Bodies, bikes and dis/ability: some philosophical reflexions on their interactions

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Résumé

In the past decade, the cyborg has been the preferred figure or metaphor to encapsulate the increasingly closer and intimate relations between humans and technologies. However, despite its heuristic value, it tends not only to overlook the everyday experiences that people have with technological objects, but also to silence the realities of disabled or differently-abled bodies with technologies. In this talk, I will rely on approaches from philosophy and from science and technology studies to explore some of the issues that are brought about by assistive technologies. Technical mediation (what technologies do and how they transform perceptions and actions), ableism ("the collective and generally unconscious attitude that favours an understanding of situations and, more broadly, of the world, based on the ablebodied human as a reference, belittling and rejecting all other norms and values that result from the diversity of bodies " (Gardien, 2016: 114)), and peer support will be some of the questions that I will tackle while reflecting on the interactions between differently-abled bodies, the FES bike and assistive technologies in general. Reference: Gardien, Eve (2016) De la liberté corporelle en situation: l'exemple de la résistance de personnes handicapées au validocentrisme. Corps, 14(1), 105-114.

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