

WORKSHOP

Emblematic
localities
against
existential
threats:
STSing
Balkans,
Balkanizing
STS



Delphi/Athens, Greece
4-5 September 2025



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens

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Emblematic localities against existential threats: STSing Balkans, Balkanizing STS

A workshop in Delphi/Athens, Greece, 4-5 September 2025 supported by an EASST ([European Association for the Study of Science and Technology](#)) Fund

‘Existential threats’, connected to, most notably, the environmental crisis and the associated climate change, biology, medicine and biotechnology (from pandemics to gene editing), and artificial intelligence, are by now a defining challenge for all social subjects and their institutions. Research to understand where exactly we are, and what we may do to have a chance against such threats, is urgently needed, with relevant STS research being of priority due to its focus on the cause of these threats, namely the connection between society/nature and the shaping of science/technology. Preliminary STS research has suggested that local variation may matter in regards to existential threats, just as it matters, as STS has definitely shown, in regards to science and technology. To advance STS research on local variation regarding existential threats, this workshop that will focus on the paradigmatically challenging localities of a region that is emblematic of the European (and Global) South, the Balkans. The workshop aims at the development of STS in this region (STSing Balkans), as well as in sensitizing STS to a possible need for upsetting its present research agenda so as to prioritize research on understanding/addressing existential threats (Balkanizing STS). The workshop participants will represent all Balkan countries (and Balkan STS societies, programs, institutions/networks), in the direction of setting up a permanent EASST-affiliated regional STS forum.

Online attendance of selected sessions will be available to EASST members:

[Zoom link](#)

Organizer/Contact:

Aristotle Tympas, Professor & Director, [Interdepartmental Graduate Program ‘Science, Technology, Society-Science and Technology Studies’](#), Department of History and Philosophy of Science & Department of Informatics and Telecommunications, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece (tympas@phs.uoa.gr)

Scientific Committee:

Prof. Aristotle Tympas (existential threats of relevance to AI), Assistant Professor Katerina Vlantoni (existential threats of relevance to bio/biotechnological/biomedical risks), Dr. Giorgos Velegrakis (existential threats of relevance to the environmental crisis)

With the support of the [European Association for the Study of Science and Technology](#)



Online Program

Thursday, September the 4th, 16:00-18:00

Kick-off Talks:

-Jason Spilios, **‘Existential threats: A review of the literature’**

-Ellie Danae Varztiotis, **‘Existential threats and their interconnection: A review of the use of artificial Intelligence for the environmental crisis’**

Reflections & Discussion by the Workshop Participants

Moderators: Katerina Vlantoni & Giorgos Velegrakis

Friday, September the 5th, 16:00-18:00

Invited Presentations:

-Nikos Nagopoulos, Christos Kouroutzas and Dimitris Paraskevopoulos, The HFRI (ΕΑΙΔΕΚ) project **‘Prevention and Management of Anthropogenic Risks: Organisational Preparedness and Interoperable Environments in Local Communities - A Case Study’**

-Halil Turan, Gülizar Karahan Balya and Busra Akkokler Karatekeli, The Erasmus+ project **‘ETHICS4CHALLENGES—Innovative Ethics Education for Major Scientific and Technological Challenges’**

Reflections & Discussion by the Workshop Participants

Moderators: Katerina Vlantoni & Giorgos Velegrakis

Workshop In-Person Participants

International Affiliations

- Dr. Gülizar Karahan Balya, Postdoctoral Researcher, Applied Ethics Research Center, Middle East Technical University, Turkey
- Dr. Venelin Boshnakov, Professor, Department of Statistics and Econometrics, University of National and World Economy, Bulgaria
- Dr. Diana Cuciș, Institute of Legal, Political and Sociological Research, Moldova University of European Studies, Moldova
- Dr. Genti Gruja, Associate Professor, Department of Islamic Sciences, Bedër University, Albania
- Dr. Busra Akkokler Karatekeli, Postdoctoral Researcher, Applied Ethics Research Center Middle East Technical University, Turkey
- Dr. Zlatan Krajina, Department of Media and Communication, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia
- Dr. Olga Lafazani, Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow, Humboldt University of Berlin, DATAMIG EU COST Action Scientific Representative
- Damjan Ordanoski, Graduate Student, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, North Macedonia
- Dr. Stevan Tatalovic, Center for Comparative Conflict Studies, Serbia
- Dr. Halil Turan, Professor, Director, Applied Ethics Research Center, Middle East Technical University, Turkey
- Dr. Paraskevas Vezyridis, Associate Professor, Centre for Health Innovation, Leadership and Learning (CHILL), Nottingham University Business School, UK

Greek Affiliations

- Ioanna Lila, Graduate Student, Panteion University
- Jon Prifti, Doctoral Candidate, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- Dr. Stathis Psillos, Professor, Director of the Laboratory of Philosophy, Ethics, Policy and Communication for Science and Technology, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece
- Zamile Eirini Kampa, Graduate Student, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- Dr. Christos Kouroutzas, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, School of Social Sciences, University of the Aegean
- Dr. Nikos Nagopoulos, Professor, Department of Sociology, School of Social Sciences, University of the Aegean
- Dr. Dimitris Paraskevopoulos, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, School of Social Sciences, University of the Aegean
- Dr. Iason Spiliotis, Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- Dr. Aristotle Tympas, Professor, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece, DATAMIG EU COST Action Chair
- Elli Danae Vartziotis, Doctoral Candidate, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- Dr. Giorgos Velegrakis, Adjunct Faculty, Department of Sociology, University of Crete
- Dr. Katerina Vlantoni, Assistant Professor, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens