



Society for Philosophy and Technology

SPT Newsletter
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From the Board

Editorship of *Techne*
Call for candidates

The present editor of *Techné*, Davis Baird, will retire from his office in the near future. Candidates for this office are kindly requested to send in their applications (consisting of a letter of motivation and their resume) to the secretary of the SPT, John Sullins (preferably by email: john.sullins@sonoma.edu) before the first of April 2007. A committee consisting of Davis Baird, Sven Ove Hansson, John Sullins and undersigned will draw up an advice for the board of the SPT that will take a decision before or during the next SPT meeting.

Peter Kroes, president of the SPT

SPT Election Results

We have successfully completed the elections for the society's next president as well as one new board member. We received 20 ballots total by the election deadline of November 30th and I would like to thank everyone that took the time to vote.

The results are:

President Elect, Diane Michelfelder- 17 for
Board Member, Seven Ove Hansson- 19 for

Congratulations to our new officers and we look forward to their inspired leadership.

Peter Kroes and John Sullins

Call for Contributions

Humanities and Technology Review (HTR)

Manuscript Submissions

HTR is an annual publication of the Humanities and Technology Association. HTR offers a publication outlet for interdisciplinary articles on a broad range of themes addressing the interface between the humanities and technology. There are no page costs for accepted manuscripts. HTR is a refereed journal, and all decisions will be made by the assessing editors, the editorial advisory board and the chief editors. Commentaries and responses to individual articles and reviews are welcome.

Manuscript Submission Guidelines

All manuscripts should be submitted in triplicate and should follow the style and preparation presented in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (fourth or subsequent edition). Particular attention should be paid to the citing of references, both in the text and on the reference page. Footnotes should be kept to a minimum. An abstract will be required for all accepted papers. With the exception of papers that have been

presented at the Humanities and Technology Association (HTA) Conference, papers should be prepared for blind review, omitting identifying information. Manuscript submissions and inquiries should be addressed to:

Frederick B. Mills, Editor

Humanities and Technology Review

Department of History and Government

Bowie State University

14000 Jericho Park Road

Bowie, MD 20715

Book Review Submission

Authors wishing to submit book reviews are urged to write with the above interdisciplinary framework in mind.

Reviews should include the name of the work reviewed, author of work reviewed, place of publication, publisher, date of latest publication, number of pages, and cost.

Submission deadline for the Autumn 2007 edition is March 30, 2007.

Humanities and Technology Review

<http://www.humanitiesandtechnology.org>

Calls for Papers

ECAP'07: European Computing and Philosophy Conference

June 21-23, 2007, University of Twente, Enschede, The Netherlands,

Fifth European Conference on Computing and Philosophy (ECAP), to be held on the campus of the University of Twente, Enschede, The Netherlands. E-CAP is the European conference on Computing and Philosophy, the European affiliate of the International Association for Computing and Philosophy (IACAP, president: Luciano Floridi). The conference will deal with all aspects of the "computational turn" that is occurring through the interaction of the disciplines of philosophy and computing. The conference is interdisciplinary: we invite papers from philosophy, computer science, social science and related disciplines. Keynote speakers are Jeroen van den Hoven (Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands), Giovanni Boniolo (University of Padua, Italy), and Mark Bedau (Reed College, USA and ProtoLife and the European Center for Living Technology, Italy). Program Chair: Philip Brey. Local organisation: Katinka Waelbers, ECAP07@gw.utwente.nl

The plenary panel will be on 'The Future of Artificial Intelligence. E-CAP 2007 will have eleven tracks, each with one or more track chairs:

1. Philosophy of Computer Science. Chairs: Amnon Eden, Raymond Turner
2. Computer-based Learning and Teaching Strategies and Resources & The Impact of Distance Learning on the Teaching of Philosophy and Computing. Chairs: Gordana Dodig-Crnkovic, Jules Pieters
3. Biological Information, Artificial Life, Biocomputation. Chair: Colin Allen, Pedro Marijuan
4. Philosophy of Information and Information Technology. Chair: Patrick Allo
5. Ontology. Chair: Lars-Göran Johansson
6. Computational and Post-Computational Approaches to the Mind. Chair: Susan Stuart

7. Information and Computing Ethics. Chair: Alison Adam
8. Intersections. Chair: Chris Dobbyn (UK)
9. IT and Globalization. Chairs: May Thorseth, Johnny Søraker
10. IT, Cultural Diversity and Technoscience Studies. Chairs: Christina Björkman and Jutta Weber
11. Philosophy and Ethics of Robotics. Chair: Gianmarco Veruggio

Authors should submit an electronic version of an extended abstract (total word count approximately 1000 words). The extended abstract submission deadline is Monday 29th January 2007. Please indicate a first choice and a second choice for the track in which you want to fit your abstract (number + name of track). Please submit to: ECAP07@gw.utwente.nl. PhD and master students are especially encouraged to submit. Student speakers will not have to pay a conference fee. More information: www.utwente.nl/ecap07

Minds, Bodies, Machines Conference

London, 6-7 July 2007

This interdisciplinary conference, convened by Birkbeck's Centre for Nineteenth-Century Studies, University of London, in partnership with the Department of English, University of Melbourne, and software developers Constraint Technologies International (CTI), will take place on 6-7 July 2007 at Birkbeck College, Malet Street, Bloomsbury.

The two-day conference will explore the relationship between minds, bodies and machines in the long nineteenth century. Recent research on the Enlightenment's frontier technologies has established that era's preoccupation with developing machinery that could simulate the cognitive and physiological processes of human beings. According to some critics, however, these Promethean ambitions were shelved during the nineteenth century, when the android as artefact was relocated to the realm of the imagination, where it became a threatening figure. According to this reading, the android as scientific project and a figure of possibility only re-emerges in our own era. The aim of this conference is to test this claim by exploring the continuities and discontinuities in the imagining of the human/machine interface in the nineteenth and twenty-first centuries.

The conference organisers – Hilary Fraser (Birkbeck), Deirdre Coleman (Melbourne) and Paul Hyland (CTI) – invite proposals for papers that examine the intersection of minds, bodies and machines during the long nineteenth century. Topics include: the virtual and the real; technologies of the sublime; evolution and machines; techniques of communication; technologies of travel; medical technology; miniaturisation; self-reproduction; and spiritualism.

The conference programme will include plenary addresses, seminars and workshops. Confirmed speakers include: Dr Caroline Arscott, Professor Jay Clayton, Professor Steven Connor, Professor Iain McCalman, Professor Peter Otto, Professor Kevin Warwick and Dr Elizabeth Wilson. A selection of papers arising from this conference will be published in the online journal 19: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Long Nineteenth Century.

Abstracts for papers of 20 minutes, as well as details of expected audio-visual needs, should be submitted no later than 28 FEBRUARY 2007. Please send proposals by email to submissions@mindsbodiesmachines.org.

The Future of Identity in the Information Society

Third International Summer School, organized by IFIP WG 9.2, 9.6/11.7, 11.6, in cooperation with FIDIS Network of Excellence
Karlstad University, Sweden, 6th – 10th August 2007

The increasing diversity of Information Communication Technologies and their equally diverse range of uses in personal, professional and official capacities raise challenging questions of identity in a variety of contexts. Each communication exchange contains an identifier which may, or may not, be intended by the parties involved. What constitutes an identity, how do new technologies affect identity, how do we manage identities in a globally networked information society?

The theme of this Summer School will be on Identity Management in relation to current and future technologies in a variety of contexts. IFIP takes a holistic approach to technology. FIDIS supports interdisciplinary exchange. So participants' contributions combining technical, social, ethical or legal perspectives are welcome. Topics of interest include: identity management, security, profiling and customer relation management, advanced identity documents, ID related crime, RFID, tracking technologies, biometrics, privacy, anonymity and pseudonymity, surveillance, data retention, knowledge management, impact on social exclusion/digital divide/cultural issues.

All sessions will start with an introduction by an invited speaker, followed by parallel workshops in the morning and afternoon. The workshops will consist of short presentations based on the contributions that have been submitted by the participants, followed by active discussion. The aim of the Summer School is to encourage a stimulating discourse between all participants – be they new researchers or experienced academics. Contributions will be selected based on an extended abstract review by the Summer School Programme Committee. Accepted papers will apply an interdisciplinary view or support it and will be published on the Summer School web site before the event. Selected papers will be published in proceedings after the Summer School.

Dates and guidelines for submission

The final paper should be maximum 10 pages, and formatted to the Springer style
<http://www.springer.de/comp/lncs/authors.html>.

Submission address for extended abstracts (2-4 pages): IFIPsummerschool@kau.se

Submission Deadline: 15. March 2007

Notification of Acceptance: 30. April 2007

Final paper (up to 10 pages): 30. May 2007

**Conferences,
Workshops,
and Lectures**

CEPE 2007

Seventh International Computer Ethics Conference

July 12-14 2007, University of San Diego, USA

The 2007 Computer Ethics: Philosophical Enquiry (*CEPE*) conference is the seventh in a series of international conferences that date back to 1997. The 2007 conference will be held over three days on the University of San Diego campus in beautiful southern California. The theme for the 2007 event is not limited and thus open to all aspects of computer and information technology ethics. More information: <http://cepe2007.sandiego.edu>

re:place 2007 - The Second International Conference on the Histories of Media, Art, Science and Technology

Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, 15-18 November 2007

re:place 2007, the Second International Conference on the Histories of Media, Art, Science and Technology, will take place in Berlin from 15 - 18 November 2007 as a project of Kulturprojekte Berlin GmbH in cooperation with Haus der Kulturen der Welt. This conference is a sequel to 'Refresh!', the first in this series, chaired by Oliver Grau and produced by the Database of Virtual Art, Leonardo, and Banff New Media Institute, and held at the Banff Center in Canada in September 2005, which brought together several hundred artists, scientists, researchers, curators and theoreticians of different disciplines.

re:place 2007 will be an international forum for the presentation and the discussion of exemplary approaches to the rapport between art, media, science and technology. With the title, 're:place', we propose a thematic focus on locatedness and the migration of knowledge and knowledge production in the interdisciplinary contexts of art, historiography, science and technology.

The re:place 2007 conference will be devoted to examining the manifold connections between art, science and technology, connections which have come into view more sharply through the growing attention to media art and its histories over the past years. It will address historical contexts and artistic explorations of new technologies as well as the historical and contemporary research into the mutual influences between artistic work, scientific research and technological developments. This research concerns such diverse fields as cybernetics, artificial intelligence, robotics, nano-technology, and bio-technology, as well as investigations in the humanities including art history, visual culture, musicology, comparative literature, media archaeology, media theory, science studies, and sociology.

The conference programme will include competitively selected, peer-reviewed individual papers, panel presentations, poster sessions, as well as a small number of invited speakers. Several Keynote Lectures, by internationally renowned, outstanding theoreticians and artists, will deliberate on the central themes of the conference. The conference will also include dedicated forum sessions for participants to engage in more open-ended discussion and debate on relevant issues and questions.

A dedicated website and online paper submission system is now ready for submissions. Abstracts of proposals, panel presentations and posters will have to be submitted in either Text, RTF, Word or PDF formats. (At this stage, only an abstract is required; the reviews will be done by March 07, full papers are due in the late summer.)

Please, access the online submission form at: <http://www.mediaarthistory.org/>
The DEADLINE for submissions is 15 January 2007.

MEPHISTOS conference

April 6-8, University of California, Los Angeles

Mephistos is an international, interdisciplinary conference devoted to the history, philosophy, sociology and anthropology of science, technology, and medicine, organized by and for graduate students. The graduate community of the University of California, Los Angeles, which will host the twenty-fifth annual MEPHISTOS conference April 6–8, 2007, invite graduate students of all levels, working in any field of science studies, to apply. For details, see <http://mephistos.bol.ucla.edu/>

Recent publications of interest

Democratizing Technology: Andrew Feenberg's Critical Theory of Technology

Edited by Tyler Veak

Largely because of the Internet and the new economy, technology has become the buzzword of our culture. But what is it, and how does it affect our lives? More importantly, can we control and shape it, or does it control us? In short, can we make technology more democratic? Using the work of Andrew Feenberg, one of the most important and original figures in the field of philosophy of technology, as a foundation, the contributors to this volume explore these important questions and Feenberg responds.

In the 1990s, Feenberg authored three books that established him as one of the leading scholars in a rapidly developing field, and he is one of the few to delineate a theory for democratizing technological design. He has demonstrated the shortcomings of traditional theories of technology and argued for what he calls "democratic rationalization" where actors intervene in the technological design process to shape it toward their own ends. In this book, the contributors analyze foundational issues in Feenberg's work, including questions of human nature, biotechnology, gender, and his readings of Heidegger, and they also examine practical issues, including democratizing technology, moral evaluation, and environmentalism.

"The subject of this volume is very important. Feenberg's work deserves attention, as does the question about democratization of technology. The contributors not only reveal hidden dimensions in Feenberg's work, but also make interesting contributions to broader discussions in philosophy of technology and critical theory. I particularly liked the response by Feenberg." — David M. Kaplan, editor of *Readings in the Philosophy of Technology*

Contributors include Albert Borgmann, Simon Cooper, Gerald Doppelt, Andrew Feenberg, Trish Glazebrook, Larry A. Hickman, Andrew Light, David J. Stump, Paul B. Thompson, Iain Thomson, Tyler J. Veak, and Edward J. Woodhouse.

Tyler J. Veak is an Instruction Librarian at Liberty University. He received his Ph.D. in Science and Technology Studies at Virginia Tech.

SUNY Press, October 2006

\$83.50 Hardcover - 229 pages, ISBN10: 0-7914-6917-4, ISBN13: 978-0-7914-6917-0

\$27.95 Paperback - 229 pages, ISBN10: 0-7914-6918-2, ISBN13: 978-0-7914-6918-7

Posthumanes Menschsein? Künstliche Intelligenz, Cyberspace, Roboter, Cyborgs und Designer-Menschen – Anthropologie des künstlichen Menschen im 21. Jahrhundert

By Bernhard Irrgang

As an exception to the rule that only English-language books are mentioned in the section 'Recent publications of interest' – for evident reasons – we like to mention here the book 'Posthumanes Menschsein', by Bernhard Irrgang, professor of Philosophy of Technology at the Technological University of Dresden. *Posthumanes Menschsein* is a thorough anthropological investigation of posthumanism. The book discusses virtually all technological developments which take us 'beyond humanity', like technological simulations of experience, expert systems, artificial intelligence, robots, implants and prostheses, designer-babies and cyborgs. In a highly sophisticated way, Irrgang analyses these developments in terms of the Cartesian body-mind dualism, the philosophy of corporality, action theory, and the philosophical-anthropological tradition. The book meticulously investigates the boundaries between the human and the technological, and between the human and the posthuman. For this, he draws from a variety of philosophical traditions, both continental and analytical, and also connects to the literary tradition. Irrgang moves away from science-fiction-style utopias of a world inhabited by transhuman beings, and elaborates the thesis that rather than trying to *replace* humanity, we should try to *cooperate* with the posthuman entities we are to create.

Albert Borgmann (University of Montana) wrote about the book: "Recent developments in scientific research and technology have confused and worried us. Prof. Irrgang contributed importantly to clarifying the situation. With thorough circumspection and common sense he separated what makes sense from what is nonsense, helping both experts and laypeople to get a clear view of the situation.

Translated table of contents:

0. Introduction: A new naturalness of the human being?
1. Artificial Humans – literary and philosophical thought-experiments
2. The Cartesian mind-body dualism, mechanist anthropology, the strong AI thesis, and the conception of implicit knowledge
3. Anthropology of corporality and human praxis
4. Technical simulation of experience, exchange of information, multimedia, and cyberspace
5. Artificial intelligence, expert systems, and robotics
6. Prosthetics, high-tech bodies, designer-babies, and natural born cyborgs
7. Conclusion: anthropology of the *homo faber* between hypermodernity and posthumanity

Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner Verlag, 2005 (228pp), ISBN 3-515-8592-0

Personal, Portable, Pedestrian – Mobile Phones in Japanese Life

Edited by Mizuko Ito, Daisuke Okabe and Misa Matsuda

The Japanese term for mobile phone, *keitai* (roughly translated as "something you carry with you"), evokes not technical capability or freedom of movement but intimacy and portability, defining a personal accessory that

allows constant social connection. Japan's enthusiastic engagement with mobile technology has become--along with anime, manga, and sushi--part of its trendsetting popular culture. *Personal, Portable, Pedestrian*, the first book-length English-language treatment of mobile communication use in Japan, covers the transformation of keitai from business tool to personal device for communication and play.

The essays in this groundbreaking collection document the emergence, incorporation, and domestication of mobile communications in a wide range of social practices and institutions. The book first considers the social, cultural, and historical context of keitai development, including its beginnings in youth pager use in the early 1990s. It then discusses the virtually seamless integration of keitai use into everyday life, contrasting it to the more escapist character of Internet use on the PC. Other essays suggest that the use of mobile communication reinforces ties between close friends and family, producing "tele-cocooning" by tight-knit social groups. The book also discusses mobile phone manners and examines keitai use by copier technicians, multitasking housewives, and school children. *Personal, Portable, Pedestrian* describes a mobile universe in which networked relations are a pervasive and persistent fixture of everyday life.

October 2006 MIT Press ISBN 0-262-59025-5
\$19.95/£12.95 (PAPER)

The Global Genome - Biotechnology, Politics, and Culture

By Eugene Thacker

In the age of global biotechnology, DNA can exist as biological material in a test tube, as a sequence in a computer database, and as economically valuable information in a patent. In *The Global Genome*, Eugene Thacker asks us to consider the relationship of these three entities and argues that -- by their existence and their interrelationships -- they are fundamentally redefining the notion of biological "life itself."

Biological science and the biotech industry are increasingly organized at a global level, in large part because of the use of the Internet in exchanging biological data. International genome sequencing efforts, genomic databases, the development of World Intellectual Property policies, and the "borderless" business of biotech are all evidence of the global intersections of biology and informatics -- of genetic codes and computer codes. Thacker points out the internal tension in the very concept of biotechnology: the products are more "tech" than "bio," but the technology itself is fully biological, composed of the biomaterial labor of genes, proteins, cells, and tissues. Is biotechnology a technology at all, he asks, or is it a notion of "life itself" that is inseparable from its use in the biotech industry?

The three sections of the book cover the three primary activities of biotechnology today: the encoding of biological materials into digital form--as in bioinformatics and genomics; its recoding in various ways--including the "biocolonialism" of mapping genetically isolated ethnic populations and the newly pervasive concern over "biological security"; and its decoding back into biological materiality--as in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. Thacker moves easily from science to philosophy to political economics, enlivening his account with ideas from such thinkers as Georges Bataille, Georges Canguilhem, Michel Foucault, Antonio Negri, and Paul Virilio. The "global genome," says Thacker, makes it impossible to consider biotechnology without the context of globalism.

October 2006 MIT Press ISBN 0-262-70116-2
\$19.95/£12.95 (PAPER)

User Behavior and Technology Development – Shaping Sustainable Relations Between Consumers and Technologies

Edited by Peter-Paul Verbeek and Adriaan Slob

Environmental policy has long been determined by a dichotomy between technology and behavior. Some approaches stress the importance of technology and technological innovation, while others focus on behavioral change. Each approach has its limitations, however, since technology and behavior often appear so closely intertwined. Human behavior results not only from intentions and deliberate decisions, but from its interaction with technological artifacts. In the area of traffic safety, for instance, people's driving behavior is determined as much by curves, speed bumps and the power of their motors as by considerations of safety and responsibility. How can we best describe and understand these interactions between behavior and technology? What conceptual frameworks and empirical studies are available, and how can they be integrated? And how can we bring these interactions to bear on product design and policy making?

User Behavior and Technology Development explores the relationships between technology and behavior from an interdisciplinary perspective. It includes contributions from cognitive psychology, industrial design, public administration, marketing, sociology, ergonomics, science and technology studies, and philosophy. The book aims to create a conceptual basis for analyzing interactions between technology and behavior, and to provide insights that are relevant to technology design and environmental policy.

Springer Publishers 2006, XVI, 409 p., Hardcover
Series: Eco-Efficiency in Industry and Science , Vol. 20
ISBN: 978-1-4020-4433-5

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).

Ways to pay your dues

Payment of SPT dues is being handled by the Philosophy Documentation Center. Dues can be paid by cheque, money order or credit card (VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER). Payments by any of these methods can be

sent to the address below. Credit card payments can also be made by fax or over the phone via the numbers below. (For credit card payments include card number and expiration date).

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