

Lecture as part of the Teaching Assistantship Programme 2019

Post- and Trans-humanism in Theory and Culture: An Introduction

Organizational details

Instructor: Aleksandar Talovic

Date: June 5, 2019, from 16.00 to 18.00 h

Location: Campus Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Licher Strasse 68, D-35390 Giessen, room 020 (HS 020)

Content

The following session aims to discuss what Post-humanism is, how we understand and use it, as well as what particular consequences it may have for the different disciplines, research topics and for the Humanities and culture in general. Its introductory part will focus on vast plurality of the term, as well as on its Trans-humanist 'branches' and positions. The main differences between the two separate, but never parted conceptual frameworks and its theoretical/ideological backgrounds will be explored. Although primarily set to be an introduction of general concepts, this part will also accentuate the way how works of most prominent theorists (such as Donna Haraway, Rosi Braidotti, Karen Barad, Bruno Latour, N. Katherine Hayles, to mention here but a few), as well as of certain futurists and inventors (such as Ray Kurzweil, David Hanson, Hiroshi Ishiguro, Michio Kaku, Masahiro Mori...) shaped both fields significantly, albeit each in their own way.

In the second part, I will briefly and critically situate the emblematic case of humanoid robot Sophia along with other human- and non-human-shaped robots, AI products and/or various case studies (e.g. the TV show "Altered Carbon" and movies such as "Her", "Ex Machina", "Annihilation" and similar Post- and Trans-humanist popular culture outputs and outcomes). The aim of this second part is to shed more light on a striking intertwining between the top notch techno-trends that continuously inspire this field and the philosophico-theoretical thematic trajectories of the above-mentioned paradigms.

Keywords: Post-humanism, Trans-humanism, technology, AI, humanoid robotics, popular culture

Learning Targets

- General familiarization with the field(s) of Post- and Trans-humanism
- Overview of main concepts through the insights of some notable theorists and scientists
- Basic understanding of current technological trends in shaping non-human entities
- Some hints on recent pop-culture inputs concerning the field

Target group

Students, Doctoral Candidates and Postdocs of all Faculties

Course language

English

Registration No registration needed