

Law – Technology – Society

LunchTime Series

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Testing future Societies?

Developing a framework for test beds and living labs as instruments of innovation governance

Mittwoch, 12. Juni 2019, 12:00 – 13:30

Guttenberghaus | Seminarraum SR 01, Erdgeschoß
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Die Teilnahme ist kostenlos. Um Anmeldung bis Montag,
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Test beds and living labs have emerged as a prominent approach to foster innovation across geographical regions and technical domains. They represent an experimental approach to innovation policy that aims at once to test, demonstrate, and advance new sociotechnical arrangements in a model environment under real-world conditions. In this talk, I develop an analytic framework for this distinctive approach to innovation. Our findings suggest that test beds do not simply test a technology under real-world conditions. Rather, they equally “test” society around a new set of technologies and associated modes of governance based on particular visions of the future – occasionally against considerable resistance.



Sebastian Pfotenhauer is Assistant Professor of Innovation Research at the Munich Center for Technology in Society (MCTS) and the TUM School of Management, both Technical University of Munich. He is also the coordinator of the EU-Horizon2020 project SCALINGS. His research interests include science and innovation in international settings as well as co-creation and responsible innovation. He holds an S.M. in Technology Policy from MIT and a PhD in Physics from the University of Jena, Germany, and has received post-doctoral training at MIT and Harvard.