Editorial
Patterns of socio-technical change

There are different ways to look at the dynamics of socio-technical change. One way is to analyse the co-constitution of technoscience and society focussing on the practices of the actors involved. This is the perspective of Veronika Lipphardt and Jörg Niewöhner's paper about "Producing difference in an age of biosociality" and of Andreas Langenohl and Kerstin Schmidt-Beck's contribution "Technology and (Post-)Sociality in the Financial Market". Another way is to identify patterns of socio-technical change. In Uli Meyer and Cornelius Schubert's contribution "Integrating path dependency and path creation in a general understanding of path constitution" the authors develop a concept that integrates strategic (intentional) and evolutionary (emergent) aspects of path creation and perpetuation. Conversely, Jobst Conrad examines the impact of the social and institutional context on technological change. In his paper about "The role of public policy in promoting technical innovations" this context is shaped by traditional public policy which, however, uses new policy instruments.

Albeit the four papers differ with regard to their empirical focus and analytical approach they share the understanding that patterns of social practices materialize as socio-material alignments of human agency and specific socio-technical contexts.

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