Male, men, masculinity and technology
The scope and limits of an *association*
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One of the epistemic implications of the claim that technology is *gendered* has been the acknowledgment that the attributes of technology (or certain technologies) are not intrinsically masculine, or in other contexts, feminine; that technology does not hold as a cluster of essences that make it indubitably masculine. A way to argue for the former is to show that the masculinity of technology is a result of an *association* between men and technology, association which is both *contingent* and *arbitrary*. That is further to say that the gendering of technology as masculine is 1. a result of one or several historical moments, or of historical developments, thus *contingent*, and as such, 2. assigning women to specific devalued subject positions in relation to technological knowledge and use, is *arbitrary*. If women are supposedly less or not at all technological is not due to some natural necessity of *womaness*, but due to historical moments when women were pushed to the margins of technology because the latter became instrumental in preserving and enhancing men's power.

This understanding of how technology is gendered, I argue, is premised on a critical distinction between sex and gender which is also taken to be contingent and arbitrary. I hope to demonstrate that once the association between sex and gender is shown not to be arbitrary, this will have consequences on how we conceive of the association between men and technology.