Statement by 4S Past Presidents to the 4S membership
October 4th, 2021

Dear colleagues,

As you may know, an unusually large number of leading 4S officers have resigned during the past six months (Wes Shrum, Meeting Planner; Steve Zehr, Secretary; Paige Miller, Treasurer; Katie Vann, Managing Editor ST&HV), and two Council members (Noortje Marres and Ana Viseu) have stepped down before their terms were up. While we do not have a comprehensive overview of all details, we are distressed by this sudden massive turnover in 4S’s leadership. This is not the place to review what happened, or whether these departures are even connected, but we hope that the personal and institutional damage that has been done will be quickly repaired by the Society’s current leadership.

We are sure that 4S can remain the vibrant and societally relevant scholarly society it has been since 1975 by learning from recent developments, taking into account changes in the wider environment, and adapting the Society’s governance structure and practices accordingly.

An active membership is the core of any resilient society. In the spirit of broad public engagement, which so many of us advocate in our scholarship, we encourage all members to attend the Business Meeting during this week’s 2021 Annual 4S Meeting. It will take place on Saturday, October 9 (please check your time zone).

To prepare for this Business Meeting, you can review a number of relevant documents on the Business Meeting website.

Past Presidents,

Wiebe Bijker
Gary Downey
Sheila Jasanoff
Karin Knorr-Cetina
Michael Lynch
Trevor Pinch
Sal Restivo
Arie Rip
Lucy Suchman
Judy Wajcman
Harriet Zuckerman