

DR. STEFAN LASER

CURRICULUM VITAE

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INTERESTS

Science and Technology Studies
Economic Sociology
Interdisciplinary Studies of Waste, Discards, and Pollution
Infrastructure Studies, high-tech and electronic industries
Global value chains, extensive research experience in Europe & Asia-Pacific
Qualitative research methods, ethnography, digital methods

QUALIFICATION

2019 Ph.D., Sociology, Department of Social Sciences, University of Kassel, Germany
2013 M.A. Sociology, exchange, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India
2013 Master of Arts, Sociology, Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany
2011 Bachelor of Arts, Sociology (major) and Intercultural Business Communication (minor), Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany
2007 A-Levels, Hamm (Westf.), Germany

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2026 Interim Professor, Chair of Cultural Psychology and Anthropology of Knowledge, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany
2025 Visiting Scholar, Fulbright University Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City
2022–2026 Postdoctoral Researcher, Collaborative Research Centre Virtual Lifeworlds, Ruhr-University Bochum. Project: “Virtual information infrastructures: the data centre as an infrastructure”
2021–2022 Postdoctoral Researcher, Collaborative Research Centre Media of Cooperation, affiliated with the Chair of Sociology (esp. Workplace Studies), University of Siegen. Project: “Normal operational failures. Structure and change of infrastructures in the public sector”
2019–2021 Postdoctoral Researcher, Chair of Cultural Psychology and Anthropology of Knowledge, Ruhr-University Bochum. Coordinator of the Ruhr-University Science and Technology lab (RUSTlab)

- 2019 Visiting Scholar, Department of Work, Organisation and Technology (Management School)/Centre for Science Studies (Sociology), Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK
- 2013–2019 Research assistant, PhD student, Department of Social Theory (and Department of Sociology of Social Disparities), Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kassel

RESEARCH FUNDING

Approved projects	Role	Awarded
2025– : “Bilateral Workshops and Project-Preparation Trips for Exploring Silicon Urbanism: Comparative Research Between Silicon Saxony (Dresden, Germany) and Silicon Taiwan (Hsinchu, Taiwan), funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)	Team member	44,000 EUR
2023– : Network “Waste in motion: Mobilisations of waste and pollutants as sociomaterial configurations,” funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)	Co-applicant	87,000 EUR
2017–2018: “Smart Environment, Smart Information? Information and information about personal data processing in the Internet of Things,” funded by the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, Germany	Co-applicant	73,000 EUR
2016: Travel funds, DAAD	Applicant	2,000 EUR
2015: Travel funds, Kassel University Association	Applicant	2,000 euros
2014: Travel funds, DAAD	Applicant	2,000 euros

PUBLICATIONS (WITH [EN TRANSLATIONS])

Monographs

- 2026 Abels, Sandra/Çelik, Leman/**Laser, Stefan**/Sørensen, Estrid (2026): Staying with the planet. The university that tried to reckon with ecological reality, challenged excessive data infrastructures, and nurtured a few alternatives not planned for. Bielefeld: transcript.
- 2022 Groth, Karla/**Laser, Stefan**/Sarther, Isabelle/Schirrmacher, Jennifer (2022): Artenübergreifende Fürsorge? Die Corona-Pandemie und das Mensch-Tier-Verhältnis [Inter-species care? The Corona Pandemic and the Human-Animal Relationship. Series: Human-Animal Studies]. Bielefeld: transcript.
- 2020 **Laser, Stefan** (2020): Hightech am Ende. Über das globale Recycling von Elektroschrott und die Entstehung neuer Werte [High-tech at the end. On the global recycling of

electronic waste and the emergence of new values. Series: Sociology of Values and Valuation]. Wiesbaden: Springer-VS.

Editorships of journal special issues

- 2026 Çelik, Leman/**Laser, Stefan**/Sørensen, Estrid (forthcoming): Across the layers: How data infrastructures link knowledge practices and planetary matter. *Science & Technology Studies* 39(3).
- 2020 Greeson, Emma/**Laser, Stefan**/Pyyhtinen, Olli (2020): Dis/assembling value. Lessons from waste valuation practices. *Valuation Studies* 7(2).
- 2019 Schlitz, Nicolas/**Laser, Stefan** (2019): Waste and globalised inequalities. *Austrian Journal of Development Studies* 35(2–3).

Editorships of edited volumes

- 2026 Hogan, Mél/**Laser, Stefan**/Ongweso, Edward (forthcoming): Predictions Vol I: from speculative ethnography to apocalyptic testimony. Lancaster: Mattering Press.
- 2026 Hogan, Mél/**Laser, Stefan**/Ongweso, Edward (in print): Predictions Vol II: from trends to potentials. Lancaster: Mattering Press.
- 2026 Waste-in-Motion Collective; **Laser, Stefan** et al. (forthcoming): Wie Abfall die Welt bewegt [How waste moves the planet]. Bielefeld: transcript.
- 2025 Krenn, Karoline/Kropf, Jonathan/**Laser, Stefan**/Ochs, Carsten (2025): Dynamiken digitaler Bewertung: Über Gestaltungsspielräume in Infrastrukturen – von KI bis Queering [Dynamics of digital valuation. Scopes for reshaping infrastructures – from AI to queering]. Wiesbaden: Springer-VS.
- 2024 Fehrenbacher, Jens/Flugel, Kristin/Jürgens, Jane/**Laser, Stefan**/Lorenz, Marco/Pittroff, Fabian (2024): Vokabular der Virtualität. Ein situiertes Lexikon der Virtualität [Vocabulary of Virtuality. A situated lexicon of virtuality]. Bielefeld: transcript.
- 2018 Kropf, Jonathan/**Laser, Stefan** (2018): Digitale Bewertungspraktiken. Für eine Bewertungssoziologie des Digitalen [Digital valuation practices. Towards a sociology of valuation of the digital]. Wiesbaden: Springer-VS.

Articles with double-blind peer review

- n.d. **Laser, Stefan** (revise & resubmit): Encountering the semiconductor industry: Conferences and value chains in motion, from Taiwan to Vietnam. *Journal of Cultural Economy*.
- n.d. **Laser, Stefan** (under review): Stranded high-tech infrastructure. On Intel's non-Investment in Magdeburg, pausing, discarding, and starting again. *Engaging Science, Technology, and Society*.
- n.d. **Laser, Stefan** (under review): Mapping Vietnam's semiconductor leapfrogging desires, or: the chip rush as a matter of concern. *East Asian Science, Technology & Society*.
- 2026 Sørensen, Estrid/**Laser, Stefan**/Çelik, Leman (forthcoming): Planetary scientific knowledge: Shifting attention from social studies of scientific knowledge to planetary studies of scientific knowledge. *Science & Technology Studies* 39(3).
- 2024 RUSTlab; Amelang, Kathrin/Asai, Ryoko/Çelik, Leman/Eggel, Ruth/Galanova, Olga/**Laser, Stefan**/Ojala, Mace/Pittroff, Fabian/Sørensen, Estrid/Werner, Lynn (2024): Please go away... We're reading: A practice approach to a taken-for-granted academic craft. *On_Culture*.

- 2024 Wagenknecht, Susann/Kocksch, Laura/**Laser, Stefan**/Kuehnen, Ann-Kristin (2024): Valuing data: Attaching online data to stakes, selves, and other data. *Valuation Studies* 8(2).
- 2022 **Laser, Stefan** (2022): Verausgabung auf “Strava” und mit “Powermeter”: über technologisch vermittelte Selbstbewertung beim Radsport und eine energiesoziologische Perspektive [Expenditure on “Strava” and with “Powermeter”: on technologically mediated self-assessment in cycling and an energy-sociological perspective]. *Österreichische Zeitschrift für Soziologie* 47(4): 319–332.
- 2022 **Laser, Stefan** (2022): Wert mit Abfall befragen. Eine soziomaterielle Perspektive auf die Erzeugung von Wert mit Einsichten aus ethnographischer Forschung zu Elektroschrott [Interrogating value with waste. A sociomaterial perspective on the production of value with insights from ethnographic research on e-waste]. *Zeitschrift für Soziologie* 51(2): 1–18.
- 2021 Gertenbach, Lars/Lamla, Jörn/**Laser, Stefan** (2021): Eating Ourselves out of Industrial Excess? Degrowth, Multi-Species Conviviality and the Micro-Politics of Cultured Meat. *Anthropological Theory* 21(3): 386–408.
- 2021 **Laser, Stefan**/Sørensen, Estrid (2021): Re-imagining river restoration. Temporalities, landscapes and values of the Emscher set in a post-mining environment. *Berliner Blätter* 84(2): 65–85.
- 2020 **Laser, Stefan**/Stowell, Alison (2020): Thinking like Apple's recycling robots: Towards the activation of responsibility in a post-environmentalist world. *Ephemera* 20(3): 163–194.
- 2020 **Laser, Stefan** (2020): Sorting, shredding and smelting scrap: The production of value by deformation at a high-tech recycler of electronic waste. *Valuation Studies* 7(2): 221–255.
- 2019 **Laser, Stefan**/Schlitz, Nicolas (2019): Facing frictions: Waste and globalised inequalities. *Austrian Journal of Development Studies* 35(2–3): 5–32.
- 2016 Lamla, Jörn/**Laser, Stefan** (2016): Nachhaltiger Konsum im transnationalen Wertschöpfungskollektiv. Versammlungsdynamiken in der Politischen Ökonomie des Elektroschrott [Sustainable consumption in the transnational value creation collective. Assembly dynamics in the political economy of e-waste]. *Berlin Journal für Soziologie* 26(2): 249–271.
- 2016 **Laser, Stefan** (2016): Why is it so hard to engage with practices of the informal sector? Experimental insights from the Indian e-waste-collective. *Cultural Studies Review* 22(1): 168–195.

Articles without double-blind peer review and book chapters

- 2026 **Laser, Stefan**/Schönbauer, Sarah/Gumpert, Tobias (in print): Müll in Bewegung, Fürsorge im Wandel: Fürsorgliche Perspektiven auf flüchtige Materialien. In: Waste-in-Motion Kollektiv (Hrsg.) Bielefeld: transcript.
- 2026 Gumpert, Tobias/**Laser, Stefan** (in print): Residuale Verantwortung – Abfall, Ungleichheit und das Politische des Entsorgens [Residual responsibility – Waste, inequality, and the political of disposal]. In: Waste-in-Motion Kollektiv (Hrsg.): Wie Abfall die Welt bewegt [How waste moves the planet]. Bielefeld: transcript.

- 2026 **Laser, Stefan** (in print): Kurzbeiträge [Sticky Notes]: Untergrund, Ruins [Underground, Ruins]. In: Waste-in-Motion Kollektiv (Hrsg.) Bielefeld: transcript.
- 2026 **Laser, Stefan** (2026). Generative Prognosen in den Sozial- und Geisteswissenschaften [Generative predictions in the social sciences and humanities]. In P. Breil & F. Sprenger (Ed.), Virtuelle Universität [Virtual University], 483–492. Bielefeld: transcript.
- 2025 Karoline/Kropf, Jonathan/**Laser, Stefan**/Ochs, Carsten (2025): Dynamiken digitaler Bewertung [Dynamics of digital valuation]. In: Krenn, Karoline/Kropf, Jonathan/Laser, Stefan/Ochs, Carsten (2024): Dynamiken digitaler Bewertung. Über Gestaltungsspielräume in Infrastrukturen – von KI bis Queering [The dynamics of digital evaluation. On creative freedom in infrastructures – from AI to queering], 1–30. Wiesbaden: Springer-VS
- 2025 **Laser, Stefan**, und Carsten Ochs (2025): ‘Ich glaube, dass die Verunsicherung von Verbrauchern durch immer perfekter werdende KI-Produkte weiter zunehmen wird, und da müssen wir etwas gegenseiten!’ Interview: Im Gespräch mit dem Verbraucherschützer Oliver Havlat von der Verbraucherzentrale Nordrhein-Westfalen [‘I believe that consumer uncertainty will continue to grow as AI products become increasingly sophisticated, and we need to do something about it!’ Interview: In conversation with consumer advocate Oliver Havlat from the North Rhine-Westphalia Consumer Organisation]. In: Krenn, Karoline/Kropf, Jonathan/Ochs, Carsten (2024): Dynamiken digitaler Bewertung. Über Gestaltungsspielräume in Infrastrukturen – von KI bis Queering [The dynamics of digital evaluation. On creative freedom in infrastructures – from AI to queering], 219–234. Wiesbaden: Springer-VS.
- 2024 **Laser, Stefan** (2024): Multiple chapters: Beginnings, Digitality, Large-scale Investment, Hypervisor, Meta, Qualities. In: Fehrenbacher, Jens/Flugel, Kristin/Jürgens, Jane/Laser, Stefan/Lorenz, Marco/Pittroff, Fabian (Ed.): Vokabular der Virtualität. Ein situiertes Lexikon der Virtualität [Vocabulary of Virtuality. A situated lexicon of virtuality]. Bielefeld: transcript.
- 2024 **Laser, Stefan** (2024): Rethinking value through waste. About devaluation and society. In: Krüger, Anne K./Peetz, Thorsten/Schäfer, Hilmar: *The Routledge International Handbook of Valuation and Society*, 117–226. London/New York: Routledge.
- 2023 **Laser, Stefan**/Pasek, Anne/Sørensen, Estrid/Hogan, Mél/Ojala, Mace/Fehrenbacher, Jens/Gregor Hepach, Maximilian/Çelik, Leman/Ravi Kumar, Koushik (2023): The environmental footprint of social media hosting: Tinkering with Mastodon. *EASST Review* 41(3).
- 2023 Sørensen, Estrid/**Laser, Stefan** (2023): Towards artful sustainable Integration of IT infrastructures: A report from the construction of a university data centre. In: Jankowski, Patricia/Höfner, Anja/Hoffmann, Marja Lena/Rohde, Friederike/Rehak, Rainer/Graf, Johanna: *Shaping digital transformation for a sustainable society: Contributions from Bits & Bäume*, 87–90. Berlin: Technische Universität Berlin.
- 2022 **Laser, Stefan** (2022): Verschwendungen handhaben. Über Energie, Ressourceneinsatz und infrastrukturelles Erfahrungswissen in der Recycling- und Schienenindustrie [Handling waste. On energy, resource use and infrastructural experience in the recycling and rail industry]. In: Barth, Thomas/Jaeger-Erben, Melanie/Jochum,

- Georg/Lorenz, Stephan (Ed.). Nachhaltige Werte schaffen? Arbeit und Technik in der sozial-ökologischen Transformation [*Creating sustainable values? Labour and technology in the socio-ecological transformation*], 156–179. Weinheim: Beltz/Juventa.
- 2021 Frisch, Thomas/**Laser, Stefan**/Matthäus, Sandra/Schendzielorz, Cornelia (2021): It's worth the trouble. On valuation studies and climate change. *economic sociology—the european electronic newsletter* 22(1): 10–14.
- 2021 **Laser, Stefan**/Nicolas Schlitz (2021): Abfall in und jenseits von Güterketten: Ungleichheiten und unterschätzte Materialien [Waste in and beyond commodity chains: Inequalities and underestimated materials]. In: Fischer, Karin/Reiner, Christian/Staritz, Cornelia (Ed.), *Globale Warenketten und ungleiche Entwicklung: Arbeit, Kapital, Konsum, Natur* [*Global commodity chains and unequal development: labour, capital, consumption, nature*], 284–288. Vienna: Mandelbaum Verlag.
- 2021 **Laser, Stefan** (2021): Mit modularen Smartphones Müll vermeiden, und andere Missverständnisse. Über die Intervention in eine produktorientierte Bewegung und die methodologischen Früchte des Scheiterns [Avoiding waste with modular smartphones, and other misunderstandings. On the intervention in a product-oriented movement and the methodological fruits of failure]. In: Herberg, Jeremias/Stämmler, Johannes (Ed.). *Wissenschaft im Strukturwandel* [*Science in the transformation*], 337–358. Munich: Oekom.
- 2020 **Laser, Stefan**/Alison Stowell (2020): Apple's recycling robot "Liam" and the global recycling economy of e-waste. What 'The Guardian' does, and what he misses out on. In: Johansson, Nils/Ek, Richard (Ed.). *Perspectives on waste from the social sciences and humanities: Opening the bin*, 265–279. Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars.
- 2020 Greeson, Emma/**Laser, Stefan**/Pyyhtinen, Olli (2020): Introduction: Dis/assembling value. Lessons from waste valuation practices. *Valuation Studies* 7(2): 151–166.
- 2018 **Laser, Stefan** (2018): Elektroschrott und die Abwertung von Reparaturpraktiken: Eine soziologische Erkundung des Recyclings von Elektronikgeräten in Indien und Deutschland [E-waste and the devaluation of repair practices: A sociological exploration of the recycling of electronic devices in India and Germany]. In: Stefan Krebs, Gabriele Schabacher, Heike Weber (Ed.). *Kulturen des Reparierens* [*Cultures of repair*], 85–103. Bielefeld: transcript.
- 2018 Kropf, Jonathan/**Laser, Stefan** (2018): Eine Bewertungssoziologie des Digitalen [A Sociology of Valuation of the Digital]. In: Kropf, Jonathan/Laser, Stefan (Ed.). *Digitale Bewertungspraktiken. Für eine Bewertungssoziologie des Digitalen* [*Digital valuation practices. Towards a Sociology of Valuation of the Digital*], 1–16. Wiesbaden: Springer-VS.
- 2018 Kropf, Jonathan/**Laser, Stefan** (2018): Für eine reflexive Vergleichspraxis in der Bewertungssoziologie. Pinterest und WhatsApp als Beispiel [In favour of a reflexive comparative practice in the sociology of evaluation]. Pinterest and WhatsApp as an example. In: Kropf, Jonathan/Laser, Stefan (Ed.). *Digitale Bewertungspraktiken. Für eine Bewertungssoziologie des Digitalen* [*Digital evaluation practices. For a Sociology of Valuation of the Digital*], 19–40. Wiesbaden: Springer-VS.

- 2018 **Laser, Stefan**/Ochs, Carsten (2018): Kontroversen bewertbar machen. Über die Methode des “Mapping of Controversies” [Making controversies assessable. On the “Mapping of Controversies” method]. In: Kropf, Jonathan/Laser, Stefan (Ed.). *Digitale Bewertungspraktiken. Für eine Bewertungssoziologie des Digitalen* [Digital valuation practices. Towards a Sociology of Valuation of the Digital], 97–125, Wiesbaden: Springer-VS.
- 2018 Lamla, Jörn/**Laser, Stefan** (2018): Verbraucherschutz [Consumer protection]. In: Backhaus-Maul H., Kunze M., Nährlich S. (Ed.). *Corporate Social Responsibility in Germany*, 285–299. Wiesbaden: Springer VS.
- 2016 **Laser, Stefan** (2016): A phone worth keeping for the next 6 billion? Exploring the creation of a modular smartphone made by Google. In: Christiane Lewe, Tim Orthold, Nicolas Oxen (Ed.). *Müll: Interdisziplinäre Beiträge auf das Übrig-Gebliebene*, 201–226. Bielefeld: transcript.
- 2015 **Laser, Stefan**/Lamla, Jörn (2015): Demokratischer Experimentalismus in transnationalen Wertschöpfungskollektiven. Über einige Herausforderungen des ethischen Konsums und den Fall Elektroschrott [Democratic experimentalism in transnational value collectives. On some challenges of ethical consumption and the case of e-waste]. In: Stephan Lessenich (ed.). *Routinen der Krise – Krise der Routinen. Verhandlungen des 37. Kongresses der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie in Trier 2014* [Routines of Crisis - Crisis of Routines. Proceedings of the 37th Congress of the German Sociological Association in Trier 2014], Budrich.

Reviews

- 2024 **Laser, Stefan** (2024): Eine innige Beziehung. Review of “Müll. Eine schmutzige Geschichte der Menschheit” [Review of “Waste: a dirty history of humankind”] by Roman Köster, *Soziopolis*.
- 2021 **Laser, Stefan** (2021): Review-Essay: Building bridges: About the reflection work and consequences of STS method practices in three current publications. *Science & Technology Studies* 34(2): 138–143.
- 2019 **Laser, Stefan** (2019): Who carries the weight of digital technologies? What is its weight anyway? Review-Essay of “Reassembling Rubbish: Worlding Electronic Waste”, by Josh Lepawsky (MIT Press), *Austrian Journal of Development Studies* 35(2-3): 217-227.

Research reports and working papers

- 2022 Ashall, Vanessa/Held, Tobias/**Laser, Stefan**/Mewes, Julie Sascia/Ojala, Mace/Schulte-Roemer, Nona/Smith, Robert/Tutton, Richard/Zambach, Sine (2022): Fieldnotes on FlyingLess Conferencing. *EASST Review* 41(2).
- 2022 **Laser, Stefan** (2022): Obsolescence statt Transformation im Schienenverkehr: Über die Rolle der Bahn in der ökologischen Verkehrswende, eine Grüne Welle auf der Schiene und Hoffnungen in eine Kupplungsrevolution [Obsolescence instead of transformation in rail transport: On the role of the railway in the ecological transport transition, a green wave on the railways and hopes for a coupling revolution]. *Working Paper Series Collaborative Research Centre 1187 Media of Cooperation*. Siegen.

- 2021 **Laser, Stefan**/Rienow, Andreas/Dedring, Torben (2021): Ruhr Valley and Delhi. Megacity Air Pollution in Germany and India, *Platform for Experimental Collaborative Ethnography*.
- 2021 **Laser, Stefan**/Chen, Xinyue/Lompe, Maria/Ozkula, Suay Melisa/Sørensen, Estrid/Teigeler, Lena/Vespa, Mariangela/Zhao, Tianshi. (2021): Greenwashing, in_authenticity and protest: Following the dynamics and relations of an ambiguous term on Twitter and the Web, Designers: Matteo Bettini, Valentina Pallacci, Fabiola Papini, María Paula Vargas Triana, *Digital Methods Initiative Wiki*.
- 2021 Lippert, Ingmar/Mewes, Julie S./Helm, Paula/**Laser, Stefan**/Sørensen, Estrid/Kocksch, Laura (2021): stsing: Doing STS In, Through and Beyond the German Academic System. *SocArXiv*.
- 2020 Bogusz, Tanja/Büchner, Stefanie/Dányi, Endre/Klein, Anja/**Laser, Stefan**/Schlünder, Martina/Sørensen, Estrid (2020). Workshop report: #stsing – but how? An open workshop on possible organisation forms of STS-in-Germany. Online blog stsing.

TEACHING (WITH [EN TRANSLATIONS])

Seminars at Ruhr University Bochum

Climate and Culture (SS 2026, M.A. Social Science)

Extraction (Reading class: Riofrancos 2025: “Extraction”) (SS 2026, M.A. Social Science)

Vor und nach dem Sozialismus: Gelebte ökonomische Transformation, von Ostdeutschland bis

Vietnam [Before and after socialism: Economic transformation in practice, from East Germany to Vietnam] (SS 2026, M.A. Social Science)

Research seminar: Controversial AI (SS 2026, M.A. Social Science)

Research seminar: Kultur, Technik und Energie in Transformation [Culture, technology and energy in transformation] (SS 2019 and WS 2017/2020, M.A. Culture & Person, 2 semesters, hybrid)

Enjoying Theories (WS 2018/2019, SS 2019, WS 2019/2020, SS 2020, in English, M.A. Social Science, SS 2020 online)

Introduction to Science & Technology Studies (SS 2019, M.A. Social Science)

Seminars at Friedrich Schiller University Jena

Demokratietheorien und die Postdemokratie-Zeitdiagnose [Theories of democracy and the post-democracy diagnosis] (SS 2015, B.A. Sociology)

Seminars at Kassel University

Globale Ungleichheiten und Ökologie [Global Inequalities and Ecology] (SS 2019, B.A. Sociology)

Was heißt Nachhaltigkeit? [What does sustainability mean?] (WS 2018/2019, B.A. Sociology)

Soziologische Theorie: Natur und Kultur [Sociological Theory: Nature and Culture] (SS 2018, B.A. Sociology)

Kontroverse Informationstechnologie [Controversial information technology] (WS 2017/2018, B.A. Sociology)

Soziologische Theorie: Objektivität und Kritik [Sociological Theory: Objectivity and Criticism] (SS 2015, SS 2017, B.A. Sociology)

Forschungsseminar Kontroversen kartografieren [Research seminar on mapping of controversies] (SS 2016, WS 2016/2017, Director: Jörn Lamla)
Soziologie des Mülls [Sociology of waste] (WS 2016/2017, B.A. Sociology)
Wert- und Wertschöpfung in einer globalen Welt [Value and value creation in a global world] (WS 2014/2015, B.A. Sociology)
Konsum und Sozialisation [Consumption and socialisation] (SS 2014, SS 2015, SS 2016, SS 2017, SS 2018, part of a lecture series, teaching degree)
Soziologische Theorie: Luhmann und Latour [Sociological Theory: Luhmann and Latour] (SS 2014, B.A. Sociology)
Propädeutikum [Propaedeutic course] (WS 2013/2014, B.A. Sociology)
Kollektiver Konsum [Collective Consumption] (WS 2013/2014, B.A. Sociology, with Jörn Lamla)

TALKS (WITH [EN TRANSLATIONS])

Organised conferences, workshops and panels

- 2026 RUSTlab: Before ruins. Bi-annual STS in Germany (stsing e.V.) conference hosted at the Ruhr-University Bochum, 15-17 March 2026.
- 2026 Laser, Stefan/Wagenknecht, Susann: Silicon Lives: Infrastructures and Ecologies of Semiconductor Industries. EASST 2026, Prague.
- 2024 Sørensen, Estrid/Mauro-Flude, Nancy/Laser, Stefan/Jackson, Steven: Planetary data infrastructures. Panel, *2024 quadrennial joint meeting of the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST) and the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)*, Amsterdam, 18 July 2024.
- 2024 Laser, Stefan: Chip Rush? Semiconductors in Vietnam as a Public Controversy. *Workshop*, Hanoi, Vietnam, 05 March 2024.
- 2024 Abels, Sandra/Celik, Leman/Laser, Stefan/Sørensen, Estrid/Werner, Lynn: Planetary Data. Panel, *Conference Leakage*, TU Dresden, 22 March 2024.
- 2023 Laser, Stefan/Schönbauer, Sarah: Waste in Circulation. *Conference STS-Hub*, RWTH Aachen, 15 March 2023.
- 2023 Bogusz, Tanja/Laser, Stefan: Circulating Experimental Knowledge: On Co-laborative stsing in the Anthropocene. *STS-Hub*, RWTH Aachen University, 17 March 2023.
- 2023 Celik, Leman/Laser, Stefan/Sørensen, Estrid: Across the Layers: Scientific Knowledge Production, Planetary Resources, and Data Centres. *Lecture series Ruhr University Bochum*, WS 2022/23.
- 2022 Kropf, Jonathan/Laser, Stefan/Ochs, Carsten: E-Valuate: Gestaltungsspielräume und Wertkonflikte in soziodigitalen Bewertungsinfrastrukturen [E-Valuate: Room for manoeuvre and value conflicts in socio-digital evaluation infrastructures]. *Workshop at University of Kassel*, 19/20 May 2022
- 2021 Laser, Stefan: Facilitator, Digital Methods Summer School, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands. 06. June 2021
- 2021 Kocksch, Laura/Laser, Stefan/Pittroff, Fabian/Roschka, Jakob/Sørensen, Estrid: Inquiring the digital interstice through a data sprint: Ethnographic research where front

- and back-end meet. *Conference New Materialist Informatics*, University of Kassel, 22 March 2021.
- 2020 Kocksch, Laura/Laser, Stefan/Sørensen, Estrid: Decentring data centres: Their politics, energy, waste and epistemics. *Conference EASST/4S*, Prague, Czech Republic, 19 August 2020.
- 2019 Eitel, Kathrin/Laser, Stefan/Nicolas Schlitz: Rethinking waste. An attempt to critically expand the post-growth debate. *Conference The Great Transformation: On the future of modern societies*, FSU Jena, 24 September 2019.
- 2016 Kropf, Jonathan/Laser, Stefan: Limits of evaluation. Dynamics of alignment, conflict and segregation in times of digitalisation. *Congress of the German Sociological Association*. University of Bamberg, 28 September 2016.

Invited contributions

- 2025 Laser, Stefan: Vietnam's semiconductor expansion. Geopolitics, national ambitions, and the silicon dream, Fulbright University, 14 February 2025.
- 2024 Laser, Stefan: Serendipity and the construction of the research field. *Leaking Ethnographies: Panel at the conference Leakage*, TU Dresden, 22 March 2024.
- 2019 Laser, Stefan/Schlitz, Nicolas: Müll und ungleiche Entwicklung. *Ringvorlesung Globale Güterketten – Weltweite Arbeitsteilung und ungleiche Entwicklung* [Waste and unequal development. *Lecture series Global Goods Chains - Global Division of Labour and Unequal Development*], University of Vienna, 17.06.2019.
- 2019 Laser, Stefan: Wertvoller Schrott: Inwertsetzung, Recycling und Wertschöpfungsketten von Elektroschrott [Valuable scrap: valorisation, recycling and value chains of electronic waste]. *DFG Network Meeting Sociology of Economic Thought*, University of Kassel, 15 May 2019.
- 2019 Laser, Stefan: Kommentar und Diskussionsteilnehmer. *Workshop Strukturwandel in der Lausitz* [Commentary and panellist. *Workshop Strukturwandel in der Lausitz*], Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), Potsdam, 28/29 January 2019.
- 2016 Laser, Stefan: Die Kartographierung von Kontroversen im Internet – am Beispiel einer umkämpften Smartphonevision [The mapping of controversies on the internet - using the example of a contested smartphone vision]. *Research colloquium on the democratisation of consumption*, University of Siegen, 20.02.2016.

Papers at conferences

- 2025 Laser, Stefan: Geopolitics as internationalism? The case of Vietnam and the semiconductor industry. STS-Hub, Berlin, 12 March 2025.
- 2025 Laser, Stefan: Von der Entsorge zur Fürsorge. Einsichten aus Abfallrelationen [From discarding to care: Insights from waste relations], Congress of the German Sociological Association, Duisburg, 24 September 2025.
- 2024 Laser, Stefan: Writing predictions to perform different futures: reflections from a book collective. *2024 quadrennial joint meeting of the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST) and the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)*, Amsterdam, 19.07.2024.
- 2024 Laser, Stefan: Chip rush? A controversy mapping of the semiconductor industry in Vietnam. *Workshop Fulbright University*, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, 18 May 2024.

- 2023 Laser, Stefan: Mapping Production Networks with Anxiety. On Making Industrial Impact Visible and the Delicate Case of Vietnam. *Workshop CSCW Environmental and Climate Justice in Computing*, Minneapolis, USA, 13 October 2023.
- 2023 Laser, Stefan: Rescaling the Planet Through Chips. *Taiwan Science and Technology Studies Annual Conference*, Taipei, Taiwan, 02.09.2023.
- 2022 Laser, Stefan: Brutalism meets social-ecological transitions: The case of train infrastructures. *Conference EASST*, Madrid, Spain, 08.06.2022.
- 2021 Laser, Stefan: Wasting the body? On depletion through digitised cycling. *Congress of the Swiss Sociological Association*, Geneva, Switzerland, 28 June 2021.
- 2021 Laser, Stefan: Klima auf und abseits der Schiene: Die Bahn in der sozial-ökologischen Transformation [Climate on and off the rails: The railway in the socio-ecological transformation]. *Workshop Organisation and Assessment of Sustainability*, Hamburg, 05.11.2021.
- 2021 Laser, Stefan/Sørensen, Estrid: Temporalities, Landscapes and Values in a Post-Mining Environment. *Congress of the German Society for Social and Cultural Anthropology*, University of Bremen, 28 September 2021.
- 2021 Mewes, Julie Sascia/Kocksch, Laura/Sørensen, Estrid/Carmona, Susana C/Laser, Stefan/Galanova, Olga/Asai, Ryoko/Delgado, Abigail Nieves: Coding the RUSTlab. Discussing, writing and living an STS lab. *Conference 4S Annual Meeting 2021*, Trento, Italy, 08 October 2021.
- 2021 Laser, Stefan: Cycling on and through digital platforms, or: What happens when data centres shape the mobility of athletes? *Conference Energy and Society*, Trento, Italy, 11 February 2021.
- 2021 Laser, Stefan: Charging the bin: Bringing energy in. *Re-Opening the Bin*, Gothenburg, Sweden, 11 June 2021.
- 2020 Laser, Stefan: Restoring a broken landscape? A ‘pioneering model’ from the Ruhr Valley, a former coal mining hub. *Conference EASST/4S*, Prague, Czech Republic, 20 August 2020.
- 2020 Laser, Stefan: Abfall: zur Frage des Werts. Die ökologische Frage [Waste: on the question of value. The ecological question]. *Workshop of the Section for Sociological Theory*, Frankfurt am Main, 5 June 2020.
- 2020 Laser, Stefan: On high-tech recycling. Some lessons from a global ethnography of electronic waste. *Centre for Science Studies*, Department of Sociology, Lancaster, UK, 27.03.2019.
- 2019 Laser, Stefan: Waste and globalised inequalities. The case of e-waste. *Sustainability Research Network*, Lancaster University, UK, 26 March 2019.
- 2018 Laser, Stefan: Modular smartphones. Assessing a recent hype. *EASST*, Lancaster University, UK, 27 July 2018.
- 2017 Laser, Stefan/Stowell, Alison: Apple’s recycling robot Liam and the global recycling economy of e-waste. *Workshop Opening the Bin*, Helsingborg, Lund, Sweden, 29 April 2017.
- 2017 Kropf, Jonathan/Laser, Stefan: Grenze statt Vergleich: Erkenntnisse aus der Untersuchung digitaler Bewertungspraktiken [Border instead of comparison: Findings from the investigation of digital evaluation practices]. *Workshop Kulturen*

- der Bewertung der AK Soziologie des (Be)Wertens der Sektion Wissensoziologie und Sektion Kultursoziologie*, University of Cologne, 9-10 November 2017.
- 2017 Laser, Stefan: Electronic waste and the agency of repair. Syntheses of three ethnographic studies. *Workshop Kulturen des Reparierens und die Lebensdauer technischer Dinge*, University of Wuppertal, 19 January 2017.
- 2016 Laser, Stefan: Processing electronic waste, re-evaluating limits. Ethnographic insights from a high-tech recycling company, *Conference 4S/EASST*, Barcelona, Spain, 01.09.2016.
- 2016 Laser, Stefan: Evaluating electronic waste on a daily basis. Ethnographic insights from a large-scale waste recycler and processor. *Workshop Ethnography and qualitative research*, Bergamo, Italy, 09.06.2016.
- 2015 Laser, Stefan: Die Ökonomie des modularen Smartphones 'Project Ara' und ihre Wertigkeiten [The economy of the modular smartphone 'Project Ara' and its values]. *Workshop of the Economic Sociology Section Beyond Competition? Coordination Logics of Economic Action and the Containment of Markets*, Mannheim Centre for European Social Research, 10.10.2015.
- 2015 Laser, Stefan: Value chains of modular smartphones: Phonebloks, Project Ara and their attached visions of electronic waste. *Workshop Waste: Perspectives of the Rest*, Weimar, 24 September 2015.
- 2015 Laser, Stefan: Experimentalism meets economy - A fusion supporting a transnational democracy? Lessons from the case of electronic waste. *Conference of the European Sociological Association (ESA)*, Prague, Czech Republic, 28 August 2015.
- 2015 Laser, Stefan/Ochs, Carsten: Commentary on Tommaso Venturini's keynote: "Four misunderstandings about Digital Methods. *Workshop of the dgv Commission on Digitalisation in Everyday Life on the topic of digital practices*, Institute for Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology, Frankfurt am Main, 20.02.2015.
- 2014 Lamla, Jörn/Laser, Stefan: Democratic experimentalism in transnational value creation collectives. On some theoretical challenges of ethical consumption. *Congress of the German Sociological Association*, Trier, 8 October 2014.
- 2014 Lamla, Jörn/Laser, Stefan: Towards democratic consumption and shared responsibilities in transnational value chains. *Presentation at the International Conference on Consumer Research*, Kompetenzzentrum Verbraucherforschung NRW, Bonn, 30.09.2014.
- 2014 Laser, Stefan: Who benefits from sustainability? Analysing the Indian politics of electronic waste in a transnational setting. Conference *ASNEL/GNEL and GAST Post-colonial Justice*, Potsdam, 30 May 2014.

MEDIA PRESENCE

- 2024 Zu viel Elektroschrott: Liegt das Problem bei Verbraucherinnen und Verbrauchern? [Too much electronic waste: is the problem with consumers?] Interview with Deutschlandfunk Kultur, 13 April 2024.
- 2024 Von der Chip-Fabrik ins Nagelstudio [From the chip factory to the nail salon], interview with Rubin magazine, 01 May 2024.

- 2023 Müll-Entsorgung: “Infrastruktur reicht nicht aus” [Waste disposal: “Infrastructure is not enough”]. Interview with WDR 5 Morgenecho, 04 September 2023.
- 2021 Discussant Climate Forum Waste. Bochum theatre, 23 May 2021.
- 2022 Elektroschrott als Problem der Industrie, oder: den Blick auf Produktion und Infrastruktur richten [E-waste as a problem for industry, or: focussing on production and infrastructure]. Vigia magazine, 2022.
- 2021 VDINI club magazine, the children's magazine of the Association of German Engineers, on the subject of electronic waste. 2021.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND EXPERTISE

- 2023– Member of the board of the journal EASST Review
- 2021–2023 Elected member of the board of stsing e.V.: Doing STS in and through Germany

PEER REVIEW

Big Data & Society, Goldsmith Press, Human Studies, Österreichische Zeitschrift für Soziologie, Science & Technology Studies, The Sociological Review, Nature + Culture, Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Valuation Studies, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

stsing e.V. Doing STS in and through Germany
Member of the Society for Science and Technology Studies
Member and co-organiser of the DFG research network: “Waste in motion: Mobilisations of waste and pollutants as a sociomaterial configurations”
Member of the DFG research network: “Auf dem Weg in die Bewertungsgesellschaft?” [“On the way to the valuation society?”]
Member of the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology
Member of the German Sociological Association and of the Sociological Theory and Economic Sociology sections

LANGUAGE SKILLS

German: Mother tongue
English: fluent
French, Spanish, Vietnamese: basic knowledge

METHODOLOGICAL-TECHNICAL SKILLS

Qualitative coding: MaxQDA, Markdown environment

Data Science: Python, R, Excel, Google Sheets, Docker, Git

Graph analysis: Gephi

Website coding and management: CMS (Wordpress, flat file), Hugo, hosting management

Statistics: SPSS, Stata