

TEAM

We employ about 30 people with a wide range of education. Natural sciences and technical subjects are just as well represented as humanities and social sciences.

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ÖAW
AUSTRIAN
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SCIENCES

TECHNOLOGY IMPACTS

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CURRENT TOPICS

YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION ON OUR RESEARCH HERE: [OEAW.AC.AT/EN/ITA](https://oeaw.ac.at/en/ita)

THE POWER OF ALGORITHMS

Algorithms, computer models, and search engines are increasingly ubiquitous. In our research, we look at their power over the social order.

DIGITIZATION

Digitization is fundamentally changing our lives. Which needs are being met, and which are not? How do we as a society want to deal with this megatrend?

ENERGY

The decarbonization of our energy system is changing the way we produce and use energy. Technology assessment seeks to identify the desired and undesired consequences and to contribute to a successful development process.

FORESIGHT

We dare to look into the near future. Through participation and education, a wide variety of needs, interests and values can play a valuable role when it comes to assessing technology impacts.

INCLUSION AND INNOVATION

Assistive technologies promise a more self-determined life for elder people or people with disabilities. Technology Assessment can be a useful tool to consider their needs when developing new technologies and to analyse the impact of non-technical options.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Technology Assessment explores how AI, Big Data applications and Machine Learning are reshaping the economic system and our everyday lives, and what this means for the future of society.

SUSTAINABILITY AND TECHNOLOGY

For new technologies to contribute to greater ecological, economic and social sustainability, fundamental criteria must be taken into account as early as possible in the development process.

NANOTECHNOLOGIES

Our research deals with the benefits and risks of nanotechnologies and new materials. By looking into possible effects on the environment and health, we seek to contribute to a precautionary approach.

ROBOTICS

The rapid development of robotics opens up unreamt-of social and economic potential. At the same time, creative scope and freedoms for people should be expanded and not restricted.

SECURITY, PRIVACY, SURVEILLANCE

Does more surveillance really result in more security? What impact do security technologies have on society? How can legal requirements to protect privacy be implemented in the best possible way?

SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY

With the aid of new biotechnological processes, organisms could be „engineered“ in a targeted manner. Even if this is still utopian today, it could be useful, i.e. for medical research. But how do we deal with social risks and ethical problems?

SHAPING TECHNOLOGY

Participation is needed so that research programs and policies can take into account the needs of citizens. In Technology Assessment, we deal with participatory procedures from a methodical and a practical viewpoint.

TECHNOLOGY CONFLICTS

How have major technology conflicts about controversial technologies such as genetic engineering and nuclear energy changed our society? And what new conflicts can we expect in today's climate?

FINANCING

The ITA finances about two thirds of its work with funds from the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and through the budget of the ÖAW, the rest comes from national and international third-party funds.

ABOUT US

MISSION STATEMENT

The ITA studies the impact of new technologies on the environment, economy and society. The results of this research support policy-makers, administration and the public with regard to issues of technology policy.

The ITA carries out interdisciplinary technology studies with three aims: To understand the complex interplay between technology and society from multiple perspectives, to concomitantly analyse technology development, and to contribute to socially responsible technology policy by advising policy-makers and society.

In particular, the ITA analyses unintended impacts of socio-technical change: many new technologies make life easier, enhance productivity, or reduce environmental impact. However, they may also lead to new dependencies, social conflicts and environmental problems.

Technology assessment investigates these impacts and deals with topical issues in specific subject areas. At the ITA, researchers from the natural and the social sciences as well as engineering work together in interdisciplinary cooperation.

The ITA's work is practice-oriented. In our analyses we include practical knowledge from experts, stakeholders and users, which were obtained through participatory methods. Our research contributes to scientific knowledge, evidence-based advice to politics and society, and to the advancement of technology assessment methodologies.

WORKING MODE

The ITA works in the form of projects, the basis for our research is our “medium-term research program”. The team cooperates on an interdisciplinary basis and, if necessary, with external experts. For quality control purposes, we conduct project seminars and meetings with the international Scientific Advisory Board on a regular basis.
