

Science, Technology and Culture

Strategy document 2006-2009

October 2006

March 2006: New definition of core areas and research groups in TIK

Evaluation report recommended only two foci and core areas of research: innovation and STC. Accordingly, 2,5 research groups were merged into 1:

- STS-group
- Science and Culture- group
- Economy, Culture and Organisation (minus economic sociology and organisation-studies)

New research group on Science, Technology and Culture

Challenge and mandate:

- integration
- Focus
- Organise research in collective projects
- Publication
- Continue to acquire external projects but give them a clear TIK and STC-profile, and integrate them in the thematic clusters and other activities in the research group

Conditions:

Everyone has to orient her/himself towards the centre of the new core area by

- Making science, technology and research their object of study (i.e. not studying organisation, economy or culture per se)
- But/and focussing on science and technology *in relation*: as embedded in, conditioned by, and conditioning social and cultural realities
- Contributing to the development of theory and analytical resources
- Aiming at an interdisciplinary approach
- Publishing academically in the field
- Contributing in collective activities

But: ongoing projects will not be renegotiated. New projects, however, have to be initiated and developed in close cooperation with group/TIK leadership and be oriented towards the centre of the core area

Focus and profile

- Our focus is on how science and technology work and are used in society. The particular angle we bring to this theme is that we investigate
 - how science and technology are caught up in social ordering and power
 - Science and technology as sociomaterial practices and processes
 - And combine present as well as historical perspectives

Focus and profile II

- The starting point for STC research is that science and politics, nature and the social, facts and values, are built together and not divided. What we study is how they are built together, and with what effects. A series of approaches are developed for thinking about and exploring this: Critiques of expertise, cultural history-analyses, post-foucauldian governmentality-analyses, studies of co-production, and material semiotics. In STC, our strengths are in combining historical and material semiotic approaches to
 - explore and expose the power of expertise
 - explore and expose the conditions of possibility that produce certain politics and realities

Current topics and thematic clusters:

- The productions and politics of nature
- The emergence and organisation of knowledge/expertise
- Technologies in practice

Goals:

- To develop the 'critical mass', focus and strength needed to
- be a central actor in an established field of science and technology studies in Norway, in relation to
 - Academic research/development of theory in the field
 - Education of new research candidates and practitioners
 - Communication with society
 - promote and sustain an interdisciplinary research group
 - be a centre of attraction and a natural collaborator in research initiatives in the field in Norway and the Nordic countries
 - be a natural collaborator in research initiatives in the field in Europe

To get there we have to:

- Focus, integrate and develop a clear and recognisable profile
- Organise research in collective projects/clusters of projects with collective activities, PhD-students, and publication projects
- Get three regular positions + new prof II in place, and include more of the staff in teaching, supervision and recruitment
- Increase academic publishing in general and international publishing in particular
- Cultivate a diverse set of ways of communicating with society
- Contribute 50 % in both master and PhD programmes
- Increase recruitment to STC through TIKs master programmes in general
- Increase recruitment to master and PhD programmes from historical and humanities disciplines in particular
- Initiate/ develop a national research school in the field
- Strengthen and institutionalise the field through a national 'fagråd' and possibly also an association of science and technology studies
- Strengthen our research networks nationally, in the Nordic countries and in Europe

Goal: focus and integrate

Means and measures:

Joint projects 2006:

- Interferences between STS and history of science
- Expert knowledge and the power of consumers/users

Joint projects 2007:

- Workshop/seminar with anthropology?
- Collaboration with faculty of arts and humanities?

These projects consist of collective activities including guest lecturers, reading seminars, and a joint publication either in the form of a book or special issue as result

Goal: Organise our research in collective projects

Means and measures:

New projects have to be initiated and developed in close cooperation with research group/TIK leadership in order to secure that

- They insert themselves in the core area
- They insert themselves in one of the topics /thematic clusters within the core area (unless there is agreement about the development of new topics and clusters)
- That they also build links to other projects in the group
- That they, as far as possible, include PhD- or postdoc scholarships
- That they have time to participate in collective activities
- That they have time for academic publishing and communication
- That they insert themselves in and build networks – locally, nationally, Nordically, and internationally

Goal: increase rate of publishing

Goal: 4 publication points a year

Means and measures:

- Create awareness about publishing as communication
- Initiate joint publication projects (small research-projects)
- Offer arenas for support in writing: work-in-progress-seminars for PhD-students and research group respectively
- Instruct the *projects* to follow up on publishing and communication
- Make sure externally funded projects/applications have collective publishing, academic/international publishing and communication with society on their list of deliveries

Goal: More people in teaching, supervision and recruitment

Means and measures:

- First work to get in place three regular positions – then work to soften up the boundary between external/internal funding and researcher/university positions
- New projects should as far as possible integrate and recruit PhD or postdoc- scholarships
- Co-responsibility for teaching in the research group /leadership
- Allocate budget/pool to the research group for teaching

Goal: Increase recruitment to STC through TIKs master-programmes:

Means and measures:

- STC needs to contribute more – 50 % - in TIKs master programmes
- Responsibility for STC teaching at least partly located in the research group
- More people in regular positions involved in teaching
- Collective evaluation and development of TIKs teaching programmes

Goal: increase recruitment from history and humanities disciplines

- Recruit actively from the faculty of arts and humanities - on master as well as PhD levels
- Solve SV-HF-problem with shared PhD-students
- Integrate new PhD scholarships in new projects/applications
- Support and 'supervise' potential applicants to PhD-grants – in HF as well as SV

Goal: National 'fagråd' and association :

Means and measures:

- Organise a meeting for the relevant research groups in the field with an aim to establish a national 'fagråd'
- Use this 'fagråd' to get more publishing channels accepted on level 2
- institutionalise a national association for studies of science and technology?

Goal: National research /graduate school

Means and measures:

- Revitalise TIKs own PhD programme and establish a set of activities and procedures that form a flight of locks that take students through
- Make 'research' on already existing schools – for instance within research on education
- Develop a preliminary model, locally
- Mobilise and build network for national research school
- Use occasion with meeting for a national 'fagråd' as forum for first and tentative discussions?
- Get funding and financing model/plan in place

Goal: Strengthen our research networks

Means and measures:

- Encourage active networking *for the group*, generous sharing of networks, and bringing in new networks, in
 - Project acquisition and development of new applications /projects
 - Seminars/workshops/publishing-activities
 - Participation in teaching and examination in other places
 - Active recruitment to our PhD-courses /programme from other places