil)
- Duygu Kaşdoğan (İzmir Kâtip Çelebi Üniversitesi, Turkey)
- Alison Kenner (Drexel University, USA)
- Angela Okune (University of California Irvine, USA)
- Grant Jun Otsuki (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand)
- Sujatha Raman (Australian National University, Australia)
- Emily York (James Madison University, USA)

Managing Editor:

- Amanda Windle (UK)

Privacy Policy (https://4sonline.org/privacy_policy.php)

©2024 Society for Social Studies of Science



ok.com/4SPage/) (<https://twitter.com/4sWeb/>) (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeuu21>