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ABSTRACTS

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Composing humanness with (soma---) technologies – dialoguing with postphenomenology

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At a time when technoscientific innovations in the biomedical field are becoming “anthropotechnologies” (Sloterdijk, 2009) and open the prospect of *human* enhancement, the question of what and who counts as human – as well as nonhuman, other---than---human, less---than---human – in the intra---actions between bodies and technologies becomes critical. Therefore, and because the mainstream debate on human enhancement unashamedly subsumes *the human* into the modern liberal subject, a posthumanist analysis is crucial to address such matters insofar as it enables to shed light on the power---imbued making of humanness and the ecology of forces that contribute to shape bodies and/in/with technology.

In this presentation rooted in empirical philosophy (Mol, 2002), feminist materialism (Alaimo and Hekman, 2008), and postphenomenology (Ihde 1990), I intend to interrogate which and whose bodies materialise – that is, both come to existence and come to count (Barad, 2007) – as human, nonhuman, other---than---human, less---than---human in the fields of spinal cord stimulation and prosthetics, the two domains in which I am conducting fieldwork. More precisely, it is via the analysis and mapping of the interferences of the material---discursive practices that are enacted not only on the laboratory floor but also within the lived experience of the users of these technologies and through which bodies get defined and delineated, that I will sketch what *matters* as proper humanness. In this endeavour, I will also open a generative dialogue between Bruno Latour’s affective compositions (2004) and Don Ihde’s embodiment relation (1990) as it is my contention that reading them through one another can contribute not only to strengthen understandings of bodies and technologies, but also to better account for and be accountable to somatechnologies and the affective shaping of bodies within technoscience, a pressing and pivotal ethical (and political) issue in our highly technological times.

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