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Probing Innovation: Prospecting, Valuing, and Negotiating f^Bictions

Invited Speakers

- Susi Geiger, University College Dublin
- Hyo Yoon Kang, University of Warwick
- Paolo Magaudda, University of Padova
- Brice Laurent, Mines Paris
- Tanja Schneider, University of St.Gallen

6 – 9 June 2023

University of Lausanne
Anthropole Building
Metro Line M1 – UNIL-Chamberonne station

Information & registration



1st STS Lab Summer School, **University of Lausanne**, co-organised with **PaSTIS, University of Padova, LHST-EPFL**, supported by **STS-CH** and **SNF**.

Foundational texts in Science and Technology Studies (STS) highlighted the extended sociotechnical networks of innovation and its black-boxed objects (e.g., Latour 1987). At the same time, they challenged linear accounts of innovation for their obliteration of its multiple contingencies, controversies, and closures (Bijker & Pinch 1987). Of late, "innovation" has again become more of a normative, if not critical concern (e.g., Godin & Vinck 2017), be it with respect to the longstanding theme of the broader consequences of technological innovation – social, political and ecological –, its economic grounding in entrenched processes of value extraction, the global infrastructure of "digital disruption," or "the quest to discover new sources of potentially marketable biocapital" (Franklin 2006). In a nutshell, STS has both approached and practiced "innovation" as a transdisciplinary, multifaceted, and fragile endeavour (e.g., Nowotny 2005), while drawing upon and renewing historical and economical, as well as anthropological and sociological approaches to innovation.

The 1st STS Lab Summer School, held at the University of Lausanne (Switzerland) from 6 to 9 June 2023, will be Probing Innovation by bringing together leading scholars and upcoming researchers, thus offering a forum for engaged discussion and critical reflection on "innovation" and its multiple aspects, including the prospects, values, facts, and fictions (Lowenhaupt Tsing 2005, 2020) at play in empirical cases, the "registered trademark" sign indicating one recurring friction, between private and public interests – others are to be added (e.g., between R&D and PR, if not "fact" and "fiction"), depending upon field, STS interest, and approach.

The main themes, approaches and arguments to be addressed at the Summer School include – without being restricted to – the following ones:

- Innovation as sociotechnical practices in different fields such as biomedicine, computer science, agriculture, ICT, environmental sciences.
- Scientific practices, lab studies, innovation management and research.
- DIY bio, hacking, maker movements, citizen science and other forms of amateur practices.
- Entrepreneurship, "intensive innovation company", disruption and start-ups.
- Valuation, assetization, venture capitals and other forms of high-risk innovation investment practices.
- Disinnovation, redirection, innovation through withdrawal and market detachment.
- Users' role, co-innovation, design and UX research.

The Summer school welcomes graduate students, doctoral students, and postdocs. Applicants must hand in a short biography, a short text describing their doctoral project or their current research, as well as a few sentences (100 to 200 words) about their interest for the Summer school's thema. Participants should consider attending the whole event. They will form working groups since the first day, and prepare collectively, with help of mentors, a presentation on a subject of their own choice the last day. The registration fee is 150.- CHF (149.- EUR). If an applicant has no support by his or her institution, the scientific committee may consider a free registration.

Deadline for application March 20, 2023

Organizing & Scientific Committee

- Marc Audétat
- Jérôme Baudry
- Boris Beaude
- Pauline Blaser
- Luca Chiapperino
- Stefano Crabu
- Julio Paulos
- Olivier Glassey
- Paolo Giardullo
- Virginia Haussauer
- Paolo Magaouda
- Céline Mavrot
- Barbara Morsello
- Federico Neresini
- Loïc Riom
- Semion Sidorenko
- Tatiana Smirnova
- Philippe Sormani
- Dominique Vinck

Provisional programme

(regularly updated)

Tuesday, 6th June 2023

13:30 Registration

14:00 **Introduction**

14:30 **Keynote Lecture 1**

16:00 Coffee break

17:00 Kick-off working groups

18:00 Visit of "Intelligence Artificielle. Nos reflets dans la machine", Musée de la main, and Welcome Aperitif

Wednesday, 7th June 2023

09:00 **Keynote Lecture 2**

10:30 *Coffee break*

11:00 Working Groups

12:00 Lunch

14:00 Working Groups

15:30 *Coffee break*

16:00 Walk around the campus, visit of EPFL Pavilions, Heritage Lab, and Montreux Jazz Café

Thursday, 8th June 2023

09:00 **Keynote Lecture 3**

10:30 *Coffee break*

11:00 **Keynote Lecture 4**

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Working Groups

15:30 *Coffee break*

17:30 Departure for Grandvaux by train, dinner at Wannaz Vineyards

Friday, 9th June 2023

09:00 Working Groups

10:30 *Coffee break*

11:00 **Keynote Lecture 5**

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Result of Working groups

16:00 *Coffee break*

16:30 **Summing up, closing**