Workshop: ‘Wild research

Radical openings in technoscientific practice and the transformation of STS’

WS16/17

Lehrende: Ignacio Farías, Claudia Mendes, Tomás Sanchez Criado

When: January 13, 2017, 10-14pm

Where: MCTS, Augustenstr. 46, room 270

Description:

A collaborative spectre is haunting science and technology. In the past decades we have witnessed an explosion of radical openings of research practices where increasingly technified citizens and engaged professionals collaborate in the most diverse forms of knowledge production in both online and offline platforms of all kinds. In these efforts they generate and put into circulation documentation on the most diverse range of issues, attempting to materially intervene their everyday worlds with different political aims. Practices that, for lack of a better term, might be described as ‘wild research’ not only signal collaborative redistributions of the who, how, when and where of knowledge production, circulation and validation, but also expansions in the range of contents, means, and knowledge registers there emerging: a whole constellation of practices forging different versions of ‘science and technology by other means’. Paying attention to these transformations this doctoral workshop seeks to analyse different nuances of ‘wild research’ projects, helping to expand what STS up to date has considered more collaborative or more democratic forms of technoscientific production (participatory engagements of lay people in expert-driven processes, such as in citizen science; articulations of counter-expertise and evidence-based activism by affected communities, concerned groups, embodied health and environmental justice activisms to engage in conversations with experts). Furthermore, beyond an attempt at classifying and describing their differences the second part of the seminar will address not only how these forms of ‘wild research’ entail different forms of knowledge and the political, but also the alternative forms of doing STS—with particular attention to ethnographic and conceptual work—theese radical collaborative openings in technoscientific practice might be bringing to the fore.

Assignment:

Doctoral students will be asked to prepare an essay (max. 3000 words long) dwelling on their research subject; for this they should dialogue with 2 readings from Part I and 2 readings from Part II.
References

Part I:


Part II:


