December 15, 2023

We hereby nominate **Professor Sheila Jasanoff and the STS Program at Harvard for the 2023 4S Infrastructure Award.** The **Program** is an inclusive label for a cluster of infrastructural elements that have served the global STS community for decades.

Few scholars better illustrate how dedicated institution-building can turn one life into a generative infrastructural support for many lives. This letter chronicles Jasanoff's extraordinary contributions to building and maintaining infrastructures *with and for others* that have enabled STS to become a vibrant field for reflection and action in our contemporary world. Specifically, this nomination foregrounds the intellectual and social spaces, networks, projects, collectives, practices, and pedagogical approaches that Jasanoff has spearheaded through her position at Harvard over the last 25 years.

With this nomination we also draw attention to the significance of these achievements in light of the structural obstacles Jasanoff herself has faced as a woman of color working within elite institutions. We honor her work in supporting women and scholars from diverse backgrounds and in building and nurturing a global STS community that is inclusive of and responsive to cultural differences. Her forms of field-building offer vital supports for a caring and rhizomatic cosmopolitan community.

For Jasanoff, building an STS thought collective has been a lifelong commitment conducted with unparalleled generosity. To illustrate this, in the attached Appendix 1 we highlight the convenings hosted by Harvard STS, and the wider communities it serves, in the last 12 months alone. Our collective nomination for the 4S infrastructure award speaks to the fact that we share this commitment and have been inspired to actively contribute to the development and maintenance of an infrastructure that reaches far beyond any one of us.

I. Democratizing and Internationalizing the Harvard Platform

In 2002, Jasanoff founded (and has ever since directed) the **Program on Science, Technology and Society at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government**. The Program's activities epitomize how resources of often-inaccessible elite institutions like Harvard can be opened up to the benefit of a broader community through the efforts of a creative and determined entrepreneur.

For over a decade, each year approximately 15 to 20 graduate and postgraduate **Fellows** (over 220 in all) have joined the STS Program to conduct research and receive advanced training in STS. They come from many countries and represent a wide range of institutional and disciplinary backgrounds and research interests. Fellows benefit from Sheila's personal mentoring, though they are not Harvard students, and many have gone on to faculty positions in STS and have made important scholarly contributions, in several cases developing STS programs at their own institutions. For many former Fellows, the Harvard STS Program remains a center of gravity, which provides continuing professional and academic support.

Jasanoff led the formation of the **Science and Democracy Network (SDN)** in 2002 "to strengthen and deepen STS scholarship on science and democracy, and to provide training opportunities for young STS scholars to enable them to participate more effectively in decision processes and public affairs." Administered through Harvard, SDN annual meetings are hosted

alternately in Cambridge, MA and in Europe (Cambridge UK 2007, London 2010, Paris 2012, Vienna 2014, London 2016, Munich 2018). These distributed locations have drawn a growing number of scholars into this network. For graduate students and junior scholars attending or presenting in SDN is an enriching and unforgettable experience of professionalization. The network knits together the fabric of a diverse and internationally diffused collective and encourages young scholars to imagine their future in STS. Indeed, PhD students at Harvard founded the annual **Graduate Research in STS (GRiSTS) Conference** in 2020 to form a graduate student network on the model of SDN.

II. Infrastructures of Engagement

The STS Program at Harvard has served as **an anchor for collaborative research projects that bring together members of the extended SDN community** to translate STS theory into domains of legal and policy practice. The Global Observatory for Genome Editing seeks to expand the range of questions about the human condition raised by recent biotechnologies like genome editing. Its co-directors Ben Hurlbut (ASU) and Kris Saha (Wisconsin) were STS Fellows over a decade ago. Their years of collaboration with Jasanoff led to the team's success in obtaining a joint grant from the John Templeton Foundation which allows this experimental enterprise to import ideas developed through Harvard STS into global scientific and policy debates.

Other large projects show how the infrastructures of the Program enable **quick and dynamic reaction to timely issues of urgent policy relevance**. Following the 2016 US election, recognizing the need for STS insights to shape the discourse around 'post-truth politics,' Jasanoff hosted a day-long workshop and launched the 'Expertise and Public Trust' project in December 2016, a collective writing, and eventual summer school, project involving contributions from the broad STS community that challenged conventional wisdom about current political and epistemic trends. The project not only broadened the audience for STS insights, but also served as an instrument of building community in a moment many experienced as an existential crisis.

More recently, members of the SDN network sprang into action to conduct a comparative study of national responses to the Covid-19 pandemic from an STS perspective. The Comparative Covid Response (CompCoRe) project, led by Jasanoff and Stephen Hilgartner (Cornell University), enrolled a research team of some 60 SDN affiliates from five continents and sixteen countries. Its success in bringing STS insights to bear on world events through the collaboration of an international and intergenerational team of like-minded scholars reveals how the infrastructures that Jasanoff has nurtured over several decades are increasingly important to law and policy.

III. Collective Modes of Working and Collaborating

Through the activities of the Harvard STS Program, Jasanoff has established a model for how to nurture thought collectives that sustain themselves through collaboration. Many of the STS positions, training opportunities, and professional activities that support us and others in the field today would not exist without her commitment to creating spaces for thinking and working together. Our collective nomination letter, spanning junior and senior scholars on four continents, reflects this ethos.

The STS Program's approach to bringing people from diverse institutional contexts to one table facilitates cross-national comparative work, a core methodology of Jasanoff's own research. The

Program hosts rigorous, high-profile workshops and public convenings that offer opportunities for Fellows to establish collaborations with senior scholars while also inviting scholars from other political cultures and disciplinary fields into the Harvard STS community. This model of broad-minded interdisciplinary outreach has enhanced STS's impact and extended its reach and profile. The effects of the Program's training efforts have extended to summer schools in Germany and the US, writing workshops in Switzerland, and collaborations with NGOs and academics in India.

The infrastructures of training, community-building, and collaboration sustained by Jasanoff and the Program have contributed to the growth of **new centers of STS excellence around the world**, such as at TUM (Technical University of Munich) in Germany, ETH Zürich in Switzerland, Aarhus in Denmark, and Arizona State University in the U.S. At the Research Institute for Sustainability—Helmholtz Centre Potsdam (Germany), a research group is introducing STS frameworks on planetary management in a major natural sciences research center. These institutions not only provide new opportunities for training the next generation of STS scholars, but also each in its way develops and extends the field's conceptual resources towards specific areas of inquiry (e.g. innovation, ethics, sustainability), putting them in conversation with local academic cultures and communities.

IV. Pedagogical Infrastructures

Through the STS Program Jasanoff has developed innovative pedagogical practices that enable a shared analytic project structured by key concepts, rigorous training, and distributed and intergenerational mentorship and support.

Many of the theoretical ideas that Jasanoff has introduced were developed through **participatory projects that culminated in edited volumes**, such as *States of Knowledge* (2004) [co-production], *Reframing Rights* (2011) [bioconstitutionalism], and *Dreamscapes of Modernity* (2015) [sociotechnical imaginaries]. Students and Fellows in the STS Program contributed seminal articles to these volumes that were seedlings for their intellectual careers.

A central infrastructural support of Harvard STS is Jasanoff's **foundational course in STS** called "Science, Power and Politics." This course not only trains all participants in the complex genealogy and theoretical contributions of the field of STS, but also, by bringing together undergraduate and graduate students with Fellows, integrates the Fellows into academic life at Harvard and introduces students from numerous disciplines to STS. Many former students have used the syllabus as a foundation for their own teaching, as they carry this exemplar of rigorous STS training to other institutions.

In 2017, Jasanoff established a **PhD track in Science, Technology, and Policy Studies** within the Public Policy program at the Harvard Kennedy School. This has created the first ever opportunity for students at Harvard to receive training at the intersection of STS and public policy. This track, which consistently reports the highest satisfaction levels of all PhDs of the School, and now attracts the second highest number of applications annually, was the result of a decades-long effort by Jasanoff to gain University recognition of STS as a field at Harvard.

The Secondary field in STS, also established by Jasanoff, allows PhD students in other Harvard programs to supplement their primary research with STS training. It has been pursued by over 50 students in the past decade. Jasanoff has created and taught multiple undergraduate and Masters courses with strong STS content, inspiring students to bring STS to their professional training

and in some cases to pursue PhD's in STS. Most recently, the STS Program launched an **Undergraduate Fellowship** chaired by undergraduate and graduate students under Jasanoff's guidance, with over 120 applicants for 20 spots in each of the past two academic years.

A Lifetime of Infrastructure Building

Jasanoff is well-known for her pioneering intellectual contributions to STS, recognized most recently through the 2022 Holberg Prize, which celebrated her development of "much of the conceptual repertoire for theorizing the political and policy relations of science and technology in contemporary societies." However, we the undersigned believe that another kind of recognition is in order, from *within* the field of STS, to acknowledge the central role that she has played in establishing and cultivating welcoming and sustainable spaces where STS scholars and scholarship can find a home and thrive.

She has done this against daunting odds, from co-editing STS's breakthrough *Handbook*, establishing and chairing the S&TS department at Cornell, and serving as 4S President, to eventually developing the STS Program at Harvard without a disciplinary faculty or significant financial support from the University. Yet, these environments have nurtured and encouraged junior and senior researchers from diverse backgrounds to collaborate and contribute to the development of STS. Her community-building efforts, both intellectual and social, have enabled hundreds of careers and engendered sustained connections between STS scholars, social scientists, scientists and engineers, policymakers, lawyers, and social activists.

Our nomination of Professor Sheila Jasanoff and the STS Program at Harvard for the 4S Infrastructure Award 2023 is supported by a diverse global community of scholars from STS and neighboring fields (complete list of signatures in Appendix 2). We are convinced that a field only grows through a communal, intellectual and social infrastructure that many can share and develop, and that becomes a public good for the community. From the Department of S&TS at Cornell to the Harvard STS Program to the Science and Democracy Network, Jasanoff's work in building the infrastructures of STS testify to this conviction. For decades, she has worked tirelessly to create, improve, grow, and strengthen infrastructural resources for STS scholars. We have all flourished through these efforts. It is in no small part because of Jasanoff that STS has become a dynamic research field that speaks to the world's most pressing problems—and that we have adopted it as our home. We strongly believe that this dynamic, rhizomatic, international network, built over decades, merits recognition from the Society for Social Studies of Science—to acknowledge unmatched past efforts, to encourage innovative contemporary developments, and to inspire generations to come.

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APPENDIX 1: A one-year snapshot of infrastructure building

We offer an overview of the convenings hosted by the Harvard STS Program in the last 12 months alone. This one-year snapshot illustrates how the Program (all of whose elements were designed by Jasanoff or established with her support) serves as a crucial infrastructural hub for the STS field. Without compromising its disciplinary commitment to STS, it consistently welcomes interdisciplinary, intergenerational, and international dialogue on science, technology and society, and it offers a forum for addressing issues of great and immediate public significance.

The STS Circle seminars hosted 22 speakers, featuring prominent scholars as well as PhD students from STS and adjacent fields[1]. This weekly colloquium has been running since Fall 2006 (live-streamed since the pandemic for viewers who cannot attend in person). Operating with minimal funds, it nevertheless offers wide exposure to junior scholars from various departments at Harvard (in the humanities, social, natural, and engineering sciences) and from universities in the Greater Boston area (MIT, Boston University, Tufts, and Northeastern) who are working on exciting topics that intersect with STS at the edges of their home disciplines. Some members of the local public routinely attend this weekly seminar. The mix of junior and senior scholars, and the inclusion of visitors and speakers from other universities, are hallmarks of Jasanoff's pedagogical commitment to connecting scholarship across generations and democratizing the Harvard STS Program.

The Science and Democracy Lecture series, held each semester, hosted Bill de Blasio, former Mayor of New York City ("AI for Cities or Cities for AI: Who Should Decide?", March 28, 2023) and Sherry Turkle from MIT ("Artificial Intimacy: What Are People For?", November 30, 2023), with cross-disciplinary commentary from prominent scholars and approximately 200 attendees for each event[2].

In Spring 2023, the STS Program hosted a **workshop on Science and Technology in East Asia** (February)[3] and a day-long **conference on Regulatory Challenges in Technological Societies-Dialogues between the United States and Brazil** (April)[4]. The latter brought together speakers from academia and regulatory agencies and featured a closing keynote by Brazil Supreme Court Justice Luís Roberto Barroso. Both events were spearheaded by Fellows of the STS Program with Jasanoff's extensive support (logistics, guest list, a talk, hospitality). A spinoff event featuring some of the same guests was hosted in December in Rio de Janeiro, testifying to the Harvard Program's cross-national influence.

The end of the summer featured the 4th **STS Summer School @ Harvard** on Expertise, Trust and Democracy[5] — training 25 students from 14 countries with 20 faculty guests — followed by

[1] http://sts.hks.harvard.edu/events/sts_circle
[2] https://sts.hks.harvard.edu/events/lectures/bill-de-blasio; https://sts.hks.harvard.edu/events/lectures/sherry-turkle
[3] https://sts.hks.harvard.edu/events/workshops/science-and-technology-in-east-asia
[4] https://sts.hks.harvard.edu/events/workshops/regulatory-challenges-in-technological-societies-dialogues-between-the-united-states-and-brazil
[5] https://stsprogram.org/summerschool

the 22nd **Science and Democracy Network** annual meeting with 3 days and 7 sessions of paper presentations from junior and senior scholars[6].

In September, a Harvard STS PhD student co-organized a workshop on **Just Computation? Social and Historical Perspectives on Calculation in the Law**. The STS Program provided logistical support for a two-day event featuring 15 papers by scholars from the US, Europe, and Canada[7].

In October, PhD students in the STS Program at Harvard, now 7 in number, coordinated the 4th annual **Graduate Research in STS conference** (GRiSTS). Under Jasanoff's guidance and with her encouragement and participation, this student-run conference has become a hub for PhD students in STS and related disciplines in the American Northeast and beyond[8]. This year's conference welcomed 20 student presenters and 9 faculty moderators and speakers.

The Global Observatory for Genome Editing convened two significant cross-sectoral events in early 2023 and a third later in the year. **In Search of Limits in the Age of Genome Editing: Human Integrity at the Frontiers of Engineering Life** at the University of California, San Diego in February brought together scientists and scholars from various fields, including disability studies, bioethics, and journalism[9]. **Toward Inclusion: Genome Editing and Social Justice** was held in London, UK in March to complement discussions at the concurrent Third International Summit on Genome Editing by enriching the conversation about biotechnology policy and the human future at stake with new biomedical advances like the use of CRISPR-Cas9[10]. At full capacity, the Observatory event had over 60 attendees, including prominent scholars from STS and distinguished officials in positions of leadership from various European institutions. A smaller workshop on **Limits of Genetic Manipulation,** exploring scientists' ethical intuitions concerning limits on biotechnological research, brought together scientists, bioethicists, and STS scholars from the Boston area and beyond in December.

At the end of November, the STS Program hosted a **Conference on AI and Democracy**, gathering actors from academia, government, and civil society in the United States and beyond[11]. With over 500 registrants and attendees ranging from Harvard affiliates and government officials to AI industry players and local community members, the conference offered yet another striking example of this small Program's convening power to bring scientists, policymakers, and activists into direct dialogue with STS scholars and ideas — and each other. Numerous spinoffs, such as a public statement on AI governance principles, are in the works.

[6] https://stsprogram.org/sdn/annual-meeting-2023
[7] https://justcomputation.wordpress.com
[8] https://gristsconference.wordpress.com
[9] https://global-observatory.org/node/1096
[10] https://global-observatory.org/node/1099
[11] http://sts.hks.harvard.edu/ai

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APPENDIX 2: Signatures

Aishani Aatresh, Harvard STS (USA)
Anna M Agathangelou, York University (Canada)
Aziza Ahmed, Boston University School of Law (USA)
Alberto Aparicio, The University of Texas Medical Branch (USA)
Rodrigo Araiza Bravo, Harvard University (USA)
Henry Austin, Harvard STS (USA)
Nicole Bassoff, Harvard STS (USA)
Nicolas Baya Laffite, Université de Genève (Switzerland)
Silke Beck, Technical University of Munich (Germany)
Rachel Biderman, Environmental Lawyer (Brazil)
Wiebe Bijker, Maastricht University (The Netherlands)
Alessandro Blasimme, ETH Zürich (Switzerland)
Margarita Boenig-Liptsin, ETH Zürich (Switzerland)
Gabriela Bortz, Universidad Nacional de San Martin / CONICET (Argentina)
Barry Cohen, Independent Researcher (USA)
Arthur Daemmrich, Arizona State University (USA)
Bill de Blasio, Former Mayor of New York City 2014-2021 (USA)
Michael A. Dennis, US Naval War College (USA)
Tess Doezema, The Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain)
Gabriel Dorthe, ETH Zürich (Switzerland)
Jim Dratwa, European Commission
Michael Evans, Harvard College Class of 2024 & STS Undergrad Fellow (USA)
Péricles Gonçalves Filho, FGV Rio de Janeiro Law School (Brazil)
Ellie Fithian, Harvard STS Undergrad Fellow (USA)
Tim Forsyth, London School of Economics and Political Science (UK)
Olivia Foster Rhoades, Howard Hughes Medical Institute - Janelia Research Campus (USA)
Nina Frahm, Aarhus University (Denmark)
Emanuela Gambini, School of Law - Queen Mary University of London (UK)
David H Guston, Associate Vice Provost, Arizona State University (USA)

Rob Hagendijk, Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research & Former President EASST, 1996-2000 (The Netherlands)

Jack Hensley, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin (Germany)

Stephen Hilgartner, Cornell University (USA)

Nicolas Huppenbauer, University of Bonn (Germany)

Benjamin Hurlbut, Arizona State University (USA)

Pierre-Benoît Joly, Président, Centre INRAE Occitanie-Toulouse (France)

Gouk Tae Kim, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (South Korea)

Sang-Hyun Kim, Sogang University (South Korea)

Monika Kurath, Dean Research, University of St.Gallen (Switzerland)

Myanna Lahsen, INPE (Brazil)

Lou Lennad, Harvard STS (USA)

August Lindemer, Open Systems Lab (UK)

Luca Marelli, University of Milan (Italy)

Jens Marquardt, Freie Universität Berlin (Germany)

Emil Massad, Harvard College (USA)

Maximilian Mayer, University of Bonn (Germany)

Conor McGlynn, Harvard STS (USA)

Ian McGonigle, Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)

Clark A. Miller, Arizona State University (USA)

Horatia Muir Watt, Sciences Po Paris (France)

Toluwalogo B. Odumosu, Morgan State University (USA)

Onur Özgöde, Bilkent University, Ankara (Turkey)

James Padilla-DeBorst, Comunidad de Estudios Teologicos Interdisciplinarios (Costa Rica)

Francesco Panese, University of Lausanne (Switzerland)

Buhm Soon Park, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (South Korea)

Sebastian Pfotenhauer, STS Department Head, Technical University of Munich (Germany)

Antoine Picon, Harvard Graduate School of Design (USA)

Gerard Porter, Edinburgh Law School, University of Edinburgh (UK)

Corinna Porteri, Bioethics Unit, IRCCS Fatebenefratelli - Brescia (Italy)

Pariroo Rattan, Harvard STS (USA)

Søren Riis, Roskilde University (Denmark)

Mathias Risse, Director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard University (USA)

Tadeusz Rudek, Jagiellonian University & ETH Zürich (Poland)

Krishanu Saha, University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA)

Stefan Schäfer, Research Institute for Sustainability – Helmholtz Centre Potsdam (Germany)

Kasper Hedegård Schiølin, Aarhus University (Denmark)

Amit Sheniak, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel)

Hilton Simmet, Harvard STS (USA)

Melanie Smallman, University College London (UK)

Andrew Stokols, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA)

Kaushik Sunder Rajan, University of Chicago (USA)

Makoto Takahashi, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Mariachiara Tallacchini, Universita' Cattolica del Sacro Cuore Piacenza (Italy)

Van Tran, Harvard College Class of 2025 & STS Undergrad Fellow (USA)

Frédéric Vandermoere, University of Antwerp (Belgium)

Shana Vijayan, NHS England (UK)

Alex Wellerstein, Stevens Institute of Technology (USA)

Alexander Wentland, Technical University of Munich (Germany)

Tomas Winegar, Harvard College & STS Undergrad Fellow (USA)

David Winickoff, Head of Unit, Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation, OECD & Sciences Po Paris (France)

Justin Wong, Harvard University (USA)

William Yao, Harvard College Class of 2022 (USA)

Nicolas Zehner, TU Berlin & Weizenbaum Institute (Germany)

Michael Zhao, Harvard College Class of 2025 (USA)