



# EDITORIAL

## *Counting the days*

By Roger A. Søråa

This is perhaps (and hopefully) the most strangely situated editorial that will emerge from NJSTS. In Norway, it has, at the time of writing, been over two months since society closed down and we were commanded to work from home. As researchers, most of us are lucky, compared to most workers of society. Even though it might initially have been a strange few days at the home office, we made it through and found new ways of working. Throughout academia, however, most researchers are probably counting the days until society and our work situations return to a more normalized state.

The frontpage of this Issue depicts needlework art—"Sashiko" (刺し子)—by artist Setsuko Kurioka. Here, line after line after line represents something that lasts for a long time. Sashiko literally means "little stabs"—which quite neatly represents the new changes that we all have had to adjust to during these last months. Many have endured little stabs to our health, freedom, society, interactions, work, and daily practices. Only time will show what the full Shashiko will look like in the end. A complex weave on how we entered, lived with, and, hopefully, returned from these troubled times.

The Issue features two full length articles, with the first written by Niklas Hagen from University of Gothenburg. His article "Scaling up and rolling out through the Web – The 'platformization' of citizen science and scientific citizenship" investigates online public participation and engagement in science through crowdsourcing platforms with a case study of the Zooniverse platform, which hosts a large amount of citizen science projects.

The second article "'Best Before, Often Good After': Re-Scripting the Date Label of Food in Norway" by Tanja Plasil from NTNU, describes a controversy surrounding food-labels in Norway, showing how a seemingly simple addition to a label can reveal underlying issues and policies. As about one third of all food is thrown away, this article points to an important societal issue, of which Plasil gives a thorough account.

We also present a book review by Tor Anders Bye, of the 2018 book *The Platform Society* authored by José van Dijck, Thomas Poell, and Martijn de Waal. The book is about the role that new digital platforms play in public life and societal organization and how social practices and institutions are changed by this relationship. Bye's review discusses the book's main inquiry: "Who is or should be responsible and accountable for governing a fair and democratic platform society?" which is very timely indeed.

Finally, you can also read an Opinion Piece on "Plan S, Open Access and the potential roles for STS research" by Elena Šimukovič, which explores "Plan S," an initiative for open-access science publishing launched by a group of national research funding organisations in Europe, including the Research Council of Norway (Forskingsrådet). Šimukovič discusses the controversy surrounding Open Access, which Plan S showed to the research agenda. The opinion piece ponders what this means to researchers' identity as members of scientific communities and the role that publication records play in research assessment rituals for climbing the academic ladder. Being an Open Access academic journal, NJSTS follows this debate with keen interest.

As we progress into the new normal, we are glad to be able to bring you this new issue. While most things are delayed, we are actually seeing more submissions, peer-reviews, and academic discussions. Perhaps scholars have more time to finish up work, now that meetings are moved online, or are researchers more pensive these days?

With this, I wish you an insightful reading of the issue and hope that we can see each other in person soon. In the meantime, let's try, as Muhammad Ali said, to "not count the days, but make the days count."

---

Dr. Roger A. Søråa  
Editor in Chief