

Our Posthuman Future

Our Posthuman Future Medical Enhancement and Posthumanity Critical Posthumanism and Planetary Futures Perfecting Human Futures Screening the Posthuman Exits to the Posthuman Future Body Drift Aldous Huxley Design and Destiny Rewiring the "Nation" The Future of Social Theory Posthuman Life Human Futures Nanoculture Science Fiction The Mankind Quarterly Far Eastern Economic Review The Ecologist Speaking Science Fiction New Left Review Francis Fukuyama Bert Gordijn Debasish Banerji J. Benjamin Hurlbut Missy Molloy Arthur Kroker Arthur Kroker Alessandro Maurini Ronald Cole-Turner Carolyn de la Peña Nicholas Gane David Roden Andy Miah N. Katherine Hayles Council for Social and Economic Studies (U.S.) Andy Sawyer

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is a baby whose personality has been chosen from a gene supermarket still a human if we choose what we create what happens to morality is this the end of human nature the dramatic advances in dna technology over the last few years are the stuff of science fiction it is now not only possible to clone human beings

it is happening for the first time since the creation of the earth four billion years ago or the emergence of mankind 10 million years ago people will be able to choose their children's sex height colour personality traits and intelligence it will even be possible to create superhumans by mixing human genes with those of other animals for extra strength or longevity but is this desirable what are the moral and political consequences will it mean anything to talk about human nature any more is this the end of human beings our posthuman future is a passionate analysis of the greatest political and moral problem ever to face the human race

as we are increasingly using new technologies to change ourselves beyond therapy and in accordance with our own desires understanding the challenges of human enhancement has become one of the most urgent topics of the current age this volume contributes to such an understanding by critically examining the pros and cons of our growing ability to shape human nature through technological advancements the authors undertake careful analyses of decisive questions that will confront society as enhancement interventions using bio info neuro and nanotechnologies become widespread in the years to come they provide the reader with the conceptual tools necessary to address such questions fruitfully what makes the book especially attractive is the combination of conceptual historical and ethical approaches rendering it highly original in addition the well balanced structure allows both favourable and critical views to be voiced moreover the work has a crystal clear structure as a consequence the book is accessible to a broad academic audience the issues raised are of interest to a wide reflective public concerned about science and ethics as well as to students academics and professionals in areas such as philosophy applied ethics bioethics medicine and health management

this volume is a critical exploration of multiple posthuman possibilities in the 21st century and beyond due to the global engagement with advanced technology we are witness to a species wise blurring of boundaries at the edge of the human on the one hand we find ourselves in a digital age in which human identity is being

transformed through networked technological intervention a large part of our consciousness transferred to smart external devices on the other hand we are assisted or assailed by an unprecedented proliferation of quasi human substitutes and surrogates forming a spectrum of humanoids with fuzzy borders under these conditions critical posthumanism asks who will occupy and control our planet will the superhuman merely serve as another sign under which new regimes of dominance are spread across the earth or can we discover or invent technologies of existence to counter such dominance it is issues such as these which are at the heart of this new volume of explorations of the posthuman the essays in this volume offer leading edge thought on the subject with special emphases on postmodern and postcolonial futures they engage with questions of subalternity and feminism vis à vis posthumanism dealing with issues of subjugation dispensability and surrogacy as well as the possibilities of resistance ethical politics or subjective transformation from south asian archives of cultural and spiritual practice this volume is a valuable addition to the on going global dialogues on posthumanism indispensable to those from across several disciplines who are interested in postcolonial and planetary futures

humans have always imagined better futures from the desire to overcome death to the aspiration to dominion over the world imaginations of the technological future reveal the commitments values and norms of those who construct them today the human future is thrown into question by emerging technologies that promise radical control over human life and elicit corollary imaginations of human perfectibility this interdisciplinary volume assembles scholars of science and technology studies sociology philosophy theology ethics and history to examine imaginations of technological progress that promises to transcend the constraints of human body and being attending in particular to transhumanist and posthumanist visions the volume breaks new ground by exploring their utopian and eschatological dimensions and situating them within a broader context of ideas institutions and practices of innovation the volume invites specialists and

general readers to explore the stakes of contemporary imaginations of technological innovation as a source of progress a force of social and historical transformation and as the defining essence of human life

from ai to climate change recent technological ecological and cultural transformations have unsettled established assumptions about the relationship between the human and the more than human world screening the posthuman addresses a heterogenous body of twenty first century films that turn to the figure of the posthuman as a means of exploring this development through close analyses of films as diverse as *kôki ningyô air doll* dir hirokazu koreeda 2009 *testrol* os *lôlekrol* on body and soul dir ildiko enyedi 2017 and *nomadland* dir chloë zhao 2020 this wide ranging volume shows that while often identified as the remit of science fiction the posthuman on screen crosses filmic genres national contexts and industrial settings in the process posthuman cinema emphasizes humanity's entanglement in broader biological technological and social worlds and exposes new models of subjectivity community and desire in advancing these arguments screening the posthuman draws on scholarship associated with critical posthumanist theory an ongoing project unified by a decentering of the human as the first systematic full length application of this body of scholarship to cinema screening the posthuman advocates for a rigorous posthumanist critique that avoids both humanist nostalgia and transhumanist fantasy in its attention to the excitements and anxieties of posthuman experience

exits to the posthuman future is media theory for a global digital society which thrives and sometimes perishes at the intersection of technologies of speed distant ethics and a pervasive cultural anxiety arthur kroker's incisive and insightful text presents the emerging pattern of a posthuman future life at the tip of technologies of acceleration drift and crash kroker links key concepts such as guardian liberalism and obama's vision of the just war with a striking account of culture drift as the essence of real world technoculture he argues that contemporary society displays growing uncertainty about the ultimate ends of

technological innovation and the intelligibility of the digital future the posthuman future is elusive is it a gathering storm of cynical abandonment inertia disappearance and substitution or else the development of a new form of critical consciousness the posthuman imagination as a means of comprehending the full complexity of life depending on which exit to the posthuman future we choose or perhaps which exit chooses us kroker argues that a very different posthuman future will likely ensue

as exemplary representatives of a form of critical feminism the writings of judith butler katherine hayles and donna haraway offer entry into the great crises of contemporary society politics and culture butler leads readers to rethink the boundaries of the human in a time of perpetual war hayles turns herself into a writing machine in order to find a dwelling place for the digital humanities within the austere landscape of the culture of the code haraway is the one contemporary thinker to have begun the necessary ethical project of creating a new language of potential reconciliation among previously warring species according to arthur kroker the postmodernism of judith butler the posthumanism of katherine hayles and the companionism of donna haraway are possible pathways to the posthuman future that is captured by the specter of body drift body drift refers to the fact that individuals no longer inhabit a body in any meaningful sense of the term but rather occupy a multiplicity of bodies gendered sexualized laboring disciplined imagined and technologically augmented body drift is constituted by the blast of information culture envisioned by artists communicated by social networking and signified by its signs it is lived daily by remixing resplicing and redesigning the codes codes of gender sexuality class ideology and identity the writings of butler hayles and haraway kroker reveals provide the critical vocabulary and political context for understanding the deep complexities of body drift and challenging the current emphasis on the material body

aldous huxley the political thought of a man of letters argues that huxley is not a

man of letters engaged in politics but a political thinker who chooses literature to spread his ideas his preference for the dystopian genre is due to his belief in the tremendous impact of dystopia on twentieth century political thought his political thinking is not systematic but this does not stop his analysis from supplying elements that are original and up to date and that represent fascinating contributions of political theory in all the spheres that he examines from anti marxism to anti positivism from political realism to elitism from criticism of mass society to criticism of totalitarianism from criticism of ideologies to the future of liberal democracy from pacifism to ecological communitarianism huxley clearly grasped the unsolved issues of contemporary liberalism and the importance of his influence on many twentieth century and present day political thinkers ensures that his ideas remain indispensable in the current liberal democratic debate brave new world is without doubt huxley s most successful political manifesto while examining the impassioned struggle for the development of all human potentialities it yet manages not to close the doors definitively on the rebirth of utopia in the age of dystopia

scholars discuss the genetic modification of embryonic cells from the viewpoints of traditional jewish and christian teaching considering both the possible therapeutic benefits of this technology and moral concerns about its implementation we are approaching the day when advances in biotechnology will allow parents to design a baby with the traits they want the continuing debate over the possibilities of genetic engineering has been spirited but so far largely confined to the realms of bioethics and public policy design and destiny approaches the question in religious terms discussing human germline modification the genetic modification of the embryonic cells that become the eggs or sperm of a developing organism from the viewpoints of traditional christian and jewish teaching the contributors leading religious scholars and writers call our attention not to technology but to humanity reflecting upon the meaning and destiny of human life in a technological age many of these scholars argue that

religious teaching can support human germline modification implemented for therapeutic reasons although they offer certain moral conditions that must be met the essays offer a surprising variety of opinions including a discussion of judaism s traditional presumption in favor of medicine an argument that catholic doctrine could accept germline modification if it is therapeutic for the embryo an argument implying that traditional christian teaching permits germline modification whether for therapy or enhancement and a classical protestant view that germline modification should be categorically opposed contributors lisa sowle cahill nigel m de s cameron ronald cole turner amy michelle debaets celia deane drummond elliot dorff h tristram engelhardt jr thomas a shannon james j walter

this special bound issue of american quarterly offers a re reading of the narrative of u s technologies as we move beyond celebrations of exceptional tinkerers and a deterministic machine driven sense of progress to a more complex understanding of the opportunities and responsibilities that befall a nation that interweaves its identities labors and creative cultures with its machines

this title brings together interviews with the world s leading social theorists on what society means today the topics covered include liquid modernization and the individualization of the society the displacement of the social into global city networks and society as a gendered idea

we imagine posthumans as humans made superhumanly intelligent or resilient by future advances in nanotechnology biotechnology information technology and cognitive science many argue that these enhanced people might live better lives others fear that tinkering with our nature will undermine our sense of our own humanity whoever is right it is assumed that our technological successor will be an upgraded or degraded version of us human 2 0 posthuman life argues that the enhancement debate projects a human face onto an empty screen we do not know what will happen and not being posthuman cannot anticipate how posthumans will assess the world if a posthuman future will not necessarily be

informed by our kind of subjectivity or morality the limits of our current knowledge must inform any ethical or political assessment of that future posthuman life develops a critical metaphysics of posthuman succession and argues that only a truly speculative posthumanism can support an ethics that meets the challenge of the transformative potential of technology

the long term future of humanity has become of particular concern to various governance bodies and scholarly institutions this book combines scholarly essays images interviews design products artistic artefacts and creative writing it investigates the expectations and actualities of human future as they emerge within the social sphere

nano denotes a billionth a nanometer is a billionth of a meter new instrumentation and techniques have for the first time made possible materials research and engineering at this level the scale of individual molecules and atoms extraordinary visions of material abundance unprecedented materials and powerful engineering capabilities have marked the arrival of nanotechnology as well as dystopian scenarios of self replicating devices running amok and causing global catastrophe largely a future possibility rather than present actuality nanotechnology has become a potent cultural signifier nanoculture explores the ways in which nanotechnology interacts with and itself becomes a cultural construction topics include the co construction of nanoscience and science fiction the influence of risk assessment and nanotechnology on the shapes of narratives intersections between nanoscience as a writing practice and experimental literature at the limits of fabrication the alice in wonderland metaphor for nanotechnology and the effects of mediation on nanotechnology and electronic literature nanoculture is produced in collaboration with the nano art exhibit at the los angeles county museum of art december 2003 september 2004 created by an interdisciplinary team led by media artist victoria vesna and nanoscientist james gimzewski nanoculture is richly illustrated with images from the nano exhibit which also provides the basis for an ethnographic analysis of collaborative process and an

exploration of changing concepts of museum space the dynamic uniting these diverse perspectives is boundary crossing between art science and literature cultural imaginaries scientific facts and technological possibilities actual virtual and hybrid spaces the science of fictions and the fictions of science and utopian dreams material constraints and dystopian nightmares the first book length study focus on cultural implications of nanotechnology nanoculture breaks new ground in showing the importance of the new technoscience to contemporary culture and of culture to the development interpretation and future of this technoscience

this wide ranging volume explores the various dialogues that flourish between different aspects of science fiction academics and fans writers and readers ideological stances and national styles different interpretations of the genre and how language and voices are used in constructing sf introduced by the acclaimed novelist brian w aldiss the essays range from studies of writers such as robert a heinlein who are considered as the heart of the genre to more contemporary writers such as jack womack and j g ballard

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