

SPT newsletter

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1. President's column

Dear SPT members!

As you can see from this newsletter, publication activities are on a higher level than ever before in the philosophy of technology. Two specialized journals and one book series compete for manuscripts, and we also see a very promising flow of technology-related publications in non-specialized philosophical media.

The long-term trend is quite impressive, as can be seen from the following bibliometric data, showing the number of entries in Philosopher's Index that have been classified as related to technology:

Years	Number of technology entries
1960-1969	162
1970-1979	795
1980-1989	928
1990-1999	1559
2000-2009	3013

Our research community is thriving. Why not join our Facebook group? (See section 9 below.) And why not join us when we meet IRL (in the real world) on the 18th international conference of the SPT in Lisbon, 4-6 July next year? (See section 5 below.) This will be a unique opportunity to get an overview over what is happening in our rapidly growing discipline!

Sven Ove Hansson, President of the SPT

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2. Techné: cfp

Techné: Research in Philosophy & Technology, the official journal of the Society for Philosophy and Technology, announces editorial staff changes. The staff now consists of:

Joseph C. Pitt (Virginia Tech)
Editor-in-Chief

Diane Michelfelder (Macalster College)
Editor

Ibo van de Poel (Delft University of Technology)
Editor

Tom Staley (Virginia Tech)
Book Review Editor

William Davis (Virginia Tech)
Managing Editor

Techné continues to welcome all philosophical perspectives and styles. The editorial stance of *Techné* is ideologically neutral. There is, however, a unifying theme: a focus on technology, particular technologies, modern or traditional, worldwide, or on social and ethical problems associated with particular technologies. *Techné* aims at being the platform for presenting novel developments and results in academic research on this theme. We therefore seek rigorous, seminal, interesting, creative work and eagerly solicit work from those in fields outside philosophy as long as they offer philosophical perspective.

Submissions will be blind refereed by at least two readers. It is our expectation that authors will be provided with critiques, where in the judgment of the editors they are deemed helpful. We also seek to have a turn-around time of three months, although this is subject to the cooperation of our referees. We construe philosophy of technology broadly, and we are dedicated to fostering the highest standards in what is becoming a diverse field of study. We welcome proposals for special issues as well as manuscripts for regular publication.

We hope you will consider submitting your work to *Techné*. Submissions and questions can be directed by email to technejournal@gmail.com.

Our publication is accessible to all SPT members and subscribers through the Philosophy Documentation Center at:
<http://secure.pdcnet.org/techné>

3. Philosophy and Technology: cfp

Call for Papers for *Philosophy and Technology's* special issue on ONLINE SECURITY AND CIVIL RIGHTS
(http://www.informationethics.net/CRCShop/Special_Issue_PHET.html)

GUEST EDITOR: Mariarosaria Taddeo

INTRODUCTION: Online insecurity is like a Hydra with many heads - from e-commerce and online banking scams to malware, from hacking to cyber war. It requires Herculean efforts to slay the Hydra, but, unfortunately, fighting insecurity may easily cause serious ethical problems, since security measures can also undermine civil rights, such as individual liberty, privacy, and freedom of speech and expression, because such measures often rest on the collection, storage, access, or elaboration of individuals' personal information. Clearly, any democratic government, fair society and responsible organisation need to identify an ethical balance between online security and civil rights, in order to implement the former successfully while respecting and furthering the latter. At the same time, it is also clear that the problem is growing and becoming increasingly pressing. Nowadays, when the US and several EU countries are debating which rights should be protected on the Internet and how extended online security measures should be, ethical guidelines for the management of cyber security are urgently sought. Following the organization of the international workshop on Online Security and Civil Rights: A Fine Ethical Balance (<http://www.informationethics.net/CRCShop/Home.html>), to be held on October 26-27, 2012 at the University of Hertfordshire with the support of the University of Hertfordshire, the UNESCO Chair in Information and Computer Ethics, and Google's Public Policy Department, a special issue of Springer's *Philosophy & Technology* is planned (<http://www.springer.com/13347>).

TOPICS: We solicit the submission of philosophically-oriented papers that investigate topics such as the balance between civil rights and cyber security; the rights that citizens of democratic countries should claim for themselves when using the Internet; and the need to establish new individual rights pertaining to the digital sphere. Areas of relevance include information and computer ethics, (philosophy of) law, political sciences, human rights, Internet studies, cyber security, philosophy of technology, and STS.

TIMETABLE:

January 1, 2013: Deadline papers submissions

March 1, 2013: Deadline reviews papers

May 1, 2013: Deadline revised papers

2013: Publication of the special issue

SUBMISSION DETAILS: To submit a paper for this special issue, authors should go to the journal's Editorial Manager
<http://www.editorialmanager.com/phte/>

The author (or a corresponding author for each submission in case of co-authored papers) must register into EM. The author must then select as article type: "SI on Online Security and Civil Rights" from the selection provided in the submission process. This is needed in order to assign the submissions to the Guest Editors.

Submissions will then be assessed according to the following procedure:

New Submission => Journal Editorial Office => Guest Editor(s) => Reviewers => Reviewers' Recommendations => Guest Editor(s)' Recommendation => Editor-in-Chief's Final Decision => Author Notification of the Decision.

The process will be reiterated in case of requests for revisions.

For any further information please contact:

Mariarosaria Taddeo,
mariarosaria.taddeo@philosophyofinformation.net

4. New editors Philosophy of Engineering and Technology

The team of editors for the Philosophy of Engineering and Technology book series has changed and has as of 2012 five members. New editors are: Christelle Didier, Craig Hanks and Byron Newberry. A special thanks goes to David Goldberg and Evan Selinger for editing the series in its first pioneering years.

This change means that the editorial team now counts one person more. Since its inception there has been a substantial stream of offered manuscripts, which we can now manage with five. Five volumes have been published, and three new ones are announced to be published soon (<http://www.springer.com/series/8657>). If you have a new work on offer, or want to discuss other matters, please contact the editors directly or through the series website:

Christelle Didier, Lille Catholic University, France

Craig Hanks, Texas State University, U.S.A.

Byron Newberry, Baylor University, U.S.A.

Ibo van de Poel, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands

Pieter Vermaas, Editor-in-Chief, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands

For more information please contact, Pieter Vermaas, p.e.vermaas@tudelft.nl

5. SPT Biennial conference

18th Biennial International Conference of the SPT, 4-6 July, 2013, University of Lisbon (ICS-UL) and Technical University of Lisbon

The SPT 2013 conference has the main theme Technology in the Age of Information. Although the organization welcomes papers and tracks proposals in all areas of the philosophy of technology, it especially encourages submissions addressing this topic.

Considering this era of the emergence of the ICTs, several questions may be raised: Do we live in an information society? What is the role of ICTs in culture, politics and revolutions? Is the contemporary global economy shaped by ICTs? What are the new challenges upon the public spaces and human privacy that they bring to life? And what about their particular cognitive range, aesthetical dispositions, or nano and bio technological convergences? Do ICTs stimulate new technological utopias? Many other questions can be asked, and are welcome.

As in previous SPT's conferences, the organization is open to contributions from an interdisciplinary spectrum. Not just philosophers, but also social scientists, natural scientists, and not least engineers. The list of tracks outlined below is suggestive of the topics under consideration, but does by no means restrict them:

- 1 - ICTs 1: globalization, informational economy and commodification
- 2 - ICTs 2: control, discrimination and surveillance
- 3 - ICTs 3: Webs, imaginaries and utopias
- 4 - ICTs 4: new media, public space and democracy
- 5 - ICTs 5: politics, alternatives and revolutions
- 6 - Consumption and mobile lifestyles
- 7 - Informatics, nano- and bio-technological convergences
- 8 - Materiality and immateriality in the digital era
- 9 - Information and aesthetics
- 10 - Reflective engineering
- 11 - Philosophy of engineering and design
- 12 - Phenomenology of technology
- 13 - Ethics, Politics and the Good Life
- 14 - Environment, Sustainability, and Risks
- 15 - Technology, Gender, and Culture
- 16 - Technological Innovation
- 17 - Technology and Critical Thinking

18 - Philosophy of Technology and Social Sciences

Abstracts should be submitted by **January 15, 2013**. They must be between 500 and 750 words in length (references excluded) and submitted via email as embedded plain text or an attachment in RTF, Word, or PDF format. Abstracts will be refereed. They should include the name(s) of author(s), affiliation(s), contact details and the paper title. They should also contain the name and number of the track to which the abstract is submitted. If an abstract does not seem fit with any topic, simply note that with the submission. All submissions are welcome, and authors should not feel constrained by the topics.

Notification of acceptance will be no later than **March 15, 2013**.

Proposals for tracks will also be accepted by **January 15, 2013**. They will also be refereed. Proposals should include a generic topic and issues to be addressed, as well as a short biography of its mentor(s). **Notification of acceptance** will be no later than **March 15, 2013**.

All submissions should be sent by email to: spt2013@iseg.utl.pt

6. SPT Philosophy of technology portal

The new SPT Philosophy of technology portal is now available at the SPT website (www.spt.org). The portal has been established and sponsored by the 3TEP project of the University of Twente, Colorado School of Mines, and the University of North Texas. The three refers to the three universities and TEP refers to Technology and Environmental Philosophy. The 3TEP project has been financed by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO).

7. Recent publications of interest

Mark Coeckelbergh, *Growing Moral Relations: Critique of Moral Status Ascription* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012)

New scientific and technological developments challenge us to reconsider the moral status of entities such as chimpanzees or artificially intelligent robots: what place should we give them in our moral world order? Engaging with a variety of theoretical sources, this book offers a relational approach to moral status that questions individualist and objectivist assumptions made in these discussions, and proposes a less dualistic view by emphasizing the entanglement of natural, social, and technological relations. But it also asks why it is so hard to move towards a more relational understanding. The author's answer is an original discussion of the conditions of possibility of moral status ascription. Influenced by Heidegger and Wittgenstein, he argues that our specific way of ascribing moral status, and indeed the very project of moral status 'ascription', is made possible by, and limited by, particular linguistic, social-cultural, natural-bodily, material-technological, religious-spiritual, and historical-spatial conditions. The 'living' moral epistemology that emerges from this 'philosophical yoga' – an exercise in becoming more aware of your moral breathing – urges us to recognize that changing our moral thinking depends on the growth of our relations and hence of our form of life.

About the author: Mark Coeckelbergh, Ph.D. teaches philosophy at the University of Twente, The Netherlands, and is member of the management team of the 3TU. Centre for Ethics and Technology. He is the author of *Liberation and Passion* (2002), *The Metaphysics of Autonomy* (2004), *Imagination and Principles* (2007), and numerous journal articles on ethics, including ethics of information technology and robotics, medical ethics, and environmental ethics.

Topi Heikkero, *Ethics in Technology* (Lexington Books, 2012)

The book inquires into the question: How to think about ethics in a technological world? This

question has three facets: technological advance poses new challenges for ethics, traditional ethics may become poorly applicable in a technological world, and the progress in science and technology has undermined ethical thinking itself. A thematic treatment of these three dimensions of the problematic is followed by an analysis of three central approaches to the questions framed. These are Hans Jonas' ethics of responsibility, Albert Borgmann's phenomenological analysis of everyday life in a technological civilization, and Larry Hickman's pragmatist philosophy of technology. The inquiry concludes with a sketch of future directions for ethics of technology. This includes assessing the roles of applied ethics, science and technology studies (STS), and philosophy of technology in ethics of technology. While the author agrees on the need for an interdisciplinary dialogue between these three traditions, he argues for the primacy of philosophy of technology in thinking about ethics in technology. Furthermore, the centrality of "mid-level ethics" is elaborated on in the conclusion. Here mid-level refers to ethically pregnant phenomena in the realm between instantaneous choices by an individual (micro level) and questions about fundamental principles of justice and societal goods (macro level). Mid-level thus concerns, for instance, habits, practices, and communal institutions.

About the author: Topi Heikkero is tutor at St. John's College, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Céline Kermisch and Marie-Geneviève Pinsart, *Nanotechnologies: towards a shift in the scale of ethics* (Fernelmont, 2012)

Nanotechnologies are operating at the nanometric scale, which is the scale of DNA, proteins, viruses, but also atoms, which we are now capable of manipulating in order to create new materials and new objects with exceptional properties. How do nanotechnologies influence the way philosophy and ethics are constructed in order to apprehend the specific issues at stake? Do nanotechnologies modify the traditional oppositions – natural and artificial, and human and non-human? What are the ethical implications of nanotechnologies considered in the NBIC convergence? What are the specificities

of risks associated with nanotechnologies? What particular ethical issues do they rise? How can we ensure the good governance of nanotechnologies? These are questions that an interdisciplinary analysis will try to answer, focusing on three directions: the major philosophical and ethical stakes of nanotechnologies, their risks, and their management at the international level.

8. Call for Abstracts – Anthology

Call for Abstracts – for an anthology on the topic: *Imagery in the Age of Modelling: Operative Artifacts in the Design Process in Architecture and Engineering.*

The turn towards the use of digital tools within design processes seems to be characterized by a paradox. With the victory of models, images also gain importance as the visual plays a crucial role in handling digital models. The publication project aims at describing this observation in greater detail, exposing its premises, and inquiring into its consequences. This should be exemplified in case studies from the fields of architecture and related disciplines, such as engineering.

The contemporary, extensive application of digital tools in the construction industry leads to an omnipresence of models. As models of buildings they range from digital drawings and interactive 3D-models (VR) to Building Information Modeling (BIM). Models are the prerequisite for numerous analyses and simulation methods (e. g. FEM, CFD) to explore static stress, flow conditions or energy performance. They form the basis of the Computer-Aided-Manufacturing (CAM) and Rapid Prototyping, as well. With this development, drawings, executable workshop drawings and photorealistic depictions become derivatives of models. Thereby the traditional relationship between images and models seems to be turned on its head. For centuries, pictorial procedures of projection were the dominant paradigm that facilitated the development of planimetric depictions of spatial arrangements with high accuracy on a sheet of paper. The subordinated scale models made of cardboard,

wood or plaster served mainly for testing specific spatial constellations and for convincing the client.

Today, the ubiquitous use of models in the design process does not result in a loss of importance of imaging – the opposite is the case. More than ever, the design process is accompanied by images of different kinds: We find sketches and collages that play a crucial role not only in the first steps of a project, conventionalized notations in plans and structural calculations, 3D-visualizations within the realm of renderings, shadings and animations, functional diagrams such as scheme of use, project scheduling or lifecycle-assessment are also integral parts of the development. Furthermore, data visualizations prove indispensable for evaluating the huge amounts of data processed in representing, for example, outcomes of energy, light, acoustic, and fluid dynamics simulations.

Focusing on the design process reveals that especially images are suitable for developing and inventing novel artifacts. They seem to be highly useful when it comes to imaging and anticipating a not yet existing object. As operative artifacts images play a constitutive role in the design processes. They show a specific productive efficiency when investigating their function in the development of the concept outline, the genesis of form, the creation of variants and its subsequent selection process, in communication or process management. Visual artifacts serve as construction and interpretation tools, test instruments, and as a medium for storing and structuring knowledge and information. In a unique way, they succeed in fulfilling the specific epistemic demands of the design process. How they do so is to be researched more closely.

Contributions

On the basis of case studies and theoretical reflections that are establishing a close link to concrete design processes, we are interested in analyzing the manifold imaging and modelling practices which are increasingly influenced by the use of computers. Therefore, the publication focuses on the procedural potential of images and models. By concentrating on the design

process we seek to know more about their operativity. Which aspects of models and images are activated and in which mode are they made productive? To what extent do the involved artifacts – due to their specific appearance, usage, and embedding – contribute in regulating processes, in provoking or inhibiting actions, in channelling attention or in disposing changes in perception? Is it possible to determine intersections where image and model intervene? Which consequences does this relationship have for the context of their usage?

Although the emphasis lays on present practices, we also welcome historical studies if they provide an outlook that helps to clarify contemporary developments. In addition to analyses of the various architectonic design processes, we also encourage contributions dealing with design practices in other fields in order to broaden the variety of image/model constellations. We welcome papers from science and technology studies, from philosophy and history of technology, from history and theory of art, architecture and design as well as related disciplines.

We invite submitters to send the proposal in the form of an extended abstract (5,000-6,000 characters incl. spaces) and a short CV with a list of publications by October 15, 2012 to both of the editors. In May 2013 a workshop with all authors is planned in Basel, Switzerland. The research papers, which should not exceed 50,000 characters (incl. spaces and bibliography), are expected to be published with Fink Verlag (Munich) in 2014.

For more information, please contact: Dr. Sabine Ammon, sabine.ammon@unibas.ch or Dr. Inge Hinterwaldner, inge.hinterwaldner@unibas.ch

9. SPT Facebook group

There is an SPT Facebook group at: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/205835046119933/>

Come and join us!

10. Membership and dues

The Society for Philosophy and Technology is an independent international organization that encourages, supports and facilitates philosophically significant considerations of technology. Founded in 1976, the Society is dedicated to the pluralistic exploration of technology, and welcomes a variety of philosophical and other disciplinary approaches in both its conferences and its publications.

The Society publishes *Techné: Research in Philosophy and Technology* (a scholarly journal), the proceedings of its international conferences, and the quarterly SPT Newsletter.

Membership in the Society for Philosophy and Technology is open to individuals whose work is in keeping with the interests of the Society – including those who have an advanced degree (typically but not necessarily in philosophy), those who work in a technical field, and students whose work includes philosophically significant considerations of technology.

More information about SPT and its activities is available at the Society for Philosophy and Technology website, www.spt.org.

All membership levels include online access to available issues of *Techné*.

Individual – Regular membership	
Online (Single user licence)	\$65.00
Student or Independent Scholar	
Online (Single user licence)	\$45.00
Members in Developing Nations	
Online (Single user licence)	\$0.00

Payment of SPT dues is handled by the Philosophy Documentation Center. Dues can be paid online at: <http://secure.pdcnet.org/sptech>

Dues can also 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 telephone via the numbers below. (For credit card payments, include card number and expiration date). All

payments should be made to "Society for
Philosophy and Technology."

Please do not forget to mention your name,
affiliation, address, country and email.

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