

Call for Abstracts

Digital Criminology – Bridging Technologies, Human Practices and Environments

The 24th Annual STS Conference Graz 2026 „Critical Issues in Science, Technology and Society Studies“

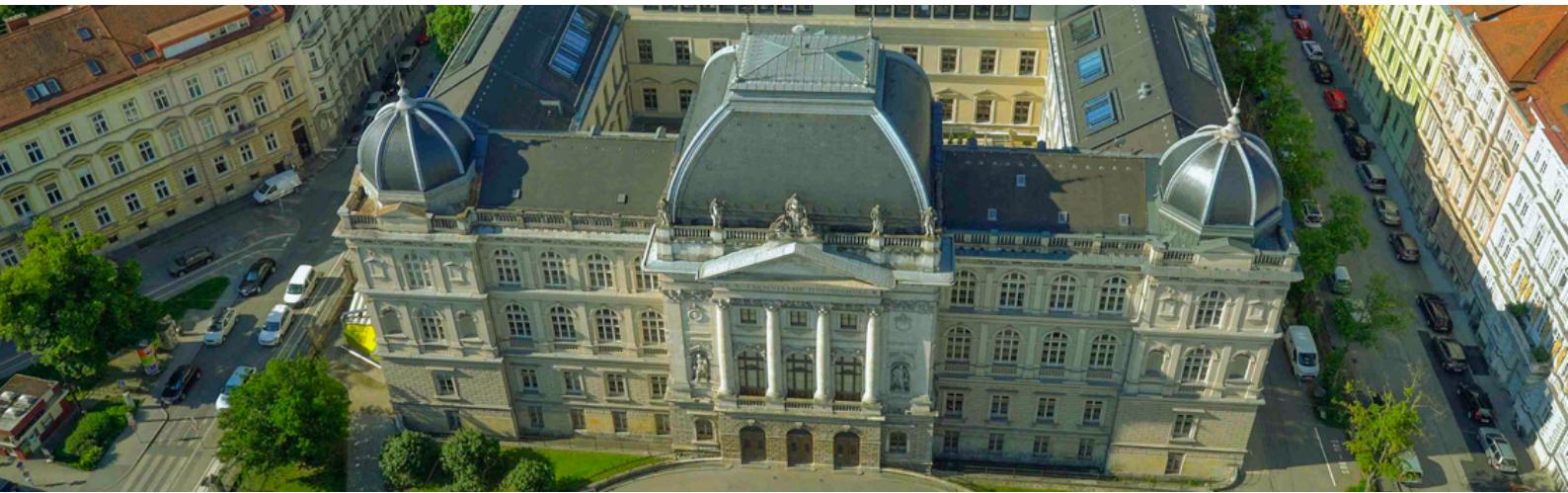
May 4–6, 2026, TU Graz – Graz
University of Technology

Session's Description

Digital criminology has rapidly become an umbrella term capturing the diverse ways in which digitalization reshapes crime, harm, justice, and socio-technical systems of control. Rather than describing a “new era” of crime, digital criminology points to the overlap between digital infrastructures, platforms, data practices, algorithmic systems and offline environments on all criminological fronts, from victimization and violence to policing, courts, and markets. The field is dynamic and expanding, with its conceptual underpinnings formulated in the De Gruyter *Handbook of Digital Criminology* (Kaufmann & Lomell, 2025), which maps the genealogies, affordances, and politics of digitalization as material, socio-technical, and power-laden processes. This session draws from those foundations, inviting contributions that examine how digital technologies both transform and reproduce criminological phenomena, practices, institutions, and imaginaries (Tzanetakis & South, 2023).

Digital criminology does not reduce offences to “cybercrime” nor to exclusively online spaces. Instead, it conceptualizes crime and harm as hybrid, interwoven processes where digital data, devices, infrastructures, and logics (such as categorization, automation, platformization) shape the conditions under which criminal offences occur and are governed. For example, online drug markets—whether on the darknet, clearnet, messengers or mainstream social media platforms—illustrate how illicit economies become socio-technical infrastructures shaped by platform affordances, datafication, visibility regimes, and user practices. These intersections, also reflected in emerging work connecting digital media and drug research (Siuda & Wanke, 2026 [forthcoming]), demonstrate how criminological questions fluidly cross online/offline boundaries and necessitate analytical attention to infrastructures, economies, governance, and cultural meaning-making.

We particularly encourage contributions exploring hybrid environments and cases where digitalization produces new entanglements of visibility, vulnerability, agency, and power. The session brings together scholars in criminology, STS, digital sociology, media studies, and related fields to advance theoretical discussions and empirical insights into how digitalization reconfigures crime, control, justice, and everyday practices.



Session's Co-chairs



Piotr Siuda
KAZIMIERZ WIELKI
UNIVERSITY IN
BYDGOSZCZ, POLAND



Meropi Tzanetakis
VIENNA UNIVERSITY
OF ECONOMICS AND
BUSINESS, AUSTRIA

Piotr Siuda is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Cultural Studies, Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz, Poland. His research spans internet studies and game studies. He authored articles in numerous top-tier journals such as *Social Media + Society*, *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, *International Journal of Drug Policy*, or *Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy*. He is a Principal Investigator in the National Science Centre (Poland) project titled "Rhizomatic networks, circulation of meanings and contents, and offline contexts of online drug trade." He is a member of The Association of Internet Researchers and the Polish Society for Social Communication. He is also an Associate Editor for the SAGE *Journal of Creative Communications*.

✉ Piotr Siuda – internet, games, & culture

Meropi Tzanetakis is a Senior Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of Socioeconomics at the Vienna University of Economics and Business. She previously served as Assistant Professor in Digital Criminology at the University of Manchester and has held visiting fellowships at the University of Essex, the University of Oslo, and the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society in Berlin. Meropi holds a PhD in Political Science (with distinction) from the University of Vienna. Her research explores the socio-technical dynamics of digital drug markets, digital platform business models, and inclusive AI, trust, security, and governance. She is Principal Investigator of the Austrian Science Fund project A socio-technical framework for online drug markets. Meropi serves as Series Editor of Emerald Studies in Digital Crime, Technology, and Social Harms, sits on the Editorial Board of *Kriminologisches Journal*, and is an elected board member of the Economic Sociology Research Network, European Sociological Association. ✉ Dr. Meropi Tzanetakis

Topics

This session invites papers that explore how digitalization shapes crimes, harms and control from conceptual, empirical, methodological, or policy-oriented angles. We welcome theoretical developments, case studies, comparative perspectives, and innovative methodological reflections—especially those bridging science and technology studies (STS) and criminology. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

Digital platforms and infrastructures: platformization, affordances, recommendation systems, governance of platforms; platform-mediated illicit markets (e.g., digital drug markets, sex work platforms, online extremist networks).

Datafication, archives, and surveillance: data governance, predictive policing, biometric systems, facial recognition, risk assessment algorithms, automated decision-making, digital borders, and the politics of data extraction.

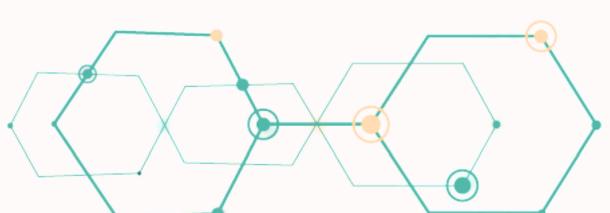
AI, computation, and algorithmic control: machine learning in policing and courts, bias and error in algorithmic systems, explainability and opacity.

Digital harms, economies, and communities: hate, harassment, doxxing, manipulation, online victimization, influencer-driven criminalization narratives, reputational harms, platform economies of crime.

Hybrid criminalities and socio-technical assemblages: darknet markets, encrypted channels, digital traces, socio-material infrastructures of crime and control.

Methodologies for studying digital criminology: digital ethnography, online interviews (including encrypted environments), research with/through digital objects and infrastructures, interdisciplinary methodological challenges.

Intersections of digital criminology with media studies, drug research, cultural studies, political communication, migration studies, or urban studies—especially where digital infrastructures reshape risk, regulation, or public imaginaries.



Timeline

DECEMBER 10, 2025	JANUARY 27, 2026	FEBRUARY, 2026	APRIL 21, 2026	MAY 4–6, 2026
Abstract submission begins	Abstract submission deadline	Notification of acceptance or rejection	Deadline to register for the conference	Conference date

Important Links

Submission system	https://www.confotool.com/sts-conference-graz-2025/
Conference website	https://stsconf.tugraz.at
Author Instructions	https://stsconf.tugraz.at/calls/call-for-abstracts/

For inquiries, contact us:

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