

CALL FOR PAPERS - Special Issue

World(s)-making practices through caring and commoning

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Deadline for abstract submissions: **June 14th, 2023**

The increasing prominence of critical approaches in Science and Technology Studies - e.g. feminist and postcolonial studies - and their intersections with surrounding fields - e.g. human geography, environmental humanities, participatory design and human-computer interaction - have reinvigorated the politically engaged character of STS and further revealed an "activist interest" (Sismondo, 2008) and a “collaborative turn” (Fariás, 2016) in the field. Practicing STS by means of collaborative and committed action- or intervention-oriented research, based on dialogue, involvement, and knowledge co-production (Epstein, 1996; Martin et al., 2015) brings the ethical, affective, and political dimensions of research itself, and its ambivalent, situated, material nature (Marres, 2012; Mol, A. et al., 2010) under scrutiny. It is against this backdrop that we situate our interest for caring and commoning either as world(s) making practices or as tools to think with that are central to the articulation and prefiguration of more just, fairer, response-able, and sustainable futures (Dengler & Lang, 2022; Sciannamblo et al., 2021).

We consider this a timely and pivotal area, as it seizes upon both the urgency of understanding, imagining, and nurturing ways of living and being together that leave behind the current dominant unsustainable ones, and the strengthened awareness towards modes of research that prompt us to care for and engage with, to be touched by, and to stay within the trouble(s) of (Haraway, 2016; Puig de la Bellacasa, 2012; Stengers, 2021) the matters we investigate.

Consistently with the prolific literature on care in STS (Lindén & Lydahl, 2021), we take an open and broad conception of care as a practice of maintenance and repair, an ethos, and a tool to think with (Martin et al., 2015; Mol, A. et al., 2010; Puig de la Bellacasa, 2017). Similarly, we broadly conceive the commons as social systems formed by a thing(s) in common, a community of commoners who govern such commons and a variety of commoning practices, which reproduces their lives in common and that of their commonwealth (De Angelis, 2019), and which has recently captured the interest of STS (Papadopoulos, 2018; Sciannamblo et al., 2020). As such, commoning can be conceived as a

specific care practice, one that has the commitment to (Velicu & García-López, 2018) and affective engagement with (Poderi, 2020) the nurturing and maintenance of the commons at its core (Poderi, 2021; Singh, 2017), and therefore prompts us to reconsider human-nature and more-than-human relationships in ways that challenge dominant extractivist models of contemporary western capitalism, and which fosters the production of ourselves as a common subject (Caffentzis & Federici, 2014; Federici, 2018).

Broadly, the overarching interest of this call is to problematize, reflect and investigate research engagements within care and commoning practices (Fritsch et al., 2022) and is driven by questions such as: what does it mean to approach the commons as matters of care? How do we, as scholars, navigate the tensions, alignments, synergies, overlaps, or ruptures between our research agendas and knowledge politics with those of the commons? How does engaging with and researching the commons with care affect our researchers' selves and our fields? What can an engagement with commoning practices tell us about care? What renewed theoretical, empirical, or methodological understandings do we gain by engaging with those assemblages that attend to the making and imagining of fairer and more sustainable futures through the lenses of care and commoning?

In short, with this special issue of *Tecnoscienza: The Italian Journal of Science & Technology Studies* we aim to investigate the relationships and interplay between STS intervention-oriented research and those world-making practices that try to either maintain and repair our world and to re-enchant and re-configure it in multiple post-capitalist, post-humanist or post-developmental ways. We want to engage with the conceptual, empirical, and ontological overlaps, the synergies, ruptures, and tensions emerging from possible encounters of care and commoning practices in any domain and context and therefore we invite theoretical and empirical contributions that engage with the intersections between caring and commoning in the context of intervention-oriented research. We welcome contributions covering a wide range of topics and application domains, which can include (but are not limited to):

- disciplinary intersections and contaminations among STS, design, and commons studies;
- knowledge co-creation, co-design processes, material publics and grassroots innovation in commoning practices, environmental activism, and sustainability transition in and through STS;
- the precariousness, mundane, often-neglected, everyday work in care and commoning practices;
- the becoming into commoners as affective and relational practices of care and co-becoming;
- theoretical and methodological approaches for action-research, participatory design, or research as intervention as forms of caring and commoning;
- complexities, opportunities, ruptures, and contradictions in making new alliances between researchers, activists, local populations, and institutions;
- sites of ambivalence and contradictions in caring and commoning practices.

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Abstracts (in English) with a maximum length of 500 words should be sent as email attachments to tecnoscienza.specialissue@gmail.com and carbon copied to the guest editors. Notification of acceptance will be communicated by early July 2023. Full papers (in English with a maximum length of 8,000 words including notes and references) will be due by **October 30th 2023** and will be subject to a double blind peer review process. We expect to publish the special issue in 2025.

For information and questions, please do not hesitate to contact the guest editors:

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