Value change and technology

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It is a widely accepted idea in philosophy of technology that technology is value-laden. Artifacts and socio-technical systems are not value-neutral but support or inhibit social and moral values (e.g., safety, privacy, justice). Further, there are approaches that aim to actively integrate values into technical design, for example Value Sensitive Design, Design for Values and Responsible Research and Innovation. Nevertheless, there is an important blind spot in current theories and approaches: they assume that values are static whereas in reality values change after a technology has been introduced. To complicate matters further, technology may even trigger or contribute to value change.

Making sense of value change and technology raises deep philosophical questions and involves empirical and design challenges. For starters, there is a lack of philosophical theory of value change in socio-technical systems. In this special track we would like to explore the connection between technology and value-change. We invite contributions that address the following questions. Please note that this list is not exhaustive and other ideas are very welcome:

- What is the connection between technology and value-change? Further, what notion of value is best suited to account for value-change and what are possible mechanisms of value-change in socio-technical systems? We are also looking forward to submissions that explore norm change or moral change.
- What insights can be gained regarding value-change and technology from different philosophical traditions and approaches? We particularly welcome contributions that consider non-Western philosophies.
- What do different disciplines (e.g., social sciences, philosophy, anthropology) have to offer for the investigation of technology and value-change?
- Value-change seems unpredictable or hard to anticipate. How can we design artifacts and socio-technical systems with value-change in mind?
- Matching the theme of the conference, we also welcome submissions that consider the link between power, technology and value-change.

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300-word abstracts for individual papers should be submitted by Dec 1 at https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=spt2019 . Please make sure to mention at the top of the page that the paper is for the special track "[Name of Track]".

Timeline

- December 1st 2018: Deadline for the submission of abstracts
- February 1st, 2019: Expected notification of acceptance
- May 20th-22th, 2019: Conference dates