

# **INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY (IAS-STS)**

## **Fellowship Programme 2014-2015**

The IAS-STS in Graz, Austria, promotes the interdisciplinary investigation of the links and interactions between science, technology and society, as well as technology assessment and research into the development and implementation of socially and environmentally sound technologies. Broadly speaking, the IAS-STS is an institute for the enhancement of science and technology studies.

The IAS-STS invites researchers to apply for a stay between 1 October 2014 and 30 June 2015 as a

- Research Fellow (up to nine months); or,**
- Visiting Scholar (shorter period, e.g. a month).**

The IAS-STS offers excellent research infrastructure. Close co-operation with researchers at the IFZ (Inter-University Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture; see: [www.ifz.aau.at](http://www.ifz.aau.at)), guest lectures, colloquia, workshops, and conferences provide an atmosphere of creativity and scholarly discussion.

Furthermore, we can offer five grants, worth EUR 940 per month, for long-term Research Fellows at the IAS-STS.

**The Fellowship Programme 2014-2015 is dedicated to projects investigating the following issues:**

### **1. Gender – Technology – Environment**

This area of research particularly focuses on gender and queer dimensions in science and technology. On the one hand, individual perspectives of actors in the technological field are taken into account; on the other hand, educational, organisational, societal, environmental, and political issues are gaining more and more relevance. Queer perspectives on STS are of special interest, including analyses of the reproduction of sexual binaries or reproductions of marginalized/hegemonic positions and normalizations in and through science and technologies.

### **2. Life Sciences/Biotechnology**

Applications are sought in two thematic areas:

First, following some 20 years of public debate, agricultural biotechnology continues to be a deeply controversial issue in the EU, partly fueled by progress in science and technology innovation such as GM industrial and energy crops, or novel breeding techniques. Research should contribute to a better understanding of the regulatory, broader policy and governance

challenges of agricultural biotechnology, and/or explore strategies to manage these challenges.

Second, in recent years, social studies of the life sciences were bound to large scale research programmes. In many countries, these funding schemes have now come to an end. This is an opportunity to review these previous programmes via collaborative engagement with the life sciences, as well as to explore new ways of inquiry. Applicants are encouraged to address these issues when analysing the life sciences as a social process.

### **3. Sustainable and Innovative Public Procurement & Ecodesign**

The supply side policy “Ecodesign”, and the demand side policy “Public Procurement”, are used to support the transition towards green, socially responsible and innovative markets. Nonetheless, scientific research in these respective fields is still limited. Researchers investigating the following areas are encouraged to apply:

The environmental impact or the innovation potential of green public procurement and ‘Ecodesign’; the impact of socially responsible public procurement; the hurdles, success factors, efficacy, and wider implications of European or national policies for sustainable and innovative public procurement and ‘Ecodesign’.

### **4. Towards Low-Carbon Energy Systems**

Based on analyses of social, technological and organisational frameworks of energy use, projects should contribute to the shaping of sustainable energy, climate and technology policies. They should focus on socio-economic aspects of energy technologies or on strategies of environmental technology policy. They should develop measures and strategies for the promotion of renewable energy sources; for the transition to a sustainable energy system; or, contribute to the field of sustainable construction. Regional governance, climate policy strategies, innovation policy and the role of users are important themes. In addition, the Manfred Heindler grant is awarded to research projects concerning the increased use of renewable energies and the more efficient use of energy.

### **5. Sustainable Food Systems**

Food security, nutrition, food quality and safety, resource scarcity, carbon foot prints and other challenges faced in urban or rural areas are currently dominating the industrialized and globalized food systems. Research applications are encouraged which explore different forms of sustainable food systems, as well as related social practices and socioeconomic/technical processes in the production, distribution, marketing, and consumption of food. A particular focus lies on governance mechanisms, policies, and their (potential) contribution to a wider transformation towards more sustainable cities, regions and societies.

**Applications must be submitted to the IAS-STs by 31 December 2013.**

#### **For application forms and further information:**

Please visit our website: [www.sts.aau.at](http://www.sts.aau.at)

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