

Course Manual

European Technology Policy since 1975

Artificial Intelligence, Starlink, and 5G



Ariane 5 rocket is launched from the ELA-3 launch pad in Kourou, French Guiana Credit: ESA/CNES/Arianespace – Photo Optique Video du CSG – JM Guillon

Niels ten Oever
2025/2026

Version 1.1 - January 14, 2026

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Contact Details for the Instructor and Examiner	3
Introduction	3
Course Description	3
Course Objectives	4
Course Langauge	4
Course Schedule, Lesson Objectives, and Readings	4
Excursions	10
Passing Grade	11
Resits	11
Participation	11
Study Load	11
Course Evaluation	12
Session Locations	12
Deliverables	12
General guidelines for submitting written work	12
Individual Academic Research Paper (40%)	13
Policy Brief (Group work) (30%)	15
Presentation of a Text (20%)	16
Discussant (of a Presentation of a Text) (10%)	16
Class Preparation	17
Deliverables Checklist	17
Research Resources	17
AI Policy	18
Writing Tips	18

Contact Details for the Instructor and Examiner

Niels ten Oever

- Office:
 - Bushuis/Oost-Indisch Huis
Kloveniersburgwal 48
Room number: D2.06
- Email: n.tenoever@uva.nl (Canvas messaging preferred)
- Office hours: by appointment

Introduction

Welcome to this class! We will research how states, companies, civil society, scholars, engineers, and others co-produce technology through regulation, funding, development, standardisation, licensing, and institutionalisation.

This course aims to equip you as a future policy maker, policy influencer, or public intellectual with the ability to analyse the complex nature of technology and its societal impact. Furthermore, it aims to develop your ability to practice the skills needed to influence the trajectory of technology's development and implementation.

This course is quite intense, with many readings, exercises, and excursions, but I trust that working together will be rewarding!

Please read and reread this syllabus carefully. Answers to most of your questions are provided here. You may use the Canvas messaging system to ask questions about the course, or ask them in class.

I look forward to learning, engaging, and collaborating with you in this course!

Course Description

In this course, we will trace the origins of many of today's characteristic technologies, including GPS, 5G, AI, Starlink-enabled satellite internet, and fibre-optic internet connectivity. It is often thought that these technologies have their roots in the private sector, but in this course, we will trace back these developments to foreground their intertwinement with the public sector. This allows us to examine the role of technology policy in shaping 'breakthrough technologies' and to identify where such policies and technologies fail. This course straddles the fields of the history of technology, science and technology studies, and governance studies, seeking to provide students with the methodological tools and theoretical understanding to critically interrogate claims about contemporary and historical technologies, such as the telegraph, artificial intelligence (AI), and quantum computing.

Course Objectives

- Students can explain the different facets of the socio-technical production of society through technology and innovation policy, and the limitations of these approaches;
- Students can apply different theoretical frameworks from the fields of policy and governance studies, the history of technology, and science and technology studies;
- Students can critically interrogate claims about contemporary and historical technologies, such as the telegraph, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and quantum computing, and demonstrate this ability by communicating their findings to academic and policy audiences.

Course Language

The principal course language is English. All course readings and other materials are in English.

Course Schedule, Lesson Objectives, and Readings

Ses sion #	Date	Topic & Objective	Readings
1	February 9 <u>Sign up for Presentations.</u> <u>Discussants.</u> <u>Group Policy</u> <u>Papers, and Paper Presentations.</u>	What is Technology Gain insight into the social nature of technology. Establish shared expectations for the course.	Akrich, M. (1992). The De-Description of Technical Objects. In W. E. Bijker & J. Law (Eds.), <i>Shaping Technology/Building Society. Studies in Sociotechnical Change</i> (pp. 205–224). MIT Press. Draghi, Mario. 2024. “The Future of European Competitiveness.” Brussels: European Commission. https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/97e481fd-2dc3-412d-be4c-f152a8232961_en?filename=The%20future%20of%20European%20competitiveness%20%20A%20competitiveness%20strategy%20for%20Europe.pdf . Bonus:

			<p>Dietrich, Anita, Florian Dorn, Clemens Fuest, Daniel Gros, Giorgio Presidente, Philipp-Leo Mengel, and Jean Tirole. 2024. “Europe’s Middle-Technology Trap.” 25. Munich, Germany: Economic Policy Forum Europe. https://www.econpol.eu/publications/forum-2024-4-economic-policy-and-its-impact/europes-middle-technology-trap.</p>
2	<p>February 11</p> <p>Choose a technology you will research and write your paper on during this course.</p>	<p>What is Technology Policy?</p> <p>Interrogate the political nature of technology and the ways politics seek to enable technology development.</p>	<p>Winner, Langdon. 1980. “Do Artifacts Have Politics?” <i>Daedalus</i> 109: 121. https://www.jstor.org/stable/20024652</p> <p>Cantner, Uwe, and Andreas Pyka. 2001. “Classifying Technology Policy from an Evolutionary Perspective.” <i>Research Policy</i> 30 (5): 759–75. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0048-7333(00)00104-9.</p> <p>Bonus:</p> <p>Pack, Howard, and Kamal Saggi. 2006. “Is There a Case for Industrial Policy? A Critical Survey.” <i>The World Bank Research Observer</i> 21 (2): 267–97. https://doi.org/10.1093/wbro/lkl001.</p>
3	February 16	<p>Who Produces Technology?</p> <p>Argue about the role of different actors in the production of technology</p>	<p>Jasanoff, Sheila, Sang Hyun Kim, and Stefan Sperling. “Sociotechnical Imaginaries and Science and Technology Policy: A Cross-National Comparison.” NSF Research Project, Harvard University, 2007. https://sts.hks.harvard.edu/files/imaginaries/NSF-imaginaries-proposal.pdf</p> <p>Blind, K. (2025). Standardization and Standards: Safeguards of Technological Sovereignty? <i>Technological Forecasting and</i></p>

			<p>Social Change, 210, 123873. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techfore.2024.123873</p> <p>Bonus: Laurent, Brice. 2022. European Objects: The Troubled Dreams of Harmonization. MIT Press.</p>
4	February 18	<p>Technology Policy in the EU</p> <p>Analyze the approach to technology policy in the EU</p>	<p>Edler, J., Blind, K., Kroll, H., & Schubert, T. (2023). Technology sovereignty as an emerging frame for innovation policy. Defining rationales, ends and means. <i>Research Policy</i>, 52(6), 104765. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2023.104765</p> <p>Letta, E. (2024). Much More Than A Market: Empowering the Single Market to deliver a sustainable future and prosperity for all EU Citizens. European Commission. 3-24 https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/ny3j24sm/much-more-than-a-market-report-by-enrico-letta.pdf</p> <p>Bonus: Kaiser, Wolfram, and J. W. Schot. 2014. Writing the Rules for Europe: Experts, Cartels, and International Organizations. <i>Making Europe : Technology and Transformations, 1850-2000</i>. Hounds Mills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.</p> <p>Eaton, Jonathan, Eva Gutierrez, and Samuel Kortum. "European Technology Policy." <i>Economic Policy</i> 13, no. 27 (October 1, 1998): 404–38.</p>
5	February 23	<p>Space I</p> <p>Dissect the complex entanglements of state and market in</p>	<p>Robinson, Douglas K. R., and Mariana Mazzucato. "The Evolution of Mission-Oriented Policies: Exploring Changing Market Creating Policies in the</p>

		space programs	<p>US and European Space Sector." Research Policy, New Frontiers in Science, Technology and Innovation Research from SPRU's 50th Anniversary Conference, 48, no. 4 (May 1, 2019): 936–48.</p> <p>Klimburg-Witjes, Nina. 2023. "A Rocket to Protect? Sociotechnical Imaginaries of Strategic Autonomy in Controversies About the European Rocket Program." <i>Geopolitics</i>, February, 1–28. https://doi.org/10.1080/14650045.2023.2177157.</p> <p>Bonus:</p> <p>Pic, Pauline, Philippe Evoy, and Jean-Frédéric Morin. 2023. "Outer Space as a Global Commons." <i>International Journal of the Commons</i> 17 (1): 288–301.</p>
6	February 25 13:00 - 16:30 at ESA in Noordwijk! (see details below)	EXCURSION ESA Experience the breath and materiality of the European space program	<p>Suzuki, Kazuto. <i>Policy Logics and Institutions of European Space Collaboration</i>. Routledge, 2017. Chapters 1 and 2</p> <p>Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjRHI2Rr9tQ&t=13s&ab_channel=MCH2022</p>
Canvas	February 27		Deadline Group Policy Paper
7	March 2	Space II Understand the role of infrastructure, knowledge and policy in the building of Europe	<p>Klimburg-Witjes, N., & Kürten, P. (2025). Pacing space: Futuring practices and temporal ownership in the European space sector. <i>Science and Public Policy</i>, scaf067. https://doi.org/10.1093/scipol/scaf067</p> <p>Klimburg-Witjes, N., Strycker, K., & Braun, V. (2025). Who Cares</p>

			<p>for Space Debris? Conflicting Logics of Security and Sustainability in Space Situational Awareness Practices. Science and Engineering Ethics, 31(5), 28. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11948-025-00550-3</p> <p>Bonus: Deplano, Rossana. 2021. "The Artemis Accords: Evolution or Revolution in International Space Law?" International & Comparative Law Quarterly 70 (3): 799–819. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020589321000142.</p>
8	<p>March 4 13:00 at EPO in Rijswijk! (see details below)</p>	<p>EXCURSION EPO</p> <p>Experience different approaches to managing knowledge, and how this is an innovation and protection policy mechanism.</p>	<p>Rouvinen, Petri, and Rikard Stankiewicz. 2009. "Are Intellectual Property Rights Hindering Technological Advance? The Need for Technological Commons." Review of Policy Research 26 (1–2): 195–217. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1541-1338.2008.00375.x.</p>
9	March 9	<p>Telecommunications I</p> <p>Gain insight into the long history of telecommunications and the role of Europe.</p>	<p>Zajácz, Rita. Reluctant Power: Networks, Corporations, and the Struggle for Global Governance in the Early 20th Century. MIT Press, 2019. 'Introduction: Network Control'</p> <p>Kammerer, Patrick. "Off the Leash. The European Mobile Phone Standard (GSM) as a Transnational Telecommunications Infrastructure." In Materializing Europe: Transnational Infrastructures and the Project of Europe, edited by Alexander Badenoch and Andreas Fickers,</p>

			<p>202–22. London: Palgrave Macmillan UK, 2010.</p> <p>Bonus:</p> <p>Fickers, Andreas, and Pascal Griset. 2019. <i>Communicating Europe: Technologies, Information, Events. Making Europe : Technology and Transformations, 1850-2000.</i> London: Palgrave Macmillan.</p>
10	March 11	<p>Telecommunications II</p> <p>Understand more recent conflicts and contestations in telecommunications, most notably around 5G</p>	<p>Maxigas, and Niels ten Oever. 2023. “Geopolitics in the Infrastructural Ideology of 5G.” <i>Global Media and China</i>, August, 20594364231193950.</p> <p>https://doi.org/10.1177/20594364231193950.</p> <p>Hegarty, K., Wilken, R., Meese, J., & Middleton, C. (2025). <i>Shaping infrastructural futures: The International Telecommunication Union’s visions for mobile communications and the anticipatory politics of 5G standardization.</i> <i>Mobile Media & Communication</i>, 13(1), 171–191.</p> <p>https://doi.org/10.1177/20501579241269653</p> <p>Bonus:</p> <p>Gabrys, Jennifer. 2014. “Programming Environments: Environmentality and Citizen Sensing in the Smart City.” <i>Environment and Planning D: Society and Space</i> 32 (1): 30–48.</p> <p>https://doi.org/10.1068/d16812.</p>
11	March 16	<p>AI history</p> <p>Understand the relation between AI and cybernetics and its role in the cold war and the internet</p>	<p>Edwards, Paul N. 1996. <i>The Closed World: Computers and the Politics of Discourse in Cold War America.</i> MIT Press. Chapter 7 + 8</p> <p>Bonus:</p>

			<p>Cath, Corinne. 2018. "Governing Artificial Intelligence: Ethical, Legal and Technical Opportunities and Challenges." <i>Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences</i> 376 (2133): 20180080. https://doi.org/10.1098/rsta.2018.0080.</p>
12	March 18	<p>AI challenges</p> <p>Session with AI governance expert Lisa Vermeer of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate, who was part of the negotiations on the AI act</p>	<p>Bender, E. M., Gebru, T., McMillan-Major, A., & Shmitchell, S. (2021). On the Dangers of Stochastic Parrots: Can Language Models Be Too Big?  Proceedings of the 2021 ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency, 610–623. https://doi.org/10.1145/3442188.3445922</p> <p>Mügge, D. (2024). EU AI sovereignty: For whom, to what end, and to whose benefit? <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i>, 31(8), 2200–2225. https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2024.2318475</p> <p>Bonus: Malmborg, F. (2023). Narrative dynamics in European Commission AI policy—Sensemaking, agency construction, and anchoring. <i>Review of Policy Research</i>, 40(5), 757–780. https://doi.org/10.1111/ropr.12529</p> <p>Liebig, Laura, Anna Jobin, Licinia Güttel, and Christian Katzenbach. 2024. "Situating AI Policy: Controversies Covered and the Normalisation of AI." <i>Big Data & Society</i> 11 (4): 20539517241299725. https://doi.org/10.1177/20539517</p>

			<u>241299725</u> Vannuccini, S. (2025). Move fast and integrate things: The making of a European Industrial Policy for Artificial Intelligence. The Manchester Institute of Innovation Research (MIoIR). https://www.fondazionecsf.it/images/2025/RP/FCSF-RP_EU-AI-Industrial-policy_Vannuccini_May2025.pdf
Can vas	March 28		Deadline Individual Academic Research Paper

Excursions

There will be two excursions. The first is to the European Patent Office on February 24.

On February 24, you must be at 13:00 at EPO at the Patentlaan 2, 2288 EE Rijswijk. Bring your passport or other government-issued ID.

The second excursion is to the European Space Agency on March 3.

On March 3, you must be at 13:00 at the ESTEC Gate Reception, Keplerlaan 1, in Noordwijk. Bring your passport or other government-issued ID. (To travel by public transport, take a train to Leiden Centraal and then take bus Arriva 400 destination Katwijk and you will stop at ESA ESTEC.

If you arrive too late for the excursions, you will not be able to participate in them and hence will not be able to finish the course.

Passing Grade

An average of 5.5 is the minimum grade you need to pass the course. Lower grades on one deliverable may be compensated for by higher grades on others. Individually written assessments that count for the final mark may be retaken once (see the current version of the Teaching and Examination Regulations), on or before the end of the Block. Group work may not be resubmitted.

Resits

Resits are only available for individual submissions. In the event of a resit, the last grade counts as the final grade. The research paper resit will be a revised version of the paper, with a deadline on or before the exam resit date. Research papers submitted late will be treated as resits. The resit deadline coincides with the end of the exam week of the following block, which is May 29th, 2026.

Participation

This course runs for six weeks. Meetings usually consist of two three-hour sessions per week, during which we will work together actively in a seminar-style format. All sessions will take place onsite, except for the excursions. There are two excursions, one to the European Space Agency and one to the European Patent Office. To finish the course, participation in both excursions is mandatory; one in-person class may be missed. If you miss a class, ensure someone else takes notes for you. Please ensure you have read the texts before class. If you have not done so, please let me know.

The classroom is a place of learning for everyone; therefore, it should be a safe and enabling learning environment. This is only possible if we create that space together. This means there is ample room to make mistakes, experiment with diverse perspectives, take one another seriously, and consider sensitivities to foster an inclusive space. If you have particular needs that should be considered for this course, please contact [the study advisors](#).

Study Load

The standard of ECTS credits states that coursework amounts to 28 hours of work per ECTS point. The total amount for this course is 6 ECTS. This means that the total work hours for this course is 168 hours. This means a total of 28 hours per week. If one deducts two hours for the seminars, there are twenty-two hours of **self-study per week**.

This involves preparing for and participating in meetings, as well as completing deliverables. The amount of effort may vary from session to session, but the workload is inevitably focused on the period around delivery due dates. Therefore, I encourage us to work together in class, in groups, and individually on the research and policy papers throughout the course.

Course Evaluation

Course evaluations are vital for improving the quality of courses and study programmes. At the end of each teaching period, questionnaires are distributed to course participants. The Board of Studies discusses the results of these questionnaires and communicates ideas for improvement to the course coordinator. More information on the Board of Studies is available at <http://student.uva.nl/meus/az/item/board-of-studies.html>.

Please take time to fill the course evaluations at the end of the course.

However, you do not have to wait until the end of the course to voice any issues or suggestions that you may have. Please let me know about them before or after a class, or via Canvas.

Session Locations

Please check <https://rooster.uva.nl> for the location of our meetings.

Deliverables

General guidelines for submitting written work

During the course, you are expected to submit several pieces of work. It is important to note the following requirements:

- Documents submitted digitally should conform to the following rules: PDF format, A4 size, fully justified paragraphs with single-line spacing, and page numbers identified. The following information should be marked on the front page of the submission:
 - name
 - student number
 - course title and academic year
 - deliverable name
 - title of piece
 - date of submission
- Note that the front page of your submission is not included in the page limits described below.
- Students must familiarise themselves with standard academic procedures for citing and referencing; coherence and consistency are paramount. Please use Chicago (author-date) as the reference style.
- Language, spelling, and grammar are important; please double-check before submitting.
- Students are expected to be familiar with the University's [code of conduct](#) and rules on plagiarism. For more information on preventing plagiarism, see [the UvA webpage on plagiarism and fraud](#), and the [Academic Integrity Guide from the Faculty of Humanities](#).
- All deliverables are submitted via Canvas.

Individual Academic Research Paper (40%)

Students will write a short individual research paper (3000 words, with a 10% margin on either side, excluding references and the bibliography) on a specific research topic related to a central theme in the course.

This research paper is based on literature and (archival or published) primary sources, or by deploying other research methods. You **have to use primary sources**; simply discussing what has been written in other academic papers is not sufficient.

At the end of the course, you will submit a paper in which you apply the perspectives on the co-production of a particular technology in an extensive analysis of, for instance, the policies that enabled it, the sociotechnical imaginary that guided its development, the ideology that underpins it, the societal ordering that it provided, or the (economic or political) interests that it serves.

During the seminar sessions, you must give a short (eight-minute) presentation of your plans for your paper. You will receive feedback from the lecturer and your peers during the session. Please sign up for your presentations on Canvas before the first session.

Your research paper will be assessed using the following rubric:

1. formulation of a feasible research question
2. accurate synthesis and comprehensive review of existing secondary literature
3. critical engagement with both primary and secondary sources
4. the clarity of presentation (style, language, formatting, et cetera)

Your presentation will be assessed using the following criteria:

1. clarity of presentation
2. awareness of context (show you have read relevant literature, etc.)
3. feasibility of your research design

Your paper will have the following sections

1. Abstract (Summary of the paper in max 200 words)
2. Introduction (Introduce research questions, relevance, and context)
3. Method (How will you answer your research question)
4. Literature Review (What did other academics say about your topic)
5. Analysis (Your original research)
6. Conclusions (The answer to the research question, contribution to theory and potential practical recommendations, and suggestions for future research)
7. References

To support your research, we will allocate time in the course to develop your ideas. You are recommended to choose a technology topic in week 1 and then research and analyse it using the theoretical frameworks provided in the course (focusing on the roles of the state, companies, civil society, and societal impact). Possible example technologies you could choose as the topic of your paper:

- the (colonial) telegraph
 - Great Britain
 - India
 - Netherlands (Radio Kootwijk!)
 - ITU
- telephony and telecommunication
 - Wired
 - GSM
 - 3G
 - 4G
 - 5G
 - 6G
 - Spectrum policy
 - Bluetooth
 - White space / TV spectrum

- Standardization
 - ETSI
 - 3GPP
 - ITU
- Space
 - Green Space
 - Space Debris
 - National Space Programmes
 - Japanese
 - Congolese
 - French
 - Soviet
 - US
 - Chinese
 - International Space Programmes
 - Specific satellite constellations, Space Missions, Vessels, etc
 - Galileo
 - Mir
 - International Space Station
 - Ariane
 - Starlink
 - Space Weapons
 - Space Treaty
 - Space Governance
- Artificial Intelligence
 - The history of AI (cold war)
 - Machine learning
 - Neural Networks
 - Computing power industry
 - Data for AI
 - AI winters
 - AI regulation
 - GDPR, AI act, Omnibus
- Quantum
 - Quantum computing
 - Quantum standardization
 - Quantum networking
 - Quantum sensing
- Computing
 - ARPAnet
 - Bulletin Board Systems
 - Linux/Unix
 - Android
 - Gaia-X
 - Data centers

- Submarine cables
- IoT and sensor networks
- Open source software
- Open hardware
- EuroStack
- Energy
 - Euratom
 - Smart grids
 - Net congestion
 - Small modular reactors
 - Chernobyl
 - Mururoa
 - Regenerative computing

Policy Brief (Group work) (30%)

Students are required to submit, as a group, a three-page piece of advice to the European Commission on how to respond to a specific item in the Draghi or Letta report, with concrete scenarios and implementable proposals. It should be based on actual data and sources. Make sure it has:

1. Title and Executive Summary
2. Problem Definition
 - a. Define the issue
 - b. Provide statistics that illustrate the issue
 - c. Who is affected and how
3. Policy Options & Analysis
 - a. Present two-three realistic options
 - b. Provide pros and cons for all of them
 - c. Maybe provide a comparison table
 - d. This should be clear, not shallow
4. Recommendation & Implementation
 - a. Make recommendation
 - b. Provide concrete steps on implementation
 - c. Define key actors for the implementation
 - d. Provide metric and methods to monitor and evaluate the impact
 - e. Have milestones and a planning
 - f. Add possible risks and mitigation strategies
5. Short conclusion
 - a. Repeat why this is important, and why this is the best option.
 - b. Explain why this needs to be done *now* (and not simply another time)

Sign up for the group work on Canvas in week I.

It would draw on theoretical and empirical literature to build an argument. The assignment should contain recommendations for future action.

For this deliverable, imagine you are a policy expert seeking to persuade a group of stakeholders of your concerns. The length should be no longer than 2000 words and be actionable.

Presentation of a Text (20%)

Students will sign up for the presentation of one of the texts on Canvas. The presentation will introduce the author, the main concepts in the text, the main line of argumentation, and the text's relation to other readings in the course. You could also illustrate the text by applying it to a concrete issue or illustrate it by applying it to a cultural object. Slides and/or handouts may be part of the presentation.

Discussant (of a Presentation of a Text) (10%)

Students will sign up to serve as the discussant for one of the presentations on Canvas. As a discussant, you will briefly summarise and reflect on the presentation (what was good, what could be improved, what was missing), ask questions of the presenter, and subsequently engage the audience and the presenter in a discussion of the text. Your primary responsibility is to help the audience better understand the paper and to facilitate a class discussion.

Class Preparation (pass/fail)

For each class, you are expected to prepare three questions about the text(s) assigned for class and write a short assignment of 250-500 words. The writing assignment can consist of one of the following three things: 1) reflection on the text, 2) application of the text to your research topic, 3) a reflection on the film observed in class (potentially applied to your research topic), 4) research work on your research topic. This must be submitted before every session. You are allowed to miss a total of two of the eleven submissions. The aim of this exercise is to help you write for your paper and activate your learning for class. Please do not use generative AI for this.

Deliverables Checklist

	Item	Weight	Date Due	Length
1	Individual Academic Research Paper	40%	March 27, 2025	3000 words
2	Policy Brief (Group work)	30%	March 1, 2025	2000 words
3	Presentation of Text	20%	during seminars	10-15 minutes
4	Discussant (of Presentation)	10%	during seminars	5 - 10 minutes
5	Class preparation	Pass/Fail	Before every seminar (can miss two)	250-500 words

Research Resources

You will need to consult academic periodicals for your research paper!

Online sources such as <https://lib.uva.nl>, <https://scholar.google.com>, <https://academia.edu>, and <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv> host great papers. There are also tools like <https://www.researchrabbit.ai/> and <https://www.webofscience.com/> that help you find relevant publications.

Use the University Library online service to scan through the following journals: New Media and Society, Science, Technology and Human Values, Social Studies of Science, Science and Technology Studies, Journal of Responsible Innovation, European Policy Analysis, Information Infrastructure and Policy, and European Journal of Transport and Infrastructure Research.

In addition to the UvA University Library, books can be consulted in the university libraries in Leiden or Utrecht (via Interlibrary loan or by visiting the libraries), as well as in the library of the International Institute of Social History (Amsterdam) or the Royal Library (The Hague).

AI Policy

The use of generative artificial intelligence can be highly useful in research; however, it should always be clear that you are conducting the research and writing. Research done at MIT¹ into the use of ChatGPT for essay writing shows a clear cognitive decline when generative AI is used for writing tasks. At the same time, the user does not observe this cognitive decline. In other words, while you are at university to improve your cognitive functions, when you use generative AI to do the writing tasks for you, you are actually losing cognitive functions. Use generative AI tools to support your research, but do not let the tool do the research for you. Often, generative AI tools will get details wrong, and using them to do your writing for you will make you less smart. And of course, you are not learning how to write properly, which is something you will need to do for the rest of your career. Now is the time to learn it.

Writing Tips

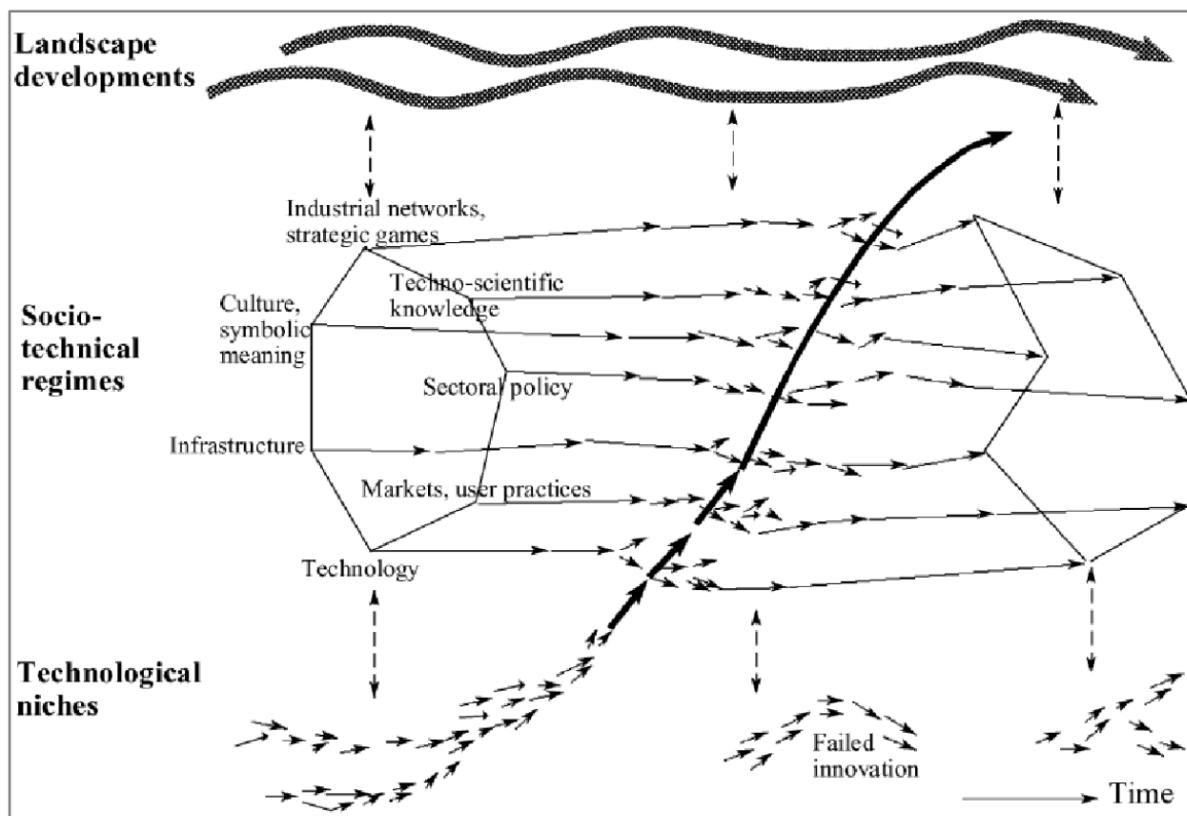
Writing is one of the main tools used in the academic and policy trades. However, writing is notoriously tricky. The good news is that it gets easier with practice, but it will always require effort. My supervisor once told me that a text can be easy on the reader or the writer. Luckily, you're not alone. The University of Amsterdam offers several online resources to [help you focus](#) and [manage procrastination](#). I also wholeheartedly recommend the [UvA Writing Center](#); they offer courses, support, tutorials, and crash courses on writing. Finally, make sure you write every day and make it a habit. Start with

¹ <https://www.brainonllm.com/>

250 words every day. This can be done through journaling, writing class summaries, or writing fiction. Once you get comfortable with writing, it will be much more fun and engaging, just like with any other craft or skill.

Last note

You made it to the end! That's excellent! Please wear a red garment to the first class so I know you did read this.



from: Geels, Frank W. 2002. "Technological Transitions as Evolutionary Reconfiguration Processes: A Multi-Level Perspective and a Case-Study." *Research Policy*, NELSON + WINTER + 20, 31 (8): 1257–74.
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0048-7333\(02\)00062-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0048-7333(02)00062-8).