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# The Handbook of Science and Technology Studies

Fourth Edition

- Edited by
- Ulrike Felt**
- Rayvon Fouché**
- Clark A. Miller**
- Laurel Smith-Doerr**

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**Preface**

Welcome to the fourth edition of the *Handbook of Science and Technology Studies*! We live in a world in which the technosciences have become a dominant mode of knowledge-making, with wide-ranging material and conceptual consequences. If you are relatively new to science and technology studies (STS), this substantial book and the interdisciplinary field that it landscapes (an apt metaphor adopted by the editors and elaborated in their introduction) can begin to answer your questions. Are you interested in understanding how the technical dimensions of science and technology are always enmeshed with their nontechnical dimensions? Might you be someone who feels compelled to analyze sciences and technologies critically, with the goal of questioning received assumptions and exploring new conceptualizations? Do you find yourself asking what the technosciences are for, and for whom, and imagining how they might be otherwise? Then this book is for you. Alternatively, if you are already deeply engaged with STS, this extraordinary collection of thematic articulations of the field will serve as an invaluable reference and further resource for your ongoing work.

Officially, it is the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) that offers this handbook to all readers interested in the scholarship of STS, including what STS researchers and practitioners write, make, and do and the implications of our scholarly practices. Yet as the editors' thoughtful and reflexive introduction makes clear, 4S does so in recognition of its own limitations and with the collegial support of sister societies, researchers, and practitioners beyond its boundaries and across the planet. This handbook invites readers to find inspiration and, we hope, new directions in which to take STS projects, mobilizing relevant scholarly practices and infrastructures both already made and in the making.

On behalf of the 4S membership, we ask you to join us in thanking all of those scholars whose collective work brought this remarkable volume into being. Thanks go first to Kelly Moore, who as chair of the 4S Publications Committee translated formal procedural oversight into many days of managing complexity and offering generous