



Deutsches Institut für Japanstudien
German Institute for Japanese Studies Tokyo (DIJ)
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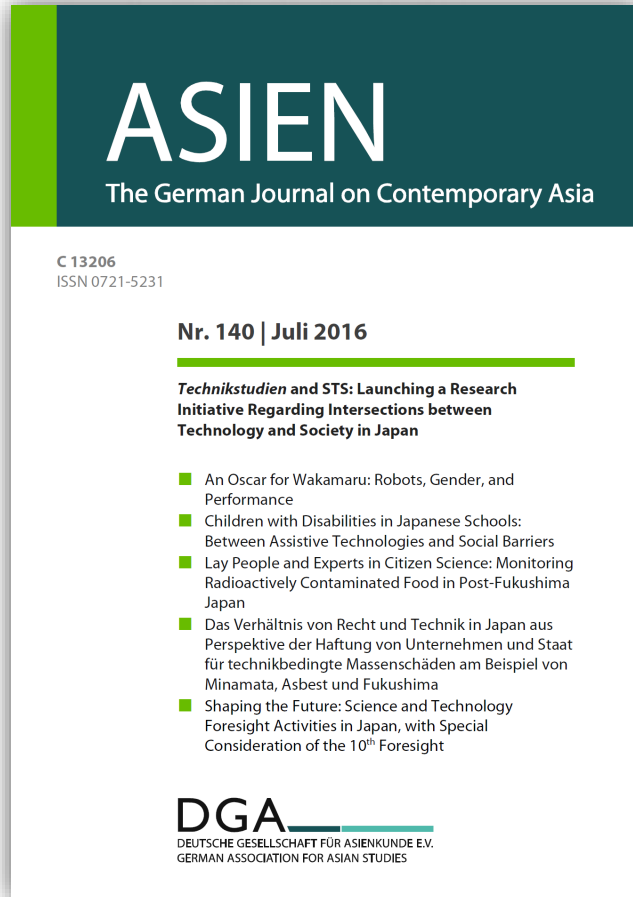
Workshop of the Research Initiative
Technology & Society in Japan and Beyond
Opening Remarks

Susanne Brucksch
German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), Tokyo
25 June 2021

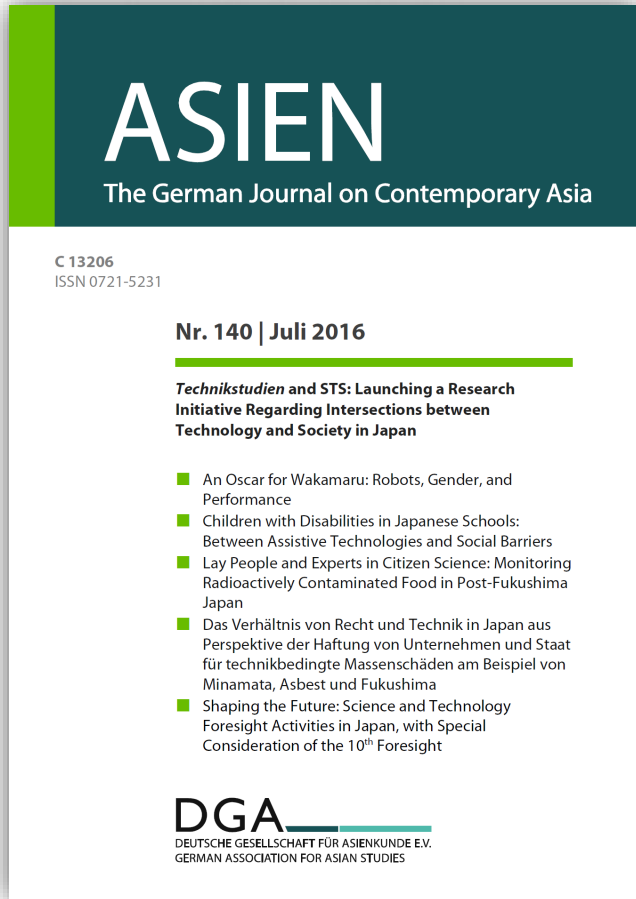


Research Initiative

(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)**



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)