

STS-HUB

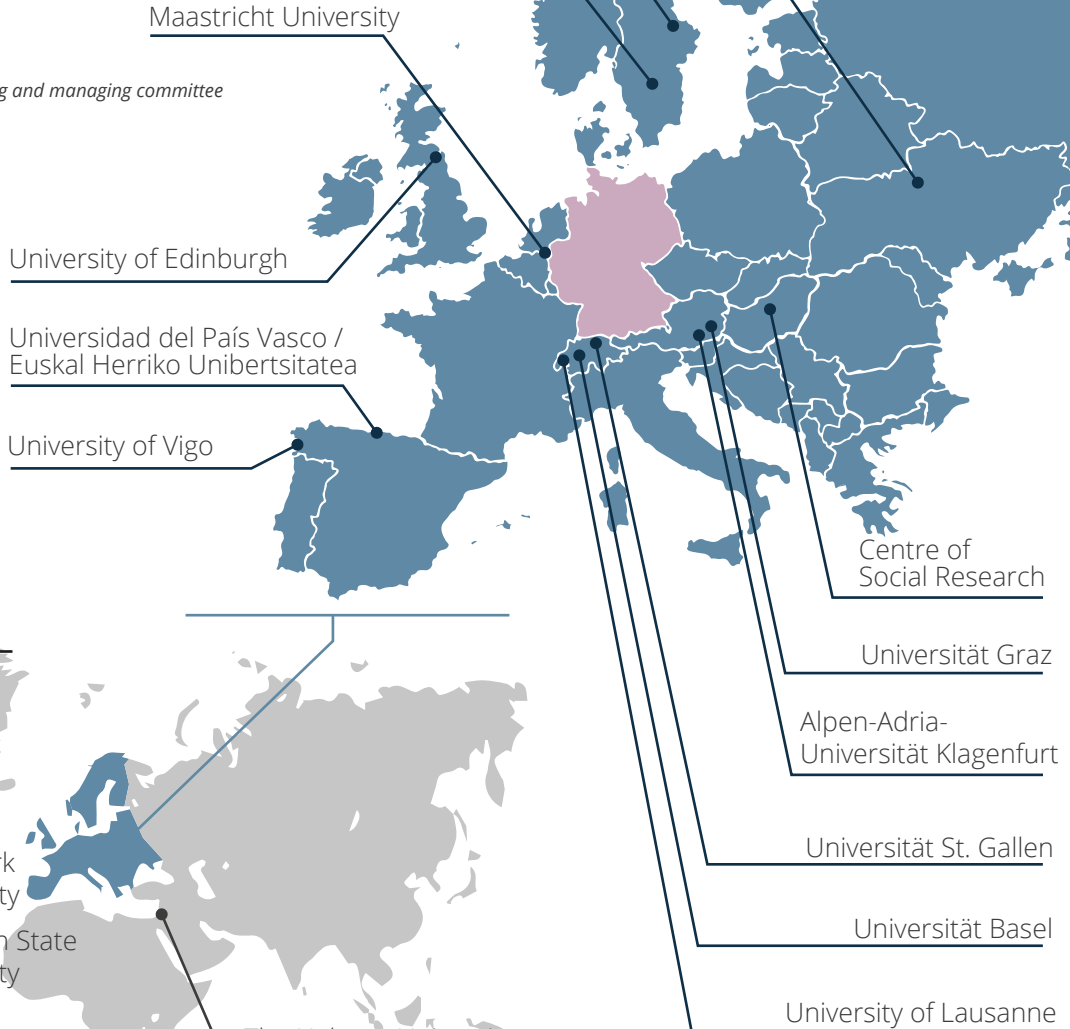
RWTH Aachen 2023

392 Registrations
303 Participants
126 Completed surveys

Survey design: members of the STS-hub.de 2023 steering and managing committee
 Survey analysis and graphic illustration: Linus Nolte

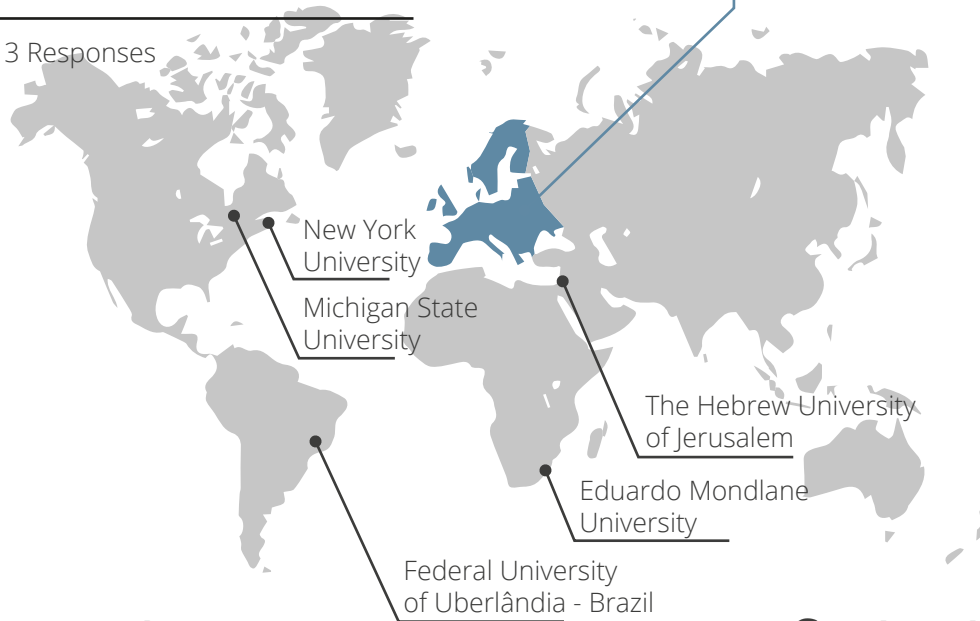
Science & Technology Studies (STS) has become a recognized, delineated academic field in the international research landscape. In Germany, however, STS is rather dispersed among existing academic disciplines, research institutes, and loosely connected academic networks and associations. To strengthen the interconnectedness of STS in Germany, we have organized the STS-hub.de, a conference series that brought together German organizations, labs, and research groups that are more or less closely related to STS.

15.
16.
17.
MARCH 2023



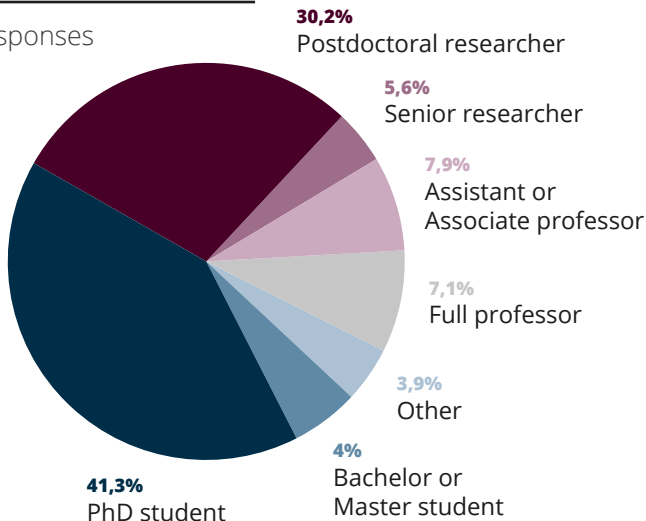
Institutional affiliation I

113 Responses



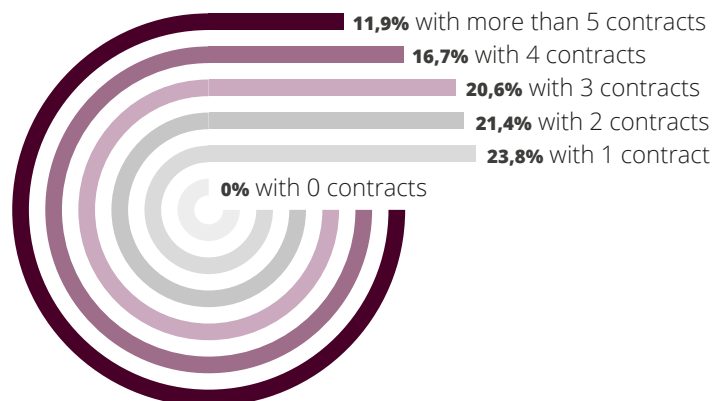
Career stage

126 Responses



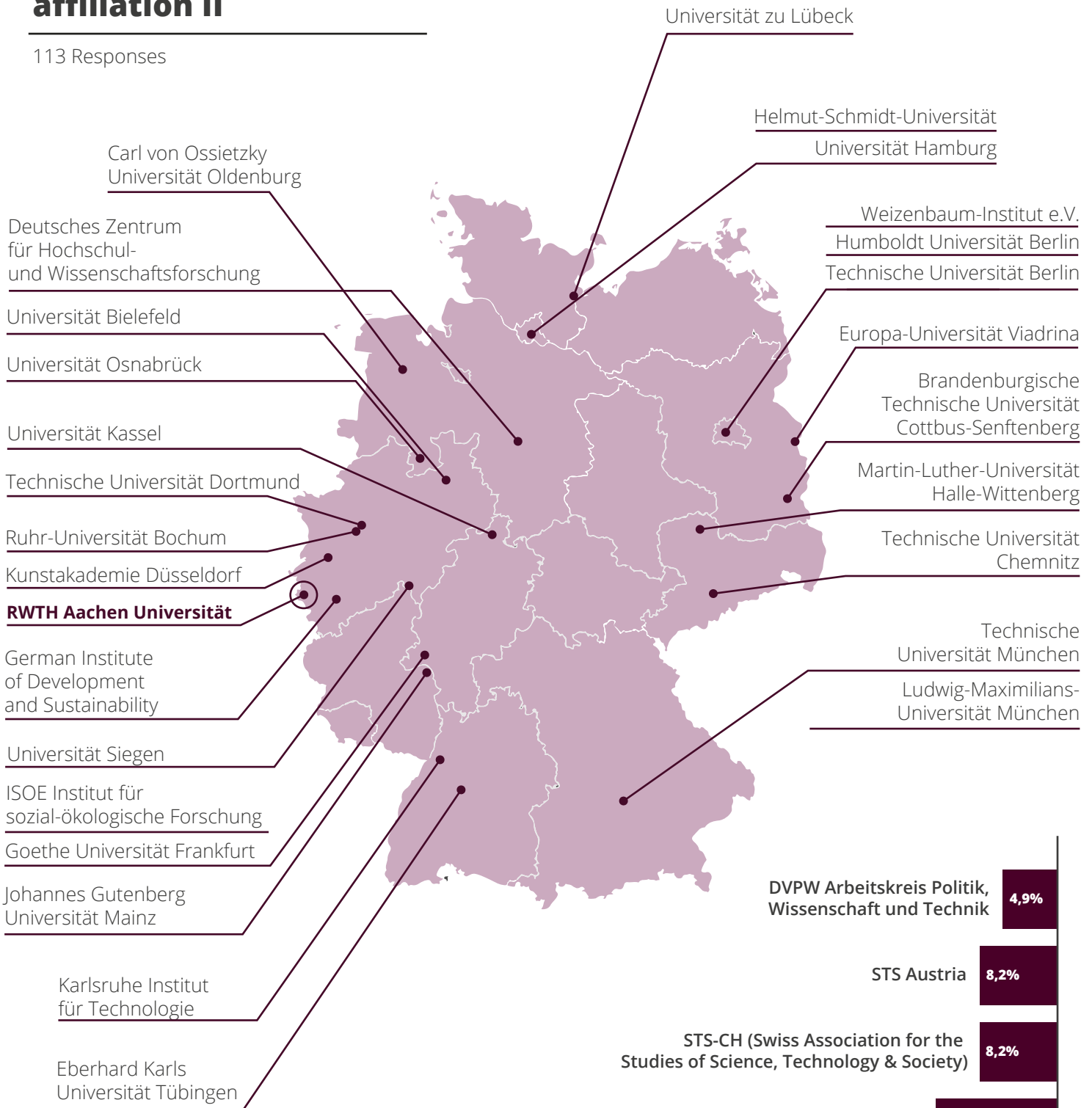
Contracts within academia within the last five years

126 Responses



Institutional affiliation II

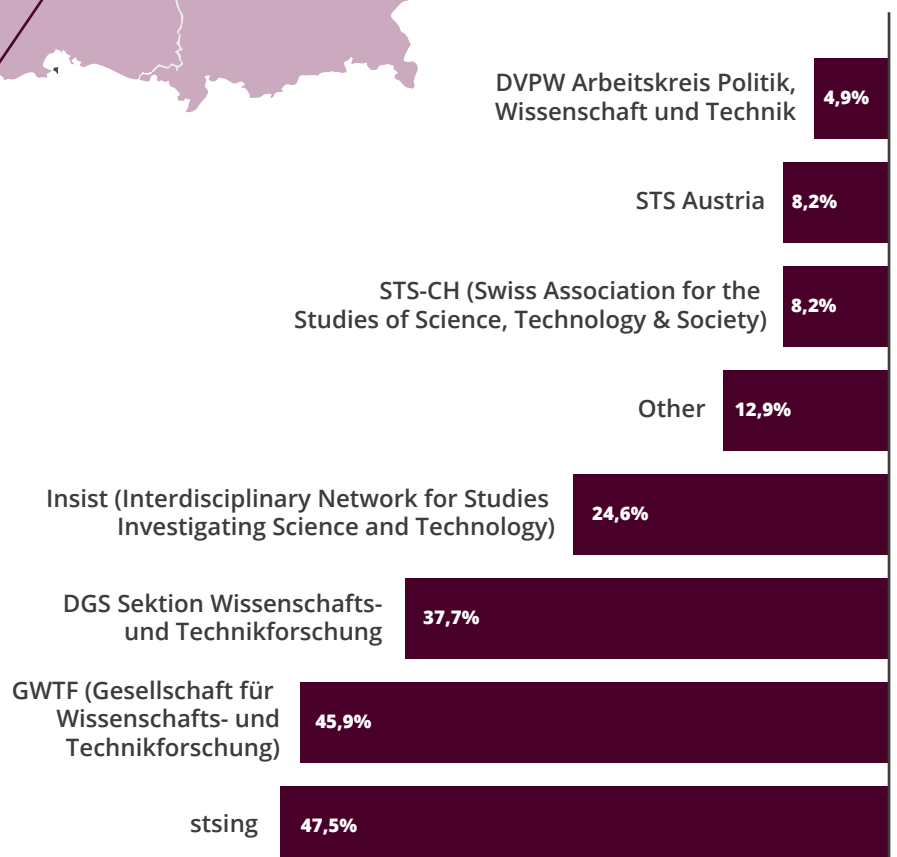
113 Responses



In which German-speaking STS communities, associations, and networks do you participate?

more than one answer possible

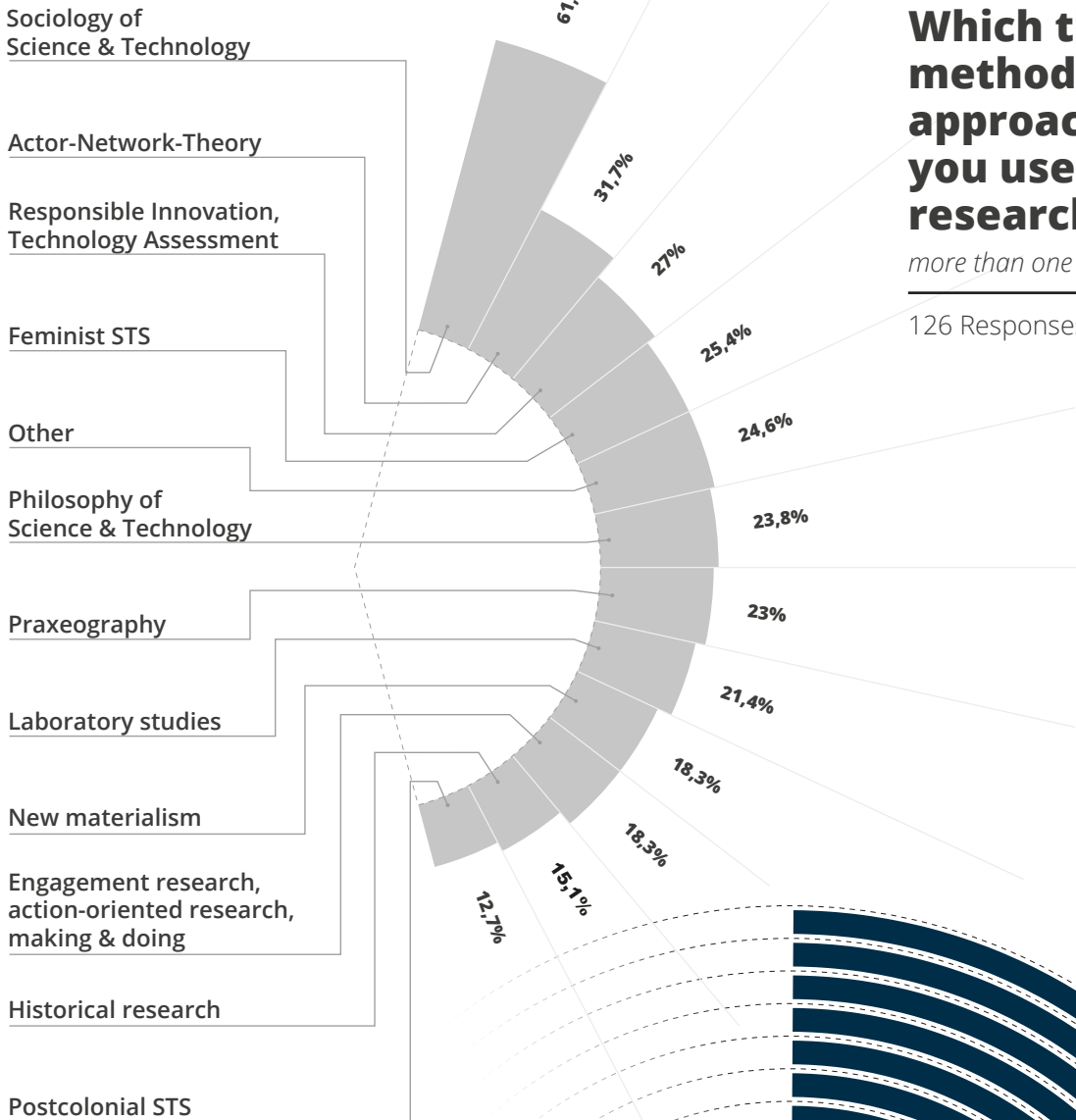
61 Responses



Which theoretical-methodological approaches do you use in your research?

more than one answer possible

126 Responses

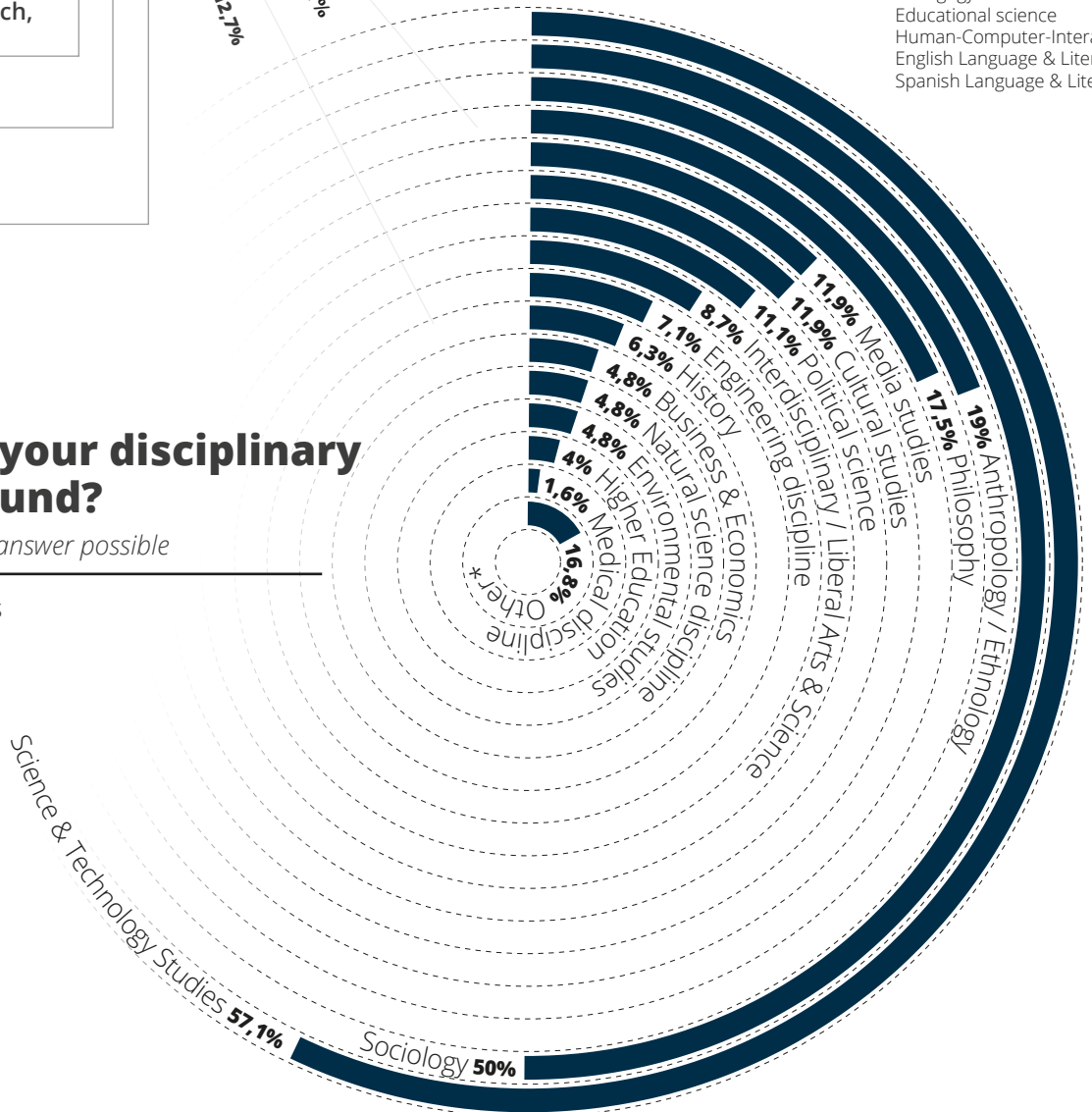


- *1 mention each:
- Geography
 - Economic history
 - Asian studies
 - Sports science
 - Educational science
 - Regional studies
 - Organisation studies
 - Information science
 - Information studies; design
 - Urban studies
 - Museum studies
 - Library science
 - Computer science
 - Future studies
 - Gender studies
 - Social science
 - Technology Assessment
 - Pedagogy
 - Educational science
 - Human-Computer-Interaction
 - English Language & Literature
 - Spanish Language & Literature

What is your disciplinary background?

more than one answer possible

126 Responses



What could help improve interdisciplinary collaboration within STS?

more than one answer per person

72 Responses

34 mentions on

Network opportunities, conferences and platforms

e.g.:

- Frequent exchange, e.g. through conferences like the STS-hub.de
- More hubs and smaller online spin-offs

22 mentions on

Collaborative formats

e.g.:

- Doing projects together

14 mentions on

Better understanding of diverse STS approaches

e.g.:

- Make diverging methodological and theoretical assumptions explicit

11 mentions on

Interdisciplinary practices

e.g.:

- Expectation management in interdisciplinary projects

7 mentions on
Resources

e.g.:

- Funding
- Job security
- More time for qualification phases

6 mentions on
Openness in STS

e.g.:

- Maintain STS' character of a research program that remains open to contributions from diverse domains

4 mentions on

International outlook

e.g.:

- De-Germanize STS
- De-provincialize German STS

2 mentions on

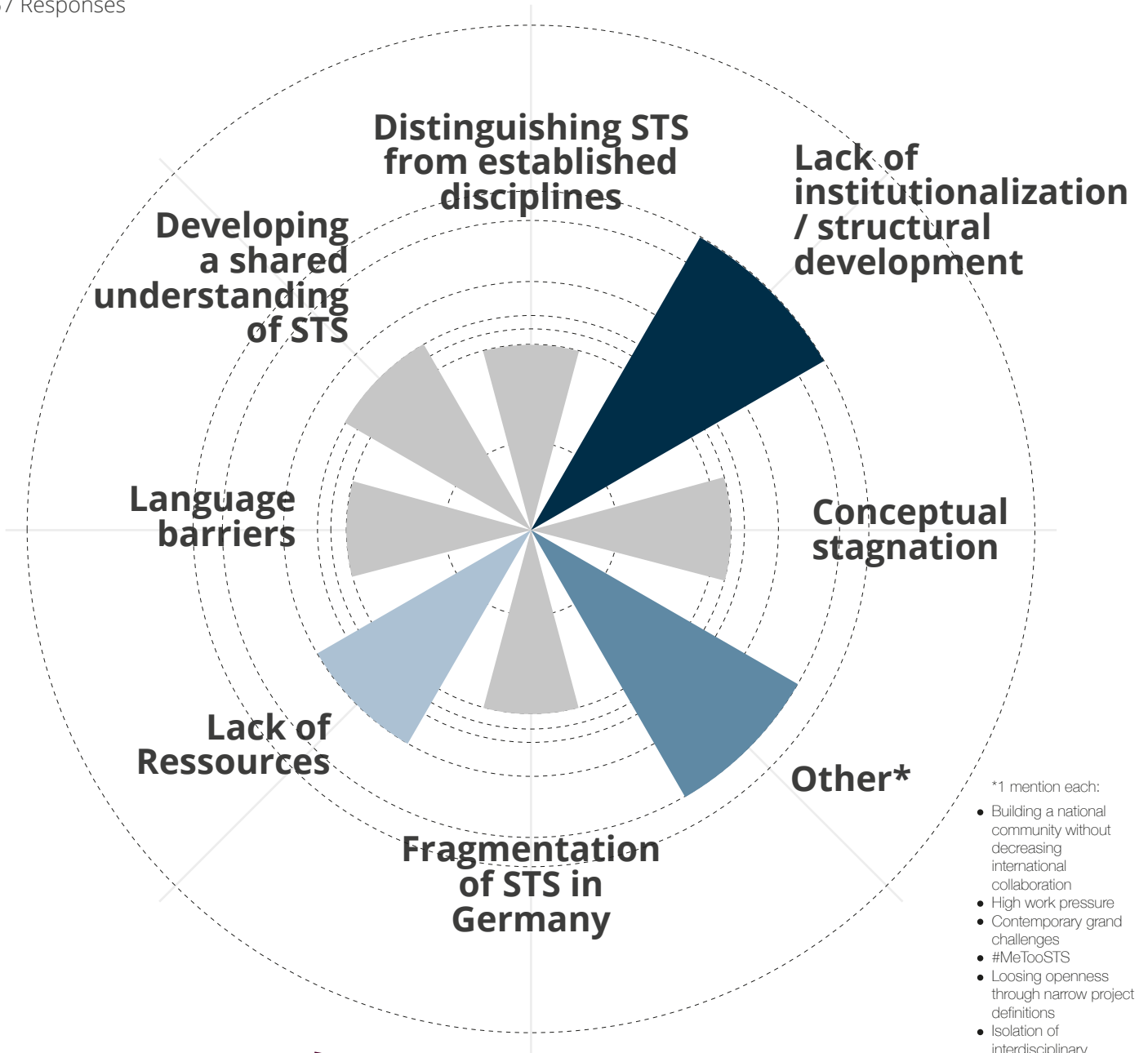
Institutionalization

e.g.:

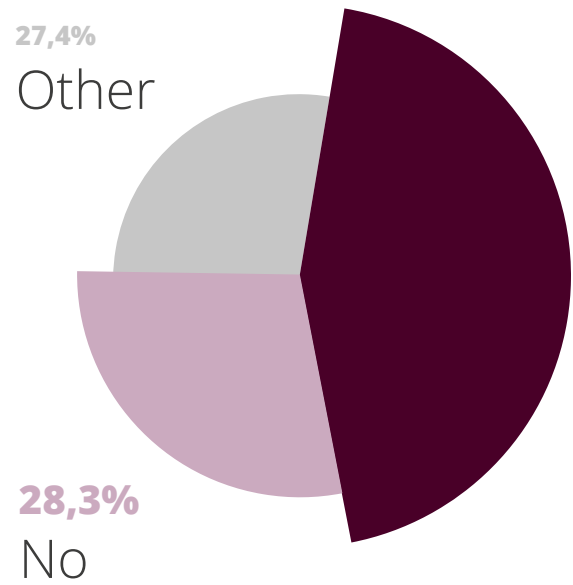
- Our own graduate college, further conferences, publications (maybe even a journal)
- Professorships that are not strictly linked to a discipline

Which challenges do you perceive or anticipate for STS in Germany?

57 Responses



- *1 mention each:
- Building a national community without decreasing international collaboration
 - High work pressure
 - Contemporary grand challenges
 - #MeTooSTS
 - Loosing openness through narrow project definitions
 - Isolation of interdisciplinary researchers in discipline-oriented institutions



44,3%
Yes

Should STS become an academic discipline?

106 Responses

What do you appreciate most about the STS-hub.de 2023?

107 Responses

Opportunities for networking and exchange

Interesting panels, presentations and keynotes

Local organization

English language

Accessibility, no conference fee

Getting to know STS better

Size

Getting to know the German-speaking STS landscape

Format and program

Interdisciplinarity and openness

Location, conference venue and the atmosphere

Time and schedule

The community

Low hierarchies

Session on #WeDoSTS

What do you like least about the STS-hub.de 2023?

91 Responses

Program was too long and too dense; there were too many parallel panels

Little time for discussion during panels

Aachen was difficult to reach

The pdf-program was difficult to read

Lack of diversity

Name tags were too small and without pronouns

Low quality of some presentations

Overly theoretical focus of most presentations

No food during the days, no gluten-free food at the reception

Visible power structures and self-centeredness of key figures

Scheduling of the #WeDoSTS session and Felt x Schwarz-Plaschg crossover

Disciplinary boundary work

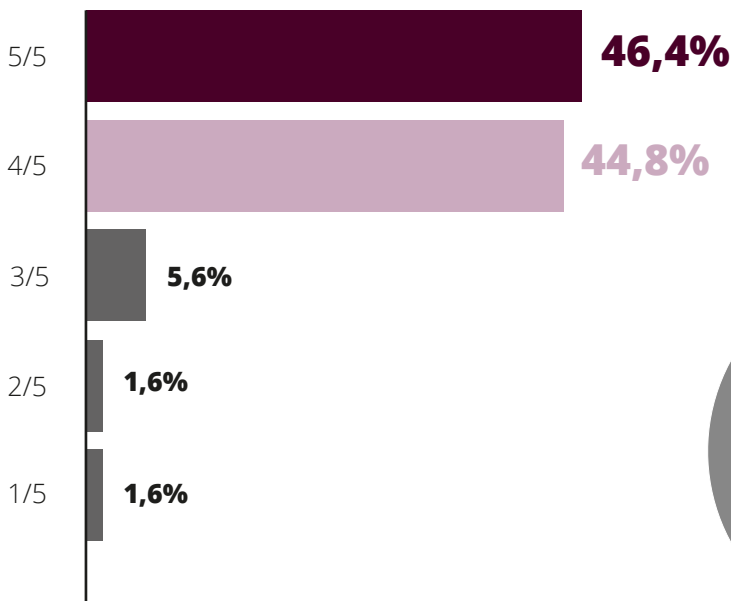
No concluding session

Overall quality of the STS-hub.de 2023

125 Responses

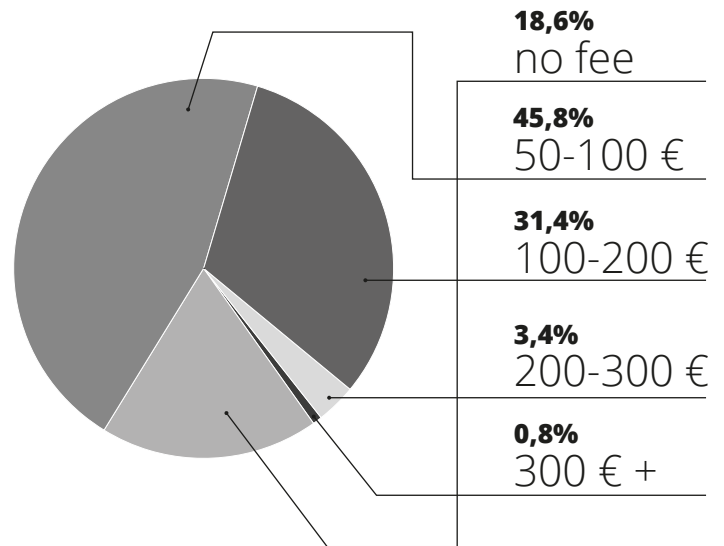
91,2%

Rate the STS-Hub positive with 4/5 & 5/5



How high would an appropriate conference fee have been?

118 Responses

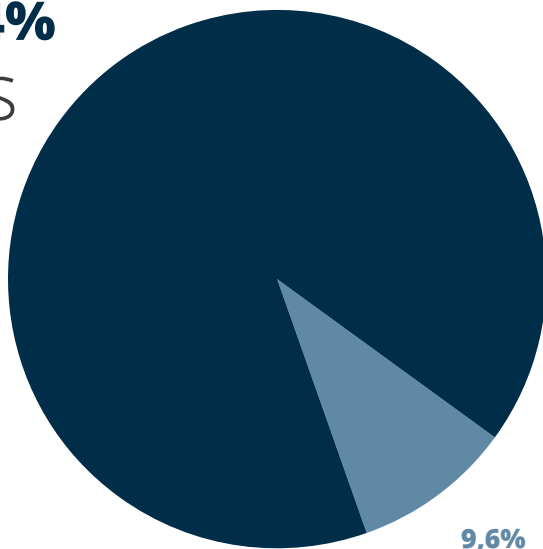


Would you participate in another STS-hub.de?

125 Responses

90,4%

Yes



9,6%
No

90,4%

would participate again

Do you have any other comments on the STS-hub.de 2023?

55 Responses

- It was an amazing opportunity. Looking forward to the next time!
- It would be good to provide an opportunity for ECRs to present their emerging work in a separately space (e.g. Poster Session, doctoral colloquium) and network with each other.
- This was great!! Nice panels & great organization.thank you so much!
- Well organised. Engaging. Just need to be less provincial. STS-Global Hub. The Global South was visibly misrepresented.
- Let's have this every other year - it was great! Oh, one thing: I think the question of a code of conduct is not super important at the moment, given that sts is only a loose collective in Germany and many home institutions do have a code of conduct or the like. Also, let's not start arguing about how to work together when we have hardly worked together. (I get that the jasanoff case is sad and she should be stopped but I don't think it speaks to the dispersed German community)
- Free participation made it easy to participate and 'have a look'. That's highly appreciated. On the other hand, at least a joint lunch on Thursday would have been nice, participants could easily pay a couple of Euros for that.
- Great job!
- Thank you!!!
- No comment regarding the 2023 hub but the fee structure. I think it should be a tiered structure and full profs could pay as much as 250 or 300 vs PhD candidates who would pay under 100.
- No, thank you very much!
- Great organization!
- I appreciate the effort to bring STS people together
- Thank you
- Thanks to the organisers!
- It was a truly great and amazing event, congratulations to all the organizers!
- The fees question is tricky to answer. My department would probably pay 200 max for the three days. Of course hosting is costly. But to reduce funding and remain inclusive in the future we can do with less catering, I think (though I was grateful to have it!). Maybe we can also think of a co-financing approach of interested organizations/institutes so that hosting isnt as much of a resource question and, at the same time, individual fees are as low as possible.
- Thanks!!!
- Thanks for your efforts!
- Thanks to the organizers for an amazing couple of days. I really appreciated the vegan food options.
- If you take fees next time (which is more than fair), please also install a funding for students. We had one participant who could not make it due to a lack of funding.
- Great it took place between teaching (in semester break). I would have definitively have been willing to spend another day at the conference, pay for an extra night, to slightly relax the conference. And that would definitively be relevant for a future Hub, in case participation grows. for instance have 2 keynotes, one each for two nights; and a thinking of another field-political evening for the third plenary night.
- I find the question about the appropriateness of the conference fee weird - appropriated with respect to what? (assume costs were not that high/covered by funding?! and liked that there was no conference fee / find this more inclusive / welcoming to participate....
- Would love to see more interactions and exchanges beyond DE
- Congratulations to the organizers. This has been one of the best conferences I have attended in recent years.
- Thanks for the important social construction of making sts an ontologically real fact 🌸
- Might be good to have a space for more creative presentations, rather than just presenting work in conventional talks.
- One thing that I like to mention: For some applicants its was kind of complicated to find their way through the programm of the conference. The concept of content relatet sessions is great, but quite hard to grasp at first sight. Maybe some kind of illustration within the programm would have been great
- Thanks to the teams, great job.
- It was great!
- Thank you for organizing the STS-hub!
- Thanks for organizing, and for pulling off a great balance, focusing on German-speaking STS while remaining open to non-German-speaking visitors.
- Many thanks, a great event!
- Thank you for making this happen!
- Thanks for organizing and hosting this event!
- Thank you to the organisers!
- It was a great experience and I am looking forward to the next one. Regarding the fees, it would be important to have waivers/smaller fees for students to enable them to participate.
- Thank you!!
- Thank you for this great event and also for the smooth, supportive and friendly process that led panel organizers to the Hub!
- Thank you :)
- Overall I liked the open atmosphere. Another event to socialise would have been nice but I acknowledge the strain this would have put on the organisers. They did a great job! Thank you!
- Take care to continue the series!
- The hospitality was admirable
- THANK YOU for organising this fantastic get-together!
- Thanks to all the organisers, it was well worth our time and efforts as presenters (and listeners, some very interesting presentations we heard as well) and good fun! :)
- Great initiative, thank you!
- Thanks a lot!
- No
- Would be great to integrate more "higher level" professors and staff into the program
- Concerning the fee question: I liked the fact that the event was free of charge. However, I am currently able to have my employer pay for conference fees. Fees of 100 Euros or so would be even less than payed for at other conferences, however, I fear it might keep less well funded individuals from participating in the event.
- Try more inclusive food options for the reception. I couldn't eat anything because of celiac disease
- Thank you for a wonderful conference!
- Well done! I liked it a lot! Thanks for doing all this organizing work!
- Not today
- I very much liked the conference. It was really interesting to see all the different topics that one was able to choose from. I met interesting people and learned new things. I also participated lively in discussions and broadened my perspective as well as confidence. The Hub reassured me in my academic interests in general and in my passion for STS as a whole. I would love to attend another event, although I might be moving to Scandinavia this fall to start my doctoral studies.
- Thank you for organizing it!