

Design for the Posthuman Era

Critical explorations on the ethics of emerging technologies

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University Wide Arts Studies



Introduction to Posthumanism

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Context

Values

Approaches to Technology

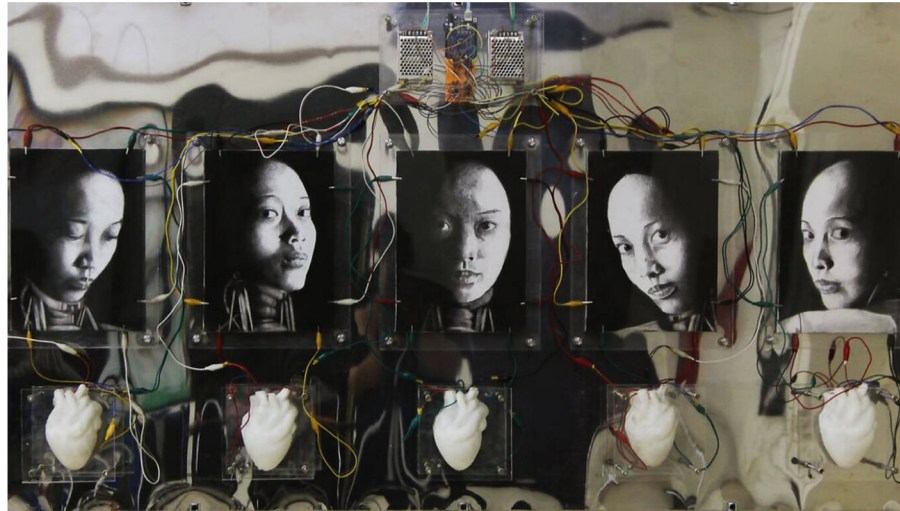
Currents

References

Context

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Humanism is a philosophical stance that emphasizes the **value** and **agency** of **human beings**, individually and collectively.



Source: <https://www.hatchartproject.com>

Posthumanism is a post-anthropocentric and post-dualistic approach in a philosophical, cultural, and critical sense.

Antihumanism

New Materialisms

Transhumanism

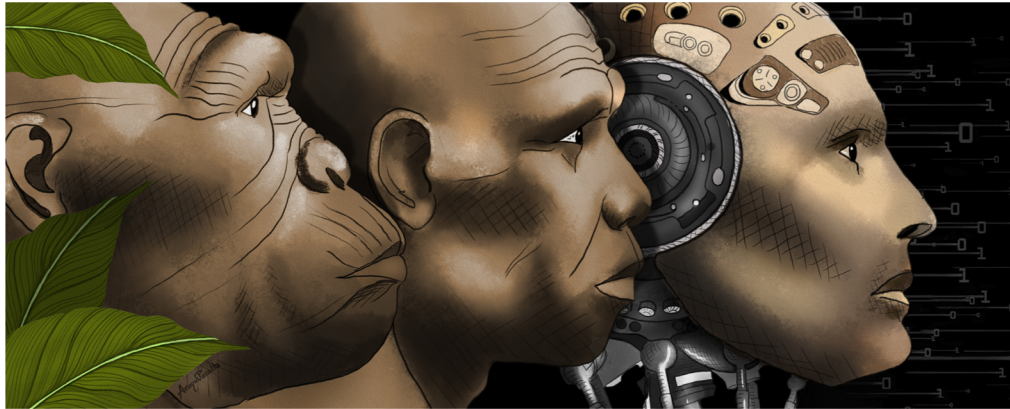
Posthumanism

Context

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Transhumanism is a class of philosophies of life that **seek the continuation and acceleration of the evolution** of intelligent life beyond its currently human form and human limitations **by means of science and technology**, guided by life-promoting principles and values.

More, M. (1990). Transhumanism: Towards a futurist philosophy. *Extropy*, 6, 6-12.



Post-human literally means a person or entity that exists in a state beyond being human. The concept addresses questions of **ethics** and **justice**, **language** and **trans-species communication**, **social systems**, and the intellectual aspirations of **transdisciplinarity**.

Braidotti, Rosi. *Posthuman knowledge*. John Wiley & Sons, 2019.

In postmodern literature, **the terms "posthuman" and "posthumanism" first appeared in**

- Ihab Habib Hassan, "Prometheus as Performer: Toward a Posthumanist Culture?," *The Georgia Review* 31/4 (Winter 1977), pp. 830-50; and
- Ihab Habib Hassan, *The Postmodern Turn: Essays in Postmodern Theory and Culture*, Columbus, OH: Ohio State University Press, 1987.

Posthumanistic discourse aims to open up spaces to examine what it means to be human and critically question the concept of "the human" in light of current cultural and historical contexts.

Miah, A.
(2008)

Values

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- Non-anthropocentric
- Non-dualist
- Equality of the species
(nature-made and man-made)
- Eco-systems
- Embodied



Image illustration by Jamie Chung, 2016, Harvard Business Review Edition 10



DONNA J. HARAWAY
Manifesto cyborg
Donne, tecnologie e biopolitiche del corpo

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FELTRINELLI / SAGGI

Essentialism

- Disciplined pursuit of doing less, or just the needed amount.

Techno-reductionism

- focus on causality or cause and effect relationships.
- a society's technology determines the development of its social structure and cultural values.

Approach to Technology

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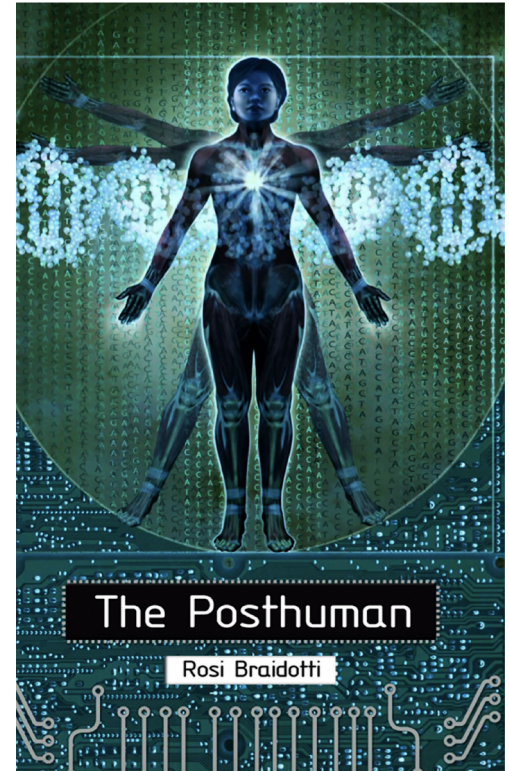
There is **posthuman agreement** that contemporary science and biotechnologies affect the very fibre and structure of the living and have altered dramatically our understanding of what counts as the basic frame of reference for the human today.

The Humanities raise deep anxieties both about the moral status of the human and express the political desire to resist commercially owned and profit-minded abuses of the new genetic know-how.

Rosi Braidotti, *The Posthuman*, 2013

'Technologies contribute actively to how humans do ethics'

Peter Paul Verbeek, 2011
Science and technology studies



Relevant authors



Rosi Braidotti



Francesca Ferrando



N. Kathrine Hayles



Cary Wolfe



Norah Campbell



Neil Badmington

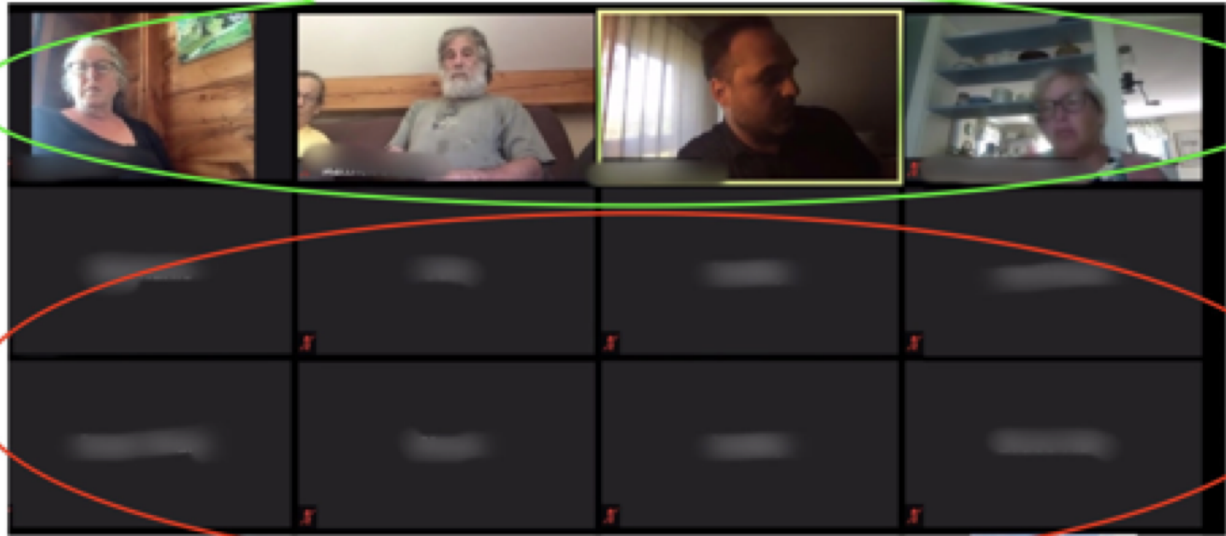


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Fishbowl discussion

Discussing



Listening