

Abstract



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Materiality versus Metabolism in the hybrid world: towards a dualist concept of materialism as limit of post-humanism in the technical era

- The point of departure of this article is the trend towards hybridisation in new technology development, that makes classical dichotomies between machines, (human) life and the environment obsolete and leads to the post-human world we live in today. We critically reflect on the post-human ontology of the hybrid world. Although we agree with post-humanists that (human) life can no longer be opposed to machines but appears as decentralized human-technology relation, alliance or network that constitutes a hybrid world, we ask for a limit to hybridisation. After rejecting the concept of metabolism as such a limit, we explore the concept of the responsive conativity of matter. The principle of conativity of material entities provides a materialist perspective on metabolism, which enables us to conceive material entities as self-assertive material entities that are differentiated from the environment. The principle of responsivity of material entities provides a materialist perspective on the post-human world in which material entities are responsive to each other and form alliances and networks. We propose to differentiate between the conativity and responsivity of material entities and propose the conativity of matter as limit to hybridisation in the post-human world.



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