

Abstracts

Katharina Hoppe

Donna Haraway's Companions: On the Ethics and Politics of the Entanglement of Technologies, Gender, and Ecology

The works of biologist and feminist theorist Donna Haraway have been almost indispensable in the debates of feminist theory since the 1980s. Especially her work on the figure of the cyborg is of major importance for research in feminist science studies until today. However, Haraway has long since situated the cyborg »in the much bigger, queer family of companion species« (Haraway 2003). Her later works on companion species, especially in German-speaking countries, though have hardly been included in debates on the relationship between technology, gender and ecology, as well as their ethics and politics. This article provides a relational reading of Haraway's figures of the cyborg and companion species and locates them in broader debates of feminist theory. At the center of the argument is the thesis that the late works can be read as an extension of Haraway's hitherto mainly political-epistemological program to an ethical problematization. The article then situates her move towards companion species within both, the »material turn« and the »ethical turn« in feminist theory. Against the background of this reading, the article points out a perspective for feminist science studies that systematically integrates ecological questions in intersectional analyses.

Keywords: Donna Haraway, cyborg, ethics, ecofeminism, new materialisms

Katharina Liebsch

Science Fantasy oder ontologische Politik? Zwischen Science Fantasy und ontologischer Politik. Künstlerischer Technomaterialismus jenseits der Geschlechtergrenzen

Bio-art uses living organisms as well as biotechnological tools and materials in order to illustrate and imagine current shifts and reinventions of the concepts of life, human self, nature and community. Surprisingly, the concept of gender is hardly addressed by this kind of art even though many bio-artists are inspired by Donna Haraway's feminist way of thinking who herself invigorates the idea that art enables us to rethink the established narratives related to the notion of »the other«. The article aims to explain this gap by looking at the social contexts of bio-art, its philosophical and theoretical backgrounds and exemplifies a certain way of abstraction that comes along with bio-art by introducing the art work of Špela Petrič, a Slovenian biologist and artist. Petrič's art work focusses on behaviors, interdependences and sophistication of vegetals as other beings and introduces a notion of reproduction beyond sexuality and gender. The article asks in which respect reproduction of plants viewed through the prism of bio-art are suitable to delineate future forms of human procreation.

Keywords: bio-art, open Science, Post-humanist Feminist, transhuman species

Julia Feiler

Risiko und Verantwortung im Umgang mit alternden Eizellen. ›Social Freezing‹ als Sozialtechnik des Zukunftsmanagements

Due to technological developments over the last few years, it has become possible in the field of reproductive medicine to cryopreserve female egg cells. The term ›Social Freezing‹ describes the preventive cryopreservation of female egg cells without medical reasons. Experts in the field of reproductive medicine are producing knowledge with this new technological practice. It is the field of experts where the technology is practiced and where knowledge is produced. Through the actions of these experts, social egg freezing is creating and negotiating new powerful understandings of female bodies. The aim of this article is to shed light on the reproductive medical discourse and knowledge negotiations within which the field of female reproductive responsibilities is expanding. The desire to have children is becoming a preventive task in which women have to anticipate their potential future infertility. The article shows on the basis of empirical examples from the medical discourse around ›Social Freezing‹ how nature and technology become risk constructions along specific fragmental understandings of female bodies.

Keywords: Social Freezing, Reproduktionsmedizin, Technologie, Fortpflanzungsmedizin, Responsibilisierung, Zukunftsmanagement, Biopolitik, Geschlecht, Risiko, Körper

Bianca Prietl

Algorithmic Decision-Making Systems Revisited: How Machines can Reproduce Social Relations of Power

This paper offers a conceptual analysis of the interplay between algorithmic decision-making systems and social relations of power from a feminist perspective of science and technology studies. To this end, automated decision technologies are understood as powerful and highly political technologies of knowledge-production that establish specific possibilities of (not) knowing, of seizing and designing the (social) world. Unfolding the argument that the latter are a key to understanding how algorithmic decision-making systems reproduce social relations of power, the paper reconstructs (1) the in- and exclusionary effects of a data-fundamentalist approach to knowledge-production, (2) the conservative tendency of post-explanatory pragmatism, and (3) the politics of data science.

Keywords: Algorithmic Decision Systems, Feminist Critique of Technology and Rationality, Power Analysis, Social Inequality

Dag Balmar / Ulf Mellström

Cyborgs and entanglements of technology, masculinity, and (automated) vehicles

In this article, we will discuss different entanglements of technology and masculinity with a special focus on (automated) vehicles. Starting from a cyborg-epistemology formulated as ›thesis, anti-thesis, synthesis, prosthesis‹ (Gray 2001: 189), we will, in three

sections, entangle and disentangle different discourses and practices around how masculinity has been constructed around intimacy, technology, and cyborgisation. Historically, this points in both destructive directions and emancipatory hopes of transcendence through cyborgisation. Cyborgs are thus political technologies, and we argue that a history of masculinity as well as the future of masculinity, in a western context and beyond, can be understood in relation to cyborgisation and intimacy with technological artefacts. It is argued that cyborgs are possibly the tricksters of the future posthuman masculinity but they are also a tool to understand the »leitmotif« of male transcendence in the history of masculinity. To illustrate our point, we will use different forms of technologies of movement and other man-machine relations as our »objects-to-think-with«, considering gendered power relations and emancipatory potentials (Haraway 2004: 321).

Keywords: Cyborg, cyborgisation, entanglement, Janus face, technologies of movement, masculinity

Tanja Kubes

Sexroboter – Queerfeministisches Potential oder materialisierte Objektifizierung

Robots satisfying their users' sexual needs are no longer exclusively the subject of science fiction, but have become a human-made materialized reality. In spite of the potential variety of construction possibilities, however, the design of sex robots currently does not deconstruct gender dualism, but rather

reinforces it. Hegemonic and heteronormative ideas about men and women are reflected both in the programming of the software and the design of the hardware. Instead of exploiting their queer potential, both appearance and behaviour of robots are based in hyper-realistic and stereotypical ways on models from the adult entertainment industry. Based on theoretical considerations of a gender- and queer-feminist STS, the article discusses the potential of sex robots to strengthen diversity and to reduce binarities and stereotypes.

Keywords: Sex robots, sexual appearance and behaviour, queer feminism, heteronormativity

Edelgard Kutzner / Melanie Roski

Arbeit, Technik und Geschlecht – neue Grenzziehungen durch Digitalisierung?

In regard to the discussion about digitalisation and a gender-sensitive work organisation, the key question is whether the current digitisation processes will lead to greater gender equality or to new disadvantages and new boundaries. Are there opportunities for a break-up of traditional gender relations due to new forms of work organisation, different workloads or changed qualification requirements? Would these developments also have an emancipatory potential? Or do they lead to a reproduction and possibly even to a tightening of traditional gender relations by maintaining traditional patterns of gender differentiation?

The starting point is the fundamental thesis that technology, work and

gender are inseparably interwoven. In order to take a better look at this interplay, the article refers to theoretical and empirical findings from work and gender studies as well as own empirical results from two areas, industrial production work and office administration. Based on our first results, we can state that there are opportunities for a gen-

der fair design of work, e. g. by upgrading the work of women. At the same time, however, there are also risks of a devaluation or a stabilisation of the status quo

Keywords: Gender, digitalisation, gender equality, work organisation, production work, office administration