

TECHNO-HUMAN CONDITION: INTERACTIONS,  
MEDIATIONS, SPECULATIONS

TEHNOLOŠKO-LJUDSKO USTROJSTVO: INTERAKCIJE,  
MEDIJACIJE, SPEKULACIJE



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## EDITOR'S NOTE

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### **TECHNO-HUMAN CONDITION: INTERACTIONS, MEDIATIONS, SPECULATIONS**

The topic of this thematic issue stems from interdisciplinary research conducted at the *Digital Society Lab* of the *Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory* in Belgrade, which focuses on exploring different aspects of technological impact on humans and the ways technologies affect and transform society and culture. Emerging techno-social realities and technologically mediated practices in all spheres of life have opened a wide range of questions, approaches, and issues regarding the role of technology as the mediator of our lives and an integral part of contemporary human condition. What are the effects of our continuous online presence, from social platforms to immersive environments? How do technologically mediated interactions change our perception of subjectivity and identity? What is the role of technology in redefining the notion of human, from human enhancement and radical life extension to the concepts of post-/non-dualism, posthumanism, and non-anthropocentrism? How do everyday interactions with bots, artificial agents, manifestations of AI and other non-human, non-carbon-based organized existence affect us on individual and social level? What are the social, cultural, and ethical issues of technological influence and/or creation of value systems and decision making? Are science fiction narratives, once an inspiration for technological development, now a documentation of our present and a view into a dystopian future? What are the ideologies around technology that are reflected on and expressed through scientific, artistic, and theoretical fields? What should be further, novel methodological and theoretical reflections on issues of techno-human condition? Our continuous interaction with and reliance on technology have transgressed the boundaries between the virtual and the real, human and non-human, biological and technological, and culture and nature, resulting in the emergence of hybrid identities and lifeworlds, novel ways of communication, human enhancement, artificial agents and networks, big data,

surveillance capitalism, blockchain technologies, and other phenomena of the (post)digital culture and society.

The issue brings together four papers from different fields of digital anthropology, social psychology, communication studies, cognitive science, and media studies. Nemanja Nikolić, Ljubiša Bojić, and Lana Tucaković address the impact of the brain-machine interface on understanding subjectivity through psychodynamic psychology and philosophy. Smiljana Antonijević and Jeff Ubois examine the limits and possibilities of meaningful digital media preservation. Simona Žikić's paper looks into the ways technology has influenced and transformed communication by focusing on construction of identity of both human and non-human agents. Finally, Ivana Uspenski and Jelena Guga bring together media theory and 4E cognitive theories in order to explore the effects of social immersive environments, namely the Metaverse, on human experience. Although the topics presented in these papers may seem unrelated at first glance, what they all have in common is a critical reflection on relations between humans and technology and exploration of technological impact both within these respective fields and in a wider social, political, economic, and cultural context.