Science,
Technology
and Society

SPRING/SUMMER 2021

Welcome

2021 marks Policy Press' 25th anniversary and 5 years since Bristol University Press' inception.

It is a challenging time to celebrate such milestones, yet in reflecting on our progress we strengthened our determination to support positive social change. Our publishing, culture and practice over 25 years demonstrates our team's values and concerns which I believe are ever-more needed in these difficult times.

Several initiatives show our 'publishing with a purpose' ethos:

- **Rapid Responses** and **COVID-19 Collection** are new interventions to influence thinking, policy and practice. Written by leading scholars, policy makers, charity workers and activists, the digital-only Rapid Responses publish in just 6-8 weeks, while the COVID-19 Collection offers cross-disciplinary perspectives on the pandemic.

- Our commitment to sustainable Open Access (OA) through Gold and Green routes is crucial to opening up evidence and analysis to researchers, practitioners and policy makers around the globe. Our **Research4Life** partnership is also vital, giving free or low-cost access to all our work to low-income countries.

- **Equality, diversity and inclusion** (EDI) has been fundamental to our ethos for 25 years and our five-year strategy underpins this commitment. Diversity of thought, belief and background of our authors, editors and staff enable us to publish a wide range of voices that challenge accepted norms and thinking.

- As a publisher focused on addressing global social challenges, we were early signatories to the recent **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Publishers Compact**, a collaboration between the United Nations and the International Publishers Association to accelerate progress to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

I hope that you find much of interest in this catalogue and I wish you a safe and productive 2021.

ALISON SHAW, CEO

Welcome

Established in 2019, our transdisciplinary science, technology and society programme publishes academic monographs, textbooks, edited collections and trade books written for general readers.

It is home to work situated within the field of science and technology studies, but we welcome authors who identify with other intellectual traditions. We publish many of our titles on a bespoke basis while also offering newly created book series such as *Contemporary Issues in Science Communication, Quantified Societies and Selves* and *Dis-positions: Troubling Methods and Theory in STS*.

We are expanding our programme and are especially interested in book proposals that engage with our global social challenges agenda. Areas of interest include:
- Digital economies
- Science, technology and health
- Digital life and culture
- Technology, politics and social justice
- New directions in theory, methods and methodology

If you would like to discuss ideas for your next book, please contact our senior editor Paul Stevens: **paul.stevens@bristol.ac.uk**

Slow Computing

Why We Need Balanced Digital Lives

Rob Kitchin and **Alistair Fraser**, Maynooth University

"Convincingly demonstrates how finding the 'right speed' can enhance the pleasure of using digital technologies and bring agency and balance back into people's lives."
DEBORAH LUPTON, UNSW SYDNEY

"No one knows yet where the digital acceleration of our lives will lead – this is a most powerful and illuminating plea for us citizens to take back control!"
HARTMUT ROSA, FRIEDRICH SCHILLER UNIVERSITY JENA

"An important contribution to understanding our technological present and future. It handles complicated matters with a deft touch, without minimizing the scholarly arguments."
PAUL DOURISH, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Digital technologies should be making life easier. And to a large degree they are, but they also accelerate our lives, affect our wellbeing and determine our life chances. Initially, the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown seemed to create new opportunities for people to practise 'slow computing', but it quickly became clear that it was as difficult, if not more so, than during normal times. Is it then possible to experience the joy and benefits of computing in a way that asserts individual and collective autonomy?

Drawing on the ideas of the 'slow movement', *Slow Computing* sets out numerous practical and political means to take back control and counter the more pernicious effects of living digital lives.

The Mutant Project

Inside the Global Race to Genetically Modify Humans

Eben Kirksey, Deakin University

"A riveting jaunt to the cliff-edge of the future, where scientists, engineers, patients and biohackers struggle over the power, function and meaning of human gene editing. Empathetic, provocative and probing, it is a must-read."

**ALONDRA NELSON, HAROLD F. LINDER PROFESSOR, INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY AND AUTHOR OF THE SOCIAL LIFE OF DNA**

"In this thought-provoking and well-researched book, Eben Kirksey wrestles anew with the oldest of questions - what it means to be human, and what our relationship is with technology. There are no easy answers, but the journey could change your life."

MARK LYNAS, AUTHOR OF SEEDS OF SCIENCE: WHY WE GOT IT SO WRONG ON GMOS

An anthropologist visits the frontiers of genetics, medicine and technology to ask: whose values are guiding gene-editing experiments, and what are the implications for humanity? At a conference in Hong Kong in November 2018, Dr He Jiankui announced that he had created the first genetically modified babies - twin girls named Lulu and Nana - sending shockwaves around the world. A year later, a Chinese court sentenced Dr He to three years in prison for 'illegal medical practice'.

As scientists elsewhere start to catch up with China's vast genetic research programme, gene editing is fuelling an innovation economy that threatens to widen racial and economic inequality. Fundamental questions about science, health and social justice are at stake. Who gets access to gene-editing technologies? As countries loosen regulations around the globe, can we shape research agendas to promote an ethical and fair society?

Professor Eben Kirksey takes us on a groundbreaking journey to meet the key scientists, lobbyists and entrepreneurs who are bringing cutting-edge genetic modification tools like CRISPR to your local clinic. He also ventures beyond the scientific echo chamber, talking to doctors, hackers, chronically ill patients, disabled scholars and activists who have alternative visions of a genetically modified future for humanity. *The Mutant Project* empowers us to ask the right questions, uncover the truth and navigate this new era of scientific enquiry.
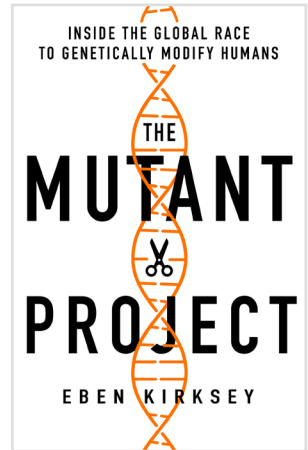
The Imposter as Social Theory

Thinking with Gatecrashers, Cheats and Charlatans

Edited by **Steve Woolgar, Else Vogel** and **David Moats,** Linköping University and **Claes-Fredrik Helgesson**, Uppsala University

"This book is for anybody bored to tears with the present, repetitive and dull, mainstream social theory."
BARBARA CZARNIAWSKA, UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

"A comprehensive picture of imposters, marking a new concept and new departure. An astonishing range of examples which are important, unexpected, and clever."
STEPHEN TURNER, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

"Kipling said, 'success and failure are both imposters'. Indeed, in these essays we see that imposture is socially regenerative. Every politician and scholar should read this original and insightful work."
LAWRENCE ROSEN, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY AND COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

The figure of the imposter can stir complicated emotions, from intrigue to suspicion and fear. But what insights can these troublesome figures provide into the social relations and cultural forms from which they emerge?

Edited by leading scholars, this volume explores the question through a diverse range of empirical cases, including click farms, magicians, spirit possession, images of celebrity, fake art and fraudulent scientists.

Proposing 'thinking with imposters' as a valuable new tool of analysis in the social sciences and humanities, this revolutionary book shows how the figure of the imposter can help upend social theory.
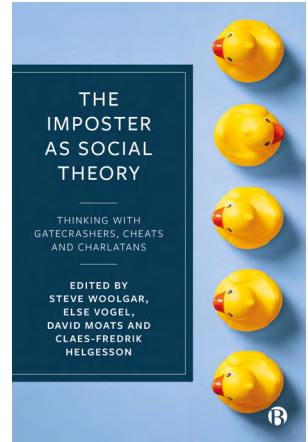
Data Lives

How Data Are Made and Shape Our World

Rob Kitchin, Maynooth University

"An anthropologist and a computer scientist walk into a café... Using diverse narrative styles, this book provides an engaging and important account of the choices and contexts that shape the data that increasingly impact our lives."
**TERESA SCASSA, UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA**

"A staggering volume that knowingly and skillfully upends established visions of our data lives. Surprising, unpredictable and inspiring. By breaking the patterns of commentary and mixing-up the style of academic writing this will be a landmark and transformative text from one of the foremost thinkers in the field."
DAVID BEER, UNIVERSITY OF YORK

"Rob Kitchin's appealing and innovative use of data stories propels the reader right into complex discussions about data creation and use - a thought-provoking and highly enjoyable read."
SANDRA COLLINS, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

How can we begin to grasp the scope and scale of our new data-rich world, and can we truly comprehend what is at stake? Rob Kitchin explores the intricacies of data creation and charts how data-driven technologies have become essential to how society, government and the economy work. Creatively blending scholarly analysis, biography and fiction, he demonstrates how data are shaped by social and political forces, and the extent to which they influence our daily lives. He reveals our data world to be one of potential danger, but also of hope.
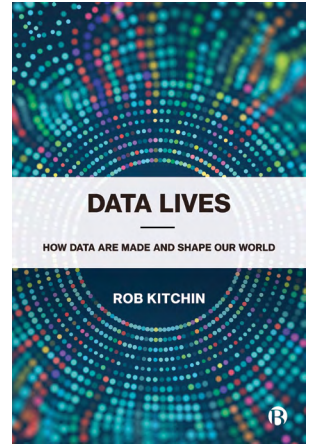
Social Media and the Automatic Production of Memory

Classification, Ranking and the Sorting of the Past

Ben Jacobsen and **David Beer**, University of York

"This book illuminates how our memories are formatted by the interfaces of social media. Jacobsen and Beer have written an insightful analysis of what 'technologies of memory' look like in data-driven societies."

JOSÉ VAN DIJCK, UTRECHT UNIVERSITY

Social media platforms hold vast amounts of biographical data about our lives. They repackage our past content as 'memories' and deliver them back to us. But how does that change the way we remember?

Drawing on original qualitative research as well as industry documents and reports, this book critically explores the process behind this new form of memory making. In asking how social media are beginning to change the way we remember, it will be essential reading for scholars and students who are interested in understanding the algorithmically defined spaces of our lives.

BRISTOL **SHORTS** RESEARCH

The Political Economy of Digital Monopolies

Contradictions and Alternatives to Data Commodification

Paško Bilić, Institute for Development and International Relations, **Toni Prug**, independent researcher and **Mislav Žitko**, University of Zagreb

"In this thoroughly researched and clearly written book, critical theory confronts the concentration of power in cyber-monopolies to advance our understanding of digital capitalism. The authors skillfully assess proposals for both reform and social transformation."

VINCENT MOSCO, AUTHOR OF THE SMART CITY IN A DIGITAL WORLD

At a time when the practices of technology companies continue to attract fierce criticism, this book asks what it actually means to hold a 'monopoly' in the tech world and how it might affect the way in which an organization operates.

Combining new and traditional Marxian perspectives, the authors offer an in-depth analysis of how these technology giants are produced, financialized and regulated.

As technology firms continue to shape our political and socioeconomic landscape, this book will be an invaluable resource for scholars and students who seek to understand the function of technological monopolies in contemporary capitalism.
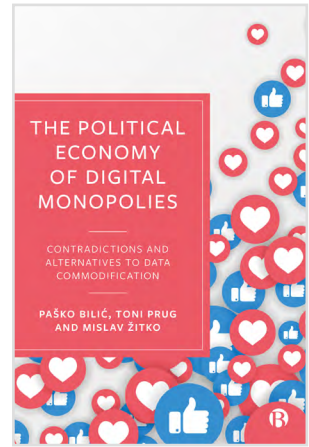
Media Technologies for Work and Play in East Asia

Critical Perspectives on Japan and the Two Koreas

Edited by **Micky Lee**, Suffolk University Boston and **Peichi Chung**, Chinese University of Hong Kong

"The bleed of work and play is the cornerstone of all digital life today. This impressive collection offers multiple angles onto this entanglement from the perspective of Northeast Asia."

MARC STEINBERG, CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Media technologies for play have become major industries in Japan and South Korea. Even in North Korea, citizens bypass the state to enjoy popular culture. At the same time, corporations and governments encourage people to produce economic values through play.

The first comparative study of media technologies in Japan and the two Koreas, this book illuminates the peculiar geopolitical relations between the three countries through their development and use of digital technologies. Drawing from political economy, cultural studies and technology studies, this book will be essential reading for researchers and students of media technologies and popular culture in North East Asia.
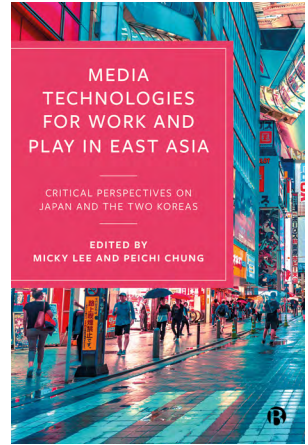
Algorithms and the End of Politics

How Technology Shapes 21st-Century American Life

Scott Timcke, University of the West Indies at St Augustine

"This provocative and illuminating book shows how digital technologies impose capitalism upon every facet of our lives and undermine democracy. An important critique that I highly recommend."
VICTOR PICKARD, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

As the US contends with issues of populism and de-democratization, this timely study considers the impacts of digital technologies on the country's politics and society.

Timcke provides a Marxist analysis of the rise of digital media, social networks and technology giants like Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Microsoft. He looks at the impact of these new platforms and technologies on their users who have made them among the most valuable firms in the world.

Offering bold new thinking across data politics and digital and economic sociology, this is a powerful demonstration of how algorithms have come to shape everyday life and political legitimacy in the US and beyond.
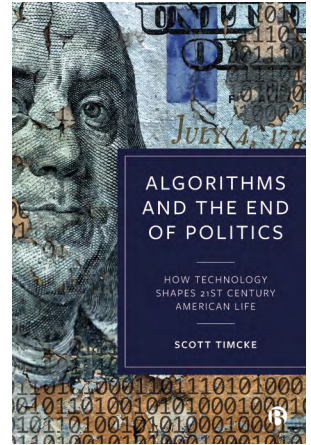
The Pre-Crime Society

Crime, Culture, and Control in the Ultramodern Age

Edited by **Bruce A. Arrigo**, University of North Carolina at Charlotte and **Brian G. Sellers**, Eastern Michigan University

We now live in a pre-crime society, in which information technology strategies and techniques such as predictive policing, actuarial justice and surveillance penology are used to achieve hyper-securitization.

However, such securitization comes at a cost – the criminalization of everyday life is guaranteed, justice functions as an algorithmic industry and punishment is administered through dataveillance regimes.

This pioneering book explores relevant theories, developing technologies and institutional practices and explains how the pre-crime society operates in the 'ultramodern' age of digital reality construction. Reviewing pre-crime's cultural and political effects, the authors propose new directions in crime-control policy.
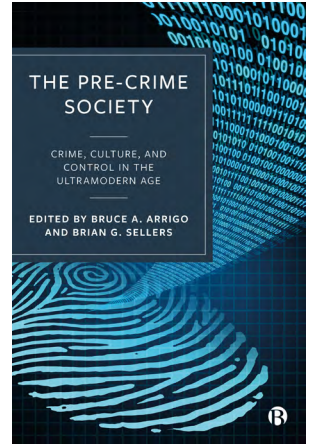
The Age of Low Tech

Towards a Technologically Sustainable Civilization

Philippe Bihouix, independent author and engineer

"Without low tech, the fight against climate change, resource depletion, and species extinctions may fail. Philippe Bihouix provides evidence and argument from a range of industries and disciplines, and handles it with intelligence, ease, and humour."

RICHARD HEINBERG, POST CARBON INSTITUTE

"Every engineer needs to read this book; the world can't transition without us having a clear perspective."
SUSAN KRUMDIECK, HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY

"Provides us with ideas on how to be prepared for a future that depends on a problem caused by the squandering in a few centuries of mineral resources accumulated over billions of years. Bihouix highlights how we can maintain civilization if we are more careful with how we use and recycle those resources."
UGO BARDI, UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE

As we face a profound environmental crisis, we often think that it can be overcome by smart systems and green innovations, but this is risky since increasingly complex technological solutions rely on less abundant materials. A bestseller in France, this English language edition introduces readers to an alternative perspective on our technological future. If 'high' technology will not solve global problems, Bihouix skilfully envisages a more resilient and sustainable society.
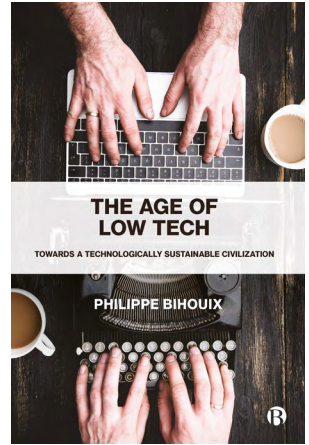
Responsibility Beyond Growth

A Case for Responsible Stagnation

Stevienna de Saille, University of Sheffield, **Fabien Medvecky**, University of Otago, **Michiel van Oudheusden**, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, **Kevin Albertson**, Manchester Metropolitan University, **Effie Amanatidou**, University of Manchester, **Timothy Birabi**, consultant and **Mario Pansera**, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

"Responsibility Beyond Growth tackles head on the universal assumption that there is a virtuous circle between growth and innovation. It proposes the counter-intuitive idea that the focus on growth stifles innovation, making a most convincing case for the apparently oxymoronic expression of 'responsible stagnation'."

ARTURO ESCOBAR, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

"This volume brings together critical thinkers who explore alternative socio-economic approaches for responsible innovation. A must-read."

**RENÉ VON SCHOMBERG, TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF DARMSTADT**

"Easy to read and understand, jargon-free and above all clear and thought-provoking."

THE BASSETTI FOUNDATION

Critically assessing growth-based models of innovation policy, this enlightening study sparks new debate on the role and nature of responsible innovation.

Drawing on insights from economics, politics and science and technology studies, it proposes the concept of 'responsible stagnation' as an expansion of present discussions about growth, degrowth, responsibility and innovation within planetary limitations.

This important intervention explores real-world relationships between the political economy, innovation policy and concepts of responsibility, and will be an invaluable resource for individuals and civil society organizations who seek to promote responsible innovation.
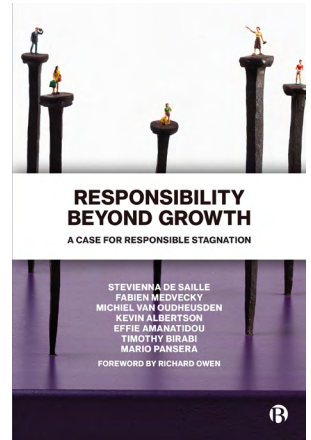
Organizations and Activism series

Series Editors: **Daniel King**, Nottingham Trent University and **Martin Parker**, University of Bristol

From cooperatives to corporations, Occupy to Facebook, organizations influence our lives. They engage in politics as well as shaping the possible futures of policy making and social change. This groundbreaking new series offers critical examinations of organizations as sites of, or targets for, activism. The first two books in the series are now available with more to come. **Click here** for more information.

Guerrilla Democracy

Mobile Power and Revolution in the 21st Century

Peter Bloom, University of Essex, **Owain Smolović Jones** and **Jamie Woodcock**, The Open University

"Politics has been infected, and it has a serious case of Guerrilla democracy. This wide-ranging new study looks at how activists draw on digital technologies to resist neoliberalism and create alternatives."
ANDRÉ SPICER, CITY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The liberating promise of big data and social media for creating more responsive democracies and workplaces is overshadowed by a nightmare of election meddling, privacy invasion, fake news and an exploitative gig economy.

Yet, while regressive forces spread disinformation and hate, 'guerrilla democrats' continue to foster hope and connection through digital technologies.

This book offers an in-depth analysis of platform-based radical movements, from the online coalitions of voters and activists to the Deliveroo and Uber strikes. Combining cutting-edge theories with empirical research, it makes an invaluable contribution to the emerging literature on the relationship between technology and society.

Anarchist Cybernetics

Control and Communication in Radical Politics

Thomas Swann, Loughborough University

"This pioneering study brings cybernetics to bear on anarchism to interrogate the sustainability of radical democracy. The result is a masterclass in organization theory and strategy which encompasses contemporary movement and social media analysis."

RUTH KINNA, LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY

"Swann's work on cybernetics and anarchism couldn't be more relevant at this moment. It will inspire the design of more radical, democratic and self-organised post-COVID-19 societies and political systems."

ANGELA ESPINOSA, UNIVERSITY OF HULL

From Occupy to the Indignados and the Arab Spring, the uprisings that marked the last decade ignited a re-emergence of participatory democracy as a political ideal within organizations.

This pioneering book introduces cybernetic thinking to politics and organizational studies to explore the continuing development of this radical idea. With a focus on communication and how alternative social media platforms present new challenges and opportunities for radical organizing, it sheds new light on the concepts of self-organization, consensus decision making, individual autonomy and collective identity.

Revolutionizing the way in which anarchist activists and theorists think about organizations, this unprecedented investigation makes a major contribution to the larger discussion of direct democracy.

ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVISM

Living Data

Making Sense of Health Biosensing

Celia Roberts, Adrian Mackenzie and **Maggie Mort**, Lancaster University

''This book presents a compelling account of people's engagements with biosensors. Drawing on their long history of research in science and technology studies, the authors elucidate how people can be helped or disappointed by these new technologies.''

DEBORAH LUPTON, UNSW SYDNEY

As individuals increasingly seek ways of accessing, understanding and sharing data about their own bodies, this book offers a critique of the popular claim that 'more information' equates to 'better health'.

Through case studies which focus on significant life changes, the authors examine the potential challenges related to people's changing relationships with traditional health systems as access to and control over data shifts.
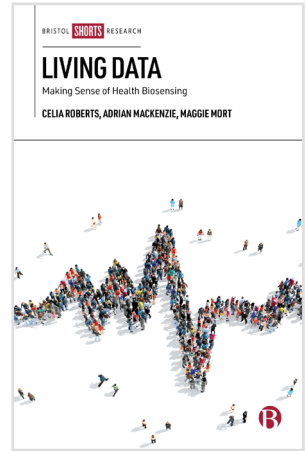
BRISTOL **SHORTS** RESEARCH

Science, Belief and Society

International Perspectives on Religion, Non-Religion and the Public Understanding of Science

Edited by **Stephen H. Jones**, Newman University, **Tom Kaden**, University of Bayreuth and **Rebecca Catto**, Kent State University

"This timely and rich volume engages sociological considerations of science and belief and extends our understanding of how different groups across the world reconcile or reject diverse aspects of these two ways of knowing."

SHIRI NOY, DENISON UNIVERSITY

"The contributors to this book enumerate some of the issues with current approaches in science, belief and society studies, recognising that question-wording, popular but unfounded assumptions, culture, context and types of religious and non-religious views can all influence the public's understanding of science … The book is highly recommended for cross-cultural studies of public understanding of science."

PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF SCIENCE

The relationship between science and belief has been a prominent subject of public debate for many years, yet sociological analysis of these subjects remains surprisingly scarce. This wide-ranging book critically reviews the ways in which religious and non-religious belief systems interact with scientific methods, traditions and theories.

Moving beyond the traditional focus on the United States, the book shows how debates about science and belief are firmly embedded in political conflict, class, community and culture.
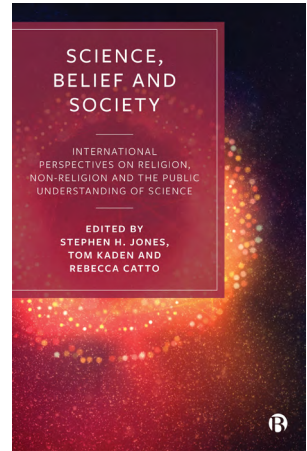
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