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## **Wikipedia and the situated subject**

Postphenomenology offers the tools to analyse specific technologies, by examining how the object (the specific piece of machinery at hand) and the subject (the user) shape each other (Verbeek 2005, Jensen & Aagaard 2018). When a hermeneutic relation (Ihde 1990) is established, technologies shape the knowing subject and their worldview.

Wikipedia is one such technology. Its main feature is the mediation of the collective production of knowledge. Wikipedia editors don't just add or remove information. They interact with each other, thanks to facilities called Talk pages. These are the venue provided for editors to engage in discussions about content. Talk pages are the social-epistemological engine of the encyclopaedia: where decisions are made, conflicts are settled, meaning is made. The design of Talk pages strongly influences the behaviour of editors and potential editors, thereby shaping content that will weasel its way into fact checking, desktop-based applications, and, ultimately, the worldview of a wide range of people.

My research into the constitution of the knowing subject on Wikipedia has led me to realise how the positionality of the subject is largely downplayed in postphenomenological investigations. The subject, as Merleau-Ponty (1945/2005) notes, is always situated. In my presentation, I will discuss how including aspects such as personality, native language, gender, race, socio-economic background fruitfully enriches my analysis of Wikipedia.

For instance, the emphasis on adversarial debate on Talk pages makes participation difficult for those who are not socialised to be assertive, and/or more inclined to cooperation – influencing content, community relations, internal hierarchy.