The Grammar of Things (Darmstadt, 14-17 Jun 17)

Technische Universität Darmstadt, Jun 14–17, 2017
Deadline: Dec 5, 2016

Sabine Ammon

Call for Papers
20th conference of the Society for Philosophy and Technology
SPT 2017: The Grammar of Things

June 14-17, 2017 – Darmstadt, Germany

When we talk and think about technology, we are talking about ars and techne, artefacts and socio-technical systems – and always about putting things together, co-ordinating people and things. Seeking to understand, interpret, and knowingly inhabit the human-built world, we explore what works together, how to construct, engineer, compose, grow, plan, assemble, or design in appropriate, fitting, sustainable, and sociable ways.

These are questions of grammar: How do things work together in the motor of a car, in a public square, in a soap opera, in the painting of a historic scene, in a deliberative process? What are the principles of composition in a musical score or a computer program? How closely are things related in an 'Internet of Things'? What sustains the operation of a concrete machine? Who acts when a law is enforced, a plan realized, a code compiled, a script executed? How do users become designers, how do scientists become engineers, how do artefacts become moral agents?
Such examinations of the grammar of things implicate epistemology, social imaginaries, and design ethics. They provoke analysis from the various traditions in philosophy of technology and seek to draw on contributions from history of technology, cultural studies, design theory, anthropology, art history, cognitive psychology, computer science, engineering education, and other fields.

Plenary Speakers
- Pamela Andanda (Law, University of Witwatersrand)
- Christian Bök (Poet, Charles Darwin University)
- Sybille Krämer (Philosophy, Freie Universität Berlin)
- Dagmar Schäfer (History of Science and China, Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte Berlin)
- Astrid Schwarz (Philosophy, ETH Zurich)
- George Stiny (Design and Computation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
- Shannon Vallor (Philosophy, Santa Clara University)

Due Date for Abstracts/Session Proposals: December 5, 2016 (see conference website for

submission instructions). Notifications of acceptance expected by March 1, 2017.
In order to apply for a Graduate Student Paper Award (includes travel stipend) or the SPT Early Career Award (sponsored by Philosophy and Technology), please consult the conference website:
www.philosophie.tu-darmstadt.de/spt2017
Conference Organizers:
Sabine Ammon ammon@tu-berlin.de
Alfred Nordmann nordmann@phil.tu-darmstadt.de

Reference:
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