

Society + Technology at UW

Initiative Review and Impact

Prepared by: Monika Sengul-Jones
December 2025

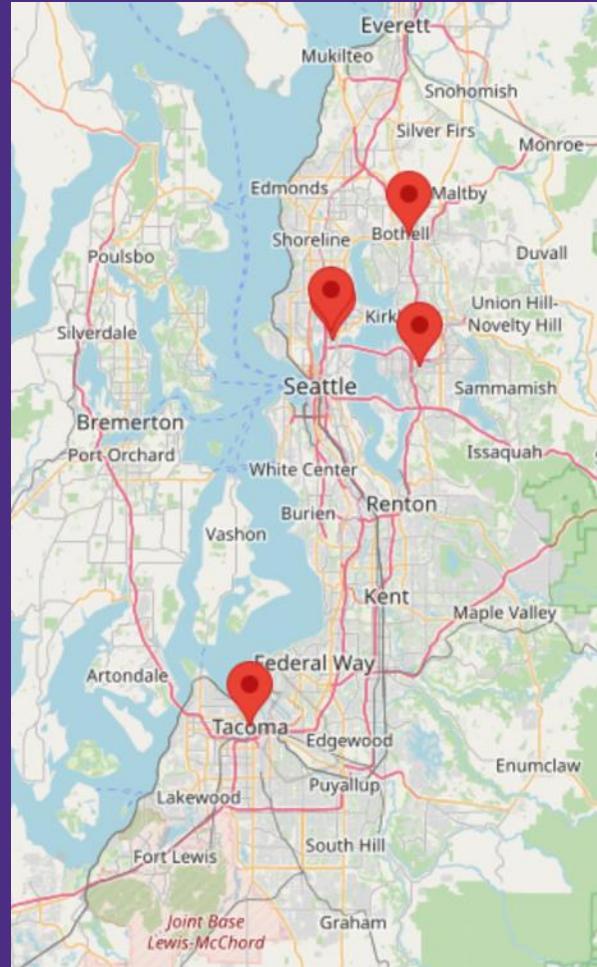
UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

W

Mission

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

October 2021 June 2022 January 2024 Spring 2024 Summer 2024 Fall 2024 January 2025 Feb. – Nov. 2025 December 2025



Task Force begins	Task Force delivers report	Funding begins	First events	Affiliates join	Website launches	Inaugural Convening	Community programing	Initial funding ends; Extension for 2026 made possible thanks to the School of Law and Office of the Provost
The UW President and Provost commission a Task Force, read the letter	Task Force recommends joint effort on the societal impacts of technology, read the report	Monika Sengul-Jones, PhD is hired	First Monday STSS Reading Group launches, three in-person events on emerging tech	Website development, 100 affiliates join, community guidelines, calendar, listserv	Presentations and funding apps to support affiliates	Launch event with President Cauce and Provost Serio	Events, mixers, and a course speaker series	

Impact to Date



Elevating UW's
Visibility

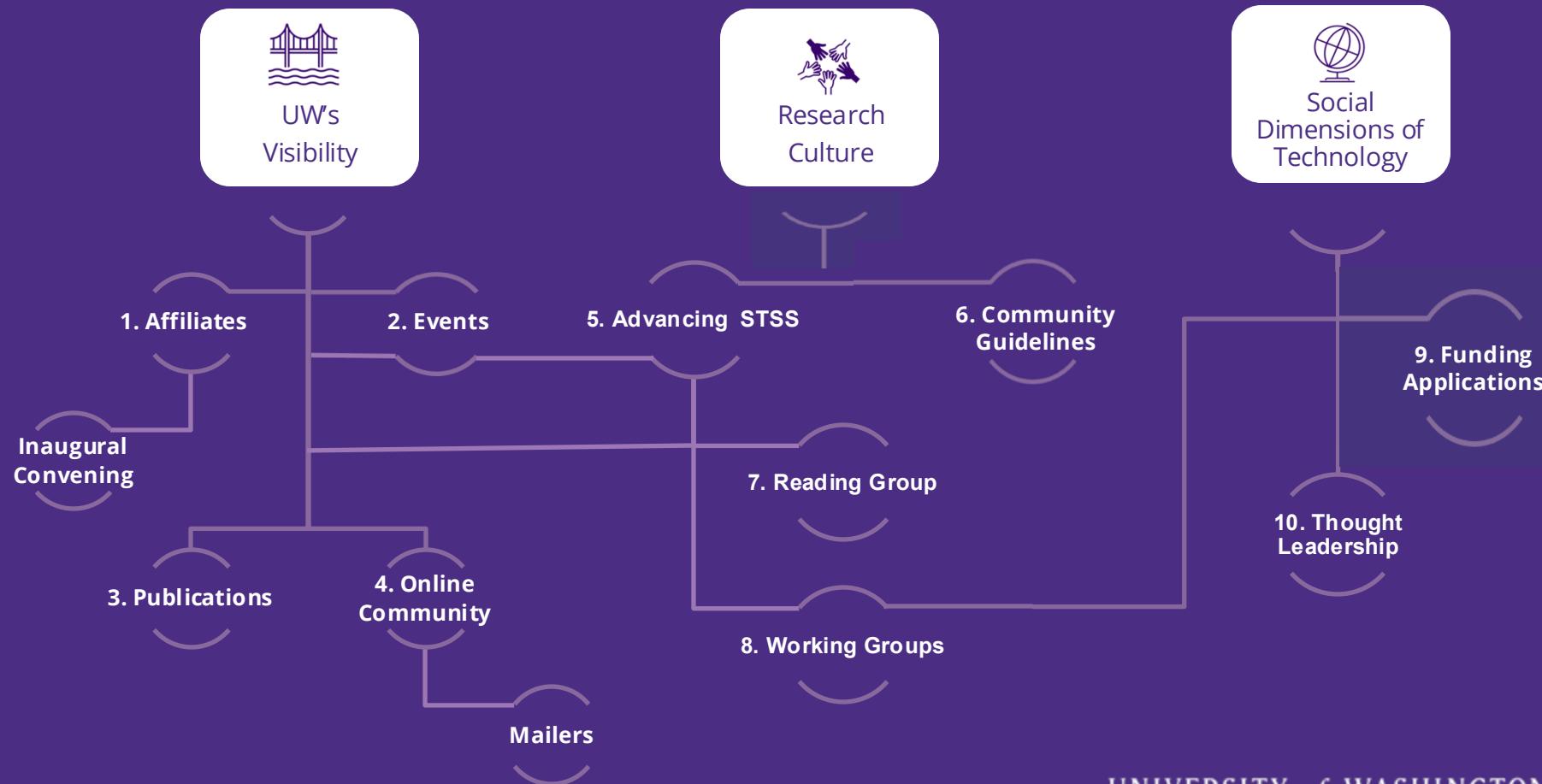


Strengthening
UW's Research
Culture



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

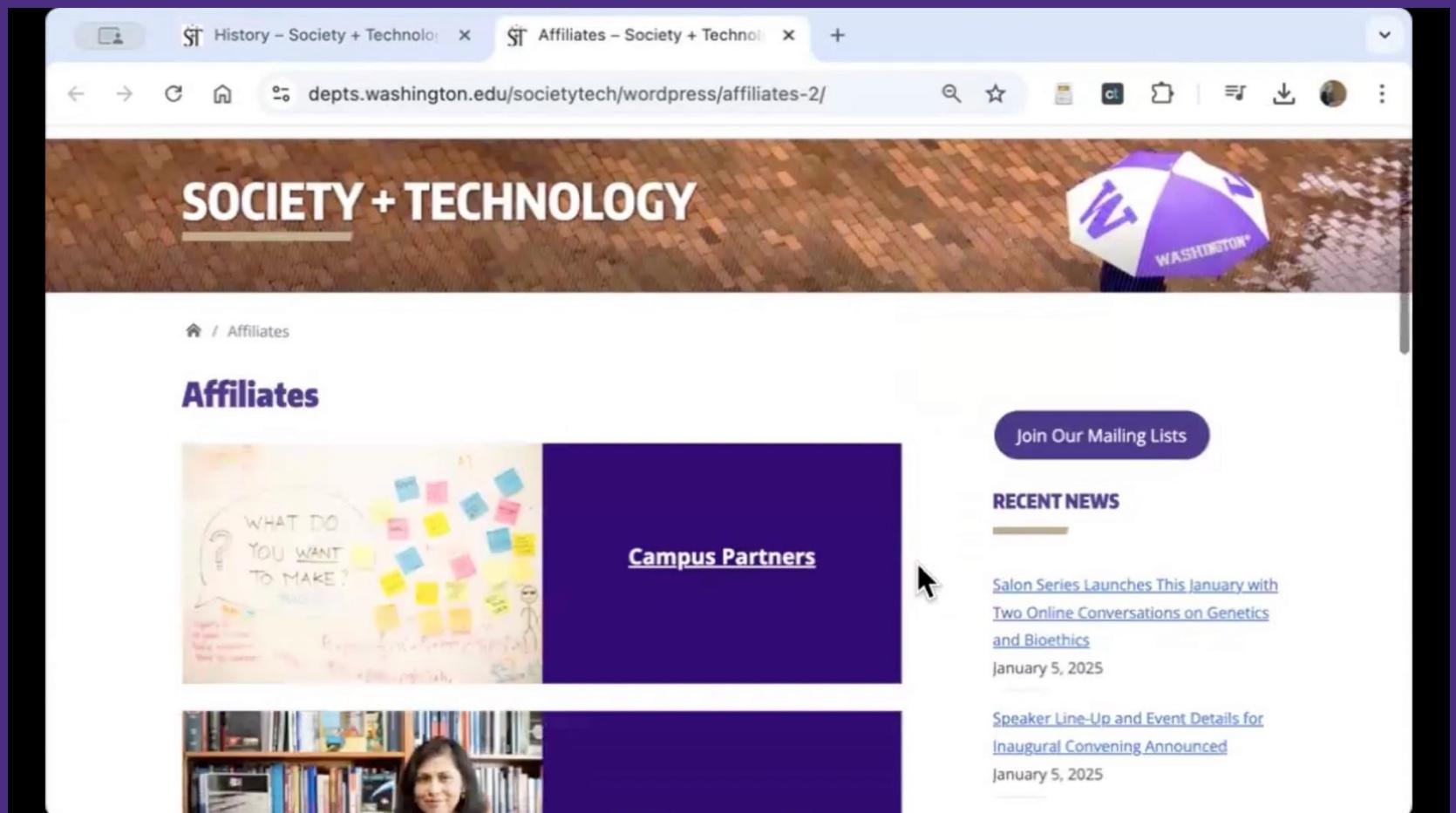
2,100

attendees

200%

increase in
admissions
numbers for STSS

1. Affiliates



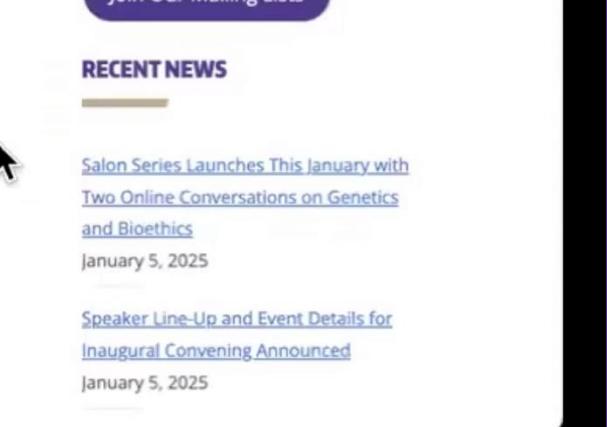
The screenshot shows a web browser window with two tabs open. The active tab is titled 'Affiliates – Society + Technology' and the URL is 'depts.washington.edu/societytech/wordpress/affiliates-2/'. The page content is as follows:

SOCIETY + TECHNOLOGY

[Home](#) / [Affiliates](#)

Affiliates

[Join Our Mailing Lists](#)

RECENT NEWS

[Salon Series Launches This January with Two Online Conversations on Genetics and Bioethics](#)
January 5, 2025

[Speaker Line-Up and Event Details for Inaugural Convening Announced](#)
January 5, 2025

2. Events

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, Controversy, 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

GeekWire NEWS JOBS EVENTS LISTS MEMBERS STUDIOS ABOUT Search

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

The screenshot shows the Society + Technology website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Home, About, Affiliates, Calendar, News, and a search icon. Below the navigation is a banner with the text "SOCIETY + TECHNOLOGY" and a purple and white graphic. The main content area features a grid of five profile cards for affiliate researchers: Devesree Nayak (School of Engineering & Technology | UW Tacoma), Martin Nizer (Aeronautics & Astronautics | UW Seattle), Temi Odumosu (Information School | UW Seattle), Margaret Pugh O'Mara (History | UW Seattle), and Golden Owens (Cinema and Media Studies | UW Seattle). Each card includes a small profile picture and a brief description.

The screenshot shows a monthly calendar for June 2025. The days of the week are labeled Monday through Sunday. Each day has a list of events. For example, on June 12, there is an event titled "12:30pm First Monday OTSS Reading Group (Online)". On June 13, there is an event titled "1pm American Assoc. of People with Disabilities Technology Forum". On June 20, there is an event titled "1pm AccessUforAll book club: 'AI Deity' by Cate Bell". On June 21, there is an event titled "11:00am DUB Seminar: Alessio Hender: Building the Internet". On June 22, there is an event titled "12pm Generative AI & Accessibility Benefits, Trade Offs, Interactivity". On June 25, there is an event titled "1pm AccessUforAll book club: 'AI Deity' by Cate Bell". On June 26, there is an event titled "11:00am DUB Seminar: Alessio Hender: Building the Internet". On June 27, there is an event titled "1pm AccessUforAll book club: 'AI Deity' by Cate Bell". On June 28, there is an event titled "1pm AccessUforAll book club: 'AI Deity' by Cate Bell". At the bottom of the calendar, there are buttons for "Share Your Event" and "Edit".

The screenshot shows a community board titled "S+T@UW Community Board". It includes a sidebar with a "societytech" icon and the text "societytech 6 • 3mo". Below the sidebar, there are four main sections: "Introductions", "Skillshares, requests, and offerings", "Announcements and events", and "Fundraising and collaboration opportunities". Each section has a "Share" button. The "Introductions" section features a post from Margaret O'Mara (@margotmora) 3 months ago. The "Skillshares, requests, and offerings" section features a post from Emily M. Bender (@emilymbender) 3 months ago. The "Announcements and events" section features a post from Daniela (@daniela) 3 months ago. The "Fundraising and collaboration opportunities" section features a post from Crystal Welliver (@crystalwelliver) 6 months ago. At the bottom, there are links to "View all posts" and "View all comments".

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 45, the flagship STS meeting showcases UW's leadership—big hat tip to the local organizing team and 45 co-chairs Daniela Rosner (HCD/E/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 Millon* (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 *Althea Rao* (DXARTS) and *Sadaf Sadri* (DXARTS) are giving keynotes
- Alum *Chari Glogovac-Smith* (DXARTS) is a keynote speaker
- PhC *Gabrielle Banabandalah* (HCD/E) is organizing a zine festival

... and faculty and students from Cinema and Media Studies, HCD/E, 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 45
Friday, Sept. 5, 2025
8:30 – 10:00 p.m.
Garden Terrace, Seattle Convention Center Summit (Third Floor)

W 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 Thos Sene.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



Science Matters | Working Groups

"There's a dominant cultural assumption that genetic information represents the truth," 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

"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.

January 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

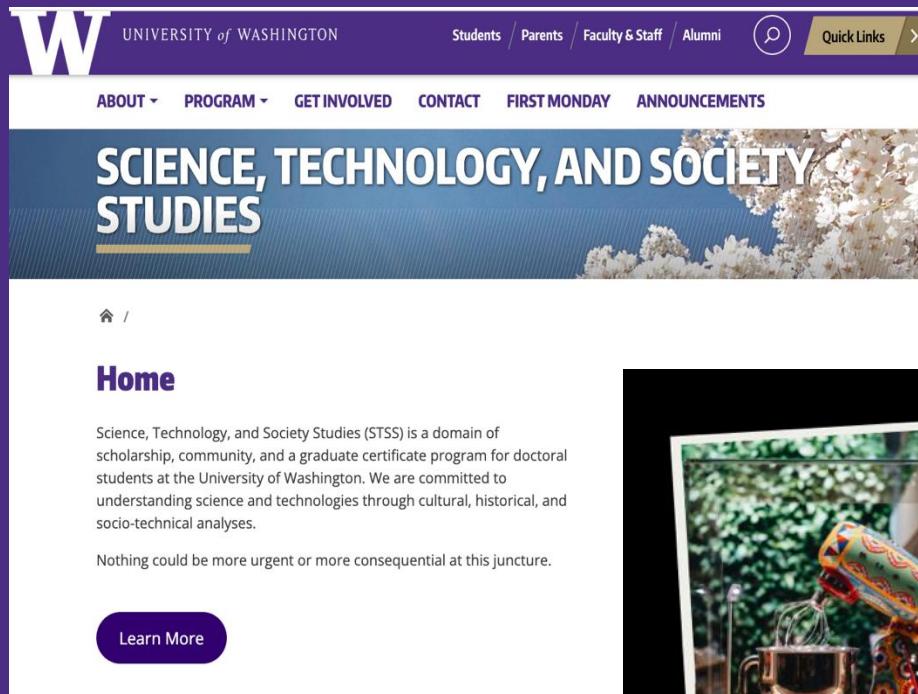
Co-hosted with the Department of Communication's Center for Journalism, Media, and Democracy, our in-person salon on digital community engagement with technology is open to the public.

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER >](#)

UW HOME **SOCIETY + TECHNOLOGY AT UW** **CONTACT**
CONTACT US | PRIVACY | TERMS
© 2025
Society + Technology at UW, William H. Gates Hall, Room 222 UW Campus Box 356020 Seattle, WA 98195-3560
This email was sent to

400 subscribers
to the newsletter

5. Advancing STSS



The screenshot shows the University of Washington website with a purple header. The header includes the 'W' logo, 'UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON', 'Students / Parents / Faculty & Staff / Alumni', a search icon, and a 'Quick Links' button. Below the header, a navigation bar offers links to 'ABOUT', 'PROGRAM', 'GET INVOLVED', 'CONTACT', 'FIRST MONDAY', and 'ANNOUNCEMENTS'. The main content area features a banner with the text 'SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY STUDIES' over a background of white flowers. Below the banner, the page title 'Home' is displayed, followed by a paragraph about the STSS program and a 'Learn More' button.



The event page for the 'STSS Research Mixer' is displayed on a black background. At the top, there is a photo of a colorful hand mixer being used to blend ingredients in a silver mixing bowl. To the right of the photo, the event title 'STSS Research Mixer' is written in a large, bold, white font with a yellow outline. Below the title, the date and time are listed: 'October 23, 2024' and '3:30 PM – 5 PM'. The location is 'CMU 126 | UW Seattle'. A list of details 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, there is a 'REGISTER NOW' button and a note: 'Questions? Email mmjones@uw.edu'. Logos for 'STSS Society + Technology', 'SIMPSON CENTER for the HUMANITIES', 'TECH LAB', and 'UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON' are at the bottom.

6. Community Guidelines

Remember our common goal

Follow best practices in professional decorum

Be present

Stay accountable

Assume good faith

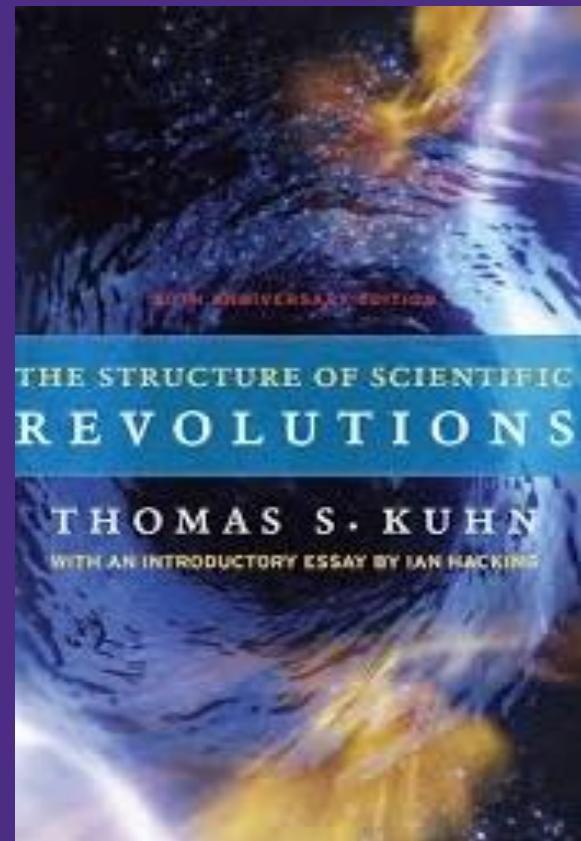
Change is part of a community process

7. First Monday STSS Reading Group

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

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

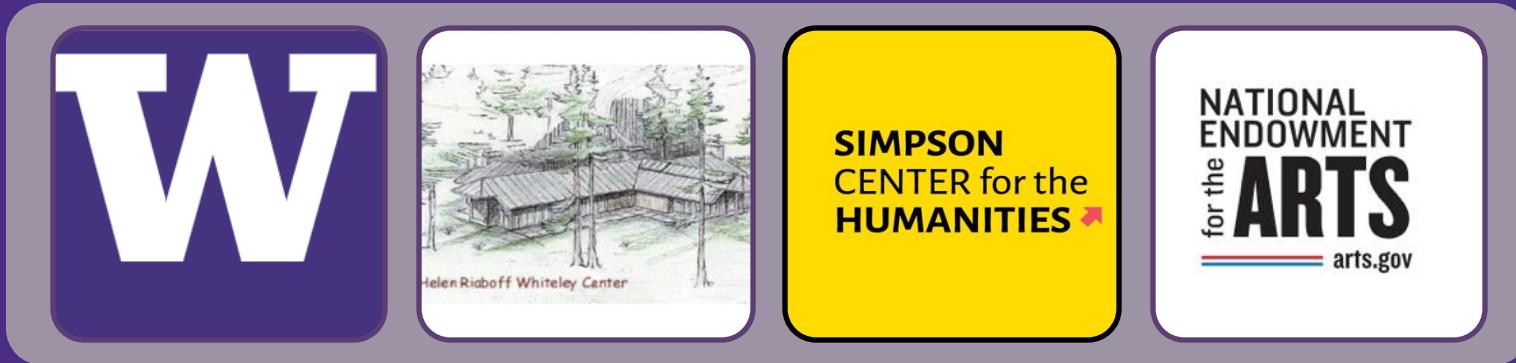
Collaborating: Science, Society,
and Justice, hosted by Tim
Brown

March 2025

Creating: Speculative Fiction
and Science Futures, hosted by
Tim Brown



9. Applications



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

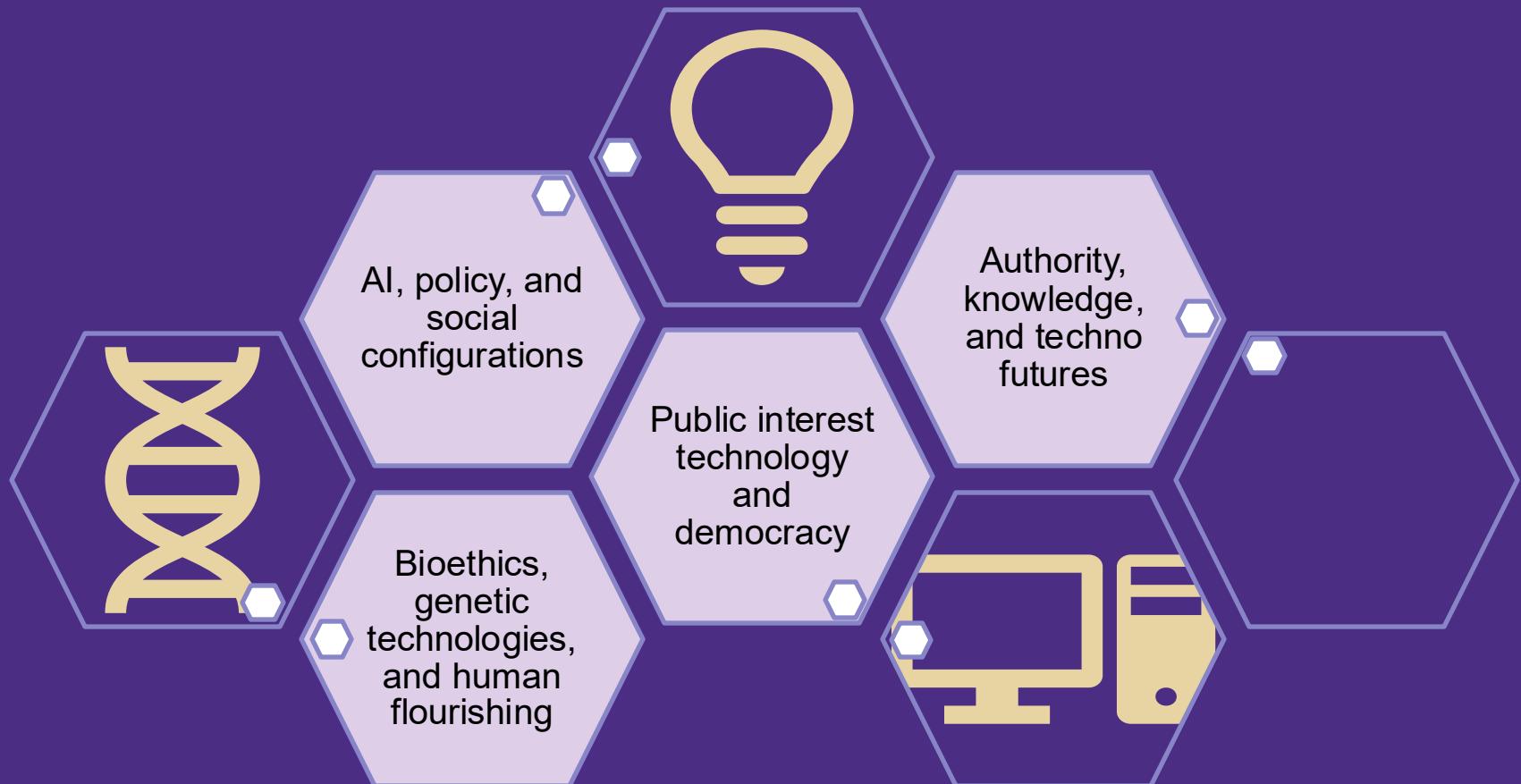


S+T lecture series with the Global Innovation Exchange students (pictured with permission). Credit: Jason Horne.



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

Thematic Focuses



Testimonials

“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



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



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



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.
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