

Technology as form of life



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Reviews

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(Oceane Stanton DVM)*

TECHNOLOGY AS FORM OF LIFE



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GRIN Verlag Jul 2014, 2014. sonst. Bücher. Book Condition: Neu. 297x210x1 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Essay from the year 2004 in the subject Philosophy - Practical (Ethics, Aesthetics, Culture, Nature, Right, .), grade: HD (High Distinction), Murdoch University (Institute for Sustainability and Technology Policy), course: Policy, Technology and Democracy, language: English, abstract: What does Winner mean when he says technologies are forms of life In his book 'The Whale and the Reactor', Langdon Winner introduces technologies as forms of life. With this notion, he tries to overcome 'our normal understanding of the meaning of technology in human life' (p. 12), which he declares as a 'widespread and ex-tremely narrow conception' (p. 12). Although it remains unclear about whom he refers to, the normal understanding seems to be an understanding of technology as a 'cause-and-effect model' (p. 11), to which he attests 'empirical and moral shortcomings'(p. 11). Winner endeavours to explain the connection between technologies and the everyday life. What is needed is an interpretation of the ways, both obvious and subtle, in which everyday life is transformed by the mediating role of technical devices. (p. 9). Nowadays, technologies are so interwoven into the texture of everyday life that life is un-thinkable without them. At least for the western industrialized countries, it is valid that 'Humans must adapt. That is their destiny' (p. 10). Winner describes this situation as follows: We do indeed use telephones, automobiles, electric lights, and computers in the conventional sense of picking them up and putting them down. But our world soon becomes one in which telephony, automobility, electric lightning, and computing are forms of life in the most powerful sense: life would scarcely be thinkable without them. (p. 11) Originally, the expression 'forms of life' (Lebensform) came...



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