

10TH STS Italia Conference

Technoscience for Good:

Designing, Caring and Reconfiguring

POLITECNICO DI MILANO, 11-13 JUNE, 2025

Conference Programme and Book of Abstracts



POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863

Technoscience for Good:

Designing, Caring and Reconfiguring

POLITECNICO DI MILANO, 11-13 JUNE, 2025

Welcome!

This document gathers all the essential information about the conference, including practical details about the venue, the schedule of plenary and parallel sessions, and the book of abstracts.

To facilitate navigation, the document includes internal links between sections. For the best experience, we recommend opening the PDF with a viewer that supports internal link navigation (note that not all PDF readers enable this functionality).

Table of contents

About the Conference	PAGE 3 →
Conference theme	
Organisers and partners	
Conference location	
Plenary sessions	PAGE 7 →
Parallel sessions schedule	PAGE 11 →
Book of Abstracts	PAGE 33 →



Technoscience for Good:

Designing, Caring and Reconfiguring

POLITECNICO DI MILANO, 11-13 JUNE, 2025

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Conference theme

How might we work towards achieving 'good' technoscience?
How can we – with our various technologies and ways of knowing, in diverse environments facing different challenges, across disciplinary boundaries and wide distances both geographical as well as socio-cultural, together with Others of all sorts – achieve good relations?

To address what might count as technoscience for good – and for whom – we need to question our methodologies and concepts, interrogate our epistemological and ethical frameworks, and redesign our technoscientific landscapes, institutions, infrastructures, and practices.

In recent decades, STS has emphasised the complex and at times conflicting entanglement of the various social, ethical, and political aspects involved in the making of technoscience in more-than-human worlds and naturecultures. Furthermore, as a field we have become increasingly willing to critique the intersectional harms that technoscientific developments can create for marginalised social groups as well as society at large. STS scholars are starting to confront questions of what 'good' certain socio-technical developments are serving, who gets to define what counts as 'good', for whom technoscientific developments might be 'good' (or not), how actors and institutions have historically worked towards defining and achieving the 'good', and how such a goal might be collectively accomplished, upheld, and contested.

To address the issue of what 'good' technoscience can or should be, we need to break down old and emerging boundaries as well as open up new cross-disciplinary and trans-cultural debates. Adjacent academic fields and disciplines, for example, have undergone a similar shift towards thinking about the relationship between ethics, care, epistemology, and materiality. Philosophers of science and technology have started to engage with questions of epistemic (in)justice as well as care and repair; historians have examined how technoscientific actors have sought to achieve overtly social and political goals; and designers and developers are increasingly acknowledging the sociomaterial impacts of their practices and their consequences for fairness, equality, diversity, and justice.

STS Italia seeks to provide space for a renewed engagement across disciplines in order to rethink the enactment of 'good' technoscience.

Scientific Supervisors

Paolo Volonté (Conference Chair, Politecnico di Milano),
Paolo Bory (Program co-chair, Politecnico di Milano),
Christopher Hesselbein (Program co-chair, Politecnico di Milano)

Scientific Committee

Maria Carmela Agodi (Università di Napoli, Federico II),
Simone Arnaldi (Università DI Trieste),
Paolo Bory (Politecnico di Milano),
Attila Bruni (Università di Trento),
Stefano Crabu (Università di Padova),
Paolo Giardullo (Università di Padova),
Christopher Hesselbein (Politecnico di Milano),
Paolo Magaudda (Università di Padova),
Alvise Mattozzi (Politecnico di Torino),
Alessandro Mongili (Università di Padova),
Federico Neresini (Università di Padova),
Ilenia Picardi (Università di Napoli, Federico II)
Annalisa Pelizza (Università di Bologna/Aarhus University),
Giuseppina Pellegrino (Università di Calabria),
Manuela Perrotta (Queen Mary University of London),
Viola Schiaffonati (Politecnico di Milano),
Assunta Viteritti (Sapienza, University of Rome),
Paolo Volonté (Politecnico di Milano).

Organizing Committee

Paolo Bory (Politecnico di Milano),
Stefano Canali (Politecnico di Milano),
Riccardo Chesta (Politecnico di Milano),
Chiara Di Lodovico (Università degli Studi di Milano),
Fabio Fossa (Politecnico di Milano),
Christopher Hesselbein (Politecnico di Milano),
Fabio Iapaolo (Politecnico di Milano),
Lara Marziali (Politecnico di Milano/Università di Bologna),
Marianna Musmeci (Politecnico di Milano),
Camilla Rinciari (Politecnico di Milano),
Viola Schiaffonati (Politecnico di Milano),
Roberta Spada (Università di Padova),
Sahar Tavakoli (Università degli Studi di Milano),
Paolo Volonté (Politecnico di Milano).



Organized by



STS Italia – The Italian Association for Social Studies of Science and Technology was founded in 2005 to build up an Italian network of researchers oriented to study Science and Technology starting from the social dynamics which characterize and interweave science and technology themselves.

www.stsitalia.org



META – Social Studies and Humanities for Science and Technology is an interdisciplinary research unit at the Politecnico di Milano with expertise in the study of scientific research and technological innovation, it produces and disseminates knowledge and offers expertise on epistemological, ethical, social and political issues related to science and technology.

www.meta.polimi.it

Partners



Department of Design – Politecnico di Milano.

The Department of Design is the leading Italian centre for scientific research in the field of design.



CEI – Central European Initiative.

The Central European Initiative (CEI) is a regional intergovernmental forum of 17 Member States* in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

*Belarus suspended



Fondazione Silvio Tronchetti Provera.

Fondazione Silvio Tronchetti Provera is committed to the promotion of the most innovative research projects, the popularization of science and the development of young people.



Museo Nazionale Scienza e Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci.

The Museo Nazionale Scienza e Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci is the largest museum in Italy dedicated to science, technology and industry.



Palgrave Macmillan.

Palgrave Macmillan is a world-class publisher of books and journals with more than 175 years' experience in the Humanities and Social Sciences.



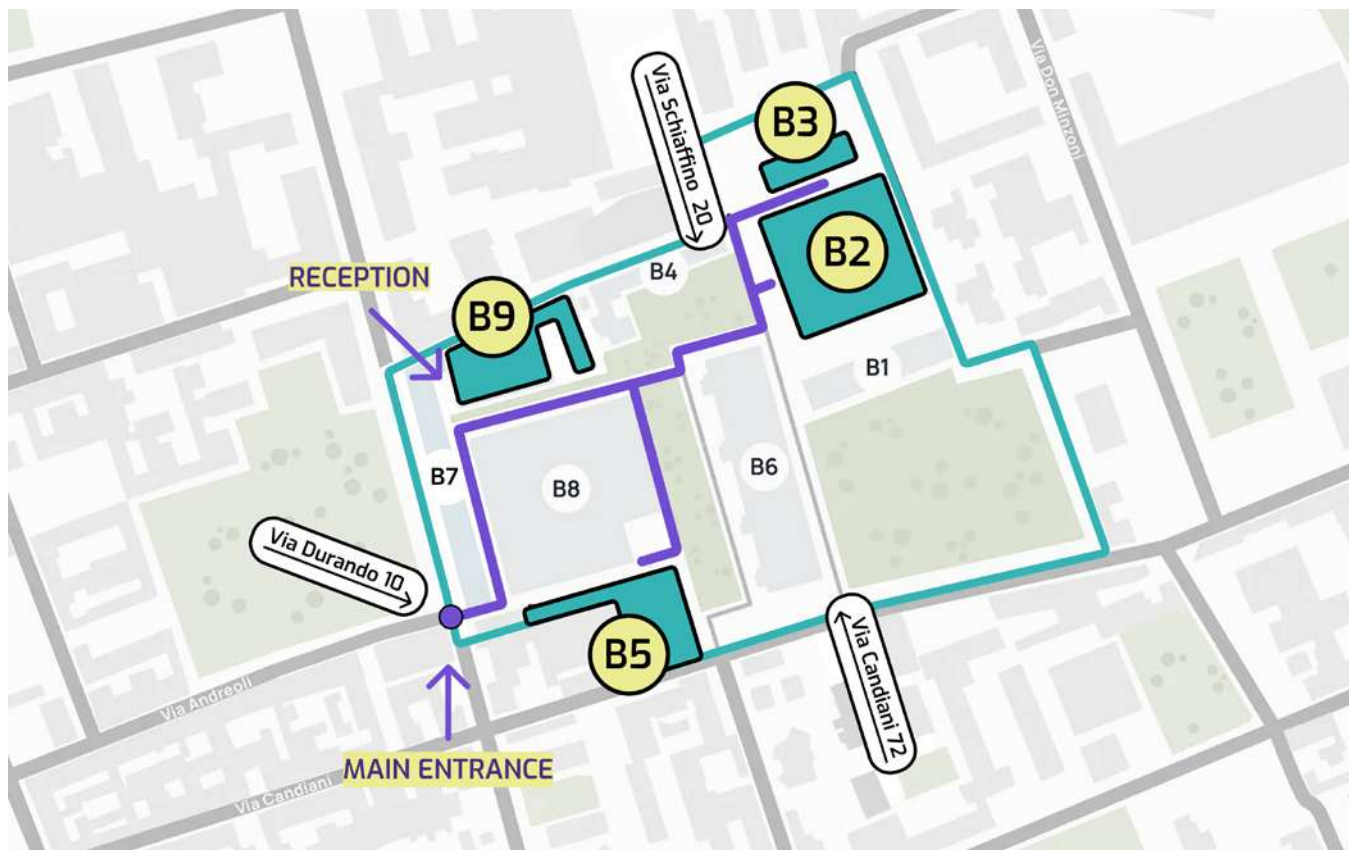
The WPI Press - Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

The WPI Press is committed to supporting a wide range of authors: experts, observers, literary scholars, memoirists, artists and other creatives, from around the world.

Conference location

Politecnico di Milano, Dipartimento di Design,
Campus Bovisa, Via Durando 10, Milano 20158, Italy

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/uhNy7pYmG51oUORH8>



Registration

The reception desk is organized into lines according to the first letter of each attendee's last name.

11 JUNE 2025	08.30 - 19.00	ROOM B9 DE CARLI
12 JUNE 2025	08.30 - 19.00	ROOM B9 DE CARLI
13 JUNE 2025	08.30 - 13.30	ROOM B9 DE CARLI

Coffee breaks

11 JUNE 2025	11.00 - 11.30	16.30 - 17.00	ROOM B9 DE CARLI
12 JUNE 2025	11.00 - 11.30	17.00 - 17.30	ROOM B9 DE CARLI
13 JUNE 2025	11.00 - 11.30		ROOM B9 DE CARLI

Lunches

11 JUNE 2025	13.30 - 14.30	ROOM B9 DE CARLI
12 JUNE 2025	13.00 - 14.00	ROOM B9 DE CARLI

13 JUNE 2025 09.00 - 11.00

SESSION 1

ROOM B3.1

ID 698 - Imperfectum Prototyping and Democratic AI Design: beyond technocentric solutions

Chiara Poletti, Swansea University

Ginevra Terenghi, Brunel University

Beatrice Gobbo, Politecnico di Milano

Keywords: Imperfectum Prototyping, Democratic AI Governance, Participatory Design, Deliberative Technology

On 13 January 2025, the UK Labour party unveiled a new AI plan aimed at positioning the UK as a global leader in technology, vowing to "mainline AI into the nation's veins" to revolutionise and rescue the country's weakened public services (UK Government, 2024). This reflects a broader trend in political justifications for AI's integration into democratic processes, often shaped by AI epochalism (Leslie, 2022): a technocentric, presentist perspective that portrays AI as uniquely transformative while overlooking its socio-historical contexts. However, a tradition of research started with big data and platforms (Gillespie et al., 2020), has demonstrated that these political views often ignore the inherent uncertainty, inequity and unaccountability of AI-driven governance (Eubanks, 2018; Dencik et al. 2018).

This paper introduces the concept of imperfectum prototyping as an alternative approach to AI integration in society, borrowed from design approaches (Gobbo et al. forthcoming). Imperfectum prototyping argues that AI integration in democratic settings should be treated as an evolving, contestable process rather than a fixed technical solution. It builds on participatory design traditions (Delgado, 2023; Gourlet et al., 2024) to conceptualise AI not as a finished system but as an iterative, open-ended democratic experiment (Gobbo et al. forthcoming; Marres et al. 2024). Through participatory design methodologies, we are interested in co-creating AI governance frameworks where citizens, policymakers, and technologists can collectively shape the governance of AI systems in ways that remain open to revision and contestation. By foregrounding democratic deliberation, pluralism, and reflexivity in the adoption and implementation of AI systems in democratic societies, this contribution aims to stimulate a discussion on concepts that counteract top-down, technocentric approaches to AI governance models.

13 JUNE 2025 09.00 - 11.00

SESSION 1

ROOM B3.1

ID 772 - YouTube – a space for discussion or a tool for polarisation? The case of films starring Volodymyr Zelensky

Ilona Dabrowska, Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej

Keywords: online discourse, mediated participation, social media, polarisation, bots and troll farms.

Political polarisation is an important phenomenon in today's democratic society. Understanding the degree of hermeticity of various environments allows us to determine the extent to which society is willing to discuss and seek common solutions. Modern social media is an area of operation of algorithms that lock Internet users in information bubbles. YouTube is one of the most important pillars of contemporary culture and metaculture. There are many options on this website that allow users to express their opinions - also on ideological or political topics. However, more and more often, the comments published there include the voices of not only real people, but also bots.

The aim of my presentation is to present the nature and specificity of comments posted in selected audiovisual materials presenting the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky, published on the Polish version of YouTube, and to try to answer questions about the occurrence and scale of polarisation in this area. The study used the case study method and content analysis. The scientific reflection aims to show the scale and nature of comments published on the Internet in the context of events related to Russia's armed attack on Ukraine, as well as to analyse the language used by YouTube users when posting comments.



