

STS Moment Assignment

STS 4500, Spring 2022, *Prof. Wayland*

Overview

As we have discussed in class, we are immersed in sociotechnical systems, and we often take these entirely for granted. If we are to understand better these systems and the roles they play in our lives, then we need to make them explicit and examine them. To this end, you will describe a particular instance of the mutual shaping of technology and society that strikes you as interesting and worthy of comment.

For example, in the past students have presented about gender norms and the size of pockets in women's clothing, the dynamic tensions between fans and video-assisted refereeing, the history of ice in drinks, delivery drones and the problem of regulating noise, and the history of the wristwatch and changing conceptions of time. Relating the history of a technology is fine as long as you don't just do a tech determinist, whig history (I'll explain).

As a separate option, you can choose to present an STS concept in brief. (I will circulate a list of these concepts once we get closer to discussing STS theory.)

Rationale

This assignment has two goals: first, to get you thinking in STS terms and second, to give you more experience making presentations.

Requirements

- The presentation should last around 2-3 minutes, not more and no less. I will deduct points for going over 3 minutes and cut you off entirely at 4:00.
- You will briefly describe the mutual shaping of some particular sociotechnical system.
- If the situation you describe has any larger implications or lessons, you can note those, briefly.
- You can use powerpoint slides if you wish, but you do not have to.
 - If you *do* use slides, post them on Collab (under STS Moment Presentation) by midnight the night before your presentation.
 - *And* come early to class and load the presentation on the classroom PC.
- You must also watch a video of your presentation, which will be accessible through Collab. You will then **write a brief reflection** paragraph and post it to Collab (under "STS Moment Reflection").

Sign up for your day here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ja7dS-5SkDOLBlHiggUxLPKTIzyDj1dRktyV8Hvc14Q/edit?usp=sharing>

Grading

Content (2.5 Points)

- Your example/case works well for the assignment
- You explain the example/case clearly and appropriately for the audience.
- You highlight and explain the important aspects of mutual shaping in the system.
The best analyses will be clear, original, and insightful.

Performance (2.5 points)

- You present the case clearly and succinctly, showing that you thought through what you wanted to present and practiced it.
- You comport yourself like a professional:
 - Your voice is loud and clear.
 - You engage with the audience well.
 - You stand (or sit) in an attentive, but not tense, manner.
 - Your gestures contribute to your presentation, rather than distracting from it.

Reflection (2 Points)

{Due one week after you gain access to the video}

- You demonstrate that you have watched the video of your performance and thought about it
- You note something that you thought went well with your performance.
- You note something that could have gone better with your performance.
- Be thoughtful rather than just listing elements that worked or did not.