

**ERC Starting Grant 2014  
Research proposal [Part B1]**

**Minor Powers:  
Biodigital Citizenship, Agent-based Models, and Governance in a  
ScienceCraft Era**

**Cover Page:**

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI): Alexander Stingl
- Name of the PI's host institution for the project: Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Belgium
- Proposal duration in months: 60

<u>Proposal Summary:</u>
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Different kinds of social interactions in different settings produce different human beings in a double-bind of culture and cognition: Human-human, human-machine, human-computer interface, human-ecology all have their specific qualities and potentials for producing a certain type of human being, a certain type of interactional dynamic, and a certain type of emotional/affective life. We have entered an era in which new cultural and epistemic regimes emerge, but entangled in one regard: They are connected by an undergirding regime of techno-scientific governance. In Studies of Science, Technology and Society (STS) a convergence of digital culture, biopower, and environmentalité has been observed to give birth to a next iteration of technoscience that the PI in collaboration with international colleagues Restivo and Weiss has called *ScienceCraft*. It is now the aim of the PI's new project to develop further this innovative theoretical framework, to develop an empirical STS methodology and a robust research tool for the study of this convergence and its type of citizenship, for which the PI has coined the term *biodigital citizenship*: What kind of citizen is the *biodigital citizen*? What forms do publics take on, that these citizens constitute through active participation? How will these emerging biodigital citizens conceive of possibilities for political agency, self-improvement, and quality of life governed within regimes of biomedicalization and digital culture. The project focuses on three specific research sites (ADHD, aikido, gaming), where biomedicalization and digital culture play different roles but are each ripe with the potential for producing a future type biodigital citizen. Can this go beyond ideal-types of *active* participants in techno-social life and reform projects or become *passive* consumer citizens? What kinds of predictions will agent-based models from STS and the sociology of embodied cognition allow for policy-outcomes and biodigital publics?

## Section a. Extended Synopsis of the Project.

### *Timeliness and Relevance*

Regimes of techno-scientific governance have become a salient, and constitutive feature of contemporary society, in particular of public interaction and political domains. This has become an near-irrefutable truth in at least three inter-related modes of governmentality, that are individually well established in the interdisciplinary Science, Technology, and Society Studies (STS) literatures, and which the PI and international collaborators have investigated in combination as *ScienceCraft*<sup>1</sup>: Public and political concern involves biopolitics, digital culture, and environmentalité.

This new project will concern itself with an investigation into the first two and their interrelations. Publics and policy-makers, for whom policy and ethics regimes exit as cognitive ideas of power, agency, and quality of life, are now facing a social structural constellation, where biopolitical processes (e.g. biomedicalization), and digital culture have begun to merge into a singular *algorithmic architecture*, undergirding the political process and the formation of publics and citizenship identity: The PI has applied the term *biodigital citizenship* to account for this trajectory.

It is important to note here, first of all, that ‘publics’ and ‘the political’ (*le politique, das Politische*) are understood broadly in a Pragmatist way to describe ‘the citizenship of those who consider themselves *affected* (“public”) by the indirect consequences of transactions (“the political”) to such an extent that they engage in a discourse to have those consequences systematically cared for by the political instruments afforded by society (“governance”).’ Secondly, the process of *becoming biodigital citizen*, like any other kind of ‘citizenship-and-identity formation’, occurs by involvement of both culture and cognition. As a consequence, this research coincides with recent developments in political psychology<sup>2</sup>, while understanding itself as a driving force in the recent discourse integrating the emerging field of the *Sociology of Embodied Cognition* with STS.

### Biopolitics/Biomedicalization:

(Mental) Health care and biomedical research are already substantial markets and will continue to be an area of economic and knowledge growth, while biomedical knowledge and power relations will continue to pervade culture and self-narratives. For example, ongoing internationalization through free-trade zones, like in the negotiations for a Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership Agreement between the EU and the US, means that ‘care service’- and ‘health care product’-markets will grow, high-skill and low-skill job applicant pools will merge, while different knowledges, products, and people will migrate both physically and digitally. For example: Already many European parents and teachers have adopted criteria disseminated by the American Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), to ‘(lay-)diagnose’ children’s Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). In other words, we have been and still are witnessing transformative and highly political processes involving patients’ agency situated between two *ideal-typical* poles of *active participation* vs. *passive consumption* in health care and biomedical regimes. As a summary result of the techno-scientific regime of biomedicalization, critical authors have declared the emergence of new ‘subjectivities’, for example the *neuronal self* or a class of the *new chronic*<sup>3</sup>, to better understand the contemporary reconfiguration of the relationship between politics, capitalism, revolution, and the body, that intersects with contemporary biomedicine, to (re)produce and manage human beings and their life-course in multiplying ways that are made to hold together in a *algorithmic architecture*<sup>4</sup> afforded by the regime techno-scientific governance. These critical thinkers have delivered important diagnoses and deployed productive concepts. A next step must

<sup>1</sup> Restivo, S., Weiss, S.M, Stingl, A.I. *Worlds of ScienceCraft*, Surrey: Ashgate, 2014

<sup>2</sup> The PI was invited after a competitive selection to an interdisciplinary BMBF-Klausurwoche (workshop sponsored by the German Ministry for Education and Research) on the issue “Can Psychology/Cognitive Research Replace Ethics”, May 8 – 15, 2014, where productive discussions with international junior and senior researchers resulted in revisions in this proposal.

<sup>3</sup> Pitts-Taylor, V. “The Plastic Brain: Neoliberalism and the neuronal self” in: *Health* Vol. 14/6, 2010: 635 – 652; Cazdyn, E. *The Already Dead: The new time of politics, culture, and illness*. Durham, NC: Duke UP, 2012; Mol, A. *The Body Multiple: Ontology in Medical Practice*. Durham, NC: Duke UP, 2003

<sup>4</sup> Parisi, L. "Biotech: Life by Contagion." *Theory, Culture & Society* 24/6, 2007: 29–52

be, however, to create adequate empirical methodologies, research tools, and outcome-oriented research programs.

### Digital Culture

It is a commonplace that digital, screen-based technologies have invaded all areas of our social and everyday lives, including the majority of social spaces inhabited by children and adolescents in the process of developing cognitive and social capabilities. Equally, most science-based interventions, for example in biomedicine and (mental) health care, are mediated and governed by digital-algorithmic procedures afforded by regimes of techno-scientific governance. The study of the effects of these transformations has only just begun, but it is already understood that initial hopes for a more democratic ‘open society’ becoming possible in digital culture *without any condition* turned out to be utopian, while the generation considered to become digitally native more often presents as digitally quite naive<sup>5</sup>, and even often abusive in public participation in digital forums, which are used to ‘bully, troll, and stalk’, as well proliferate politics of intolerance and hatred. These consequences of digital culture as the *technological condition*<sup>6</sup> of contemporary human existence and the status of humans as political being require not only further study but also the creation of methods to conduct research empirically.

### Biodigital Citizenship

The ongoing biomedicalization of childhood and the all-pervasive *techno-somatic routines* of digital screen culture, i.e. the inescapable coupling of bodies and screens that children now experience as ‘normal’, have ultimately transformed how publics are formed and interact, how political agency can be conceived, and how one’s own life-course and perception of self can be imagined. They have also created their own pathologies, e.g. the proliferation of ADHD is associated with a case of *digital dementia*. In short, biopolitics and digital culture are not two separate modes; instead, shaped by and shaping culture and cognition, they have become intertwined into the figuration of *biodigital citizenship*. As children and adolescents are growing up into *becoming biodigital citizens* in regimes techno-scientific governance, we can ask: ‘What kinds of political agents will they turn out to be?’, and ‘How can we predict the effects on social systems undergoing necessary policy reform?’ These are pressing questions for political psychology, STS, and sociologists of culture&cognition. We take these ideas and their consequences for the development of an interdisciplinary research agenda seriously. The project is outcome-oriented in its understanding of three chosen research sites. These sites represent social ontologies that function as the context for interventions where children as patients, martial arts students, and future political/consumer citizens are embedded in. The timeliness and importance of this project is best summarized by a team of cognition researchers around T.E.Moffit, working on executive functions and intervention potentials, framed the socio-economic outcome-based results of their work:

‘[I]nterventions that achieve even small improvements in [inhibitory control] for individuals could shift the entire distribution of outcomes in a salutary direction and yield large improvements in health, wealth, and crime rate for a nation.’<sup>7</sup>

### *Overview*

The aim of this project is to study the outcomes that this type of citizenship produces, to create empirical methods, as well as make possible agent-based models for effective evaluation and estimation of biodigital citizenship, of the economy of participation and attention, and of the social pathologies and policy outcomes. The following three research sites are proposed by the PI, inferring from his own research and research collaborations:

<sup>5</sup> Hargittai, E. “Digital Na(t)ives? Variation in Internet Skills and Uses among Members of the ‘Net Generation’” in: *Sociological Inquiry*. 80/1, 2010: 92-113

<sup>6</sup> Scharff, R.C., Dusek, V., eds. *Philosophy of Technology and the Technological Condition*. Malden: Wiley Blackwell, 2014; Hörl, E., ed. *Die technologische Bedingung*. Berlin: Suhrkamp, 2011.

<sup>7</sup> Moffit, T.E. et al “A gradient of childhood self-control predicts health, wealth, and public safety.” in: *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, Vol. 108, 2011: 2693 - 2698

- (i) The situation of children following diagnostic and therapeutic decision-making on disruptive behavior disorders, primarily ADHD, in the way these situations involve children's perceptions of empowerment in institutional discourses and 'everyday' interactions between doctors, teachers/parents, and minors as patients and learners;
- (ii) minors (and adults) participating in the non-competitive martial arts Aikido and Taekwondo, that are considered to have a positive effect on the development of cognitive abilities, such as the so-called *executive functions* (e.g. inhibitory control), the focus is on self-agency 'on the mat' in teacher-student interactions and the changes in *enablement* and *empowerment* 'off the mat'; and
- (iii) online interactions in games and game forums involving bio-digital citizenship through making explicit dimensions of empowerment, corporeality, and socio-political pathologies.

The novelty of designing a *grounded, middle-range, and mixed-methods tool* lies in the alignment of qualitative and quantitative methods through four basic steps. **Step 1:** The team will create semantic cluster maps that encode qualitative data for empowerment, institutionalized, and discursive power for each research site. This will be done through *focused institutional ethnography* (combining situational mapping, discursive institutionalism, and latent meaning pattern analysis). For this *step 1*, and later *step 4*, the team will co-operate with 5-8 pediatric and child psychiatric clinics/practices across Europe, (depending on the individual size), 5 schools, 5 Aikido and 3 Taekwondo dojos, as well as study one multiplayer online game and three popular computer games, respective online game discussion forums, plus several political news and discussion forums. **Step 2:** Semantic qualifiers will be encoded in ways that can be queried and measured in so-called semantic qualifying analyses. The novelty of the PI's approach lies in the fact that instead of oppositional binaries, codification will allow for semantic clusters that can be quantitatively transformed by use of fractal and multivariate vector- and cluster-analytical methods. Step 2 will be conducted in the form of questionnaires that use Likert-scaled items that represent semantic clusters, which will be complemented by studies with, for example, the International Affective Picture System (IAPS) and the Self-Assessment Manikin (SAM)<sup>8</sup>. **Step 3:** Creation of *resilient semantic topologies* reproducing actor's perceptions of power relations, possibilities to act, and their identity narrative as these are embedded in environments of algorithmic architectures and techno-scientific governance. We will target agent-based models that can weigh outcome potentials, for example for health care policy reforms, participation in or acceptance of privacy regimes, etc. **Step 4:** The team will return to some of the practices, schools, and dojos, working with focus groups and panels, and assess responses on forums, to test the predictive capabilities of the simulations. These are constituted along the policy-analytical frame of *discursive institutionalism*, positing that tacit and propositional knowledges represent cognitive policies and ideas that attain relevance, i.e. meaning, in practice. Empirical applications of *discursive institutionalism* seek out, identify, and interrogate the three following dimensions in discursive reconstruction [in brackets are the theoretical concepts used in SAT]<sup>9</sup>:

- windows of opportunity [*enablements*]
- core beliefs that can be made explicit [*statements/assemblies*]
- implicit programmatic patterns [*constraints*]

The two values or variables that are investigated are *cognitive ideas/cognitive policies (ci/cp)* and *normative appropriateness (na)*, which construct the *figured worlds*<sup>10</sup> an agent can conceive himself/herself as embedded in and afforded by with opportunities.

Based on methodological literature, it can be said that cognitive policies are *plausibly* open to forms of semantic differential analysis that can encode robust semantic vectors and clusters measuring power in status hierarchies, health-related quality of life (HrQoL), and perceived self-agency, as well as correlations among all three semantic fields that are targeted: In other words, this operationalization of the three research sites will obtain in steps 1 to 3 significant data points on tacit and propositional

<sup>8</sup> Lang, P.J., Bradley, M.M., & Cuthbert, B.N. International affective picture system (IAPS): Affective ratings of pictures and instruction manual. Technical Report A-8. University of Florida, 2008

<sup>9</sup> *Semantic Agency Theory*, see, for example: Stingl, A. "Truth, Knowledge, Narratives of Selves" in: *TAS*, Vol. 42, 2011

<sup>10</sup> Cerulo, K. 2006. *Never Saw It Coming*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006. Holland, D. C. 1998. *Identity and Agency in Cultural Worlds*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP

knowledge about (a) ideas about self-agency among minors in high-tech *and* low-tech techno-scientific contexts (i.e. as patients or as martial arts students), (b) potentials and threats for empowerment (i.e. in online interactions), and (c) well-being and health-related quality of life (HrQoL). The operationalization of these three subject matters makes it possible to create agent-based models of decision-making and participation in techno-scientific governance regimes. These models will be tested for efficacy in the final step. Such models are indispensable for predicting, for example, the future success of health care policy-measures or biomedical research-participation, such as in biobanking.

*Key intermediates outcomes (KIO)*

- I: A new mixed-methods tool for measuring policy-outcome and social change.
- II: An agent-based model that makes lucid the conditions for active participation.
- III: The efficacy of low-tech interventions for improving the development of political imagination and for lowering the impact of social pathologies.

*Hypotheses delimiting the scope of this project:*

- H1. Participation framed as a decision-making process can be shown to necessarily involve cognitive ideas about power and self-agency that constitute propositional knowledge.
- H2. If a global outcome is dependent on situated, individual participation, the latter emerges as a cognitive policy<sup>11</sup> in biomedical and digital contexts from the semantic interplay between shared meaning (social ontology) and individual perception of self-agency, power (or status hierarchy), and quality of life.
- H3. Decision-making on whether low-tech or high-tech options are chosen to aid in child development, steer ideas about well-being in HrQoL, and the formation of complex participant/consumer-identities. These depend on factors of lifestyle, class, gender, and social milieu, and also represent symbolic boundaries that result from enculturation. Sub-hypotheses on the effect of these factors and boundaries on power and self-agency can be tested with our tool.
- H4. Connecting situational analysis<sup>12</sup> and discursive institutionalism<sup>13</sup> in biomedical regimes to health-related quality of life measures will improve our understanding of outcome- and competitiveness-oriented transformation of care systems and effectivity of policies, establish a robust distinction between ‘objective’ and ‘subjective outcomes’, and yield reliable scales of how these factors help steer interoperability practices for different populations that relate ideas of individual patient satisfaction and participation.
- H5. Patients and care recipients can be constructed as *consumers* and/or active *participants*, but outcome-based policy needs to conceive of a more complex hybrid concept of *active consumer citizens*.<sup>14</sup>
- H6. Techno-somatic routines negotiate the understanding self-agency and participation in redrawing the boundaries between public and private spheres, thereby changing the global meaning of participant identity.
- H7. Meaning-making can be measured by mixed-methods that collect semantic information and enable a robust research paradigm for quantitative measuring<sup>15</sup> of the distribution of power and agency by way of cluster and multivariate factor analysis.<sup>16</sup> Agent-based models deploying semantic and

<sup>11</sup> Schmidt, V. “Analyzing Ideas and Tracing Discursive Interactions In Institutional Change: From Historical Institutionalism to Discursive Institutionalism.” *Open Forum CES Paper Series #3*. eds. Gregorz Ekiert and Andrew Martin.

<sup>12</sup> Clarke, A. E. “Situational Analyses: Grounded Theory Mapping After the Postmodern Turn.” in: *Symbolic Interaction*, Vol.26/4, 2003: 553-576;

<sup>13</sup> Schmidt, V. *Policy Change and Discourse in Europe*. London: Routledge, 2005

<sup>14</sup> Lamla, J. “Consumer Autonomy and its Political Manifestations” in: *Krisis*, 1, 2012: 32 – 48; Weingartner, S. “Highbrow practices and frame-selection – An integrative approach to cultural consumption” in: *Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie*, Vol. 65, 2013:3–30;

<sup>15</sup> Bartos, C., et al “Development of an Instrument for Measuring Clinicians’ Power Perceptions in the Workplace” in: *Journal of Biomedical Informatics*. Vol. 41(6), 2008: 1041–1049; Sachweh, P. “Symbolic Boundaries and Subjective Approaches to Stratification: Empirical Investigation from a Mixed-Methods Perspective” in: *Zeitschrift für Soziologie*, Jg. 42, 2013: Kelle, U. *Die Integration qualitativer und quantitativer Methoden in der empirischen Sozialforschung*. Wiesbaden: Springer, 2008

<sup>16</sup> Bacher J., et al Clusteranalyse. Anwendungsorientierte Einführung in Klassifikationsverfahren, Oldenbourg, 2010.

institutional situational maps allow outcome-oriented<sup>17</sup> predictions.

- H8. A resilient, ‘semantic qualifying’-based tool that encodes and gauges propositional knowledge contributes effectively to agent-based simulations and predicting factor strength for participation.

*The question ‘What if...?’: Risks of this research design.*

The PI estimates the following potential risks: While unlikely to occur, there are strategies for coping with failure of one or several of the hypotheses or tools: While the mixed-methods approach will yield valuable qualitative data for all research sites involved, the development and testing of the tool itself (KIO I), would be a significant step forward for various social research fields that depend on the elucidation of the link between culture and cognition. The full potential, creating an agent-based model, may perhaps only be possible if all three sites are comparatively evaluated. However, failures in one of the sites do not prevent the creation of micro-level models for each specific research site. Since H1 is relatively uncontroversial on the basis of the state of research on culture and cognition, achieving all three theses and all eight hypotheses. In an unlikely worst case scenario, with one or more of the individual hypotheses H2 - H8 failing globally or one of the three research sites not working out, significant data to achieve the goal of KIO I and obtain micro-level models for a minimal realization of KIO II for research sites will remain possible. The risk is created in *step 2*, the quantitative step; while highly innovative and presenting an important development in the canon of STS/social science methods, it is also the most risky in the course of this project. This type of risk is typical for mixed-methods research. The main setback would be, therefore, that the model might be less robust and had lesser potential for generalization than intended, although that degree is effectively hard to predict. Additional risks may lie in securing the cooperation of a sufficient number of clinics, schools, and dojos, as well as the issues of research ethics that have to be addressed (informed consent, etc.).

*Impact in the field of STS and in STS-related policy research*

The goal of this project is to develop and apply a mixed-methods tool and to produce robust data for ‘techno-scientific governance’- and STS-guided policy-making. It focuses on the interplay between the political imagination and cognitive policies, between empowerment and the power structures in institutionalized discourses in bio-medicalization, in digitalization, and in the developing hybrid arrangement of active consumer citizenship: As we enter a state of oscillation between industrial and post-industrial, and between liberal-democratic and capitalist post-democratic forms of society, complicated by global stress induced by declining natural resources and climate change, democratic values of tolerance, gender equality, and cultural diversity are threatened to become politically re-imagined as liabilities ‘because consumerist society suffers from excessive complexity and a fatal lack of social cohesion’<sup>18</sup>. Contextually, the project aims at understanding the social pathologies and ecologies of power in three discourses where attention and participation, as two crucial factors in both agentic cognitive policies and political policy implementation, reveal their context-dependence and plasticity. This will enable policy evaluations through agent-based modeling of outcome-oriented technoscientific governance in biomedicine and health care, digital culture in gaming (serious as well as recreational), and in understanding patient agency and consumer citizenship. The novelty of the tool the PI is developing lies in the alignment of qualitative and quantitative methods by using focused institutional ethnography and semantic qualifying to encode institutionalized and discursive power and empowerment, mapping perceptions of agency in algorithmic architectures and techno-scientific power relations, which allows agent-based simulations.

The PI will dedicate 80% of his time for the duration of 60 months. One Postdoc (four years), and two PhD students (four years) will build the team.

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<sup>17</sup> Marmor, T.R., Wendt, C. “Conceptual Frameworks for Comparing Healthcare Politics and Policy” in: *Health Policy* Vol. 107, 2012: 11-20;

<sup>18</sup> Friedrichs, J. *The future is not what it used to be*. Cambridge, Ma: MIT Press, 2013

**Section b: Curriculum vitae****PERSONAL INFORMATION**

- Family name, First name: Stingl, Alexander
- Date of birth: November 10, 1976
- URL for web site: www.alexstingl.webs.com

**EDUCATION**

- Dr. Phil. (PhD), Sociology, Advisors: Ilja Srubar/Joachim Renn, FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany in 2008
- MA, Sociology, Philosophy, American Studies/Cultural Analysis, FAU, Germany in 2005
- Undergraduate Studies in Economics, Empirical Social Research, Social Psychology, FAU
- International Baccalaureate/Abitur (*Kollegstufe*12/13)

**CURRENT POSITIONS AND AFFILIATIONS**

- since 2014, Research Consultant, Department for General Medicine (*Allgemeinmedizin*), University Clinic/Faculty for Medicine, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg
- since 2013, Collaborator, Center for Logic and Philosophy of Science, Free University of Brussels
- since 2013, Affiliated Research Faculty, Center for STS, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA (US)
- since 2012, Visiting Fellow/Research Collaborator, University of Kassel, FB5 Gesellschaftswissenschaften (Faculty for Social Sciences)

**PREVIOUS POSITIONS**

- 2011 – 2014, *Lehrbeauftragter*, College of Leuphana University Lüneburg
- 2010 – 2012, Visiting researcher, European University Viadrina, Frankfurt Oder
- 2005 – 2008, PhD candidate, Institute for Sociology, FAU
- 2002 – 2005, Research & Administrative Assistant at Institute for Sociology, FAU

**FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

- 2014, German Ministry of Science and Education (BMBF) Workshop ‘Psychological Research instead of Ethics’, IZEW, University Tübingen, March 8 – 14, 2014 (Highly competitive)
- 2011 – 2014, EU Innovation Incubator Funding, Innovative Course Designs, Leuphana. (repeatedly)
- 2008, Fellowship DAAD: (German Academic Exchange Services) Harvard Archives: Pusey Library and Baker Library; Brown Archives: Hay Library, August – October
- 2008, Travel Grant DFG: ASA Conference, Boston, August, 2008
- 2007, Fellowship DAAD: Harvard Archives, Brown Archives, June – August 2007

**TEACHING ACTIVITIES**

at College of Leuphana University, Cluster “Knowledge Makes History” (*Wissen macht Geschichte*):

1. EU-Incubator *Ringvorlesung*: English alternative section for international students
2. Seminars taught:
  - “Introduction to STS: Science Studies and the concept of Life”, “Care, Power, Information”, “Work and authorship in science, literature, art, and markets” Europe and the Enlightenment View of Humanity: Public, State, Science”, “The West and its Other(s): The Western Ethos and the Postcolonial Perspective”, “Introduction to Philosophy of Medicine”, “Technoscientific and Postdemocratic Governance”, “Digitalization, Biopolitics, and Health Care”
3. Reading Colloquia: “E. Dussel *Ethics of Liberation*”, “M. Weber *Wissenschaftslehre*”
4. Political and Academic Debate at Leuphana University, Center for Modern Languages (ZEMOS) General Lecture For Teacher/Pedagogy Students: “ADHD (Disruptive Behavior Disorders) in the Classroom”/“ADHD and the Digital Classroom”

## **SUPERVISION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS**

Mentoring for international graduate students and postdocs for American Sociological Association (ASA), Section *Science, Knowledge and Technology (SKAT)* and Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S)

## **ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS**

Conferences in planning stages for ca. 2015/2016

- ‘Critical Realism’ Workshop, (org. with S. Weiss) Kassel or Brussels
- ‘Conversations between Critical Realism, Gilbert Simondon, and New Empiricism’, Drexel
- ‘Invisibilizing Disability A conference on two continents’, (org. With S.Weiss) Drexel&Brussels

Conference Duties

- Panel and Roundtable Presider, various since 2007
- Liaison for International Keynote Speaker, Symposium *Peace and Stability in Europe* 2001

## **INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

- since 2013, American Sociological Association Section *Science, Knowledge and Technology (SKAT)* Membership Committee, Candidate for Council in August 2014
- 2014 (in preparation), Co-Founder, Virtual Institute for Decolonial Political Economies e.V.
- 2013 – 2014, Advisor (Leuphana College Students) Film & Discussion Event: Documentary “Girls Rising”, Panel: Role of girls and women for socio-economic development, Leuphana University
- since 2012, supervising student publications in peer-reviewed journals, Leuphana University
- 2011, National Correspondent Germany, *EÄ – Journal of Medical Humanities and Social Studies of Science and Technology*

## **REVIEWER**

- 2012, External Examiner, PhD Thesis, School of Sociology, Australian National Univ., Canberra
- since 2008, Peer Reviewer for International Academic Journals, Conferences, Funding Agencies

## **EDITORIAL DUTIES**

- since 2013, Editorial Board, Book Series *Studies in Anti-Intellectualism and Academic Disengagement* (Rowman&Littlefield; Editor: Michael Lynch)
- 2008 – 2012, Founding Editor of *Pompeii – Journal for Junior Scholarship in the Arts and Sciences*
- 2008 – 2009, EBSCO, *Point of View* Series, 2008 – 2009

## **SCIENCE WRITING/SCIENTIFIC WRITING**

- 2013, with Sabrina M. Weiss for PrivateGEN, Project Leader Prof. Darbrock
- 2008 – 2009, EBSCO/Great Neck Publishing: *Our World* Series and *Sociology Notes*

## **MAJOR COLLABORATIONS**

- *Ongoing collaborations with Sabrina M. Weiss* (Visiting Assistant Professor at Rochester Institute of Technology, PhD-candidate at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, RPI)
- *Ethnographies of gastronomy labor economies* (Gareth Edel, PhD student, STS Dept., RPI).
- *Critique of Criteria in Diagnostic Manuals DSM and ICD* (with Hans Bakker, Univ. of Guelph)
- *ScienceCraft and the Political Psychology of States and Corporations* (planned with David Hall, PhD candidate, St. Anthony’s College, Oxford University)
- Character, emotion, and techno-scientific governance (negotiations on project design with Kristjan Kristjansson and Liz Gulliford, Jubilee Center for Character and Values, Univ. of Birmingham)
- *The role of victim/survivor metaphors in cultural media, interaction and in identity-processes* (planned with Michael Dellwing, and others, Sociology Dept, University of Kassel)
- *With Sabrina M. Weiss and Sal Restivo (2011 - 2014):* Research for book *Worlds of ScienceCraft*

## Section c: Early achievements track- record

### Research results

#### *Main Achievements Statement*

I was trained as an empirical social scientist at FAU Erlangen-Nuernberg in economics and sociologies of family, deviance, and organization. I studied multivariate and cluster analysis with the author of a leading textbook (J. Bacher), computer-assisted research methods (R. Wittenberg, textbook on SPSS), applications of SYMLOG (H.Kreutz, C.Marx) and organizational sociology (B.Prosch). Relevant teaching-research included an observer-guided study on psychological/medical evaluation of children's school enrollment fitness. I later completed graduate training in qualitative and theory-based studies of sociology of knowledge, philosophy of language and logic, linguistics, as well as bioethics and theories of action. I studied sociology of family, ethnicity, and health care with Elisabeth Beck-Gernsheim (FAU), who co-developed influential theories of reflexive modernity and risk society. I also studied bioethics and action/decision theory with Ralf Stoecker (member of the *Akademie fuer Ethik in der Medizin*). I was invited by Ellen Langer to visit her Psychology Lab at Harvard University, where I was introduced to psychology of mindfulness research and psychological leadership studies. I worked on the issue of system integration of health care reforms and the Triple Aim Agenda as a policy research framework ('better population health, better care experience, reduction of per capita cost') with Jonah Friedman (Langer Lab), and created extensive literature reviews on obesity, attention-deficit, and academic achievement for John Ratey, clinical psychiatrist, expert on adult ADHD, and ADHD/PTSD and physical exercise at Harvard Medical. Following the successful defense of my PhD thesis in 2008, I developed a theoretical-methodological framework, *semantic agency theory*, which is featured in independent and collaborative publications, which guides teaching and research collaborations on my path to a leadership position in STS and related policy areas. Designing my own seminars and being granted competitive funding within the College of Leuphana University, I was invited in 2013 to contribute to the internationalization effort in the First Semester Core Curriculum by creating an English language alternative course to the Core Lecture Series. Also in 2013, I was hired by Prof. Darbrock (Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen Nuremberg; DFG senate panel for animal experiment research, member at the "European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies", member of the *Deutscher Ethikrat*) to edit and compile a research synopsis on privacy and biobanking for PRIVATGen, a collaborative, interdisciplinary research project of several European universities (<http://private-gen.eu/publications.html>). In August 2013, I was invited to participate in the Critical Realism Workshop at NYU, upon invitation by Phil Gorski (Yale), which was conducted by Gorski, Margaret Archer and Roy Bhaskar. In February 2014, along with collaborator Sabrina Weiss, we presented in the ESS Mini-Conference on the Sociology of the Body and Embodiment, upon invitation by organizer Victoria Pitts-Taylor (CUNY), as part of what was intended as the 'keynote panel' with Pitts-Taylor, Bryan S.Turner, and Jackie Orr. In March 2014, I was invited after a rigorous, 'senior peers'-reviewed competition to participate in a week-long workshop sponsored by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF-*Klausurwoche*) on 'Can Psychology Replace Ethics?' at the International Center for Ethics in Science (IZEW) in Tübingen.

*List of selected and relevant publications and presentations (full list available on website)*

#### **Books**

- (Contract option for ms. offered by Lexington) *From Class to Identity & Back Again: A Critique of Political Psychology in the Era of Technoscientific Governance 3.0 & Digital Coloniality of Power*
- (Contract option for ms. offered by Routledge) *The Digital Reification of Western Class Society*
- (2014) with Sal Restivo and Sabrina M. Weiss, *Worlds of Science Craft. New Horizons in Philosophy, Sociology, and Science Studies*. Surrey/London: Ashgate
- (2010) *Between Discursivity and Sensus Communis: The Co-Evolution of Biology and Social Thought.....*, Erlangen: OPUS
- (2009) *Aufklärung als Flaschenpost oder Anthropologie der Gegenwart. Horkheimer's und Adornos Immanente Kritik und Foucaults Interpretative Analytik*, Saarbrücken: VDM

**Articles and Chapters (last four years, selected by relevance to suggested project)***accepted/forthcoming*

- “Cyborg gaze and *patient vitreous*” in: Stapelton/Byers, eds. *Biopolitics and Utopia*
- “The powers of distraction, attention, and abstraction in the education of the citizens of our futures: in: *Leonardo Electronic Almanac – Special Issue: The Culture of Digital Education*, (MIT Press)
- “Medical imaging as media of persuasion” *Media on the Brain*, M. Grabowski, ed., Oxford UP
- with Sabrina M. Weiss, “Between the Shell and the Ghost: A hauntology of zombies in society” in: Dellwing, M., Harbusch, M. eds., *Vergemeinschaftung in Zeiten der Zombie-Apokalypse*, Springer

## 2014

- with Sabrina M. Weiss, “Making Trouble: Mindfulness is Care” in: Wroblewski/Brand, eds. Proceedings BMBF workshop ‘Can Psychology Replace Ethics?’, Wiesbaden: Springer
- with Sabrina M. Weiss, “Mindfulness as/is Care: Biopolitics, narrative empathy, techno-scientific practices” in: Ie, A. Langer, E., Ngoumen, C. eds. *Wiley-Blackwell Handbook of Mindfulness*

## 2013

- with Sabrina M. Weiss, “ADHD and its ecologies and agencies: Before and beyond the label” *Krankheitskonstruktionen&Krankheitstreiberei*. Dellwing, M., ed., Wiesbaden: Springer VS

## 2012

- “How to Map the Body's Spaces: Cartography of corporeal myths.” Conference Proceedings, “Myth-Making, Myth-Breaking in History” Univ. Bucharest, C. Dobre, et al, eds.

## 2011

- “Truths, Knowledge, Narratives of Selves. *The American Sociologist. Special Issue on Semiotics and Social Science*, Vol. 42, 2/3, 2011
- “Knowledge based economy”, in: *Impacts of Technological Chang*, Ipswich, MA: Salem Press
- “The ADHD regime and situating neuro-chemical selves in whole systems” Kopnina, H., Keune, H., eds. *Health and Environment*, New York: Nova Science Pub.

**Presentations (last three years only, selected by relevance and/or importance)**

## 2014

- “Decolonial Options, Public Intellectuals, Digital Coloniality”, LeuphanaU, IPK, Colloquium
- “Mindfulness as/is Care” German Ministry for Education&Research (BMBF) workshop “Psychology instead of Ethics”, TübingenU, Germany (‘senior peers’-reviewed, highly competitive)
- “Practicing narratives of selves in cyborg visuality.” ESS, Baltimore, MD
- (with Sabrina M. Weiss) “Keep Calm and Maintain Homeostasis” Mini Conference on Body and Embodiment (w. Turner, Orr, Pitts-Taylor), Baltimore, MD (USA), invited participation.
- further accepted and forthcoming presentations in 2014 for STS Italia, SSSI (USA), ASA (USA)

## 2013

- Guest Lectures on 9/11 , STS Dept. Rochester Institute for Technology in “Science, Technology&Environment”, “Science Technology&Values” and STS & Gender “
- “Care, Power, Information: The techno-aesthetics of patients’ lifecourses” ASA, NYC
- “Time, Space, Image: Visual aesthetics of techno-scientific interactions” SSSI, NYC
- “German Society, Politics, Academia” Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst., *Professional Development*
- “A theory of nomadic Statehood” ESS, Boston, also stand-in for missing presider

## 2012

- “Nomadic Statehood”, Guerilla Talk during 4S, Copenhagen
- “Semantic gaps, epistemic deficiencies and the cyborg gaze: Medical imaging, gender, in the perspective of postcolonial philosophy of science.” NeuroCultures-NeuroGenderings II, Vienna
- “Styles of Suffering and Spaces of Pain: A narrative empathic theory”, SSSI, Denver, CO
- “The post-democratic body and the bio-scientific state.”, ASA, Denver, CO
- “Digitalized Humans in Human Ecology”, STS Italia, Rovigo, Italy