



Trópos. Rivista di Ermeneutica e critica filosofica

ed. by Gaetano Chiurazzi

Transparency and opacity in the digital society

The advent of digital information and communication technologies (ICT) has been described as a 'fourth revolution' (Luciano Floridi) after the Copernican, Darwinian and Freudian ones. Each of these revolutions represented a rethinking of man's centrality in the world. After having abandoned some of the main certainties it had about itself – the certainty of living at the centre of the universe, of being by origin and nature different from other animal species, of dominating its own inner life – humanity seems to have reached a stage in which it has to give up even its apparently most indisputable primacy: that of intelligence. The beneficiaries of this surrender are its own technical achievements, in particular the digital ICT, whose computing power humans can no longer hope to match, on which they therefore depend. For philosophical thinking, this ongoing 'revolution' is fraught with metaphysical, ethical and political implications.

In an increasingly 'informational' reality, is it possible to describe the behaviour, choices, and evaluations made by human beings as ultimately determined by algorithmic models? Since the computational capacity of machines has far exceeded that of human beings, is it appropriate to delegate the most complex decisions to them? How can the privacy of individuals be protected in a world geared towards universal visibility and traceability? Can we speak of a right to be unrecognisable, a right to opacity? How do digital technologies and algorithm-based organisational methods impact the world of work (e.g. in the logistics sector) and labour relations? Is it legitimate to demand that Gig Economy companies disclose the algorithms which regulate their work process, the distribution of tasks, appraisals and not least remuneration? Or is this a legitimate company secret? Are algorithm decisions in principle more transparent than human decisions? If so, should we perhaps entrust precisely the most delicate decisions of public relevance to artificial intelligence? Even in matters of, say, justice? Could we recognise judgments issued by artificial intelligence as legitimate and binding?

Ethics and digital politics are still lands to be explored, whose challenges require responses that match the relentless pace of technological innovation. Two major opposing trends seem to be emerging in the contemporary debate on the social impact of digital technologies. On the one hand, the right to invisibility, the defence of the private sphere from the intrusive gaze of digital devices, the guarantee of privacy; on the other hand, the right to publicity of the regulatory mechanisms of social life, of decision-making procedures, in short: the need for democratic control.

Within this problematic horizon, the editors of *Trópos. Journal of Hermeneutics and Philosophical Criticism* are pleased to invite research contributions on the following non-exclusive questions:

- The theoretical approach of digital philosophy
- The historical, social and anthropological changes brought about by digital ICTs
- Digital ICTs and the conflicts in the world of work
- Algorithms and the Gig Economy
- Artificial intelligence and the democratic process
- Digital ICTs and the transformations of the public sphere
- Potentialities and risks of the Data Economy
- Privacy rights and the guarantee of transparency
- Decision-making and algorithmic regulation
- Artificial intelligence and copyright
- Ethics of artificial intelligence
- The infosphere as a new environment of human life

Deadlines

Submission deadline: January 31, 2023

Results of blind reviews: March 31, 2023

Submission Guidelines

Papers should be submitted to:

- Dr. Manuel Disegni: manuel.disegni@unito.it

Papers should be submitted in Italian, English, French, or German.

They should be prepared for blind review (double).

Each submission should consist of two separate documents, the first containing:

- A title
- A full paper of no more than 50,000 characters (See style sheet below for more detailed information)
- An abstract of no more than 200 words (including English title)
- 5 keywords

The second document to be sent separately should include the following:

- The paper's title
- Your name, affiliation, and contact information.
- A biographical presentation of 50-60 words.

Style Sheet

For the pre-publication preparation, please read carefully the following instructions.

1) Essays should not exceed **50,000 characters in length** and should include:

- **your name and affiliation;**
- **an abstract of no more than 200 words with an English title;**
- **5 keywords of the essay;**
- **a biographical presentation of 50-60 words.**

2) The number of footnotes should be kept to a minimum and appear at the end of each page. Reference marks come after punctuation.

3) The bibliographical references should directly appear **in the text**. Punctuation comes before quotation marks (" ") and apices (' '). **The reference to a book or an article should appear in brackets:** (Derrida 1967: 103)

4) At the end of the article, **an alphabetically-ordered list of the references should appear:**

- **Reference to a book (and to its translation):**

Derrida J., 1967, *De la grammatologie*, Paris: Minuit; Italian translation by R. Balzarotti, F. Bonicalzi, G. Contri, G. Dalmaso, A.C. Loaldi, *Della grammatologia*, Milano: Jaca Book 1998.

- **Reference to a book, including the year of its first edition, if it is the case:**

Heidegger M., 1971, *Sein und Zeit* [1927], edited by W. von Hermann, Frankfurt a.M.: Klostermann.

- **Reference to an edited book:**

Caciagli M., Spreafico A. (eds.), 1973, *Un sistema politico alla prova*, Bologna: Il Mulino.

- **Reference to an article:**

Kellner M.M., 1975, *Democracy*, "Journal of Politics," 37, n. 4: 35-64.

4) For further informations, please refer to *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th ed. (2003).

Trópos - Journal of Hermeneutics and Philosophical Criticism was founded in 2008 at the University of Turin (Italy). The editors is Gaetano Chiurazzi. The managing editor is Alberto Martinengo.

Trópos publishes essays that address the most relevant contemporary debates in philosophy, in a permanent dialogue with different philosophical traditions. Its main fields of interest include theoretical and practical philosophy, aesthetics, linguistic and literary subjects.