Call for Papers

Special track at the 20th conference of the Society for Philosophy and Technology
June 14-17, 2017 – Darmstadt, Germany

Pedagogical Pragmatics: Teaching Ethics and Philosophy of Technology
Track Chairs: Glen Miller (Texas A&M University) and Qin Zhu (Colorado School of Mines)

Research on philosophy and technology has generated a rich body of concepts, principles, and ideas, especially in ethics, but its progress has often outstripped its pedagogical dissemination to practitioners and professionals, such as doctors, nurses, designers, and engineers. At the same time, practitioner insights have not always made their way back to researchers and instructors, a problem that intensifies as philosophy of technology has become increasingly institutionalized as an academic specialization. In many universities, the problems that arise from the disconnect between concepts, principles, and ideas, on the one hand, and practice, on the other, are exacerbated by administrative pressures and curricular constraints that leave limited space for non-technical courses. At least in the West, continuing ethics education for practitioners and professionals usually consists of the conveyance of information on various laws, business rules, or changes to applicable codes of ethics, often in one hour increments, normally devoid of any philosophical depth. These shortcomings impoverish practitioners and sever the feedback loop between scholars working on these issues and them.

This track seeks to close these loops while acknowledging the global sociotechnical network in which technology is imagined, designed, produced, used, and disposed or recycled in all of its various settings. The broad scope of the track encompasses three senses of the term "pragmatics": practical use, connection between theory and practice, and, understood in relation to the grammar of things, consideration of intentions and meaning of technological actions, especially how they vary in different contexts. It aims to connect the collective knowledge and ideas of those researching and teaching ethics and philosophy of technology with the contributions of philosophically minded practitioners and professionals. In doing so, we welcome contributions that address all aspects related to the pedagogical translation of philosophical ideas concerning technology, especially ethics, to their practitioners, and vice versa, including, but not limited to:

- papers that describe efforts to balance philosophical depth with practical utility when teaching professional ethics;
- papers that discuss ontological, epistemological, and practical dimensions of teaching ethics and philosophy of technology as a practice;
- papers that discuss the development and execution of courses that translate concepts from philosophy of technology to non-philosophers or non-academics;
- papers that investigate the application of ethical theories and concepts, including, but not limited to, such as virtue ethics, deontology, utilitarianism, feminism, and pragmatism, to issues related to technological development and use;
- papers or case studies on course development, especially those that tailor instructional approaches and goals to different student populations; those that use movies, novels, or other non-traditional media; and those that acknowledge the global scope of technology or are interdisciplinary;

- papers or case studies on contemporary ethical issues faced by practitioners and professionals and issues that have an important philosophical dimension.

Inspired by the original spirit of *SPT*, papers that address some philosophical issue related to the ethics and philosophy of technology will be considered. All papers should follow academic standards. Efforts will be made to incorporate submissions by practitioners and professionals into the track. New points of view and critical positions are welcome.

350-word abstracts for individual papers should be submitted by Dec 5 at https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=spt2017. Please make sure to submit to the special track "Pedagogical Pragmatics".

Timeline
- December 5th 2016: Deadline for the submission of abstracts
- March 1st, 2017: Expected notification of acceptance
- June 14th-17th, 2017: Conference dates