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European Studies on Society, Science and Technology (ESST)

Geert Somsen

7 March 2020

ESST
EUROPEAN INTER-UNIVERSITY
ASSOCIATION ON SOCIETY,
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

FASoS

your presenters today

- Noor Bloemen (ESST student)

- Geert Somsen (Program Director)

- *not:* Thomas Verra (student ambassador) – in Athens doing his ESST specialization

today's presentations

me:
- What is ESST about?
- What does the program look like?
- What can you do with it?
- What do you need to enter?

Noor:
- What is ESST like when you do it?
- Living in Maastricht

What is ESST about?

- Society, Science, and Technology
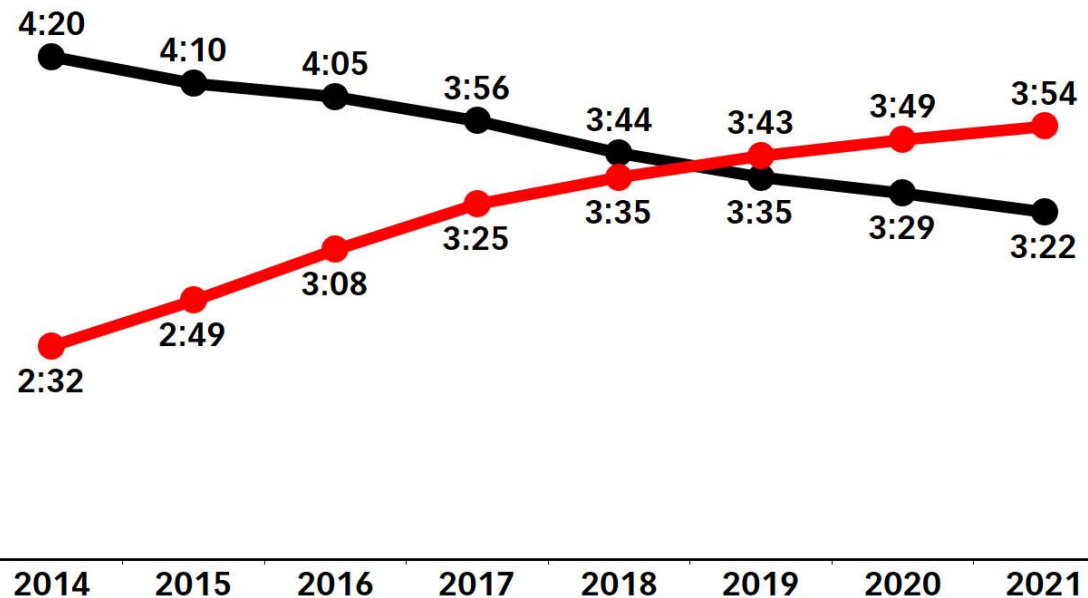
- …

- ???

- example: *Black Mirror*, episode "Nose Dive"

We live in a Technological Culture

TV and Mobile Devices: Average Time Spent in the US, 2014-2021

hrs:mins per day among population

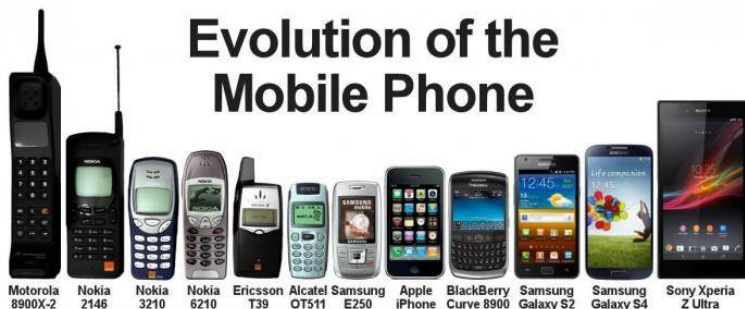| 2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021

■ TV*   ■ Mobile devices

*Note: ages 18+; time spent with each medium includes all time spent with that medium, regardless of multitasking; for example, 1 hour of multitasking on desktop/laptop while watching TV is counted as 1 hour for TV and 1 hour for desktop/laptop; *excludes digital*
Source: eMarketer, April 2019

Evolution of the Mobile Phone

Motorola 8900X-2 Nokia 2146 Nokia 3210 Nokia 6210 Ericsson T39 Alcatel OT511 Samsung E250 Apple iPhone BlackBerry Curve 8900 Samsung Galaxy S2 Samsung Galaxy S4 Sony Xperia Z Ultra
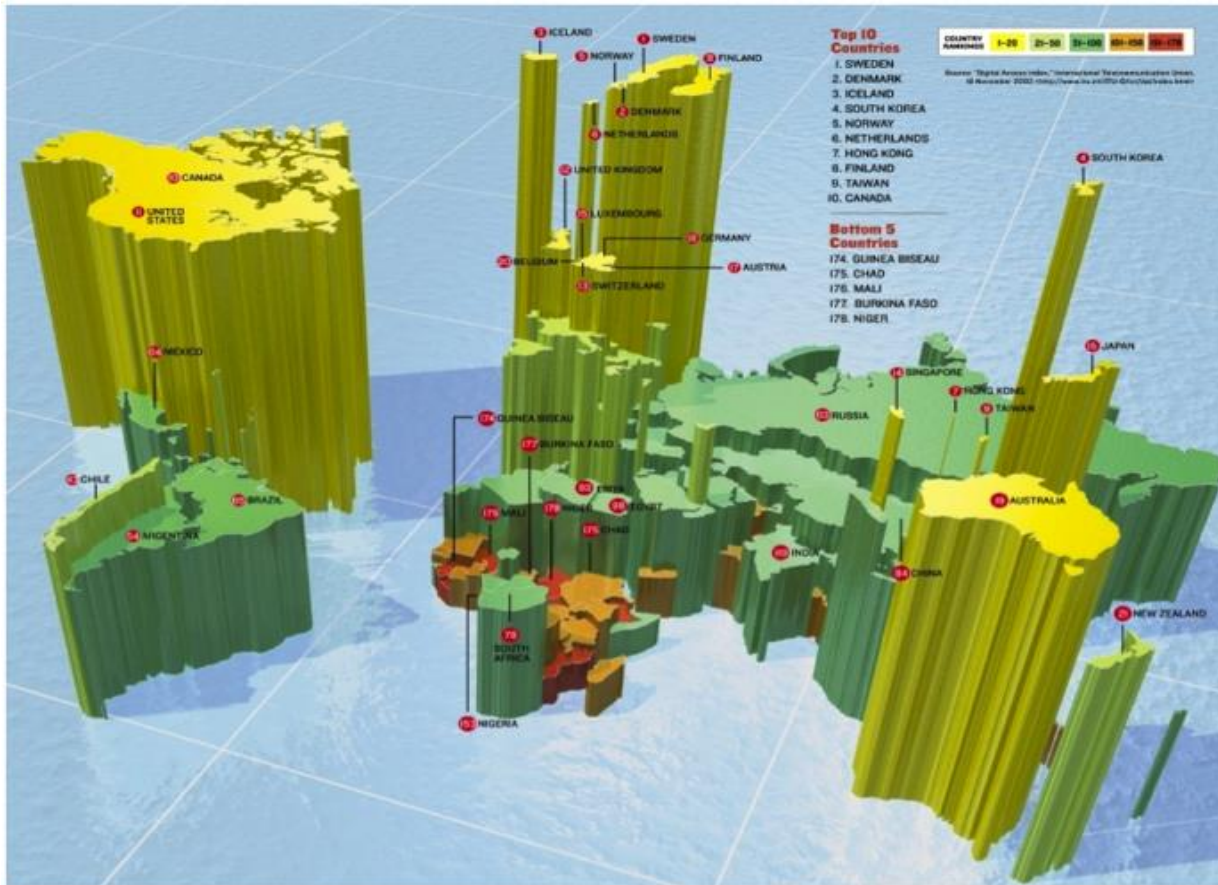
Ethics

Cultural norms

Economics and geopolitics

Alternative uses

Micropolitics

Science and Technology ⟷ Society

ESST's academic field: *Science and Technology Studies*

- looks at science & technology through lenses of the humanities and social sciences

- provides a new perspective on science and technology – you will never look at our world the same way again

- offers new opportunities for intervention – shaping new science and technology)

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

Albert Einstein

ESST in a nutshell

- > 20 years of experience

- great student satisfaction, great external assessments

- multi-disciplinary, multi-national classroom (max. 30 students)

- 1 year program:
    - first semester in Maastricht
    - second semester at 1 of 14 partner universities, offering 17 specializations

- 2 diplomas:
    - Maastricht University
    - European Inter-University Association

The academic year in a nutshell

First semester: *becoming a generalist*		Second semester: *becoming a specialist*
1. Introduction to Science and Technology Studies	• sociology of technology • philosophy of technology • cultural studies	Specialization course
2. Science and technology in the making	• anthropology of science • sociology of science • innovation studies	Research project / MA 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. Politics of knowledge	• political science • risk studies	

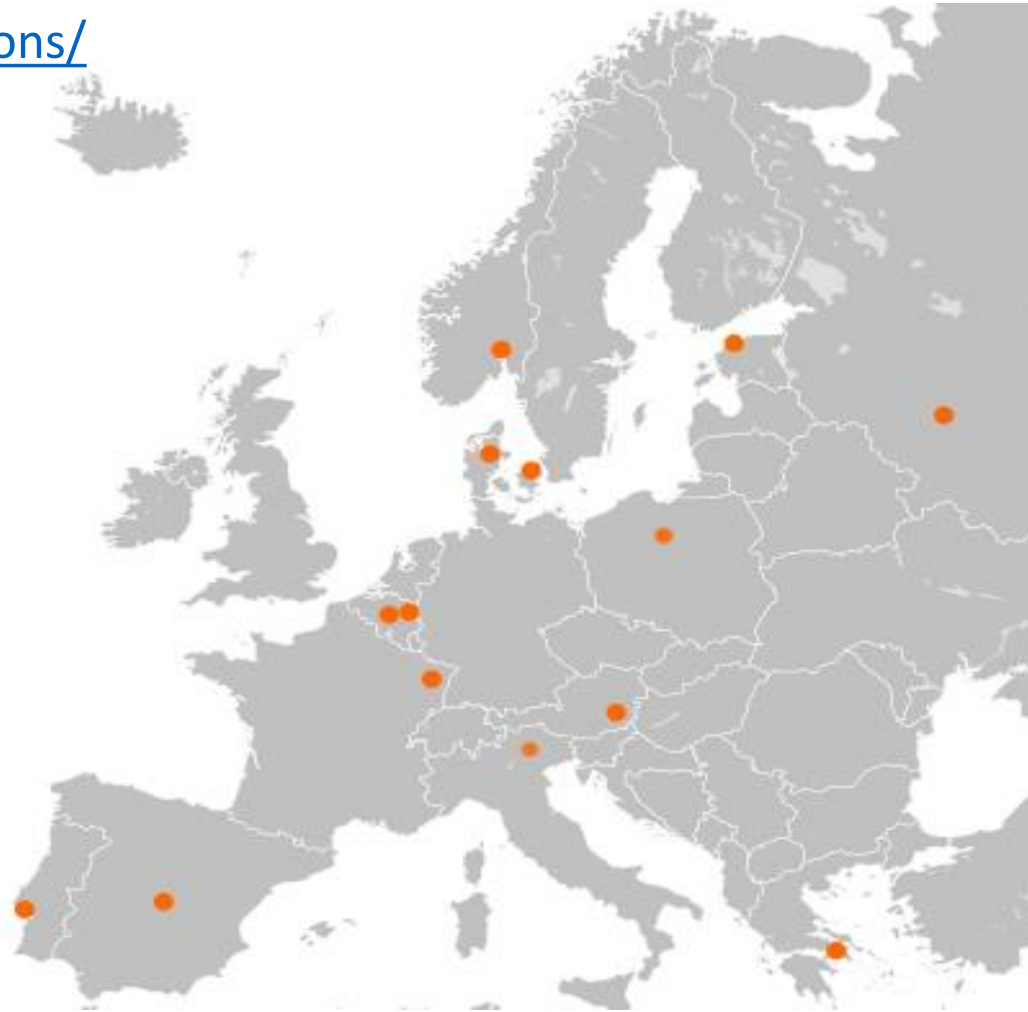Maastricht University

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Second semester partner universities

- Athens, Greece

- Aalborg, Denmark

- Klagenfurt, Austria

- Lisbon, Portugal

- Louvain, Belgium

- Lund, Sweden

- *Maastricht, the Netherlands*

- Madrid, Spain

- Oslo, Norway

- Strasbourg, France

- Tallinn, Estonia

- Toruń, Poland

- Trento, Italy

- *Liège, Belgium*

- *Moscow, Russia*

Specializations

- See http://esst.eu/specializations/

Alternative: an internship

base camp:	collaboration with:
Maastricht University Science and Technology Studies (MUSTS)	Rathenau Institute for technology assessment, The Hague
	Maastricht Sustainability Institute, Maastricht University
	Center for Science and Technology Studies, Leiden University
	other institutions, proposed by students

The MA thesis – recent examples:

- *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*

Teaching methods

- Problem-based learning (PBL)
- Small groups, interactive sessions
- Additional lectures, lab visits, skills trainings

- Intensive four-week courses
- Research project

What insights does ESST teach you?

- Science & Technology do not develop by themselves
- Science & Technology are made by people – understanding Science & Technology is understanding Society

What skills does ESST teach you?

- to analyze the complex interactions of Science, Technology, and Society

- to see Science and Technology from historical, sociological, philosophical etc. angles

- to combine theories and observations

- to understand the perspectives of different stakeholders

- to understand issues facing policy-makers, industrial organizations, NGOs, etc.

- to suggest alternatives, solutions

ESST graduates are:

1. Problem-definers who can act as problem-solvers

2. Bridge-builders with generic skills

3. Specialized generalists with a cosmopolitan quality

Career perspectives

- **Universities/ Research Institutes**

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

- **Policy Agencies**

Environmental Defense Fund; Rathenau Institute, Management Agencies of several Ministries (e.g. Environment; Transport, Public Works and Water), National Committee for Research Ethics

- **Consultancy**:

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

- **Businesses:**

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

What types of students enroll in ESST?

1. **from various disciplines:**
    *   Science and Engineering – add: *social dimensions of science and technology*
    *   Social science and Humanities – add: *science and technology*

2. **with many nationalities:**
    *   ESST students come from all over the world (currently 18 students – 8 nationalities)

Admission criteria

- university BA degree (or admission via Pre-MA program)
- good motivation
- proof of proficiency in English (e.g. TOEFL/IELTS language test or BA in English)
- essay (ca. 2,000 words)
- curriculum vitae

- *deadline:*
    - 1 June 2020 (deadline EU/EEA students)

Why ESST?

- study the science&technology dynamics of modern societies

- intensive training

- diverse & interdisciplinary classroom

- 17 specializations throughout Europe

- 2 diplomas

- dedicated teachers and supervisors

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More information

- www.maastrichtuniversity.nl

- www.esst.eu

- Program Director Geert Somsen (g.somsen@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

- Student ambassador Thomas Verra (t.verra@student.maastrichtuniversity.nl)

- *Follow Thomas:*
  on Facebook
  on Instagram

Apply soon and before June 1

- admission questions: masteroffice-fasos@maastrichtuniversity.nl