

1 PhD/Postdoc Position (m/f/d) in Science and Technology Studies (STS) at the Science and Technology Policy Chair (Prof. Dr. Ruth Müller), and in the Transform Cluster of Excellence, at the Technical University of Munich

Deadline: October 30, 2025

The Professorship of Science & Technology Policy (Prof. Dr. Ruth Müller), based at the Department of Science, Technology and Society (STS) and the Transform Cluster of Excellence, at the Technical University of Munich, announces **one open position for either a doctoral researcher** (TV-L E13, 75%, 3 years, with a possibility for extension) **or a postdoctoral researcher** (TV-L E13, 100%, 3 years, with a possibility for extension).

We are looking for a committed doctoral candidate or postdoctoral researcher interested in the field of science and technology studies (m/f/d) with a focus on **transformative biomedical innovations, their social impact (especially in relation to questions of justice, equity, and diversity) and possible modes of governance**. The position will start on January, 01, 2026.

About us

The research group “Science & Technology Policy” (STP) explores the interactions between science, technology, society and policy, with a distinct focus on the social studies of the life sciences, biomedicine and AI. The group is based at the Department of Science, Technology and Society (STS), the leading German department in Science and Technology Studies. The STS Department is home to about 60 researchers in STS, two international MA programs (MA Science & Technology Studies and MA Responsibility in Science, Engineering and Technology) and is a hub for international guest researchers in STS.

About the research project and Transform

Transform – The Munich Center for Transformative Technologies and Societal Change is a Cluster of Excellence funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Transform addresses the dual challenge of both advancing basic social science research and rethinking technology development through a social science perspective. As an interdisciplinary social science cluster with a focus on technology, our goal is to further develop existing theories and methods to better understand transformative technologies and shape them in a socially responsible way.

Your tasks as a doctoral researcher

As a doctoral researcher, you will work as part of a team at the chair and the wider excellence cluster environment. Your tasks will include empirical research and data analysis, preparation of results for publication, presentation of results at international academic meetings, contributions to the teaching portfolio of the group and support for organizing project-related academic events. You will develop an innovative research question for your PhD thesis as part of the project and in collaboration with the project leader, Prof. Ruth Müller. You will regularly meet with your supervisor to discuss and support the progress of your thesis. You will actively participate in the academic

life of the group, the department and the excellence cluster, which both regularly host international guest researchers and academic events. As a PhD student at TU Munich, you will be enrolled in the TUM Graduate School, which provides a structured PhD program and offers a rich program of courses in academic and transferable skills.

Applicants should hold a Master's degree in the social sciences, humanities, or the life sciences. Familiarity with STS concepts and experience with qualitative social science research methods is highly desirable. You should be interested in working across the disciplines and in engaging with other knowledge cultures. You should further be capable of and interested in working both as part of a team and independently. Fluency in English is essential for the academic life of the group, the department and the cluster. We are looking for inspired and inspiring new talents who want to work in and contribute to an exciting, interdisciplinary STS research environment.

Your tasks as postdoctoral researcher

As a postdoctoral researcher, you will work as part of a team at the chair and the wider excellence cluster environment. Your tasks will include empirical research and data analysis, presentation of results at international academic meetings and in international academic journals, contributions to the teaching portfolio of the group and the organization of research-related academic events. You will actively participate in the academic life of the group, the department and the excellence cluster, all of which regularly host international guest researchers and academic events.

Applicants should hold a PhD in STS or related social science research fields. A successful candidate will be familiar with STS concepts and theories; experienced in qualitative social science research methods; interested in working in an interdisciplinary, collaborative research environment and in engaging with other knowledge cultures; able to work independently and as part of a team; and capable of both rigorous and creative academic work. English language skills at a high level of quality are essential for the position and for academic life in the group, the department and the cluster. We are looking for inspired and inspiring new talents who want to work in and contribute to an exciting, interdisciplinary STS research environment.

Commitments

We are committed to building a diverse and inclusive workplace that advances equity, promotes social justice, and actively encourages applications from women, other underrepresented groups, and individuals of all backgrounds.

Application documents

Your complete application documents must include your CV, your Master's/PhD degree certificate, a letter of motivation (max. 2 pages), 1-2 writing samples (e.g., thesis chapters, articles, etc.), and names and contact details of 2 references, including a brief statement explaining your relationship to each of the named references.

Interested?

Please send your **complete application** as a single pdf document to **applications.stp@sot.tum.de**. We will accept and review all applications received up until and including **October 30, 2025**. Interviews will be conducted shortly after the application deadline, in person or via a video conferencing tool.

We are committed to raising the number of women and gender-non-binary individuals in research and teaching, who are especially encouraged to apply. Applicants with disabilities are treated with preference given comparable qualification.

If you have questions about the application procedure, please contact **applications.stp@sot.tum.de**. If you have content-related questions, please contact **ruth.mueller@tum.de** and **amy.clare@tum.de**.

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