Philosophy and the Ethics of Technology

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

For much of the first three quarters of the 20th century, philosophical reflection on technology was concerned with the negative effects of specific technologies and Technology in general. But times have changed and more recently the Philosophy of Technology has become more sophisticated, looking at, for example, issues of design, engineering education and more. It seems appropriate to reconsider the ethics of technology from a philosophical perspective. A simple way to conceive of the project is to start with the observation "Yes, we *can* build it, but *should* we?" This requires some agreement on how to decide this issue. Consider the case of the coal powered electric generating plants in the face of global warming. A second consideration we are interested in is how do new technologies affect the way we live our lives. The obvious example here is the cell phone. But there are others and we welcome new thoughts and philosophical approaches to this general issue of the ethics of technology.

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Guest Editor

Special Issue

Editor-in-Chief

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Philosophies searches for the syntheses of philosophical and scientific inquiries. It promotes philosophical work that is derived from the experience of diverse scientific disciplines and cultures. Multiple philosophies already exist — those of logic, information, computation, natural and artificial life, natural or artificial intelligence, complexity, technology, etc. Our mission is not to abandon philosophical roots and traditions of inquiry, but to promote the development of philosophical foundations and effective methodologies derived from diverse scientific explorations, and intended to enhance these explorations as to generate deeper and more holistic knowledge. Innovation may also be achieved through the cultural dimension. Other cultures can offer from their heritage a diversity of resources for exploration; these resources can also contribute to the emergent synthesis of philosophical inquiry.

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