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Technologies of Social Order

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Social Movements and STS; Decolonial and Postcolonial STS; Indigenous STS

This panel is a call to discuss the role of technology in establishing and maintenance of social order around the world by critically examining the interrelation of technopower with social, economic, and political power. Contributions are sought to challenge technoscientific future narratives that make power relationships invisible through digital and/or green transformations and other processes. We envision a panel consisting of contributors from a range of backgrounds, joined by their interest in STS interdisciplinary research into sociotechnical relationships and technopolitical orders that imagine, materialize, and constitute governance and policy making. The panel, premised on acknowledging the inherent politicization of e.g., digitalization, the green transition, and AI implementation, challenges dominant ideologies attached to market logics, such as efficiency and optimization, as well as neutralized concepts such as responsibility, inclusion, and ethics. Papers should analyze topics such as political economy, the future of work, security, social/ecological justice, policing, (digital) sovereignty, state-making, as well as community engagement, resilience, and activism. Our goal is to further societal critique, rather than optimize or improve the functions of state agencies and/or technoscientific capitalism. In line with the goal, we seek contributions that document the unequal distribution of power in technoscientific implementation, and technologies enforcing, reproducing and/or transforming the political, social, or economic order. We also expect that panelists approach research in solidarity with subjugated populations (e.g., grassroots science, Indigenous communities) and abstain from purely extractivist research.

Deadline: 30 April 2026

Submissions:

https://www.4sonline.org/call_for_submissions_toronto.php

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