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European Studies on Society, Science and Technology (ESST)

Geert Somsen

16 March 2019

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EUROPEAN INTER-UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION ON SOCIETY, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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WWW.ESST.EU

EUROPEAN MASTER'S PROGRAMME ON SOCIETY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

25 YEARS

TEACHING STS & INNOVATION IN EUROPE

TALLINNA TEHNIKAÜLIKOOL · UCL · Université de Strasbourg · Maastricht University · UAM · Lund University · Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń · Lisbon School of Economics & Management · Università degli Studi di Trento · UiO : University of Oslo · Alpen-Adria Universität Klagenfurt Wien Graz · Hellenic Republic National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

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What is ESST about?

- We live in a technological culture
- example

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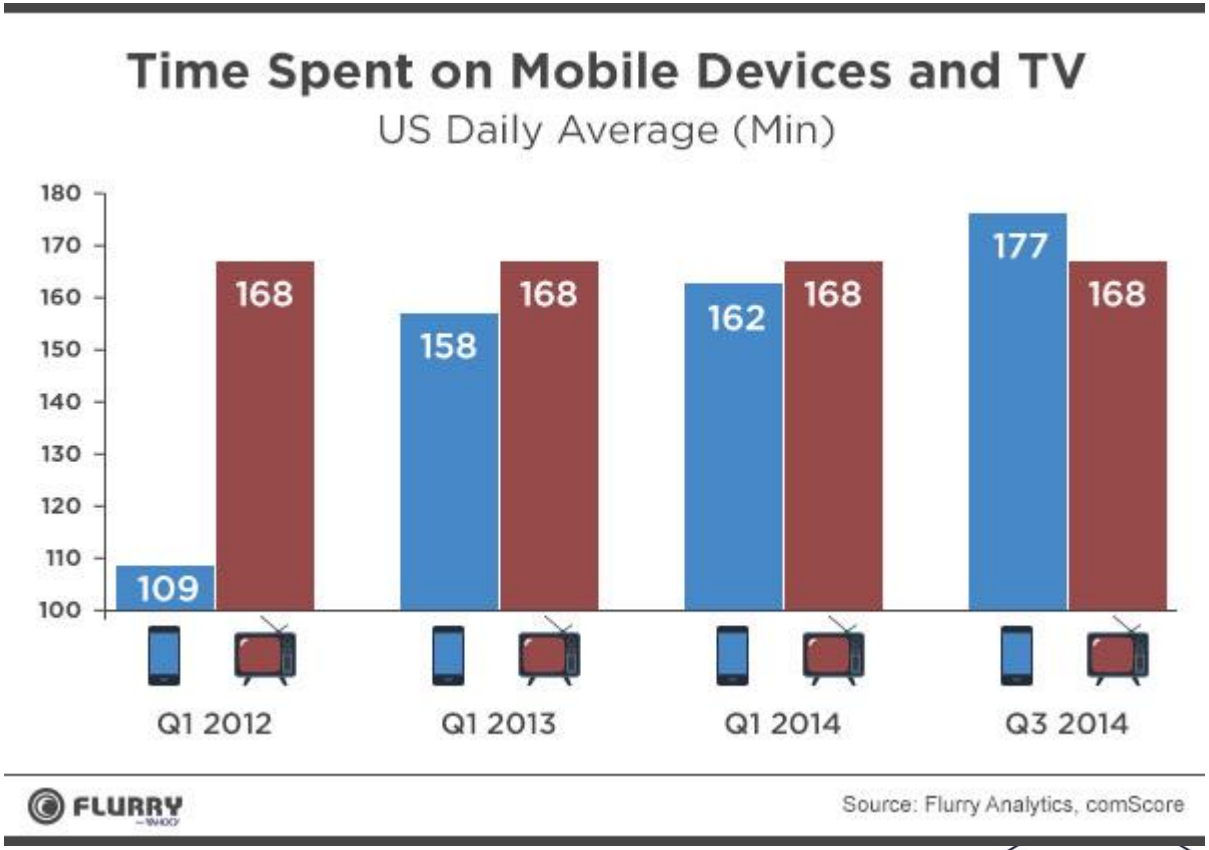
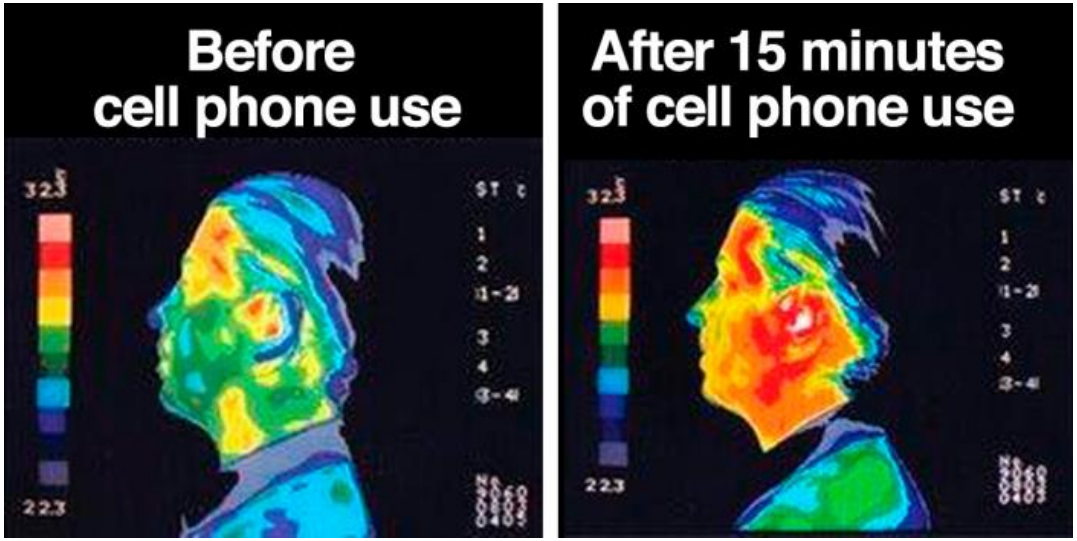
Charlie
42
Chris
3.1
83
DOUBLE
DAMAGE

Living in a Technological Culture



Ethics?



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Cultural norms

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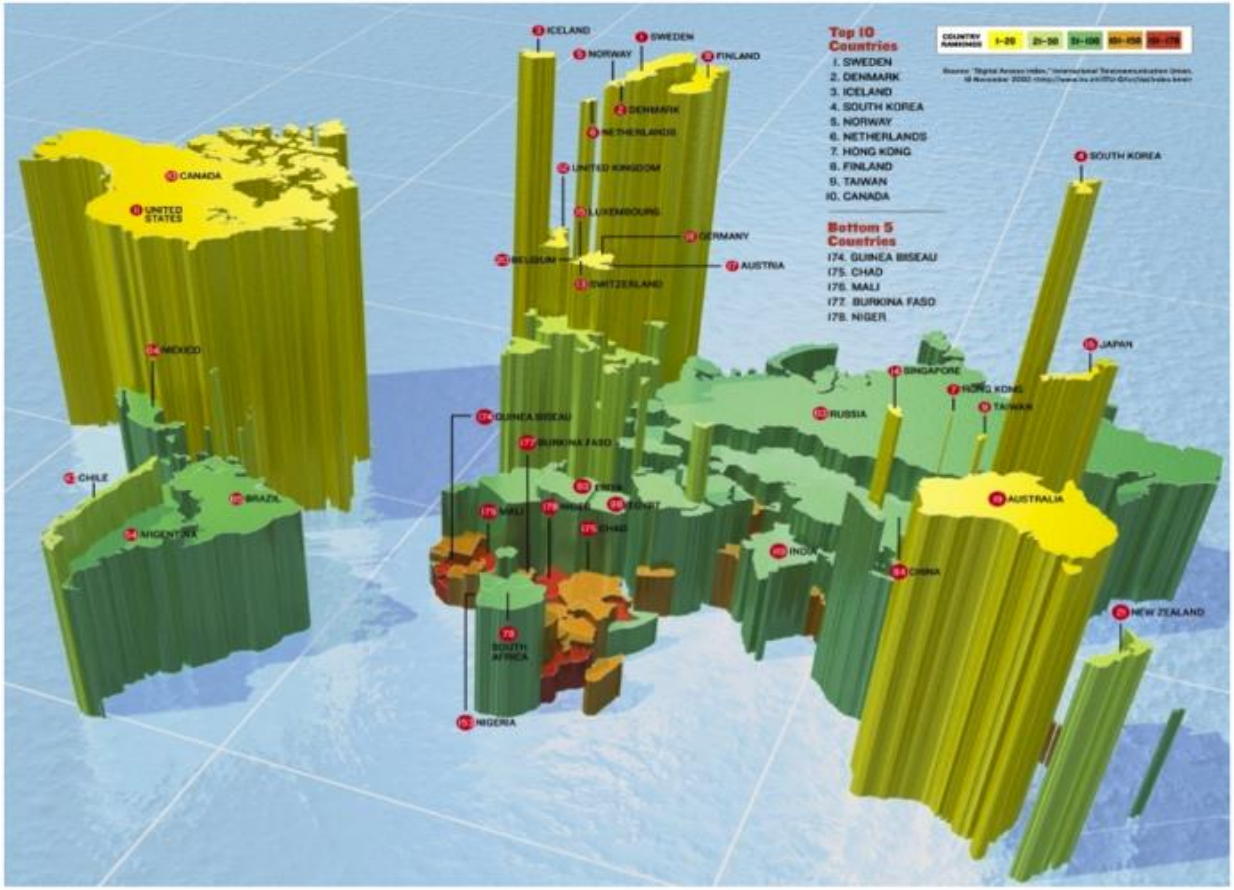
Economics and geopolitics



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Alternative uses

Micropolitics

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Science and Technology ⟷ Society

“We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.”

Albert Einstein

Science and Technology Studies:

Transform your perspective so that you notice that the ‘stuff of the world’ can be understood in new ways,

opening new opportunities for intervention

This is what ESST offers

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EEST in sum

- **2018: Received Top Label from Elsevier Keuzegids (86/100)**
- **One of the oldest MAs** (20 years of experience)
- **One-year** Master of **max 30 students**
- **Multi-disciplinary** and **multi-cultural** background
- **International joint** Master (student exchange)
- **Many specializations:** see esst.eu/specialisations
- **You receive two diplomas:** *Maastricht University + European Inter-University Association*

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LUND UNIVERSITY
NICOLAUS COPERNICUS UNIVERSITY IN TORUŃ
LISBON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TRENTO
UiO : University of Oslo
ALPEN-ADRIA UNIVERSITÄT KLAGENFURT | WIEN GRAZ
HELLENIC REPUBLIC National and Kapodistrian University of Athens EST. 1837

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What are the aims of the ESST program?

to train future researchers, innovation consultants, managers and policy-analysts, ..

with a profound and critical understanding of:

- the relation between research, innovation and society
- including governance structures, processes of policy-formation, ethics, etc.
- the specific socio-historical context from which they emerge
- and of today's European and global socio-economical context in which they take place

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What kind of graduate does ESST produce?

1. Problem-definers in order to act as problem-solvers
2. Bridge-builders with an advanced level of generic skills
3. Specialised generalists with a cosmopolitan quality

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What types of students enroll in ESST?

1. **Multi-disciplinary background:**
   - Science and Engineering – add: *social dimensions* of science and technology
   - Social science and Humanities – add: social dimensions *of science and technology*

2. **High international diversity:**
   - ESST students come from all over the world (currently 22 students – 9 nationalities)

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How and what does ESST teach you?

- Small groups, interactive sessions
- Intensive four-week courses
- Research project

- Problematise and analyse issues facing policy-makers, industrial organisations, NGOs etc.
- Understand the perspectives of different stakeholders
- Cope with complexity
- Understand and unpack scientific knowledge, and grasp how this is being produced

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How and what does ESST teach you?

- Experiment and reflect on relation between theory and empirical material
- Awareness for the *politics* of any method or theory
- Recognising the dynamics of science and technology
- Be proactive and reactive

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The academic year in a nutshell

First semester: Becoming a generalists		Second semester: Becoming a specialist
1. Introduction in Science and Technology Studies	• sociology of technology • philosophy of technology • cultural studies	Introduction in Science and Public Policy / Specialisation at partner university
2. Science and technology in the making	• science studies • philosophy of science • anthropology of science • innovation studies	Research project and writing of Master thesis
3. Interpreting the history of science and technology	• history of science and technology • historiography • source interpretation	
4. Science and technology dynamics	• innovation studies, • evolutionary economics • political science	
5. The Politics of knowledge	• political science • risk studies	

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2nd semester at ESST partner universities or in Maastricht

- Athens, Greece
- Aalborg, Denmark
- Maastricht, The Netherlands
- Tallinn, Estonia
- Klagenfurt, Austria
- Moscow, Russia
- Namur, Belgium
- Louvain, Belgium
- Strasbourg, France
- Madrid, Spain
- Lisbon, Portugal
- Trento, Italy
- Toruń, Poland

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Examples of specializations:

- Innovation Systems, Social and Ecological Change
- Economics and Management of Innovation
- Ethical and philosophical stakes of sciences in societies
- Situated Analysis of Global Connections
- Science and Public Policy
- Science, Technology and Sustainability: North-South Comparisons
- Water management and water uses
- History, philosophy, ethics and governance of ICT and emerging technologies
- Science and Politics in Controversies on Nature

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Internships

Base camp:	In collaboration with:
Maastricht University Science and Technology Studies (MUSTS) at Maastricht University	Rathenau Institute in The Hague Scientific and Public Involvement in Risk Allocations Laboratory (Spiral) at Université de Liège, Belgium
	International Centre for Integrated Assessment and Sustainable Development (ICIS) in Maastricht
	Center for Science and Technology Studies at Leiden University
	Institute of Health Policy & Management at the Erasmus University Rotterdam

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Recent theses

- Knowing Social Fabric: An Ethnographic Account of Big Data Practice in Scientific Research
- The fluidity of knowledge. Constructing relevant knowledge in the context of flood management in England and the Netherlands
- What indicators do: The mediation of measures in the Walloon Region
- Smart Grid, a Smart Solution: The Adoption of the Smart Grid Technology by the Residential Consumers in Germany
- The usage of science in settling trade disputes under the judicial component of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body
- European Air Traffic Management Network and Innovation. Moving Toward a Stasis? Combining a Large Technical System Approach and Organizational Path Dependency

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Career perspectives

- **Universities/ Research Institutes**

PhDs in Industrial ecology; health economics; governance and ethics of technology; sustainable studies; strategic management; nanotechnology

- **Policy Agencies**

Rathenau Institute, Management Agencies of several Ministries (e.g. Environment; Transport, Public Works and Water), The National Committee for Research Ethics; Advisory Council; European Commission

- **Consultancy**:

Euro Info Centre (DG Enterprise EC), Ecorys; Technopolis Group Brussels; IDEA Consult Brussels

- **Businesses:**

Microsoft, Google, Statoil, DSM, Mercedes Benz, Sotheby's, Alliander

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Admission criteria

- University Bachelors degree
- High level of motivation
- English language test (TOEFL/IELTS)
- Essay of 2,000 words
- Curriculum vitae

- Deadline
  - 1 May 2019: Non-EU/EAA students
  - 1 August 2019: EU/EEA students

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Why ESST?

- study the science&technology dynamics of modern societies
- intensive training
- diverse & interdisciplinary classroom
- 14 specialisations throughout Europe
- 2 diploma's
- dedicated teachers and supervisors

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More information:

- www.maastrichtuniversity.nl

www.esst.eu

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