

The Sociology of Science and Technology (SST) research group at the Department of Science, Technology and Society (STS) at Technical University of Munich (TUM) is inviting applications for a position:

Post-doctoral researcher (TV-L E13, 100%, 3 years, fixed term) or doctoral researcher (65%, 3 years, fixed term) on the

Topic “Assessment and Governance of Negative emission technologies”  
and/ or “Climate Services”

**Job description:**

- Perform qualitative social science (STS) research on the above-mentioned topic;
- Work towards joint publications in recognized international, peer-reviewed journals, including co-authored papers with other group members;
- Co-Teach courses, e.g. on Environmental STS, Technology and Society or other STS topics; help develop new courses on these topics (such as “Politics of future-making” and “Risks & Safety”, “Accounting and standardization”);
- (Co-)Supervise Master’s students;
- Consider writing/contributing to synergistic grant applications to raise external funding;
- Participate in the SST research group and support the work of the group at an administrative level, including research management, the organization of meetings, project maintenance, project events, workshops, conferences etc.;
- Active engagement with the community at STS Department, TUM, and in the international STS landscape.

**Candidate profile:**

- Doctoral position: Completed Master’s degree in Science and Technology Studies (STS) or a related field, e.g. Sociology, Interpretative Policy Studies, Geography, or other relevant field;
- Postdoc position: Completed/submitted dissertation in Science and Technology Studies (STS) or a related field, e.g. Sociology, Interpretative Policy Studies, Political Science, Geography, or other relevant fields, presuming that you can demonstrate an equivalent level of qualification and subject-specific expertise;
- Postdoc position: A distinct research profile in STS or related fields (e.g. demonstrated through publications or previous teaching), ideally related to the topic and the broader SST profile;
- Broad knowledge of the topics, theories and methods of STS
- Knowledge of comparative approaches in STS are a strong advantage;
- Previous experience with the subject matters are an advantage;
- Experiences in (co-)supervising student theses are an advantage;
- Experiences in research management are an advantage;
- Excellent command of the English language;
- German language skills are an advantage (but not necessary);
- International experience is an advantage;
- Strong inclination to work in a team-oriented environment.

### About us:

The SST research group seeks to establish a research program on science, technology and society in the interdisciplinary environment of the SOT and TUM. The overarching goal of our research group is to combine research on *science in society* with *real-world engagements* in advisory bodies and societal co-production in an interactive and reflexive way. The group researches and enables the emergence of new forums of collaboration between different societal actors from science, civil society, politics and business as well as new formats of knowledge production and governance of science (e.g. public engagement, responsible science, co-creation of knowledge, science-policy interface such as most prominently the IPBES Assessment of transformative change (<https://www.ipbes.net/transformative-change>)). We also develop the analytical framework for theoretical and practical approaches for understanding these novel forms of knowledge production and assessing their scientific performance and societal impact, including their evaluation criteria. By creating a space for public engagement and critical reflection, our research aims to address – in theory and practice – to solving pertinent and urgent scientific and societal challenges arising e.g. from rapid global climate change and emerging technologies (such as Negative Emission Technologies, Neuro-Technologies and Social Media).

Among the questions that drive research in our group are: How do framing of risks, trust and underlying societal compacts differ across technological domains, regions, and cultures? What are long-term as well as short-term nature of risks and benefits (implications for vulnerability and resilience) (i.e., taken by whom, how, where, at what costs)? How do societal actors envision desirable and sustainable futures? How are science and technology assessed and governed in international settings? How can we govern research emerging research and technologies responsibly, sustainably, deliberatively, and inclusively?

The research group is contributing to the projects 'EU-Climateurope2: Supporting and standardising climate services in Europe and beyond', 2022-2026, and 'BioNET – Multi-level Assessment of Bio-based Negative Emission Technologies' as part of the BMBF funding measure *Methods of Carbon Dioxide Removal* (CDR) <https://www.ufz.de/index.php?en=49066>.

Find out more about the [STS Department](#) and STS online:

<https://www.mcts.tum.de/en/wissensoz/overview/>

Some recent publications by the group pertinent to the current job openings include:

- **Beck, S.**, & Oomen, J. (2021). Imagining the corridor of climate mitigation–What is at stake in IPCC's politics of anticipation?. *Environmental Science & Policy*, 123, 169-178. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2021.05.011>
- Beck, S., Jasanoff, S., Stirling, A., & Polzin, C. (2021). The governance of sociotechnical transformations to sustainability. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 49, 143-152. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2021.04.010>
- **Beck, S.** & Forsyth, T. (2020): Who gets to imagine transformative change? Participation and representation in biodiversity assessments. *Environmental Conservation*, 1-4. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0376892920000272>
- Carton, W., Asiyani, A., **Beck, S.**, Buck, H. & Lund, J. (2020). Negative Emission and the long history of carbon removal. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change* 11(6), e671. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wcc.671>
- **Beck, S.** & Mahony, M. (2018). The IPCC and the new map of science and politics. *WIREs Climate Change* 9(5), e547. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wcc.547>
- Matzner, N., & Barben, D. (2020). Climate engineering as a communication challenge: contested notions of responsibility across expert arenas of science and policy. *Science Communication*, 42(1), 61-89.

### About the STS Department:

The **Department of Science, Technology and Society (STS)** at the TUM School of Social Sciences and Technology is dedicated to understanding the larger social, political, ethical and legal dimensions of science and technology. Embedded in TUM's unique innovation ecosystem, we are committed to enabling a more responsible

and sustainable engagement with science and innovation through social science research, teaching and public dialogue – often in collaboration with partners from technical fields. The TUM STS community strives to provide new intellectual and practical resources for dealing with the challenges of highly technologized societies, and to train future leaders with a unique sensibility for the critical interface between science, technology and society.

The STS Department was founded in 2021 and expands the institutional groundwork laid by Munich Center for Technology in Society (MCTS) since 2012 to put society at the heart of the TUM mission. As one of Europe's largest hubs for STS, we are a lively intellectual community of 70+ researchers from numerous disciplines and fields of specialization. As a department, we deliver 2 Master's programs and design STS content for the School's PhD program. We offer regular public lectures and symposia, weekly discussion groups, and visiting researcher programs. We maintain close collaborative ties to other parts of TUM as well as to leading STS centers in Germany and around the world.

### **Application**

Please submit your application **as a single pdf document**, including the following parts (in this order):

- Your CV, including a list of publications and presentations (if applicable);
- A letter of motivation that describes your research profile and your qualification for/interest in the job profile (max. 2 pages);
- 1-2 writing samples (e.g. a chapter of your PhD thesis, MA thesis, a publication, or a manuscript);
- The names and contact details of one reference (PhD Position) and up to three references (Postdoc Position);
- Relevant transcripts and certificates (e.g. a copy of your Master's or doctoral degree).

All application materials should be sent to Silke Beck, mentioning "WSS ESTS" in the subject line, respectively.

The deadline for application is **July 15, 2022**. Specific clarification questions about this position or the WST research profile should be addressed to Prof. Silke Beck ([silke.beck@tum.de](mailto:silke.beck@tum.de)).