Beyond Techno-Solutionism: Digital Commons and Solidarity Economies for a Sustainable Future

1st (Inaugural) Annual Dedicated Workshop of the

STS NKUA Alumni

Saturday, 13 September 2025, 10:00-13:00
New Building, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, NKUA

Guest Faculty: **Vasilis Kostakis**

Professor of Technology Governance and Sustainability at TalTech's Ragnar Nurkse Department of Innovation and Governance in Estonia; Faculty Associate at Harvard University's Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society; founder of the P2P Lab and both the Tzoumakers rural makerspace and the Commonen energy cooperative

Workshop Description: Environmental degradation and global wealth inequality are critical challenges today. Many promote high-tech solutions like 'smart cities' and 'green growth' as silver bullets that enhance services, reduce carbon footprints, and empower citizens. Yet these technologies rely on scarce metals and minerals often sourced through questionable practices in the Global South. Their life-cycles consume energy, create toxicity, and involve precarious labor. We face a paradox: Can technologies that may worsen these issues truly solve our problems? This workshop explores the relationship between technology, sustainability, and global equity, focusing on alternatives like digital solidarity economies, commons-based approaches, and open cooperativism. We will examine how decentralized governance and digital commons might create more equitable technological futures that avoid extraction. We will also challenge dominant narratives while exploring how cooperative ownership models could transform our technological relationships and address contradictions in our current techno-economic paradigm. Join us as we envision a future where technology serves humanity and our planet through democratic, sustainable, and solidarity-based infrastructures.

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