"Questioning Technology: Instrumental and Anthropological Approaches"

Abstract

The question concerning technology is very often the question concerning the matter of the fact – the essence of what is called "technical". According to the "old" philosophical doctrine, technology is: 1) means for the achieving of goals and 2) a certain kind of human activity. These notions about the nature of the "technical" we can label as instrumental and anthropological definitions of technology. According to the above-mentioned approaches, the history of technology is actually the history of human societies. However, the origin of the autonomous modern technologies poses the problem about the scope of technology. Can we use the "old" philosophical doctrine in the study of modern technology? Or should we find a new way of questioning technology in itself?