

1. How would you define a collaborative infrastructure? What is its purpose? How does it function? Where is it located? What's the difference between an infrastructure, generally, and a collaborative infrastructure? How might we push and extend such definitions beyond what we might immediately think?

For me, collaborative infrastructure is a series of technologies (both soft and hard) that work together to pull people into productive networks that allows work to be distributed amongst people with complementary skills. They ideally function on a "pull" model, which entices people into the network based on something they think they can get from it (a good contact, a published paper, some ideas for teaching a lesson) but then requires them to "give before they get" (by writing a prompt, for example!) or helping others achieve their goals, to ensure good-faith collaboration. I think good collaborative infrastructures are "located" virtually, that is, most of the work occurs online, yet needs to be "grounded" in a physical place (a University, a research centre, a city), both for the possibility of physical events but also to give the infrastructure a sense of solidity and groundedness. Infrastructure, as opposed to "collaborative infrastructure", can be hostile. It is often designed from the "top-down" without any input from end users and exists to satisfy the goals of bureaucrats or people who have received a grant for a specific purpose. Collaborative infrastructure should be flexible and re-workable based on feedback and input from end users. It should be able to adapt fairly quickly to unmet needs.

2. What are ways that you've collaborated with other STS scholars already? Can you imagine building some sort of infrastructure from or out of these practices?

I have used the 4S network successfully in the past. Specifically, the weekly listings email with CFP and events has been a huge help. I secured a position speaking at a workshop hosted in March by the Epistemology of the Large Hadron Collider research group in Germany. This led to an offer to contribute a paper to a special issue of the journal *Perspectives on Science* from MIT. My favorite collaborative tool to use when teaching is iNaturalist, an app that allows people to take pictures of plants and animals and find out what they are. The pictures are geo-tagged and added to a world-wide database which can be used by scientists to track populations and identify rare species. It's open-source and decentralized and very easy to use. One piece of

Joseph Wilson. Sketch E: Collaborative infrastructure

infrastructure that would be enormously helpful would be similar to the giant spreadsheet 4S conference organizers sent out a few months ago with half-filled panels where people can apply to add their paper to a panel. Imagine being able to do this to find co-authors for a paper or people working in adjacent fields with whom you could apply for grants or apply to conferences.