

Prof. Dr. Ruth Müller

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Ruth Müller is a professor of Science & Technology Policy at the Munich Center for Technology in Society at the Technical University of Munich, a co-appointment with the TUM School of Management and the TUM School of Life Sciences. She is an interdisciplinary researcher in Science & Technology Studies, a social science research field that explores the relations between science, technology & society in today's highly technology-dependent societies.

Prof. Müller holds degrees molecular biology (M.Sc.) and sociology (PhD) from the University of Vienna, Austria. During her MSc studies, she was a research affiliate at Medical University of Vienna and conducted breast cancer research. Based on her own research experiences, she became increasingly interested in the relationship between the life sciences, society & policy. She was a researcher in the EU FP6 project "Challenges of Biomedicine: Socio-Cultural Contexts, European Governance and Bioethics" as well as in the Austria Genome Programm project "Living Changes in the Life Sciences: Tracing the 'Ethical' and 'Social' within Scientific Practice and Work Culture". Her PhD thesis (2012), which explored the effects of career competition on life scientists' research decisions and work experiences, was awarded the Doc.Award of the City of Vienna for Outstanding Doctoral Theses. Prof. Müller then held a postdoctoral position at Lund University, Sweden, where she received a Marie-Curie Co-Fund-Fellowship by the Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare. She has been a recurring visiting researcher at the Science & Justice Research Center, University of California Santa Cruz, U.S. and has recently been awarded a Residency Fellowship at the Brocher Foundation, a renowned research center that hosts scholars whose work advances the study of ethical, legal and social aspect of new biomedical knowledge and technologies.

Prof. Müller's research explores a) how changes in the social and material infrastructures of research affect knowledge production practices and work culture in the life sciences and beyond, focusing specifically of challenges and opportunities for advancing responsible research and innovation; and b) the social, ethical and political implications of biomedical innovation and novel biotechnologies. Across all research activities, Prof. Müller's work emphasizes questions of social justice, equity and diversity, for example with regard to technology access and the sharing of risks and benefits.

Ongoing projects in Prof. Müller's research group are currently funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the Bavarian Research Foundation, the EU Horizon 2020 program and the TUM Gender & Diversity Incentive Fund.

Five key publications with relevance for the conference:

- Lloyd, S. & Müller, R. (2018) Situating the Biosocial: Empirical Engagements with Environmental Epigenetics from the Lab to the Clinic. *BioSocieties*, 13(4), 675–680.
- Müller, Ruth & Samaras, Georgia (2018): "Epigenetics and Aging Research: Between Adult Malleability and Early Life Programming." *BioSocieties*, 13(4), 715–736.
- Kenney, Martha & Müller, Ruth (2018): "Of Rats and Women: Narratives of Motherhood in Environmental Epigenetics." In: Meloni, M., Cromby, J., Fitzgerald, D. & Lloyd, S. (eds.): *The Palgrave Handbook of Biology and Society*, London: Springer, 799-830
- Müller, Ruth et al. (2017): "The Biosocial Genome? Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Environmental Epigenetics, Health and Society." *EMBO reports*, 18, 1677-82.
- Pickersgill, Martyn; Niewöhner, Jörg; Müller, Ruth; Martin, Paul & Cunningham-Burley, Sarah (2013): "Mapping the New Molecular Landscape: Social and Ethical Aspects of Epigenetics." *New Genetics & Society*, 32, 429-447.