

The IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology: A Small but Important Society

Washington/Northern Virginia Section

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Why SSIT?

- SSIT reminds us that engineers need to be aware of the social context and impact of their work because:
 - There is more to engineering than technical challenges
 - Technology is not neutral

SSIT Timeline

- 1971 Committee on Social Implications of Technology (CSIT)
- 1980 Petition drive to become society
- 1982 Society on Social Implications of Technology (Society 30)
- 1991 First International Symposium

- SSIT's field of interest is the impact of technology (as embodied by the fields of interest of IEEE) on society, including both positive and negative effects, the impact of society on the engineering profession, the history of the societal aspects of electrotechnology, and professional, social and economic responsibility in the practice of engineering and its related technology.

- SSIT implements its field of interest with:
 - Award-winning journal – Technology and Society
 - Annual conference
 - Chapter activities
 - Distinguished lecturers
 - Participation on IEEE and IEEE-USA committees
 - Barus Award

Sustainability

- Sustainability and development
- Product sustainability through the life cycle
- Sustainability and society

Education

- Curriculum
- Students
- International

Women and Technology

- History
- Users of technology
- Professional perspectives

Privacy

- Privacy as a concept
- Value of privacy
- Personal privacy
- Data privacy

Ethics

- Engineering ethics as a concept
- Individual ethics
- Education of ethical engineers

Peace, War and Weapons

- Technology and peace
- Nuclear war
- Cold war
- War on terror
- Nuclear weapons
- Robotic weapons
- Weapons design

Public Policy

- Energy
- Privacy
- Diversity
- Health and medical

Risk

- Risk assessment
- Risk management
- Precautionary principle

Awards

- Barus Award for Outstanding Service in the Public Interest
- Brian O'Connell Distinguished Service Award

Conclusion

SSIT continues to further the goals of the IEEE -- Fostering technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity

Contact

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