

Workshop of the Research Initiative Technology & Society in Japan and Beyond

Opening Remarks

Susanne Brucksch

German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), Tokyo

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Research Initiative: Technology & Society in Japan and Beyond

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Technikstudien and STS: Launching a Research Initiative Regarding Intersections between Technology and Society in Japan

- An Oscar for Wakamaru: Robots, Gender, and Performance
- Children with Disabilities in Japanese Schools:
 Between Assistive Technologies and Social Barriers
- Lay People and Experts in Citizen Science: Monitoring Radioactively Contaminated Food in Post-Fukushima Japan
- Das Verhältnis von Recht und Technik in Japan aus Perspektive der Haftung von Unternehmen und Staat für technikbedingte Massenschäden am Beispiel von Minamata, Asbest und Fukushima
- Shaping the Future: Science and Technology Foresight Activities in Japan, with Special Consideration of the 10th Foresight



Research Initiative

(Technikstudien: Intersections between Technology and Society in Japan)

- Dr Susanne Brucksch (DIJ) und Dr Cosima Wagner (Freie Universitaet Berlin)
- 2015: STS Symposium at FU Berlin
- Meeting of the Technik-STS Section: at VSJF since 2015
- JAWS Conference in Istanbul, manifold research at DIJ, etc.
- **Special Issue**: ASIEN Nr. 140 (July 2016): open access (http://asien.asienforschung.de/asien-140-juli-2016/)
- NEXT Workshop: Nov 20, 2021 (Sat) at VSJF (online)



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DEGA

DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR ASIENKUNDE E.V.
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Challenges by studying Japan from within and from the outside

- "The analysis of the Japanese technotop by avoiding exoticization and stereotyping (techno-orientalism), as well as also avoiding universalism and essentialism — enables a critical understanding of the production and usage of technical devices, technologies, and sociotechnical infrastructures to arise."
- ✓ "such an approach helps to decenter STS research from its prevailing European and North American contexts."

(Brucksch, Wagner 2016, p. 6)

Our Conclusion/Motivation/Purpose

"To conclude, then, let us once again stress the still outstanding need for: (a) building a network of scholars of Japanese Studies and/or various STS groups; (b) comparative research between different countries; and, (c) establishing linkages between Japanese and the German/European community of STS research on Japan/East Asia. ... (d) overcome the communication gap between the humanities and social sciences on the one hand and natural sciences and engineering on the other. "

(Brucksch, Wagner 2016, p. 18)