



2026 Sociotechnical Systems Roundtable
Berlin, September 29-October 2, 2026

*Sociotechnical Systems Design –
New Challenges in Times of Omnipresent AI.*

Conference Mode, Issues and Objectives

- Network Conference - steady change between small groups and interactive plenary sessions
- Invitation to share experience between researchers and design practitioners
- Key Notes by thought leaders on three different challenges:
 - Monitoring and Regulating the Risks of Today's AI Applications
 - Human Centered Design of AI-supported Value Creation Processes
 - Sociotechnical Requirement Engineering for Next Generation HCAI

Conference Agenda

Tuesday, September 29, 2026 (Pre-Conference Event)

2:00 pm -	Getting into thinking together, Max-Mix-Tables to share experiences and expectations concerning STS and AI/HCAI	Plenary Session, Hotel Aquino, Auditorium A
7.00 pm	AI-supported Design Lab „Next Generation (HC)AI“ (Selection of Use Cases, Dialogic Development of Human Centered User Stories, Sociotechnical Requirement Engineering with regard to the defined Use Cases)	

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

8:00 am	Registration + Introductory Activities - Introductory Exercises - Familiarity with AI and other digital tools - Where in the world are you from (on a map of the world) “Know a Lot About & Want to Learn About” Post-it note exercise	Ludwig-Erhard-Haus, Fasanenstraße 85, 10623 Berlin First Floor, Balcony at the Entrance of Goldberger Saal
9:00 am	Welcome to the 2026 Sociotechnical Systems Roundtable Conference - Welcome to Berlin from the hosts (VDI iit & GITTA) - Welcome from the STS Roundtable & regional STS networks - Introduce “AI Triangle”, objectives, deliverables, how we will work, what’s expected of participants, and ground rules - Setting the Tone and Community Building	Plenary Session, Goldberger Saal
9:30 am	A Performance Lecture: Testing and Co-designing a new STS Evaluation framework for high risk AI systems for the EU Active Labour Market Policies Observatory (EU-ALMPO) Project Keynote given by Dr Annja Neumann and Dr. Kerstin Junge (Tavistock Institute gGmbH, Berlin)	Plenary Session, Goldberger Saal
10:30 am	BREAK	
10:45 am	Co-Design Lab for STS, Socio-Psychological Systems (SPS), and Socio-Ecological Systems (SES) based on the 3 P (Principles, Perspectives, Processes) Model Keynote given by Doug Austrom, representing also his coauthors Carolyn Ordowich and Bert Painter	Plenary Session, Goldberger Saal
11:45 am	LUNCH BREAK UNTIL 1.00 pm, including 5 minutes walk to MENSA TU, Hardenbergstraße 34, and VDI VDE Innovation+Technik GmbH, Steinplatz 1+2	
1.00 pm	PARALLELED SESSIONS AND CASE STUDIES - Session chaired by Jeltje Talen, Milan Wolfram etc. - Paralleled Case Sessions according to “Call for Cases”: - Use Case from iit (how to analyze “digital Sovereignty”) - Use Case from ifaa (Düsseldorf, Nicole Ottersböck/Sebastian Terstegen)? - Use Case from FhG-IFF (Magdeburg, scholars nominated by Dirk Berndt)?	Working Rooms at VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH Steinplatz 1+2 10623 Berlin
3:30 pm	Coffee Break including the walk back to Ludwig-Erhard-Haus, Fasanenstr. 85	

4:30 pm	OPEN SPACE with various (5-7 or even more) self-organized Focus Table Groups working simultaneous, perhaps inspired by one or the other focus idea brought up during the last STS Round Table Meeting (June 15 th): ○ Ideas to extend our cooperation network, e.g. contact and invite new partners (Enterprises, Universities, Research Institutes) ○ STS-Manifesto revisited: “Comparing the notes”, exploring the STS Heritage formulated through the decades, cocreating new energy and commitment for an “Up-to-date”-Version ○ Cross-national and cross-institutional deepening and extending the relationships in our STS Community itself ○ ... The focus groups should have in mind the four “Open Space” principles once coined by Harrison Owen: Whoever comes is the right people, whatever happens is the only thing that could have, when it starts is the right time, when it's over it's over...	Plenary Session, Goldberger Saal
----------------	--	----------------------------------

6:00 pm	Online-Keynote by Stu Winby: Human-Centered AI Maturity Model (HCAI-MM): An Organizational Design Perspective Technology and Modern Organizations – What happened since Vancouver 2024, and what are the consequences for the STS community?	Plenary Session, Goldberger Saal
6:50 pm	Wrap-up Day 1 • Self-organize dinner groups	
7:00 pm	Adjourn and dinner on your own (preferably with other attendees)	

Thursday, Oct 1, 2026

8.30 am	Good Morning Day 2, Networking	Goldberger Saal
9:00 am	Kickoff Day 2 • Review day 1, agenda for day 2, keeping in mind and organizing the transfer (by public transport) to boat trip/conference dinner in the evening: BOAT WILL LEAVE FROM URBANHAFEN AT 7 PM PUNCTUALLY1	Plenary Session, Goldberger Saal
9:30 am	Key Note by Thomas Herrmann: Organizational Practices and Socio-Technical Design of Human-Centered AI	
10:30 am	COFFEE (AND TEA) BREAK (Walk to Steinplatz 1+2)	
11:00 am until 2:30 pm	PARALLELED SESSIONS AND CASE STUDIES (2nd Round) Four to five “streams” with use cases, interactive Paper Presentations and other Contributions of the Participants(self organized lunch break at TU Mensa)	Working Rooms at VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH Steinplatz 1+2 10623 Berlin

2:30 pm	Coffee Break including the walk back to Ludwig-Erhard-Haus, Fasanenstr. 85	
3:00 pm	Plenary Session with two Keynotes covering the Topic of adequate rules and regulations to prevent the given risks of uncontrolled Development and Application of AI systems, to support the Development of HCAI and the application of STS principles when it comes to AI-based work Keynote given by Thea Radüntz, BAuA, Group Head „ AI in Work Systems “ AI in Work Systems: Risks and Opportunities for Occupational Safety and Health, Preventive Design; Ways and Means of Regulation on national and European Level (esp. EU-AI-Act	Interactive Plenary Session, Goldberger Saal
3:40 pm	Short Bio-Break	

3:50 pm	Keynote given by Jürgen Klippert, IG Metall Regulation of AI on a Company Level and in the Design of AI-based Work Systems —A Challenge for Workers Councils and the Co-determination and Co-design Process	
4:30 pm	Questions and Answers: Rules, Regulations and the permanent Challenge to make them work in everyday AI Applications Thea Radüntz, Jürgen Klippert and the Conference Participants Facilitation: Wolfgang Kötter	
4:50 pm	Wrap-up Day 2 Instructions for the Three-Hour-Boat Trip with Conference Dinner Adjourn for Public Transport to Urbanhafen, be sure to be there not later than 6.45 pm!	
5:00 pm	Break including self organized Transfer to Urbanhafen (with Public Transport using U2/U3 about 35 – 40 minutes)	
7:00 pm	Cast Off for the Three-Hour-Boat Trip (20 km, 64 Bridges) with Conference Dinner	van Loon Restaurantschiffe und Reederei Baerwaldstraße 70, 10961 Berlin

Friday, Oct 2, 2026

8:00 am	Good Morning Day 3, Networking	Goldberger Saal
8:30 am	Kickoff Day 3 • Review agenda for Day 3	Interactive Plenary Session, Goldberger Saal
8:40 am	Keynote given by Tina Haase (Universität Greifswald, Fraunhofer IFF Magdeburg): Practical Examples of the Adaptation and Application of recent AI Systems to Support Learning	
9:40 am	BREAK	

10:00 am	• Reflection and Review on “STS RT Berlin 2026” (MaxMix Table Groups) • Groups reports and plenary discussion • Network Activities initiated last year in Trondheim: Review, next steps (3 – 5 Minutes per Group, plenary discussion) •	Interactive Plenary Session, Goldberger Saal
11:40 am	CLOSE 2026 STS Roundtable • Next year’s meeting in London and closing remarks • One-word checkouts and adjourn	
12:00 pm	OPEN SPACE for exploration of Learning Groups and collaboration LUNCH at	Goldberger Saal, TU Mensa