

Situating the Emerging Human: Moving Beyond a Technocentric Perspective in Human-Technology Relations

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Abstract

In this paper I describe how to implement a framework to more broadly situate technological mediation and the co-constitution of the (post)human subject. I investigate how constituting technological relations relate to, and interrelate with, the non-technological constituting relations in our lives. By leveraging the I-technology-world formula to include non-technological relations, we gain a more holistic and accurate, if complex, understanding of how human subjects are constituted in a pragmatic manner.

The framework uses intrasubjective mediation, an interdisciplinary approach based on postphenomenology, philosophical posthumanism, and complexity theory. The framework describes six groupings of relations: technological, sociocultural, time, space, mind, and body. How these relations, as well as their interrelational effects, contribute to the constitution of the human subject is explored. Utilizing the framework brings to the foreground the contributing influences that continually constitute human subjects in everyday technological environments, allowing people to make more informed decisions on which technologies they invite into their lives. While it is not possible to completely understand the complexity of all interrelations that constitute us, the more we can become aware of them, the greater chance we will have for reclaiming at least some of our agency. The framework expands beyond a technocentric perspective in order to be more inclusive and holistic.

Keywords: postphenomenology, intrasubjective mediation, posthumanism