

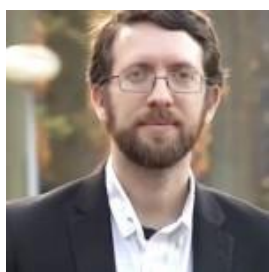
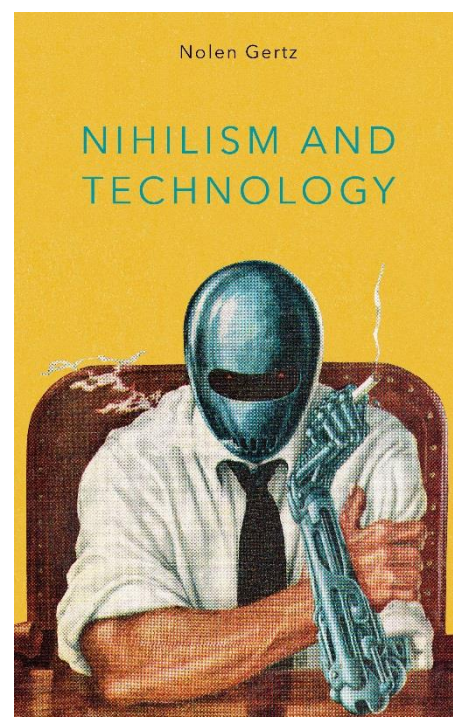
# Nihilism and Technology

Event Date: March 27, 2018 – 12:00 to 13:30

Location: FSS 4004, 120 University Private

Heidegger, Marcuse, and Ellul warned against the rise of a technological mass culture. Philosophy of technology has since turned away from such dystopic views, promoting instead the view that we shape technologies just as technologies shape us. Yet the rise of Big Data has exceeded our worst fears about Big Brother, leading us to again question whether technologies are empowering us or enslaving us.

Rather than engage in endless debates about whether technologies are making us better or making us worse, Dr. Nolen Gertz investigates what we think “better” and “worse” mean, and what role this thinking has played in the creation of our technological world. This investigation is carried out by using Nietzsche’s philosophy of nihilism in order to explore the ways in which our values mediate how we design technologies and how we use technologies. Dr Gertz will investigate our technological practices—practices ranging from *Netflix and Chill* to *Fitbit and Move* to *Twitter and Rage*—and reveal how our nihilism and our technologies have become intertwined, creating a world of techno-hypnosis, data-driven activity, pleasure economics, herd networking, and orgies of clicking.



[Nolen Gertz](#) is Assistant Professor of Applied Philosophy at the University of Twente. He is the Coordinator of the 4TU Centre for Ethics and Technology’s Task Force on Risk, Safety and Security, and a Research Associate in Military Ethics at the Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence at Case Western Reserve University. He is the author of *The Philosophy of War and Exile* (Palgrave 2014), and *Nihilism and Technology* which is forthcoming from Rowman and Littlefield International. He received his PhD in Philosophy from The New School for Social Research.

For more information: <http://www.cips-cepi.ca/event/nihilism-and-technology/>