



# Girls' technological knowledge

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# Acknowledgement

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## Bringing girls and women into STEM?: Girls' technological activities and conceptions when participating in an all-girl technology camp

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# The study's - who, what, how and why

**Who** - nine 13-14-year-old girls at a tech camp

**What** – girls' technological knowledge

**How** - Using Science and Technology Studies (STS) to unpack interview data.

**Why?** To learn more about girls who like technology.



Photograph: Elin Sylwan

# STS – Science and Technology Studies

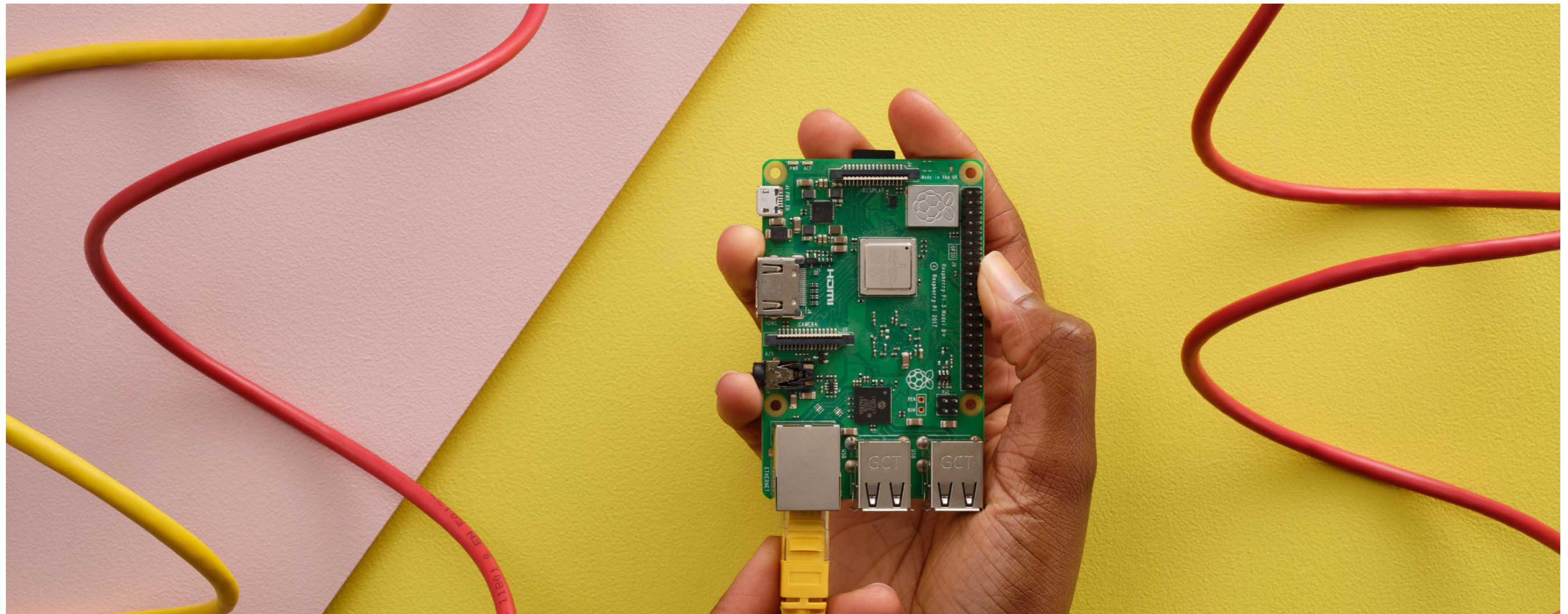
STS explores the links between science, technology, and society

STS looks into how social factors like cultural beliefs and political agendas shape technological knowledge

This STS analysis considers social construction, actor networks, and technological artifacts.



# Results



Photograph: Elin Sylwan



# Girls' expressing technological knowledge in forms of social construction

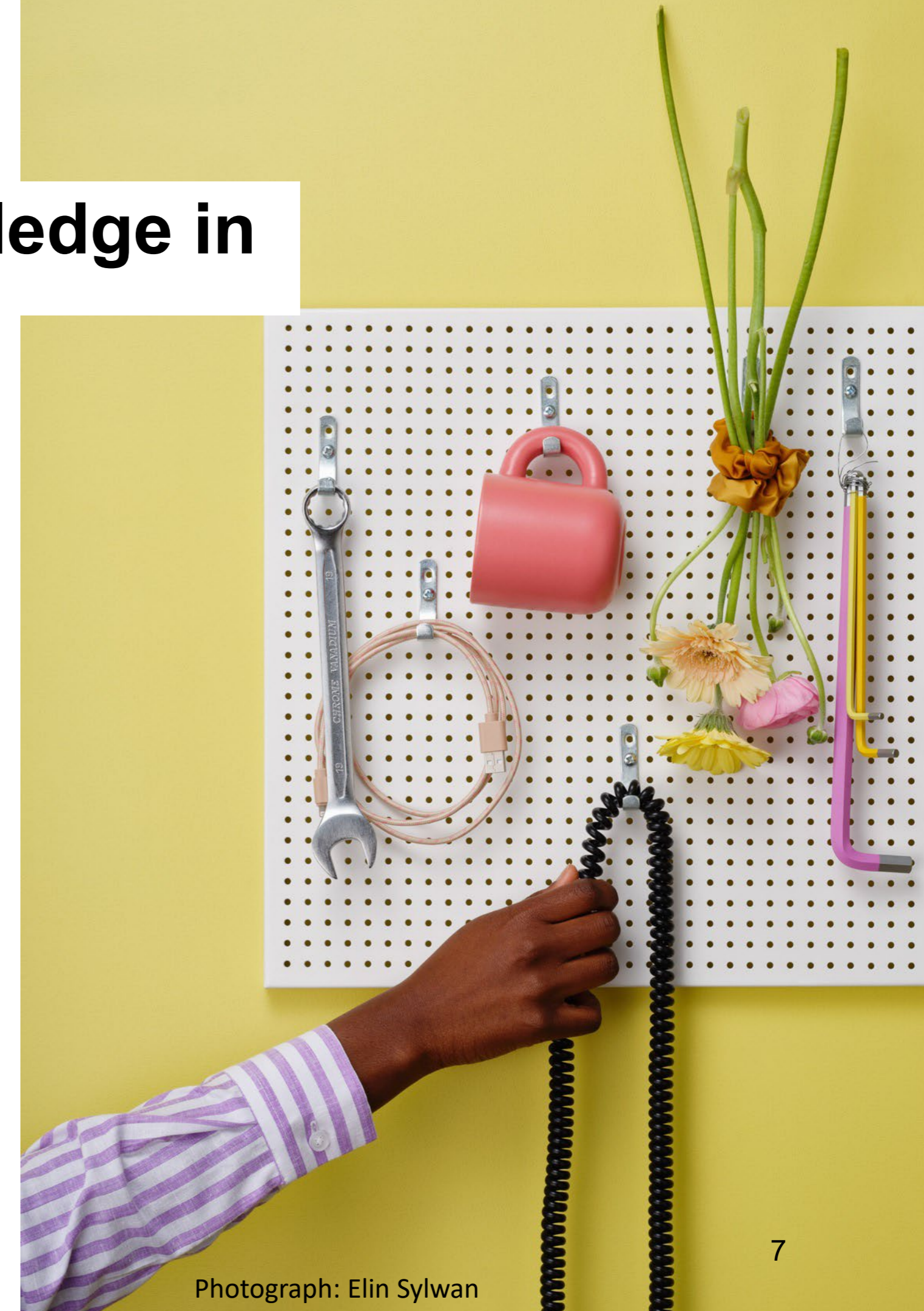
- They reflected societal norms linking technology to hands-on creativity, fostering an identity as makers.
- Camp activities that were "girlified," were not wanted and not needed.





# Girls' expressing technological knowledge in the forms of actor-network

- They showcase their knowledge to others
- Comparisons with peers affect how they see themselves.
- When encouraged by their peers at the camp, the girls exhibit a strong sense of technical identity and proudly identify themselves as technical.





# Girls' expressing technological knowledge about technological artefacts and systems

- They had before the camp prior interests.
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- Skilled with computers and troubleshooting and showed curiosity in soldering and mechanics.
- Their preference leaned towards hands-on learning, valuing practical knowledge with real-world applications.





# Results

- Girls' knowledges aligns with the societal norm of hands-on tech engagement, shaping their technical identity.
- The camp introduced "girlified" activities, but the girls expressed a desire to expand beyond these stereotypes.
- Girls don't need girlification to be interested in tech; it's a misconception.
- Others' perceptions influence girls' self-perception of tech knowledge.
- Recognition from others as being technical motivates involvement.



# Implications - Embracing Girls' Interest in Technology

Resonate with Girls' Perspectives  
Avoid Gender Stereotypes  
Recognise Their Tech Identity

Challenge "Girlification"  
- Girlification can hinder their genuine interest in technology.





**Thank you for listening.**

**Any questions or comments**



Picture: Towfiqu barbhuiya