

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

Post-doctoral researcher (TV-L E13, 100%, 5 years, fixed term) on the Topic “Foresight”

Job description

- Perform STS research on foresight and assessment of transformative technologies, informal governance, such as standardization, as well as the evidence-based governance of socio-technical transformations (in the field of energy, environment, AI, digitalization. (see <https://transform-cluster.de/proj/opening-markets-for-green-innovation/>)
- Work towards joint publications in recognized international, peer-reviewed journals
- Co-Teach courses in **TUM Master RESET** and **Master STS** on topics such as STS concepts and methods, advanced topics on Technology, Sustainability, Society; help develop new courses on these topics (such as “Fore Future-making”, “STS & activism”, “Risks & Safety”, “Accounting and standardization practices”)
- Teach course in the TUM School of Engineering and Design – **MINT** and M.Sc. **Risk and Safety**
- (Co-)Supervise Master’s students
- Consider writing/contributing to synergistic grant applications to raise external funding.
- Participate in the Sociology of Science research group and support the work of the group at an administrative level
- Active engagement with the community at STS Department, TUM, and in the international STS landscape

Candidate Profile

- Completed/submitted dissertation in Science and Technology Studies (STS) or a related field, e.g. Sociology, Interpretative Policy Studies, or other relevant fields, presuming that you can demonstrate an equivalent level of qualification and subject-specific expertise.
- A distinct research profile in STS or related fields (demonstrated through publications or previous teaching), ideally related to the topic and the broader chair profile.
- Broad knowledge of the topics, theories, and methods of STS/ sociology of science
- Experience in (co-)supervising student theses are an advantage
- Experience in research management is an advantage
- Excellent command of the English language
- German language skills are an advantage (but not necessary)
- International experience is an advantage
- Presence at Munich during the semester is obligatory
- Strong inclination to work in a team-oriented environment.

About us

The SST research group seeks to establish a research program on science, technology in 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 interactively and reflexively. The group researches and enables the emergence of new forms 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. foresight, anticipation, responsible science, and standardization). We also develop an analytical framework for understanding and mapping novel forms of knowledge production and assessing their scientific performance and societal impacts, including their evaluation criteria.

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. 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 research programs. We maintain close collaborative ties to other parts of TUM as well as to leading STS centers in Germany and around the world. Find out more about the STS Department and STS online:

<https://www.sts.sot.tum.de/sts/arbeitsgruppen/wissenschaftssoziologie/>

About TransforM

TransforM - the Munich Center for Transformative Technologies and Societal Change – is a new social science research cluster funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) as part of the Excellence Strategy. TransforM tackles the dual challenge of advancing fundamental social science for highly technologized societies and rethinking technology development through a social science lens. As an interdisciplinary social science cluster with a principal focus on technology, our goal is to augment current theories and methods to comprehensively understand and help shape transformative technology to better serve diverse societal needs. Better knowledge about why, when, and how technologies become socially transformative will enhance our ability to assess and inform transformation pathways 'all the way through' – from the early stages of their emergence to their wider socio-economic impact.

TransforM is deeply embedded in Munich's vibrant innovation ecosystem. Anchored by two of Germany's leading research universities—Technical University of Munich (TUM) and Ludwig Maximilians University (LMU)—as well as an exceptional concentration of non-university research institutions concerned with technology and innovation (including the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition, the Deutsches Museum, the ifo Institute for Economic Research, the ZEW Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research, and UnternehmerTUM, among others), the cluster brings together an unrivaled depth and diversity of social science expertise focused specifically on technology.

www.transform-cluster.de

Application Process

- 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
- The names and contact details of three references
- Relevant transcripts and certificates (e.g. a copy of your master's or doctoral degree).

The deadline for the application is **April 30, 2026**.

All application materials should be sent to vincent.hoesi@tum.de.

Specific clarification questions about this position or our research profile should be addressed to Prof. Silke Beck (silke.beck@tum.de).

Note on data protection: As part of your application, you provide personal data to be processed at Technical University of Munich (TUM). Please note our data protection information in accordance with Art. 13 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on the collection and processing of personal data in the context of your application. By submitting your application, you confirm that you have taken note of TUM's data protection information.