

Workshop on Ethics and Technology Assessment

Center for Ethics in Practice - Center for Applied Philosophy CAF



AALBORG UNIVERSITET

Center for Ethics in Practice - Center for Applied Philosophy CAF

19. – 20. May 2016

Kroghstræde 3, room 3.117

Workshop on:

Ethics and Technology Assessment

Technology Assessment (TA) is a scientific branch that evaluates the impact, risks and consequences of technologies for society. Several forms of TA have been developed since the 1970s; recently, a shift from an expert and expertise centered TA to a more socially integrating form, mediating between experts, the public and politics/institutions has taken place. As a scientific branch TA has become interdisciplinary, drawing upon such different disciplines and approaches as ethics, anthropology, science studies and policy analysis. Following from the integrative approach to TA the question arises of how ethics inform TA and how ethical considerations can be included in TA?

Keynote speaker Professor Armin Grunwald is internationally known for his interdisciplinary approach to technology assessment. Prominent in his work on TA is a focus on future impacts of technologies on human and societal decisions. He is Professor at the Karlsruhe Institute for Technology (KIT), director of the Institute for Technology Assessment and System Analysis (ITAS, KIT), which is a member of the European Technology Assessment Group (ETAG), and he is director of the Office of Technology Assessment at the German Bundestag, Berlin.

The goal of the workshop is to discuss different approaches to integrate ethics in TA and to strengthen research on TA at Aalborg University, Denmark and the collaboration between Denmark and Germany in the field of technology assessment.

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Organization: Antje Gimmler, Professor of Applied Philosophy (AAU, Center of Applied Philosophy)

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Program:

Thursday, 19. May 2016

13.30 – 14.00 Welcome, Per Michael Johansen (Rector AAU), Finn Arler, Antje Gimmler

14.00 – 15.30 Keynote: Armin Grunwald (KIT, Germany): Technology Assessment – providing orientating knowledge for society and decision-making.

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 – 16.45 Tom Børsen (AAU), Towards a quick and proper approach to ethical technology assessment.

17.00 – 17.45 Søren Riis (RUC), ICT Literacy and the assessment of 'smart technologies'

Break with transfer to the hotel and possibility for a walk along the new harbor front

19.30 - Dinner in town

Friday, 20. May 2016

09.00 – 09.45 Lars Botin (AAU), How Can Techno-Anthropology Contribute to New Understandings and Practices of Technology Assessment?

09.45 – 10.30 Robert Rosenberger (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA), Traffic Policy Assessment and the Philosophy of User Interface

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 12.00 Discussion: The future of integrative technology assessment in Denmark

12.00 – 13.30 Lunch and networking

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Other speakers:

Finn Arler, Ph.D. and Dr., Associate Professor at Aalborg University, Aalborg. Finn Arler is a philosopher and human ecologist. He is head of the Center of Ethics in Practice (AAU) His research is within the field of human ecology and sustainability. Ethics is an integrative part of his research in the environmental planning and technological development in the field of environmental studies.

Lars Botin, Ph.D., Associate Professor at Aalborg University, Aalborg. Lars Botin is working within the field of Techno-Anthropology, philosophy of technology and science studies. He uses phenomenological and post-phenomenological approaches in his research in the field of health informatics as well as in his work on mobility (dwelling and architecture). He is also involved in the study program "Art & Technology".

Tom Børsen, Ph.D., Associate Professor at Aalborg University, Copenhagen. He is Director of the Study Board of the study program "Techno-Anthropology" at Aalborg University. His main focus is on including ethics and social responsibility in engineer educations. He has published widely in the field of ethics and engineering, philosophy of science and philosophy of technology. He is one of the founders of the interdisciplinary study program of Techno-Anthropology at Aalborg University

Antje Gimmler, Dr. phil., Professor at Aalborg University, Aalborg. Antje Gimmler works within the field of Applied Philosophy and is head of the Center for Applied Philosophy (AAU). Her main research fields are social theory, philosophy of science and technology. She uses pragmatic philosophical approaches to investigate into communications technologies as well as health care technologies (ambient technologies).

Søren Riis, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Roskilde University (RUC). Søren Riis' research lies within the field of philosophy of technology. Heidegger and Latour are among the philosophers that inform his research on communications technologies and mobility technologies. He is author of numerous books on philosophy of technology and founder of the network of philosophy of technology in Denmark.

Dr. Robert Rosenberg, Assistant Professor, Georgia Institute of Technology. A central focus of his research is the analysis of the ways technologies are wrapped up in contexts of conceptualization, use, and bodily habit. These studies include investigations into the experience of everyday devices (e.g. cellular phones, automobiles), and reflection on problems that accompany their use (e.g. the drop in driving proficiency that occurs as one talks on the phone). One ongoing branch of these studies involves the analysis of the roles imaging technologies play in scientific research, and the implications for specific contemporary debates in fields such as space science and neurobiology.