Editorial: Launching Engagement

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It is an unsettling time in higher education. Many deeply established practices—from the lecture to the four-year degree—are being challenged. There is much to be troubled by in this environment: budget models that reward quantity over quality, threats to academic freedom, and student debt, among other things. But one exciting development is the emergence of peer-reviewed open access journals. While this new means for idea circulation and scholarly debate raises important questions, it creates a broad range of opportunities, from reducing the time from manuscript acceptance to publication to flexibility in publication formats.

We are deeply excited to add *Engaging Science, Technology, and Society* into the mix of open access publication outlets. An official publication of the Society for the Social Studies of Science, we expect to use this platform to open opportunities for creative permutations and variation on traditional, peer-reviewed scholarly writing, and with the release of our first set of articles we believe we have begun to showcase what is possible in this new journal.

With our inaugural release, we offer five articles in three of the varied genres of *ESTS.* Our first piece is Eric Kennedy's "Voting by Quiz: Online Algorithms and Election Education." This brief, topical, and accessible essay fits into our "Critical Engagements" genre and compellingly explores the virtues and problems with software that seeks to engage and educate voters. A very different piece, Samuel Taylor-Alexander's "Considering Concepts" paper develops the concept of "adjacent temporalities," entering the dialog on ontology in STS. We are also pleased to be able to offer three empirically rich and analytically rigorous research articles. The first by John Krige explores the largely overlooked phenomena of the regulation of research in science and engineering by the US national security state. The second by Chelsea Schelly looks at users' understandings of the politics of residential solar electronic technology and how these understandings affect their motivations to adopt this sustainable energy path. And, finally, Tineke Broer and Martyn Pickersgill present an engaging case of how the neurosciences are

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mobilized to legitimize and substantiate public policies in Scotland.

Together this work begins to realize the promise of an open access journal that seeks to expand the boundaries of the STS tent and to both allow scholars to develop and engage new and exciting ideas and to place STS at the front and center of some of the most important issues of the day. We hope the flexibility and openness of *ESTS* will prompt a broad array of submissions in the coming months to *engage* the STS community and interested readers beyond it.