



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS

Technoscience and Society

Series Editor: Kean Birch, York University

Series description

Our societies are increasingly defined by the outputs of laboratories, hospitals, and other research sites, as much as our societies are becoming experimental sites themselves; that is, ‘living labs’ in which organizations roll-out experiments or technoscientific developments in real time. Technoscience, though, is increasingly defined by debates about its ethical and socially beneficial deployment – or not – and what this means to the pursuit of responsible and inclusive innovation.

If our world and our futures are technoscientific, then how should we organize this world? And how should we understand these futures? We desperately need new analytical tools to do this, as well as new empirical insights into the changes happening around us. This book series seeks to provide these much-needed tools and insights.

Technoscience and Society encourages shorter, punchier scholarly books (in the region of 50–60k words) providing a cross-over forum in which both established researchers and new and emerging scholars can present their assessments on the changing relationship between technoscience and society. The series takes it as axiomatic that this relationship between technoscience and society is a two-way process, and that neither exists without the other – hence technoscience “and” but not “in” society.

The series does not focus on any particular aspect of this relationship or any particular form of technoscience; rather, it welcomes submissions from diverse perspectives and on a variety of substantive topics. Foundational to its objectives, though, is an emphasis on the social and humanistic studies of science, technology, and innovation, broadly defined as ‘science and technology studies’ or ‘science, technology, and society’. Authored and edited works are both welcome.

Objectives

Our futures are highly uncertain, in large part because of the changing relationship between technoscience and society: artificial intelligence holds enormous technoscientific promise, yet raises significant social and ethical questions with its development; personal data is supposed to be the ‘oil’ of the future, yet its exploitation threatens our privacy and identity; genomics, proteomics, and other -omic sciences could contribute massively to improving healthcare, but their benefit depends on how they are deployed; and low-carbon technologies like electric cars are essential to solving climate change, although they also threaten to embed us further into problematic socio-technical systems. All these and much more underpin this new book series, which aims to do the following:

- Disseminate scholarly research on the relationship between technoscience and society;
- Focus on contemporary challenges arising from the changing relationship between technoscience and society;
- Attract new and emerging scholars using interdisciplinary approaches at the cutting edge of social scientific and humanistic studies of science, technology, and innovation;
- Reach new audiences for scholarly research on technoscience and society by producing accessible, though still rigorous, scholarly books.

Audience

Technology is a key topic in scholarly debates, crossing a range of scholarly fields and issues. Examples include: the importance and role of innovation to our economies; social concerns about data surveillance and data use on our privacy; the influence of 'Big Tech' on our politics and political processes; the impacts of climate change and the actions needed to support sustainable transitions; the roll-out and implications of new biomedical technologies to our identities and relationships; the ethics of artificial intelligence algorithms, and their embodiment of racial, sexual, and other biases; the unsettling of colonialism and colonial technoscience, and of the analytical tools we use to understand it; and much else beside.

The series intends to engage with such topics through more accessible and engaging scholarly books, and therefore aims to attract a broader readership than usual for academic volumes. For this reason, the series Editor and Editorial Board will help authors develop shorter, punchier arguments where appropriate, with the aim of crossing over scholarly and public debate.

Editorial board

Kelly Bronson Canada Research Chair (Tier II) in Science and Society, University of Ottawa, Canada

Alessandro Delfanti Associate Professor, University of Toronto, Canada

Joan Fujimura Martindale-Bascom Professor of Sociology, University of Wisconsin–Madison, USA

Jessica Kolopenuk Assistant Professor, University of Alberta, Canada

Linsey McGoey Professor, University of Essex, UK

Ruth Müller Associate Professor of Science & Technology Policy, Technical University Munich, Germany

Fabian Muniesa Professor, Mines ParisTech, France

Michelle Murphy Canada Research Chair in Science and Technology Studies and Environmental Data Justice (Tier I), University of Toronto, Canada

Shobita Parthasarathy Professor of Public Policy, University of Michigan, USA

Jathan Sadowski Senior Lecturer, Monash University, Australia

David Tyfield Professor in Sustainable Transitions and Political Economy, Lancaster University, UK

Malte Ziewitz Associate Professor, Cornell University, USA

