



SPT Newsletter

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SPT 2005 Conference

Dear SPT members,

Our next SPT conference this summer in Delft is getting more and more its final shape. The full papers for the talks are now arriving in Delft and we are sending them to the commentators. We have already 125 participants registered and are busy with adjusting our plans to accommodate this stimulating large number of people. The port of Rotterdam is fortunately big enough so we definitely can visit it as part of the social program. The city hall of Delft is, however, an artefact of more modest dimensions; I hope we still can

offer it for our welcome reception. In the upcoming weeks a first description of the program will be available at <http://www.sptdelft2005.tbm.tudelft.nl/>. The schedule with the sessions with the contributed papers is at this point still changing because some authors had to cancel their papers, and some did not yet inform us whether they will give theirs. This requires some improvisation on our side. But the conference is getting shape and we hope to offer you an exciting event.

Pieter Vermaas

News from the APA Divisions

From the Eastern Division

Society for Philosophy and Technology Session for December 2005, American Philosophical Association meeting, New York City.
Date and time to be announced.

Topic:

Author Meets Critics. *Heidegger and Marcuse: The Catastrophe and*

Redemption of History (Routledge 2004), by Andrew Feenberg.

Speakers:

Daniel Dahlstrom, Boston University
Robert Scharff, University of New Hampshire
With a reply by Andrew Feenberg, Simon Fraser University

Chair: John Farnum, Portland Community College



From the Pacific Division

The SPT along with the American Philosophical Association's committee on Computers and Philosophy, held a special session at the Pacific Division APA meeting March 24, 2005 in San Francisco, California. The session was entitled, Computers and the Mediation of Human Experience. Andrew Feenberg (Simon Fraser University) presented his paper, "Online Community: It's Real and It's Happening" and John Sullins (Sonoma State University, CSU) presented a paper entitled, "Moving Beyond our Biology With Robotics Technology." Charles Ess was invited to speak but was unable to attend. The session was organized by Noam Cook (San Jose State University) and chaired by Professor Janet Stemwedel of SJSU.

Unfortunately the Pacific APA was marred by the fact that it was held in a hotel that was under strike. At the last minute, the Philosophy department at the University of San Francisco was able to organize a parallel conference site on the campus of USF, which allowed us to hold the session without crossing a picket line. The downside of this move from the official conference venue was that the date and time of the session changed and this caused a good deal of confusion resulting in some conference attendees missing

presentations they wanted to see. But, for those who were able to get to the right place at the right time the session was well run and both papers were well received with many questions for both authors.

Andrew Feenberg argued that online communities are best seen as real communities even given the fact that these communities share little physical resemblance to traditional communities. To prove this point he presented numerous examples of how these communities have achieved real world ends in politics and social activism.

John Sullins discussed how robotics technology, in the form of telerobotically operated machines is working to expand and conflate the problematic mind body distinction. He traced the sometimes explicitly stated values of those who build these technologies that emphasize the desire to transcend bodily limitations to the point of replacing one's own body with that of a robot's. This presentation was illustrated with many examples of professional and amateur robotics technology.

John Sullins
Sonoma State University
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Philosophy of Technology Around the World

In this edition of *Philosophy of Technology Around the World*, Arun Kumar Tripathi introduces the research and education at the Philosophy of Technology Department of the TU Dresden in Germany. Your submissions for this column about programs and developments in philosophy of technology in other countries remain welcome, of course. Please send them to Philip Brey, University of Twente, p.a.e.brey@utwente.nl

Research and Education at the Philosophy of Technology Department, TU Dresden, Germany

By Arun Kumar Tripathi

Today, more than ever before, there is an urgent need to understand the imperative of modernization and its attendant idiom of globalization. We require an understanding of science and technology on the basis of culture, wisdom, ecology and ethical values. The process of current globalization is emerging into a cultural, historical, and ecological phenomenon. At the same time, this change is adding an ethical dimension to the development of technology, which requires a deeper understanding of techniques, technology and science.

With this description of current trends in philosophy and technology, as a member of the philosophy of technology group in Dresden, I am happy to describe our research programs in cooperation with Prof. Dr. Irrgang. Since 1993, Dr. Bernhard

Irrgang has been teaching courses in philosophy of technology, medical ethics and ethical hermeneutics in the Institute for Philosophy at Dresden University of Technology (TU Dresden) Germany. The main topics of educational activities of the institute are: Philosophical questions and topics concerning technique and technology; Technology transfer; Technological development and early forms of technological cultures; Technoscience; Science, Technology and Society studies, especially focusing on genetic engineering, cultural theory of technology, Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence and Expert Systems; Technology Assessment; Philosophy and Biology; Hermeneutical Ethics; Technological and Ecological ethics; Medical Ethics; Intercultural environmental ethics; and History of Philosophy in the 17th, 18th, and 20th century.



The members of the Philosophy of Technology Department are Prof. Dr. Bernhard Irrgang (Head of the group), Dip. Inform. Arun Kumar Tripathi (Research Assistant), Katrin Feldhus (PhD student) and Sybille Winter (PhD student).

The institute is currently working in the following research fields, mostly in collaboration with national and international partners:

1) STS Research (Science-Technology-Society Studies), focusing on cultural theory

Intercultural technological culture; Technology transfer as a culture transfer; Technological development in developing countries; Engineering and Technical cultures; Technological and cultural Globalization; Technological and Engineering ethics; Technoscience; Philosophy of technology and applied ethics in south-east Asia. Cooperation Partners are: Prof. Dr. Norbert Rehrmann (Kulturwissenschaften, Spanien/Lateinamerika, TU Dresden); Prof. Dr. Nestor Corona (Catholics University, Buenos Aires, Argentina); Dr. Juan C. Lucena (Colorado School of Mines, Golden, USA); Prof. Carl Mitcham (Colorado School of Mines, Golden, USA); Prof. Don Ihde (SUNY at Stony Brook, NY, USA), Prof. Albert Borgmann, University of Montana, USA), Prof. B. Subramanian (IIT Madras, India).

2) Philosophy of Science and Technology (Methodology and Epistemology)

Phenomenology of technology; Hermeneutic of technology; Epistemology of technical sciences and engineering sciences; Metaphilosophy; Technoscience; Implicit and explicit knowledge; Mathematization of technology. Cooperation Partners are: Prof. Dr. Thomas Hänsleroth (Institute for History of Technology and Technical Sciences, TU Dresden); Prof. Carl Mitcham (Colorado School of Mines, Golden, USA); Prof. Don Ihde (SUNY at Stony Brook, NY, USA), Prof. B. Subramanian (IIT Madras, India).

3) Hermeneutics of Technology

In contrast to the epistemology of technical praxis and of the technical sciences, this hermeneutical research line elaborates the meaning of technology use, as it develops historically. It concerns the reconstruction of paths of technological development, the level of technology, and civilization.

4) Sustainable development on the global scale

Resource problems, Consumption, Waste products, Long term responsibility, Developing countries, Energy problems, Cultural aspects of forest resources utilization and land use management. Cooperation Partner: Prof. Dr. Jürgen Pretzsch (Department of Forest Science [Forstwissenschaft], TU Dresden).



5) Artificial human and artificial intelligence, Future of Identity in the Information Society

Expert systems, Human-machine interaction, Evolutionary Cognitive theory, Mind-Body Problem, Embodiment (Bodily existence; Corporeality), Embodied Mind, Information ethics, Cyber ethics, Technology assessment (TA). European Project: FIDIS, Network of Excellence: The Future of Identity in the Information Society: 2003/2004-2009; contact person: Prof. Kai Rannenber (University of Frankfurt). Cooperation Partners are: Prof. Dr. Andreas Pfitzmann (Department of Computer Science, TU Dresden); Prof. Don Ihde (SUNY at Stony Brook, NY, USA).

6) Phenomenological, hermeneutical practice oriented ethics

Hermeneutical ethics, esp. Technological ethics, bioethics, medical ethics and business ethics. Cooperation Partners: Prof. Dr. Thomas Rentsch (Institute for Philosophy, TU Dresden); Prof. Dr. Walther Zimmerli (President, VW-Auto University, Wolfsburg); Prof. Dr. Nestor Corona (Catholics University, Buenos Aires, Argentina).

7) Early forms of technological cultures, technical and technological civilizations, and technoscience

Old Indian philosophy of nature and technology with special emphasis on social anthropology, ethnology, archaeological history of technology and phenomenological and hermeneutical philosophy of technology. Specialization in the aspects of technological culture in old civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus, China, Central and South America.

For more information about our research, please contact Professor Bernhard Irrgang at the Department of Philosophy of Technology, Institute for Philosophy, Dresden University of Technology, Zellescher Weg 17, D-01062, Dresden, Germany.
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Homepage: <http://www.tu-dresden.de/phfiph/prof/techphil/irrgang.htm>



Recent publications of interest

**Teaching about Technology –
An Introduction to the Philosophy of
Technology for Non-Philosophers**
Marc J. de Vries

Series: Science & Technology
Education Library, Vol. 27
Dordrecht: Kluwer, 2005, IX, 172 p.,
Hardcover
ISBN: 1-4020-3409-1
[http://www.springeronline.com/sgw/cda/
frontpage/0,11855,3-40356-72-
45361918-0,00.html](http://www.springeronline.com/sgw/cda/frontpage/0,11855,3-40356-72-45361918-0,00.html)

Teaching about technology, at all levels of education, can only be done properly when those who teach have a clear idea about what it is that they teach. In other words: they should be able to give a decent answer to the question: what is technology? In the philosophy of technology that question is explored. Therefore the philosophy of technology is a discipline with a high relevance for those who teach about technology. Literature in this field, though, is not always easy to access for non-philosophers. This book provides an introduction to the philosophy of technology for such people. It offers a survey of the current state-of-affairs in the philosophy of technology, and also discusses the relevance of that for teaching about technology. The book can be used in introductory courses on the philosophy of technology in teacher education programs, engineering

education programs, and by individual educators that are interested in the intriguing phenomenon of technology that is so important in our contemporary society.

Written for: Teacher educators in science and technology education; instructors in STS (Science, Technology and Society) programs; instructors of courses in engineering education and design education; technology teachers and science teachers; philosophers of technology; educational researchers in science and technology education

**What Things Do –
Philosophical Reflections on
Technology, Agency, and Design**
Peter-Paul Verbeek

Penn State University Press, March
2005
6 x 9 | 264 pages | 3 illustrations
Philosophy / Science, Technology, and
Society
ISBN: 0-271-02539-5
[http://www.psupress.org/books/titles/0-
271-02539-5.html](http://www.psupress.org/books/titles/0-271-02539-5.html)

Our modern society is flooded with all sorts of devices: TV sets, automobiles, microwaves, mobile phones. How are all these things affecting us? How can their role in our lives be understood?



What Things Do answers these questions by focusing on how technologies mediate our actions and our perceptions of the world.

Peter-Paul Verbeek develops this innovative approach by first distinguishing it from the classical philosophy of technology formulated by Jaspers and Heidegger, who were concerned that technology would alienate us from ourselves and the world around us. Against this gloomy and overly abstract view, Verbeek draws on and extends the work of more recent philosophers of technology like Don Ihde, Bruno Latour, and Albert

Borgmann to present a much more empirically rich and nuanced picture of how material artifacts shape our existence and experiences. In the final part of the book Verbeek shows how his “postphenomenological” approach applies to the technological practice of industrial designers.

Its systematic and historical review of the philosophy of technology makes *What Things Do* suitable for use as an introductory text, while its innovative approach will make it appealing to readers in many fields, including philosophy, sociology, engineering, and industrial design.

Conferences and Workshops

ETHICAL CHALLENGES IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM – EIGHTH ANNUAL ETHICS AND TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE St. Louis, Missouri, June 24-25, 2005

The primary purpose of this conference is to foster interdisciplinary dialogue on the social, professional and ethical challenges accompanying the rapid development of technology and its application to modern life. This year's conference theme is “Ethics at Work: Technology Reshaping the Workplace.” The term “technology” is broadly applied in this conference. Topics include but are not limited to:

- Technology's influence on the workplace, the organization, and the individual.
- The emergence of new work, trends in the division of labor, and work-life conflicts.
- Workplace surveillance, the employer-employee relationship, and the influence of technology on leadership.
- Data mining its use and abuse.
- Medical information management and HIPPA (i.e., Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996).
- Legal issues surrounding technology.



- Technology as an aid or threat to privacy.
- Genetics, biotechnology, robotics, nanotechnology, artificial intelligence, new frontiers of technology and their impact on society in general and work in particular.

For conference details, see:
<http://ethicstech.net/>

CEPE 2005: ETHICS OF NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF *COMPUTER ETHICS: PHILOSOPHICAL ENQUIRY*, University of Twente, Enschede, The Netherlands, July 17-19, 2005

The CEPE conference series is recognized as one of the premier international events on computer and information ethics attended by delegates from all over the world. Conferences are held about every 24 months, alternating between Europe and the United States. CEPE 2005 is the sixth conference in the series.

Information technology is currently moving well beyond the familiar mainframe, PC and laptop computer paradigms. We are witnessing the mobile revolution, the ubiquitous computing revolution, as well as revolutionary new uses of IT in biomedicine, education, the fight against crime and terrorism,

entertainment and other areas. We are anticipating a nanotechnology revolution, as well as a convergence between information technology, biotechnology and nanotechnology. These new developments require ethical reflection, possibly even before their consequences become visible.

The special theme of CEPE2005 is ethics of new information technology. Topics include:

- Virtual and augmented reality and shared virtual environments
- Nanotechnology and nanocomputing
- Ubiquitous computing and ambient intelligence
- Converging technologies (the convergence of nanotechnology, biotechnology, information technology and cognitive science)
- New surveillance technologies and new technologies for security and privacy
- New uses of information technology in biomedicine and bioengineering
- New military applications of IT
- New uses of information technology in education
- New IT solutions to environmental problems
- New communication technologies and mobile computing devices
- New developments in artificial intelligence, artificial agents, embedded systems and artificial life
- Models for the ethical assessment of new and future information technologies



CEPE 2005 will take place in conjunction with the 14th Biennial International Conference of the Society for Philosophy and Technology (SPT), which will be held from July 20-22 at Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands. Further information can be found on the conference website: <http://cepe2005.utwente.nl>

**DIFFUSION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY THROUGHOUT HISTORY –
XXIInd INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HISTORY OF SCIENCE, GLOBALIZATION AND DIVERSITY
24-30 July 2005, Beijing, China**

The general theme of the conference is “Globalization and Diversity”. Discussions will focus on the diffusion of science and technology between different cultures in the past, and its impact on the world today, as well as its prospects for the future advance of human civilization. Scientific sections and symposia on other topics will also have their place.

The following plenary lectures will be held:

- S. M. Razaullah Ansari (India): Transmission of Islamic Exact Science to India and its Neighbours and Repercussions Thereof
- Christopher Cullen (UK): Shifting Tectonic Plates in the History of Science: Some Reflections on the Work of Joseph Needham

- Peter Galison (USA): Einstein and Poincaré: A Trace of Ink that Tore Space and Time
- Khalid Salim Ismael (Iraq): The Development of Number System in Mathematics in Ancient Iraq
- Evelyn Fox Keller (USA): Does the Globalization of Scientific Lexicons Have its Costs?
- Eberhard Knobloch (Germany, IPC, IAHS): Mathesis Perennis – Mathematics in Ancient, Renaissance, and Modern Times
- Xiaochun Sun (China): Moral and Political Significances of Nature in Ancient China
- Chen Ning Yang (USA/China, Nobel laureate): Modern Physics since Albert Einstein (Provisional)

More information:

<http://2005bj.ihns.ac.cn/index.htm>

**NA-CAP 2005 CONFERENCE
4-6 August, 2005, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR USA**

Each year, thinkers and creators gather to investigate the ways that information technology is transforming our world. Philosophers, engineers, historians, computer scientists, cognitive scientists, and IT professionals across the spectrum meet for three days of discussion and exploration. Their topics include:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Computing Ethics
- Information Technology in Education



- Electronic Publication
- Philosophy of Information
- Artificial Morality
- Robotics
- Social Responsibility

The attendance is international, the milieu is collegial, the interaction is dynamic.

Jon Dorbolo, 4140 Valley Library,
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<http://osu.orst.edu/groups/cap/>

**PHILOSOPHICAL PERSPECTIVES
ON SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING
Thursday 25 August - Saturday 27
August, 2005, Vrije Universiteit,
Amsterdam, The Netherlands**

This conference centers around the theme of 'scientific understanding'. The notion of scientific understanding is closely related to that of scientific explanation, but while explanation is widely discussed in philosophy of science, not much work has focused explicitly on understanding. One reason is that traditional philosophers of science have long regarded it as 'merely' a psychological notion, and thereby as philosophically irrelevant. This attitude, however, is slowly disappearing, and interest in the topic of understanding is growing. With this conference we hope to stimulate the development of philosophical research into scientific understanding.

The conference is intended for philosophers of science working on the topic of scientific understanding itself, or on related topics such as explanation, modeling, representation, etc.; and for historians and sociologists of science, cognitive scientists, and others having an interest in philosophical questions regarding scientific understanding. We aim at a varied program, in which philosophical questions about the nature of scientific understanding will be approached in different ways. In addition to contributions of a general philosophical nature, we hope to be able to present studies focused on a wide range of sciences, both natural and social. Although the conference has a philosophical orientation, contributions by historians and sociologists of science, cognitive scientists, and others, are welcome, as long as they are relevant to the general philosophical theme. Possible topics are:

- The relation between explanation and understanding in science
- Understanding and types of scientific explanation (causal, mechanistic, functional, unifying, etc.).
- Is understanding epistemic, pragmatic, or both?
- Models, analogies, and intelligibility
- Cognitive science and scientific understanding
- Is understanding individual or social?
- Understanding in the various sciences: similarities and differences



- Case studies from the practice and history of science

invited speakers

Hasok Chang (University College London)

Peter Lipton (University of Cambridge)

Margaret Morrison (University of Toronto)

organization

Henk W. de Regt, Sabina Leonelli, and Kai Eigner (Faculty of Philosophy, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

Contact: understanding@ph.vu.nl

Website:

<http://www.ph.vu.nl/~understanding>

CHEMISTRY, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY: 5TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY

Work Group (WP) on History of Chemistry of the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences, Estoril & Lisbon, Portugal, 6 – 10 September 2005

aim of the conference

The previous conference organized by the Working Party (WP) on History of Chemistry of the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS) – formerly Federation of European Chemical Societies (FECS) – was held in Budapest in September 2003 on “Communication in chemistry in Europe, across borders and across

generations”. A major aim of these conferences organized by the WP is to facilitate communication between historically interested chemists and historians of chemistry from all over Europe.

Under the large umbrella of the theme “Chemistry, Technology and Society”, the present conference will mainly focus on three topics, which all have attracted public and scholarly attention in recent years. By discussing the cultural and material influences on chemistry, as well as the practical and cultural impacts of this discipline, the conference aims at improving our understanding of the place of chemistry in its technological and social environments. Some special sessions will also be devoted to the development of Portuguese chemistry.

Main topics of the conference are:

- The material culture of chemistry: laboratory practices and instruments
- Applied chemistry: the chemical industry, military technologies, technological processes, agricultural and food chemistry, and the environment
- The popularization of chemistry: practices, spaces, audiences
- Portuguese chemistry

More information: <http://5ichc-portugal.ulusofona.pt>



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE PUBLIC - 7th CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (ESA): RETHINKING INEQUALITIES RESEARCH NETWORK SOCIOLOGY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SSTNET)

September 9-12, 2005, Torun, Poland

The 7th Conference of the European Sociological Association (ESA) will be hosted by the Institute of Sociology of the Nicholas Copernicus University at Torun. The ESA Research Network for the Sociology of the Arts will meet for the seventh time at this conference.

Changes in society and in science and technology have led to an erosion of traditional institutional boundaries between these spheres. Nowotny, Scott and Gibbons use the term Agora to describe an emerging new public space "where science and society, the market and politics co-mingle." The Agora denotes a space in which knowledge is contextualized. What is emphasized here for scientific knowledge is not completely different with technical knowledge. Boundaries of science and technology are transgressed by politics, economics and the civil society.

This phenomenon is not completely new. But more than in the past science and technology are evaluated by utilitarian standards and expected to produce novelty and innovation. At the same time, however, the social impact of these innovations is critically assessed. Frequently the evaluation

process includes the public communication of the products and results science and technology deliver – their potential risks as well as their benefits. Among these issues are those concerning a redefinition of certainty and uncertainty, the known and the unknown, as well as questions of societal inequality and equality. If (scientific) knowledge is a building block of contemporary (knowledge) societies how can public access and participation in the process of knowledge generation and diffusion be facilitated? Do new technologies such as the Internet mitigate societal divides or do they create new ones

Generally, the public plays a more decisive role with respect to issues of accountability, responsibility and legitimacy or transparency and democratic control in the process of development of science and technology. Public communication and understanding of science and technology also encompasses visions, values and ethics conveyed in funding programs, in academic journals and by news journalists.

SSTNET website: <http://sstnet.iscte.pt/>

ESA conference website:

<http://www.7thesaconference.umk.pl/>



ETHICOMP 2005
Linköping, Sweden, Monday 12
September 2005 to Thursday 15
September 2005

Information and communication technologies have advanced dramatically since the first ETHICOMP conference. It has been an era of constant change. From the paperless office and the information superhighway to nanotechnology and virtual learning environments ICT continues to impact upon society, organizations and individuals. Much can be learnt from this technological journey about the opportunities as well as the significant social and ethical risks that can arise. But we need to look back to the future and provide insight into how we can harness the huge potential of future ICT advances whilst avoiding the social and ethical risks.

ETHICOMP 2005 has the overall theme of "Looking back to the future". The aim of the conference is to present and discuss the social and ethical impact of advances in information and communication technologies (ICT) on society, organizations and individuals. What lessons can we learn from past successes and failures to help us cope with the future?

For conference details, see:
<http://www.ccsr.cse.dmu.ac.uk/conferences/ethicomp/ethicomp2005>

**REFRESH! – FIRST
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
THE HISTORIES OF MEDIA ART,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY –
Banff New Media Institute, Canada
September 28 - October 2, 2005**

Recognizing the increasing significance of media art for our culture, this Conference on the Histories of Media Art will discuss for the first time the history of media art within the interdisciplinary and intercultural contexts of the histories of art. Leonardo/ISAST, the Database for Virtual Art, Banff New Media Institute, and UNESCO DigiArts are collaborating to produce the first international art history conference covering art and new media, art and technology, art-science interaction, and the history of media as pertinent to contemporary art.

After photography, film, video, and the little known media art history of the 1960s-80s, today media artists are active in a wide range of digital areas (including interactive, genetic, and telematic art). Even in robotics and nanotechnology, artists design and conduct experiments. This dynamic process has triggered intense discussion about images in the disciplines of art history, media studies, and neighboring cultural disciplines. The Media Art History Project offers a basis for attempting an evolutionary history of the audiovisual media, from the *laterna magica* to the panorama, phantasmagoria, film, and the virtual



art of recent decades. It is an evolution with breaks and detours; however, all its stages are distinguished by a close relationship between art, science, and technology.

Refresh! will discuss questions of historiography, methodology and the role of institutions of media art. The Conference will contain key debates about the function of inventions, artistic practice in collaborative networks, the prominent role of sound during the last decades and will emphasize the importance of intercultural and pop culture themes in the Histories of Media Art. Readings of new media art histories vary richly depending on cultural contexts. This event calls upon scholarship from a strongly international perspective.

Therefore Refresh! will represent and address the wide array of disciplines involved in the emerging field of Media Art. Beside Art History these include the Histories of Sciences and Technologies, Film-, Sound-, Media-, Visual and Theatre Studies, Architecture, Visual Psychology, just to name a few.

Although the popularity of media art exhibited at exhibitions and art festivals is growing among the public and increasingly influences theory debates, with few exceptions museums and galleries have neglected to systematically collect this present-day art, to preserve it and to demand appropriate conservatory measures.

Thus, several decades of international media art is in danger of being lost to the history of collecting and to academic disciplines such as art history. This gap will have far-reaching consequences; therefore, the conference will also discuss the documentation, collection, archiving and preservation of media art. What kind of international networks must be created to advance appropriate policies for collection and conservation? What kind of new technologies do we need to optimize research efforts and information exchange?

Held at The Banff Centre, featuring lectures by invited speakers as well as others selected by a jury from a call for papers, the main event will be followed by a two-day summit meeting (October 1-2, 2005) for in-depth dialogues and international project initiation.

More information: Oliver GRAU,
Director Immersive Art & Database of
Virtual Art, Humboldt University Berlin:
<http://virtualart.hu-berlin.de>



**A DIALOGUE ON TECHNOLOGY
AND HUMAN LIFE: FINDING
MEANING AND CULTIVATING
HUMANITY IN A 21ST CENTURY
TECHNOLOGICAL WORLD -
HUMANITIES AND TECHNOLOGY
ASSOCIATION 2005 ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

October 6 to 8, 2005

Salt Lake City, Utah

The 2005 HTA Conference is designed to encourage and cultivate continuing inquiry and dialogue on the relationship between technology and humanity. We expect substantial attendance for a challenging and interesting program including leaders in their respective fields. The Conference will provide opportunities in three formats: (1) traditional Panel Papers no longer than 15 pages, (2) small theme-based Discussion Group Papers no longer than 5-8 pages that will encourage greater person-to-person dialogue in small groups of 8-10 participants, and (3) Student Papers no longer than 10-12 pages. In some cases, panel papers can serve as the central Discussion Group theme.

Topic areas and proposed focus tracks:

The Human Experience of Technology:

- The human dimensions of artificial intelligence and robotics
- Human and computer interaction
- The relevance and meaning of quantum physical concepts and phenomena

- Digital identity and the information society
- Biomedical advances and what it means to be "human".
- Neuroscience, psychopharmacology and the notion of "self".
- Technology's impact on art, music, and drama

The Human Understanding of Technology:

- How contemporary science and technology alter our understanding of ourselves, our origin, and destiny as a species
- Consideration of the notion of "progress"
- How new technologies are presented in literature and the arts
- The translation and communication of scientific and technological innovations
- The future of spirituality

The Social and Cultural Impacts of Technology:

- The cultural consequences of new and developing technologies
- The link between science and technology
- Gender, equality, and technology
- Globalization and the role of technology
- Science and technology as social and cultural force
- The changing role of the arts and humanities in a technological society
- The nature of a "good education" in the 21st century
- Transgenic art



- The role of technology in creating and sustaining global justice and equality.

More information:

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Ms. Katrina Williams, 801-863-6343, kxwilliams@gmail.com

**TECHNISIERUNG/ÄSTHETISIERUNG
– TECHNOLOGICAL AND
AESTHETIC (TRANS)FORMATIONS
OF SOCIETY**
Darmstadt Technical University,
October 12 to 14, 2005

For the past nine years, the interdisciplinary graduate college "Technisierung und Gesellschaft" considered the technological (trans)formation of society. As the last cohort of doctoral students concludes its studies, the final conference widens the perspective and brings past researches to bear on the interplay of technological and aesthetic dimensions of formative processes in contemporary societies.

By foregrounding processes, the international conference goes beyond the iconic turn in science and technology studies. Rather than focus on images, it will explore the work that goes into producing self and society in the image of technology. This work involves constructions of time and space, it negotiates forces of

globalization and localization, it construes self and nature as subject and object of technological shaping. This work also produces tensions between and among aesthetic and technological ideals.

There will be panels on:

- Aesthetic Anticipation
- Art, Technosciences, and Social Criticism
- Metaphors in Science and Technology
- The Aesthetic Dimensions of Warfare
- Urban Spaces and Private Quarters

Other topics include:

- Perception and Technologies of Visualization
- The Justification of the Self as Post-Human Artwork
- Designing Life-Cycles of People and Products
- Modeling between Artefacts and practical Usage
- Vestiges of Nature
- Visions and Visionaries from Science Fiction to Science Fact
- Figurative and the Literal Aspects of Technical Discourses
- Bordercrossings: Technology and the Arts

The conference will be held in English.

More information: www.ifs.tu-darmstadt.de/fileadmin/gradkoll/Konferenzen/abschluss/main.html



**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND
ENGINEERING SCIENCE:
EPISTEMOLOGICAL PARADIGMS
AND NEW TRENDS
COPENHAGEN CONFERENCE ON
THE PHILOSOPHY OF
TECHNOLOGY - Carlsberg
Academy, Copenhagen, Oct. 13 to
15**

Today there is a deep and growing interest in understanding technology and its role in society. We witness a huge number of philosophical studies of technology. These studies cover a wide class of issues such as the connection (and difference) between science and technology; the differences between the idea of scientific progress and the idea of technological progress, and so forth. The emphasis of this conference is on knowledge, viewed from the perspectives of technology, engineering science and science.

For a long time the paradigm for knowledge was found in the natural sciences. Technology was perceived as 'applied science'. Indeed technology has been characterized by a tendency only to look forward, thus emphasizing its perceived scientific basis. Today this view has changed. Engineers have played a prominent role in the formation of modern society. Now philosophers have begun to appreciate

the importance of technology as praxis in the formation of new knowledge. The increased interest has led to philosophical analysis of the epistemological basis of engineering knowledge and development. The direct connection between engineering/technology and science has been questioned. At the same time there is no doubt about the interdependence between science and technology.

The purpose of this meeting is to identify the interrelationship between scientific knowledge and technological knowledge, locate paradigms and trace some of the new trends in these philosophical studies.

Invited speakers

Don Ihde,
Louis Bucchiarelli
Mary Tiles
Sunny Y. Auyang
Evan Selinger
Andrew Pickering
Peter Galison

Contact and further information:

<http://www.wittgenstein-network.dk/phitech/>

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Membership and Dues

SPT Membership

SPT welcomes as members persons from all countries whose professional interests include philosophically significant considerations of technology. Membership is open to those who have an advanced degree (typically but not necessarily in philosophy), to those who are in a technological field, and to students whose work is in keeping with the interests of the Society. Dues are \$20US per year, which includes a subscription to the SPT Newsletter (dues for students are \$15US, and gratis for people in developing nations).

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