

Technikphilosophie im Dialog

Third Dutch/German Workshop in the Philosophy of Technology

June 12-14, 2014

Darmstadt, Germany

introductions | preliminary program | local arrangements

Dutch and German philosophies of technology – two traditions in dialogue? Even as we tend to carefully downplay national differences, they can matter during world championship tournaments and for opening up a space of philosophical alternatives.

Philosophy of Design – rooted in the *Lebensreform* and Bauhaus movements that prepare for an extended concept of constructing and shaping the life-world as a whole? and rooted in „SCOT“ or the „Social Construction of Technology“ that laid the ground for „value-sensitive design“ in the context of collective real-world experiments in society as a laboratory? But can we have it both ways – distributed agency that includes users in participatory design processes, as well as design with its authorship of deliberate plans and their implementation? How can we avoid the fallacy of a single-minded designer residing within an all-encompassing network of actors?

On to design ethics and the morality of artefacts – to the extent that technological proposals imply conceptions of the good life, design is always also „experimental ethics“? but do we need articulated conceptions of freedom, autonomy, and action before we can speak of ethics, responsibility, morality?

The dual nature of artefacts – while the material nature of technological things owes to the play of causes and substantial properties, their technical functions testify to their nature as products of culture? if artefacts have a dual nature, do technological interventions refashion material nature along with human culture? can a separation between natural science and engineering be maintained? and do we then consider biological functioning as a species of technical function? and against all this, should we not in second modernity abandon all talk of “natures” rather than proliferate it? is the talk of dual natures metaphysically laden in a way that demands critique? instead, should we not concern ourselves with worlds and works?

Theories of technological knowledge and how to close the gap between knowing how and knowing that – is this a matter of appreciating tacit, personal, embodied knowledge while reconstructing the values and norms and criteria that define the objective knowledge of engineers? what are theories in these contexts and what role do they play, how does technological knowledge become validated? and against all that the question of how to reason about means and ends? how can we evaluate the means, how do we best achieve our ends?

Recent and ongoing and envisioned technological developments introduce shared objects of concern – big data, neuroenhancement, and extended minds? in the name of adaptive and complex systems are there new paradigms of informal technological construction that rely on self-learning rather than technical control? with the conception of technology as a medium, the flow of money, the outline of landscapes, the city, and the deepest layers of the human past become media for technology and its philosophy.

PROGRAM (as of June 11, 2014)

Thursday, June 12

14.00 – 16.00 Design I: Avoiding the Designer Fallacy (Plenary)

Moderators: Asle Kiran and Alfred Nordmann

- Manja Unger-Büttner: Aesthetics and ethics in the scope of design
- Rafaela Hillerbrand: Design for values – offshore wind energy
- Elisa Orrù: Ethical issues in the perception of surveillance technologies. Insights from the SURVEILLE project

16.30 – 18.30 Epochal Break in Technology: Autonomy, Complexity, Self-Organization (Plenary)

Moderator: Chunglin Kwa

- Jutta Weber: Autonomous systems
- Andreas Kaminski: Informal technologies
- Jan C. Schmidt: Late-modern technologies
- Seline Hippe: Das Bewusstsein der Maschinen - Gotthard Günther reloaded

19.00 – 20.30 Invited Lecture (Plenary)

Chair: Sabine Ammon

- Christoph Hubig: Kultur und Technik – eine deutsche Tradition der Technikphilosophie?
- Comment: Peter Kroes

20.30 DINNER (Restaurant Sitte)

Friday, June 13

9.30 – 11.30 City, Landscape, Sustainability

Chair: Astrid Schwarz

- Karsten Berr: Zur operativen Basis landschaftsbezogener Disziplinen
- Michael Nagenburg: City dweller - Philosophy of technology and the city
- Jürgen H. Franz: Die cusanische Philosophie der Technik und ihre Implikationen für die Gegenwart

9.30 – 11.30 Design II: Questions of Value

Chair: Thomas Zoglauer

- Mark Coeckelbergh: From barter to Bitcoin – Simmel's phenomenology of money and the question concerning contemporary financial technologies
- Pieter Vermaas: On letting designers do what they are told – A methodological assessment of design for values
- Michael Funk: Philosophy of technology and paleoanthropology

12.00 – 13.30 Big Data

Chair: Lara Huber

- Josephine Papst, Geraldine Edel: On the virtual conquest of the world by the globalized "mind" without mind
- Chunglin Kwa: High theory versus data-orientation – Shifts in dominance between scientific styles

12.00 – 13.30 Theories of Technological Action

Chair: Andreas Kaminski

- Manuel Dietrich: How does wearable activity recognition influences users' decisions to act?
- Hans Tromp: Modelling artifact use through philosophy of action

13.30 – 15.00 LUNCH BREAK: Table reserved at the Zoo Bar – just across the square

15.00 – 16.30 Open Session

Chair: Alfred Nordmann

- Gabriele Gramelsberger: The simulation approach in synthetic biology (tbc)
- Martin Gessmann: The phantom ball

15.00 – 16.30 Phenomenology and Philosophy of Technology

Chair: Stefan Gammel

- Jochem Zwier, Vincent Blok, Pieter Lemmens: Phenomenology and the empirical turn
- Isabel-Iginia v. Wilcke: Homeless aura in the technological age

16.30 – 18.00 Design III: Research Perspectives for the Philosophy of Design (Plenary)

Moderators: Sabine Ammon, Pieter Vermaas

- Maarten Franssen, Martin Gessmann, Peter Kroes, Michael Merrill, Alfred Nordmann

19.00: DINNER at the Biergarten Dieburger Str./Spessartring

21.00: NETHERLANDS vs. SPAIN (world class soccer optionally at the Biergarten)

Saturday, June 14

9.00 – 11.00 Extended Minds

Chair: Jan C. Schmidt

- Nicola Erny: Neuro-Enhancement and Philosophy of Technology
- Thomas Zoglauer: Cyborgs, Extended Minds, and Extended Agency
- Stefan Gammel: Moral Enhancement and the 'Obligation' to Use Enhancement Technologies

9.00 – 11.00 Design IV: Practices of science and technology

Chair: Gabriele Gramelsberger (tbc)

- Maarten Franssen: Science, technology, artifacts and instruments
- Sabine Ammon: Knowledge and the "Sciences of the Artificial"
- Michael Poznic, Rafaela Hillerbrand, Maarten Franssen: Comparing designs and models as representing real-world entities

11.30 – 13.30 Ontology of Artefacts (Plenary)

Chair: Petra Gehring

- Hans Poser: Ontologie technischer Artefakte
- Peter Kroes: Biological technical artefacts and the natural-artificial distinction

14.30 End of workshop

in cooperation with the Center for
Advanced Security Research Darmstadt



Location: Stadtkirche, An der Stadtkirche 1, D- 64283 Darmstadt, www.stadtkirche-darmstadt.de

Travel & Accommodation: Please consider the list of selected hotels where we have reserved a contingent of rooms at the end of the document. We kindly ask to organize the travelling arrangements by your own.

Hotel	Telephone	Website
Intercity Hotel (<i>recently opened mid-range near the train station</i>) Booking Code: 17815774	+49 6151 90691-0	de.intercityhotel.com/Darmstadt/InterCityHotel-Darmstadt
B&B (<i>near train-station not a Bed & Breakfast but a modern low budget hotel</i>)	+49 6151 96720	www.hotelbb.de/de/darmstadt/uebersicht/
IBIS Budget (<i>along with B&B the least expensive, closer to downtown</i>)	+49 6151 3973720	www.accorhotels.com/lien_externe.svlt?goto=fiche_hotel...
Welcome Hotel (<i>best location and most elegant</i>)	+49 6151 39140	www.welcome-hotels.com/welcomehotel-darmstadt/info/

Contact:

If you want to attend the workshop, please contact the local organizers (see below). For questions about local arrangements or regarding organizational details please do not hesitate to contact Markus Plößer <mploesser@googlemail.com> or one of the organizers.

Program Committee and Local Organization:

Sabine Ammon, Brandenburgische Technische Universität Cottbus-Senftenberg und Technische Universität Darmstadt, [ammon \[at \] phil.tu-darmstadt.de](mailto:ammon[at]phil.tu-darmstadt.de)
Alfred Nordmann, Technische Universität Darmstadt, [nordmann \[at \] phil.tu-darmstadt.de](mailto:nordmann[at]phil.tu-darmstadt.de)
Jan C. Schmidt, Hochschule Darmstadt, [jan.schmidt \[at \] h-da.de](mailto:jan.schmidt[at]h-da.de)