

Technology and Ethics
Sommersemester 2012
Thursdays 16:15-17:45 P103

Michael Madary
madary@uni-mainz.de
www.michaelmadary.com
Philosophicum Raum 00-517

Human civilization is marked by the use of technology. In the last decades, our use of technology has expanded dramatically. Each of these two facts brings up fundamental philosophical themes. First, what is the relationship between the human being and human technology? Is technology merely a tool for us, or is it somehow a constitutive precondition for the modern human? Second, what new ethical issues are raised by new and widespread technologies? In the first half of the course we will consider the first question, and in the second half of the course we will consider the second. The second question concerns particular technologies; we will look at mass media, virtual environments, technologies of the extended mind, and intelligent machines.

Introduction

19 April

Introna, L. "Phenomenological Approaches to Ethics and Information Technology"

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy URL =

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-it-phenomenology/>

Brey, P. "Philosophy of Technology after the Empirical Turn" *Techné: Research in*

Philosophy and Technology 14 (2010) 36-48.

Technology and Being Human

26 April

Heidegger, M. "The Question Concerning Technology" ("Die Frage nach der Technik")

Introna, L. "Maintaining the reversibility of foldings: Making the ethics (politics) of information technology visible" *Ethics and Information Technology* 9 (2007) 11-25.

3 May

Stiegler, B. *Technics and Time* Vol. I, part I

10 May

Marcuse, H. *One-Dimensional Man (Der eindimensionale Mensch)* Introduction, chapter 1, chapter 10.

URL = <http://www.marcuse.org/herbert/pubs/64onedim/odmcontents.html>

Media Hygiene

24 May

Blascovich, J. and Bailenson, J. *Infinite Reality* Chapters 5 and 6

Metzinger, T. *The Ego Tunnel* Chapter 9.

31 May

Blascovich and Bailenson chapter 7

Silverstone, R. "Proper Distance: Towards an Ethics for Cyberspace" (2003)

Virtually Everything

14 June

Nozick, R. *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*. pages 42-45

De Brigard, F. "If you like it, does it matter if it's real?" *Phil Psych* 23 (2010) 43-57.

Taylor, C. *The Ethics of Authenticity* Chapter 3

21 June

Lastowka, G. *Virtual Justice* Chapters 1, 6 and 7

Body and Environment

28 June

Dennett, D. "Where am I?" in *Brainstorms*, 1978. URL =

<http://www.newbanner.com/SecHumSCM/WhereAmI.html>

Clark, A. *Natural-Born Cyborgs* OUP, 2003. Chapter 4

5 July

Clark, A. and Chalmers, D. "The Extended Mind" *Analysis* 58 (1998) 10-23.

Clark, A. *Natural-Born Cyborgs*. Chapter 5.

Ethics of Artificial Intelligence

12 July

Wallach, W. and Allen, C. *Moral Machines* (Introduction, Chapter 1) OUP, 2008.

Bostrom, N. "The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence" in *Cambridge Handbook of Artificial Intelligence*, 2010.

19 July

Boden, M. "Life and Mind" *Minds and Machines* 19 (2009) 453-463.

Bostrom, N. "Are You Living in a Computer Simulation?" *Philosophical Quarterly* 53 (2003) 243-255.

background reading: Levin, J. "Functionalism" *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. URL = <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/functionalism/>