

**Postdoc Project — Title:** Technology and Power in Social Systems

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**Synopsis:**

The aim of this book project is to examine the entwinement of digital technologies and power relations. Starting from a historical perspective, it traces widespread ideas and ideologies associated with developments in computer technologies back to the cybernetic movement in the US in the middle of the 20th century. Cybernetic concepts and reasoning influenced the philosophy of Gilbert Simondon, who is currently taken up by new strands in the philosophy of technology. Although Simondon offers a profound analysis of the communicative system linking humans and machines, achieved through a common symbolism, his vision of a 'good coupling' between human and non-human systems brackets off the political and economic dimensions of technology. We also see a continuing influence of 'cybernetic reason' on wider cultural movements that identify social development with technical progress. On the basis of conceptual resources drawn from Foucault, Agamben, Deleuze and Guattari, this project will elaborate a theory of sociotechnical assemblages that can account for the intricate relations between power and technology in complex systems. This will provide valuable critical tools for assessing any philosophy of technology, and more generally any instance of the social imaginary that isolates technical invention and development from its larger political-economic context.

Duration: 2018–2023