

## STS Conference Graz 2018

**Abstract submission deadline:** 19 January 2018

<https://conference.aau.at/event/143/call-for-abstracts/>

### **S6: Gendered career progresses in STEM – Networks as influential (and crucial?) factor**

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In this session, we want to discuss gendered career perspectives of female and male scientists in engineering and information technology. During their qualification process, which often leads after the PhD to an activity in industry, networks represent a key factor for reaching a professorship or leadership position in industrial and academic research.

Background of our session is a new research project funded by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research, called GenderNetz. Overall aim of the project is it to increase and foster equal opportunities in (information) technological science careers by examining disciplinary micro-structures and micro-processes, especially of informal networks and their influence on successful career promotion in science and industry, with a subsequent reflection by the relevant actors in these organisations.

We are looking for empirical and theoretical contributions, which analyze these gendered interdependencies between career progression and (in-)formal networks in STEM professions and which try to answer some of these points:

- How are networks between science and industry research composed?
- Which strategies are applied for using network potentials in career promotions?
- How can the potential of networks respectively from the inner network relations be used?
- How and in what way are networks gendered?
- Who are important actors in networks and which relevance do they have for professional success?
- Which resources are necessary for successful networking?
- How are actions and contributions of individuals in the network composed?

**KEYWORDS:** STEM, gender equality, networks, career progression