

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

It has been my profound honor to serve as editor-in-chief of *Techné: Research in Philosophy and Technology* for over six years, critically assisted by Ashley Shew Heflin, William Davis, Thomas Staley, Ibo van de Poel, Diane Michelfelder, and Peter-Paul Verbeek. To this team I owe thanks that can never be fully cashed out. It is now time to step away and let another editorial team take the journal to its next destination.

I wish to thank also the authors who have trusted their work to us and to the multitude of referees who have spent endless hours giving careful advice to both the editors and the authors. Thanks to the referees and to the authors' willingness to respond to critical review, the journal clearly stands as the premier venue in the field. The quality has never been higher, the content never more relevant.

Perhaps I can be permitted to think that the overall vitality of the philosophy of technology today in no small way derives from the standard of quality this journal has set. I would like to believe this to be true. I would also like to think that the journal has played no small role in bringing philosophy of technology into the mainstream of intellectual thought. The exciting part has been the fact that this has been a collective effort.

But the world changes and how we think about our role in the world must change to meet the new realities. In a previous issue, a challenge was issued to philosophers of technology to take the lead in bringing the insights and values of philosophy into the public domain, to become public intellectuals. I want to second that challenge. But I would like to add to the reasons for such action. In the United States the humanities in general are under siege—their value disputed and their role in the social framework ignored. To a large degree, this is our own fault. Whether this state of affairs is true elsewhere I leave it to others to decide. But in the United States, the voice of philosophy is simply not heard in the public domain. What is heard is the high degree of arrogance that surrounds the safeguarding of petty fiefdoms. If this behavior continues, philosophy will also disappear from the geography of those fiefdoms: higher education. For in a world where value is measured in how well we prepare our students for jobs, with fewer and fewer students taking our courses and majoring in our field, the value-added of

philosophy is perceived to be diminishing. But, as philosophers of technology, we can help chart a new direction. We can because we deal with technology, a tangible part of the world. We should be in that world bringing our special tools to bear on real world problems.

And so, as a member of a sadly disappearing group of 1960s radicals, I would like, first, to thank you for the opportunity to serve; and second, to raise the call one more time: To the streets!

Joseph C. Pitt

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