

# Society + Technology at UW

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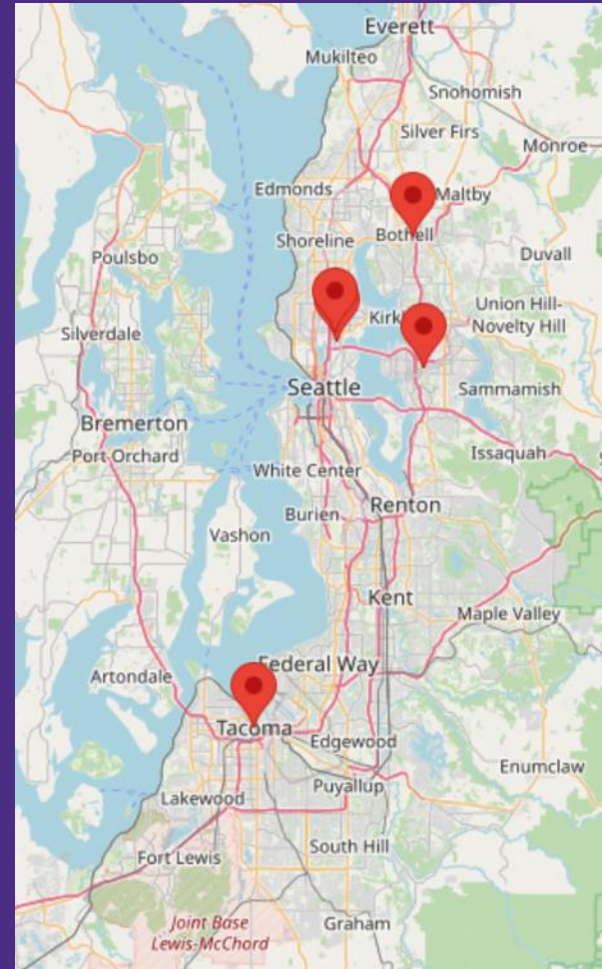
Initiative Review and Impact  
Prepared by: Monika Sengul-Jones  
December 2025

# Mission

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**Society + Technology at UW** is a cross-campus, cross-disciplinary initiative and community dedicated to advancing UW's research and teaching on the social, societal, and justice dimensions of technology.

The outcome of a 2022 Task Force report, **Society + Technology at UW** is funded by the Office of the Provost and the Tech Policy Lab.



# Timeline



# Impact to Date

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Elevating UW's  
Visibility



Strengthening  
UW's Research  
Culture



Centering Social  
Dimensions of  
Technology

# Programming to Date



# By the Numbers

1

staff

130

campus  
affiliates

5

student  
interns

28

community  
events

\$97k

annual  
cost (net)

35

articles  
and  
transcripts

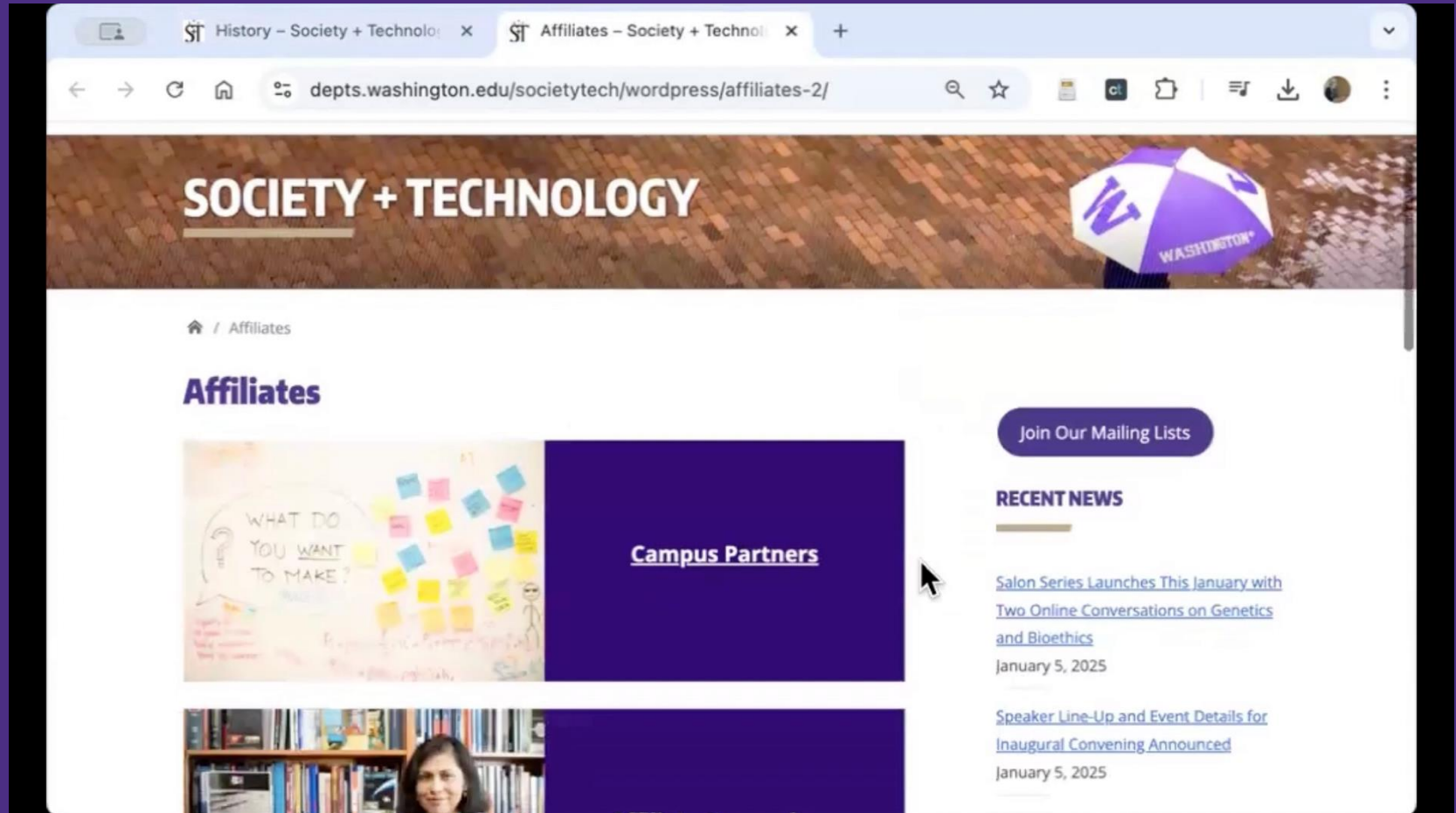
100% of programming  
is co-sponsored  
or co-hosted

700+ subscribers

2,100 attendees

200% increase in  
admissions  
numbers for STSS

# 1. Affiliates



## 2. Events

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March 2024	STSS Mixer   Roots & Futures
May 2024	The Model Hacker? Panel with EFF
May 2024	AI, Art, and Copyright hosted by the Simpson Center
Oct. 2024	Mixer   STSS Interdisciplinary Alignments
Jan. 2025	Inaugural Convening
Jan. 2025	Genetics and Bioethics Salon Series
April 2025	Alondra Nelson's Distinguished Lecture, sponsored and hosted by the Tech Policy Lab
April 2025	Technology for the People
May 2025	Mixer at UW Tacoma   STS In Crisis
June 2025	Mixer at UW Bothell   Roses, Thorns, Buds
Sept. 2025	UW Social at 4S
Oct, 2025	Culture Shock, Controversary, and Policy
Oct, 2025	Book Tea on Media Insurgencies
Nov. 2025	Cross-Promote Signals & Society Brewery Series
Nov. 2025	Friday Harbor Labs Whiteley Retreat
Dec. 2025	STSS Research and First Monday Mixers





# Inaugural Convening

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## UW initiative 'Society + Technology' aims to foster broad collaboration at critical intersection

BY KURT SCHLOSSER on January 15, 2025 at 3:00 pm



University of Washington President Ana Marie Cauce, left, speaks at the inaugural convening of Society + Technology at the UW, alongside Monika Sengul-Jones, center, and Ryan Calo, two leaders of the initiative. (UW Photo / Doug Parry)

A new initiative at the University of Washington called **Society + Technology**, born out of a task force first assembled in 2021, is working to foster cross-campus collaboration and boost the UW's public profile as it relates to technology's social, societal, and justice aspects.

The initiative, which held an **inaugural convening** last week, is intended to bolster research, teaching and learning across UW campuses in Seattle, Tacoma, Bothell, Wash., and at the School of Medicine.



# 3. Publications

## EPISODE 1

An interview with Professor Leah Ceccarelli about the [Science, Technology, and Society Studies \(STSS\) program](#), scientists as citizens, and how rhetoric helps us navigate hot-button topics.



## EPISODE 2

Computational Linguist [Angelina McMillan-Major](#), PhD, declined to share the audio recording of our interview online. Read the transcript to learn why and more about her work



## EPISODE 3

Computer scientist [Katharina Reinecke](#)'s virtual lab, [LabintheWild](#), creates engaging quizzes to help make computer science more inclusive. Read the transcript to learn more.

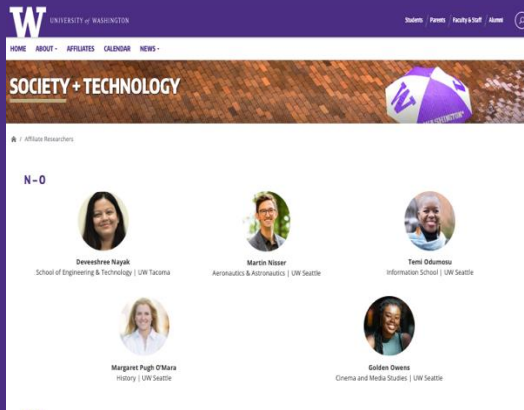


## 'Technology for the People' emphasized how technology can bridge—not break—social relationships

Crossposting the UW Communication's Center for Journalism, Media, and Democracy ([CJMD](#))'s [article](#) about "[Technology for the People](#)," a Society + Technology at UW ([S+T](#)) salon co-hosted with CJMD.



# 4. Online Community



W UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

HOME ABOUT AFFILIATES CALENDAR NEWS

SOCIETY + TECHNOLOGY

Affiliate Researchers

N-0

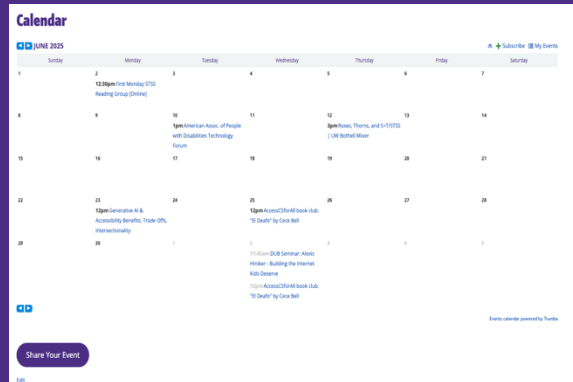
Deveshree Nayak  
School of Engineering & Technology | UW Tacoma

Martin Nisser  
Aeronautics & Astronautics | UW Seattle

Tami Odumoso  
Information School | UW Seattle

Margaret Pugh O'Mara  
History | UW Seattle

Golden Owens  
Cinema and Media Studies | UW Seattle



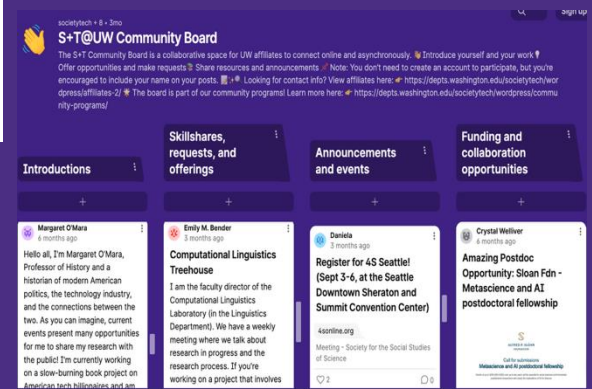
Calendar

June 2025

Subscribe My Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 12:30pm First Monday STS Reading Group (Online)	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 12pm American Assoc. of People with Disabilities Technology Forum	11	12 12pm AccessShare book club: '10 Deaths' by Lisa Bell	13 12pm AccessShare book club: '10 Deaths' by Lisa Bell	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 12pm AccessShare book club: '10 Deaths' by Lisa Bell	24	25 11:30am DASH Seminar: Alex Hinder - Building the Internal Kilo Decade	26 12pm AccessShare book club: '10 Deaths' by Lisa Bell	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

Share Your Event



S+T@UW Community Board

The S+T@UW Community Board is a collaborative space for UW affiliates to connect online and asynchronously. Introduce yourself and your work! Offer opportunities and make requests! Share resources and announcements! Note: You don't need to create an account to participate, but you're encouraged to include your name on your posts. Looking for contact info? View affiliates here: <https://depts.washington.edu/societytech/wordpress/affiliates-2/> The board is part of our community program! Learn more here: <https://depts.washington.edu/societytech/wordpress/community-programs/>

Introductions

Margaret O'Mara  
6 months ago  
Hello all, I'm Margaret O'Mara, Professor of History and a historian of modern American politics, the technology industry, and the connections between the two. As you can imagine, current events present many opportunities for me to share my research with the public! I'm currently working on a slow-burning book project on American tech billionaires and...

Skillshares, requests, and offerings

Emily M. Bender  
3 months ago  
Computational Linguistics Treehouse  
I am the faculty director of the Computational Linguistics Laboratory in the Linguistics Department. We have a weekly meeting where we talk about research in progress and the research process. If you're working on a project that involves...

Announcements and events

Daniela  
2 months ago  
Register for 4S Seattle! (Sept 3-6, at the Seattle Downtown Sheraton and Summit Convention Center)  
4sonline.org  
Meeting - Society for the Social Studies of Science

Funding and collaboration opportunities

Crystal Weliver  
4 months ago  
Amazing Postdoc Opportunity: Sloan Fdn - Metascience and AI postdoctoral fellowship  
Metascience and AI postdoctoral fellowship

# Mailers

330 subscribers  
to the listserv

"Welcome, new members, to the Society + Technology at UW listserv. This message is cross-posted with the Science Studies Network listserv."

Hi everyone,

While there's no disciplinary home for Science and Technology Studies (STS) scholarship at UW, the community is pretty tremendous. Scholars engaged in STS work are situated across the UW campuses and programs—and there's the STS undergraduate program at UW Bothell and the STSS graduate certificate program. And this year, participation in 4S, the flagship STS meeting showcases UW's leadership—big hat tip to the local organizing team and 4S co-chairs Daniela Rosner (HCDE/DXARTS) and Jenna Grant (Anthropology) for their effort and direction!

More than 100 UW faculty and students from over a dozen departments and schools are presenting, convening, organizing, and speaking at "Reverberations", which is from September 3 to 6 at the Seattle Sheraton and Convention Center Summit:

- Professor "Dian Million" (American Indian Studies) is giving the presidential plenary keynote
- Faculty "Lupe Alberto Flores" (American Ethnic Studies) and "Diana Flores Ruiz" (Cinema and Media Studies) are keynote speakers
- Graduate students "Athea Rao" (DXARTS) and "Sadaf Sadri" (DXARTS) are giving keynotes
- Alum "Charli Glogovac-Smith" (DXARTS) is a keynote speaker
- PhC "Gabrielle Banabdallah" (HCDE) is organizing a zine festival

... and faculty and students from Cinema and Media Studies, HCDE, DXARTS, Philosophy, Information School, Bioethics & Humanities, and more are presenting!

To celebrate and recognize UW's contributions to STS, join us at the

"UW Social at 4S"  
Friday, Sept. 5, 2025  
8:30 – 10:00 p.m.  
Garden Terrace, Seattle Convention Center Summit (Third Floor)

400 subscribers  
to the newsletter

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

SOCIETY + TECHNOLOGY AT UW

### Launch Sparks Conversation Among Campus Affiliates

Society + Technology at UW's official launch brought the initiative's campus partners together for dialogue on key themes, including democracy, infrastructure, access, and political discourse. "[T]his is an area where the University of Washington has the brainpower [and] the people power," said UW President Ana Mari Cauce, who opened the event alongside Provost Tricia Sene.

LEARN MORE

Science Matters | Working Groups

"We are witnessing tectonic shifts in the global political landscape that impact our research," said Tim Brown, Assistant Professor in the Department of Bioethics and Humanities, for a pop-up working group on science, society, and justice. "We [must] uphold our values and communities."

Risky Subjects | Salons

"There's a dominant cultural assumption that genetic information represents the truth," said Lisa Hoffman, Professor of Urban Studies at UW Tacoma, during the January salon series. "Yet risk assessment is fundamentally a speculative venture."

Consensual Tech | Interview

"I'm concerned [...] what can be learned about us, as people, through [our] personal data." In our interview series, Angelina McMillan-Major, a computational linguist, explains why she didn't want a recording of her voice online.

April 3, 2025 at 7 pm | Alondra Nelson

The Tech Policy Lab, which hosts Society + Technology at UW, brings Alondra Nelson, the former Acting Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, for its annual public lecture.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER

April 14, 2025 at 6 pm | Technology for the People

Co-hosted with the Department of Communication's Center for Journalism, Media, and Democracy, our in-person salon on empathetic community engagement with technology is open to the public.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER

UW HOME

SOCIETY + TECHNOLOGY AT UW

CONTACT

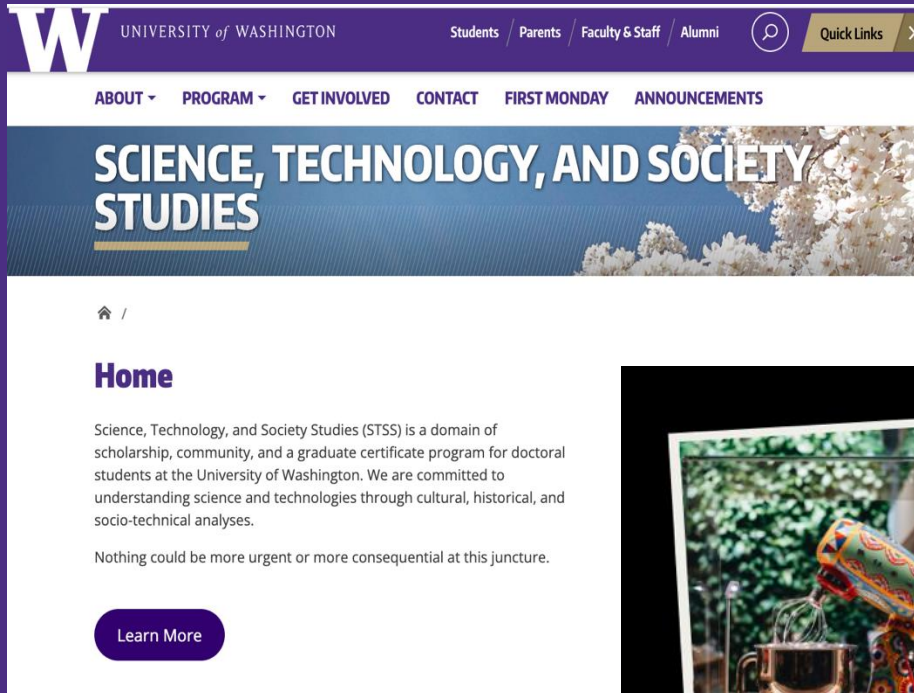
CONTACT US | PRIVACY | TERMS

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Society + Technology at UW, 1900 University Avenue, Room 205 UW Campus Box 355000 Seattle, WA 98195-5000



# 5. Advancing STSS



The poster for the STSS Research Mixer event features a photograph of a colorful, patterned hand mixer in a glass display case. To the right of the image, the event title "STSS Research Mixer" is displayed in a bold, black font, with "Research Mixer" highlighted in a yellow box. Below the title, the event details are listed: "October 23, 2024", "3:30 PM - 5 PM", and "CMU 126 | UW Seattle". A list of activities follows: "+ Science, Technology, and Society Studies (STSS) intellectual life w/ refreshments", "++ New UW STSS website launch party", and "+++ Optional no-host happy hour on the Ave after". At the bottom, a registration link "REGISTER NOW" and an email address "Questions? Email mmjones@uw.edu" are provided. The footer of the poster includes logos for STSS, Society + Technology UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON, SIMPSON CENTER for the HUMANITIES, TECH PREC LAB, and the UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON.

**STSS Research Mixer**

October 23, 2024  
3:30 PM - 5 PM  
CMU 126 | UW Seattle

- + Science, Technology, and Society Studies (STSS) intellectual life w/ refreshments
- ++ New UW STSS website launch party
- +++ Optional no-host happy hour on the Ave after

[REGISTER NOW](#) | Questions? Email [mmjones@uw.edu](mailto:mmjones@uw.edu)

STSS Society + Technology UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON SIMPSON CENTER for the HUMANITIES TECH PREC LAB UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

## 6. Community Guidelines

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Remember our common goal

Follow best practices in professional decorum

Be present

Stay accountable

Assume good faith

Change is part of a community process

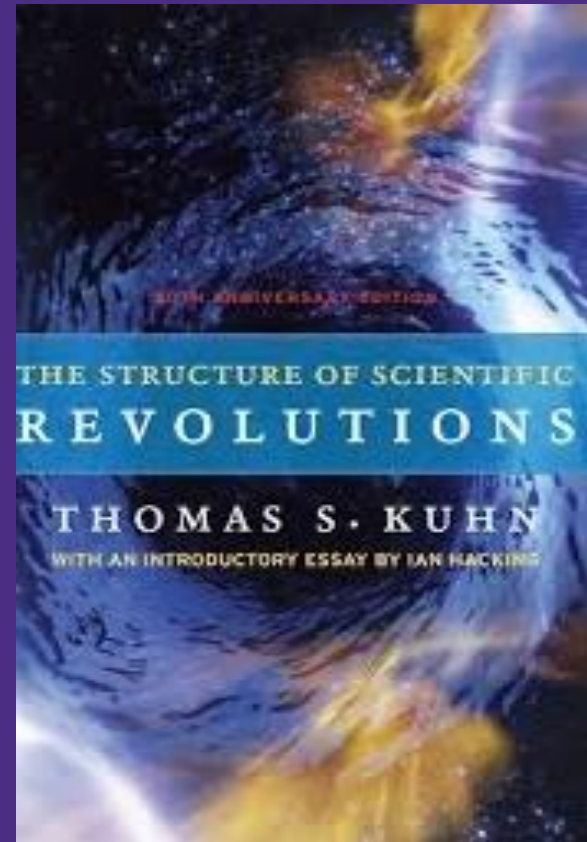
# 7. First Monday STSS Reading Group

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A participant-led, monthly, online, interdisciplinary, tri-campus reading group.

Since March 2024, we've hosted 15 sessions with an average of 15 participants per session.

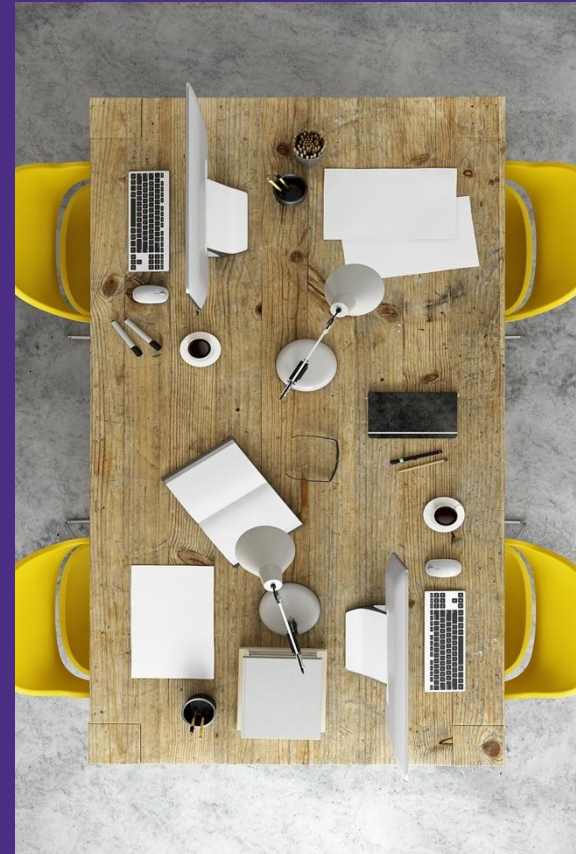
The First Monday mailing list has 89 subscribers.



# 8. Pop-Up Working Groups

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November 2024	Generative AI and Governance, hosted by Richard Lewis, UW Bothell Libraries
December 2025	Generative AI and Higher Education, hosted by Richard Lewis
February 2025	Airing: Science, Society, and Justice, hosted by Tim Brown, Dept. of Bioethics and Humanities
February 2025	Collaborating: Science, Society, and Justice, hosted by Tim Brown
March 2025	Creating: Speculative Fiction and Science Futures, hosted by Tim Brown





# 9. Applications



**SIMPSON**  
CENTER for the  
**HUMANITIES** ➡

NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
for the **ARTS**  
arts.gov

Office of  
Research

AI and  
asymmetries of  
information  
and power

Whiteley  
Center

Inter-  
disciplinary  
approaches to  
the social  
impacts of  
technology

Simpson  
Center

Cultures of  
care;  
Genetics and  
bioethics

NEA

AI center

# 10. Thought Leadership



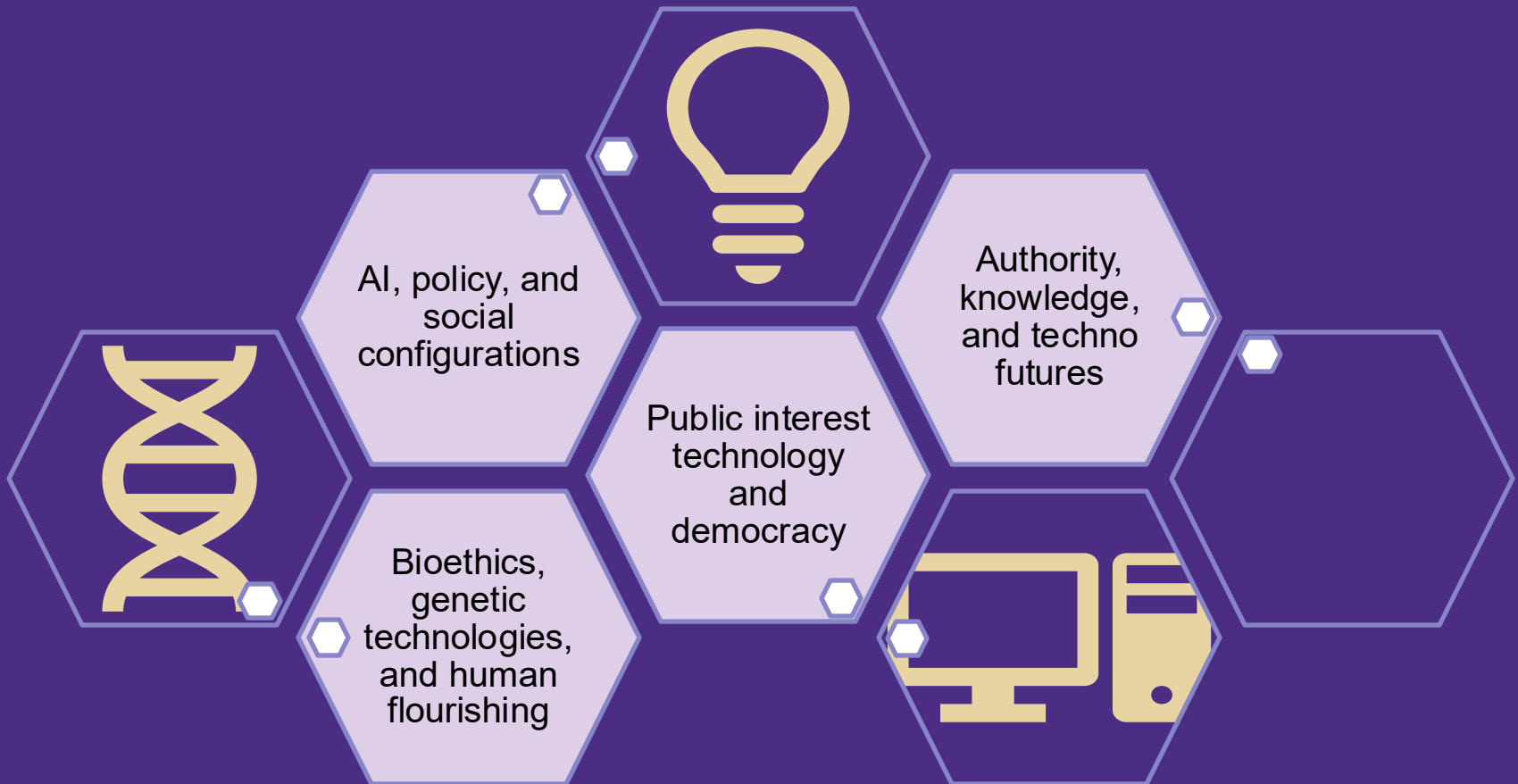
S+T lecture series with the Global Innovation Exchange students (pictured with permission). Credit: Jason Horne.



S+T director facilitates a panel on “AI hype” for Seattle Tech Week, 2025.

# Thematic Focuses

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# Testimonials

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“Thank you for such a human and invested presence you bring to our spaces and to academia.”

“That was such a cool exercise. Very therapeutic! I’ve never done anything like that—it was really effective.”

“Thanks for this opportunity to engage with birds of a feather.”

“I feel very seen by these encounters.”

“The two salons were astonishingly good.”

“Before, there was no sense of community in STSS, now there are so many more faculty and students involved, more opportunities for intellectual synergy.”

# About the Team

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**Monika Sengul-Jones (she/they)**, PhD, directs Society + Technology at UW. She is currently hosted in the Tech Policy Lab. She also lectures in the Global Innovation Exchange (GIX) master's program and at Hugo House, Seattle's Literary Hub. Previously, she's lectured in UW Bothell's School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences and the Department of Communication at UW Seattle.  
Email: [mmjones@uw.edu](mailto:mmjones@uw.edu)



**Ryan Calo (he/him)** is the Lane Powell and D. Wayne Gittinger Professor at the School of Law. He is a founding co-director of the interdisciplinary UW Tech Policy Lab and a co-founder of the UW Center for an Informed Public. Calo chaired the 2022 Task Force that led to Society + Technology at UW.  
Email: [rcalo@uw.edu](mailto:rcalo@uw.edu)



**Leah Ceccarelli (she/her)** is a Professor of Communication, a rhetorical critic, and a theorist with a research focus on the rhetoric of science. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in American Public Address, Rhetorical Criticism, and Rhetoric of Science. She directs the UW Science, Technology, and Society Studies Graduate Certificate program.  
Email: [cecc@uw.edu](mailto:cecc@uw.edu)