

Reflections STS Blog | Guidelines 2025

Dear author,

thank you for considering to write a post for "Reflections", the Blog of the STS Department at the University of Vienna. The following should give you some ideas as to what your contribution could look like, and which general guidelines your post should follow.

About the Blog

The STS Vienna Blog serves as a platform to discuss current events, issues and concerns from an STS-informed perspective, focusing on technoscientific topics related to societal issues. It seeks to provide room for a diverse array of contributions that stand in relation to work by the researchers, students and visitors of the STS Department at the University of Vienna. These contributions should display the department's research and teaching activities but also provide a window for an interested audience to gain new perspectives on sociotechnical concerns.

Since various authors (students, teachers, researchers, etc.) are involved in contributing to the blog, it necessarily displays a certain diversity of different forms of contributions. Below, you can find a short characterisation and criteria descriptions for some of the different formats.

Thinking about the blog post you want to write or make, please consider your own position and what kind of contribution you would like to share.

Blog posts can range from a short essay; a report or fieldnote; an audio/visual or video essay; a review of a book chapter or article; a book or project announcement; an interview; a presentation or talk summary; and other, more experimental and hybrid formats.

Types of Contributions

1. **Short essay** (max. 750 words)

A short essay is an argumentative text that opens up a problem, an idea, or question and discusses it by bringing forth arguments and examples and provides some kind of answer or conclusion in the end. Ideally such a text starts with a "hook" (such as a captivating description of a current event, personal experience or something similar) that sparks interest in the reader.

Some pathways to a short essay:

- Choose one aspect of an article or thesis that you have written and summarize it, paying special attention to linking it to contemporary debates and concerns.
- Choose a technoscientific controversy or issue and link it to STS theories and approaches that you have learned about in a seminar or come across in your research practice.
- Think of a technoscientific controversy or issue and formulate your opinion on it based on STS approaches.
- Think about experiences you have had during fieldwork or any other part of your research process that you found remarkable and reflect on them.
- We encourage the use of first person and a personal voice. At the same time, the writing should be solid, embedded with a distinct research/scholarly character.
- The tone should be clear, engaging, critical and respectful.

2. **Report** (max. 750 words)

A report provides a review of a conference, workshop or any other kind of STS related event, describes the setting and topic and summarizes the discussions and interactions that took place at the event. Ideally a report is accompanied by several pictures and/or a video of the event.

Some pathways to a report:

- Think about what you expected from the event and compare that with what actually took place.
- Take the title, motto or theme of the event and lay out how it was addressed in the contributions at the event.
- Reflect upon your experiences and positioning in the field as a researcher. For example, how did you negotiate this position or difference with your interlocutors and how did this shape your experiences and findings?

3. **Interview** (max. 1000 words)

An interview reproduces the conversation that two or more people have had about a specific topic. The written version of your interview can have a question and answer format or be a running text that reports on the interview.

Some pathways to an interview:

- Think about why the person you want to talk to is an interesting interview partner. Who is that person, what is their position within STS, what are they knowledgeable about?
- Think about a topic that will be a fruitful subject of your conversation. On which topics will your interview partner have something to say that is thought provoking for people who are interested in science, technology and society relations? Quality criteria:
 - Does the reader get an impression of who the person is you were interviewing?
 - Does the interview follow a certain logical or narrative structure?
 - Does the interview have a discernable topic, which is relevant for STS, around which it revolves?

4. **Video Essays and Visual Essays**

The video essay is a videographic media object made of a montage of images sounds and words in various combinations. The form presents a means to work with audiovisual materials at different stages of your research process. For example, with video essay methods you can explore your empirical materials, produce media describing research-in-progress, or develop audiovisual essays that form part of larger projects. The results can be as subjective as they are meaningful, as critical as they are playful, and as radical as they are open-ended.

Visual essays can contain any type of original, self-produced visual content including photography, photomontage, illustration, drawings, etc.

Some pathways to a visual or video essay:

- Visual essays can contain a number of approx. 8–14 images.. There is no strict time limit for video essays.
- The essays should be preceded by an evocative title and, optionally, a subtitle.
- The assemblage of images and text should be essayistic and emanate a distinct research or scholarly character.
- If more artistic or experimental means are used for the production of images, the research element can be made apparent within the accompanying text(s).

General Guidelines for All Contributions

Language

The blog post should be written in a language that is clear and appealing to a general audience. This especially means that theoretical and technical terms should be explained, so those not familiar with them can also follow the text's argument. In general, try to write up your text with as few theoretical terms as possible.

The used language should be inclusive and reflexive in the way they refer to groups of people in both writing, visual and audio material. In particular, we will not tolerate posts that are sexist, racist, antisemitic, homophobic or ableist.

Structure

Every blog post should have a title as well as three keywords to facilitate crosslinking the blog posts.

Try to make use of the possibilities the medium offers, i.e. include hyperlinks, photos or videos. If you use photos or videos for your post, make sure that you have the rights to use them and provide us with the source you obtained them from.

Please include a short biographical note about you as the author, your affiliation, interests and work not exceeding two sentences at the end of the post.

Please comply with the following referencing guidelines: If you want to cite resources that are not available online (i.e. printed books), or that are only accessible to a limited audience (e.g. academic paywall) use footnotes to reference those. Resources that are available online without restriction (e.g. newspaper articles) should be referenced by hyperlinking them in the text.

Submission Procedure

Please submit your blog post to blog.sts@univie.ac.at. Your post will then be forwarded to two reviewers from our department who will give you feedback. They will also agree with you on a deadline until which you can submit your revised post to them. After your second submission the reviewers will give you feedback on your revisions and either ask you for further revisions or submit the article to the blog coordinator for publishing. Please note that for editorial reasons it might take some time until your post will be online after it has been accepted.

We are looking forward to your submission!