

Flyer for CRAFT Issue 4 on Transhumanism

Dear Crafters, Crafty Readers and Circle Surfers this issue of CRAFT on Transhumanism (TH) has been especially challenging for us in general and myself, as curator, and Jim as key sociological contributor, in particular and Peter Gray as our webmaster. Our issue includes pros and cons of TH and we both can see light on either side so to speak and in the middle. The aim of the issue is not do make heat rather to help discussion and engagement esp. between TH and Deep Democracy so to speak.. **NB:** CRAFT is an applied praxis oriented eZine and does NOT seek to be comprehensive so there are gaps in our coverage as well as different styles and formats in the individual articles – and we celebrate this we are not, nor do we seek to be, a standard Academic journal nor a typical glitzy CRAFT type magazine.

Maybe we fall between the cracks however we believe that CRAFT as a heuritic effort is worth the effort. And that as such there is some relevance in what we have to say to those who may care to listen and join our mutual learning and exploration of new topic areas. Please come and join us and curate your own Issue. We see a direct link from this issue to say a Hacker, Cyberpunk and Steampunk Issues for instance.

(Y)our Issue is divided into these categories over 23 exhibits:

1. **Critical Theory applied to TH** – there is precious little of such sociological critique out there
2. **TH contextualised** in terms of global warming, global waring (often with TH type tools), poverty, overpopulation and increasing un-governability in the WEST esp. Europe and the US with the rise and rise of BRICS
3. **TH relevant Social Science Research tools** and links – useful in exploring TH's terrain inc. e.g. Critical Futures Praxis
4. **A decade long TH related Action Research program** that interfaces with the idea of the Sauvage as Transhumanist e.g. the Sauvage/Artificer/Bush Mechanic/Bioengineer/Hacker/Handy (hu)Man so to speak as a counterpoint to techno-utopian manchine approach sometimes seen in conventional TH'ism
5. **H+ techno-utopian** article and links particularly germane to our present TH Issue
6. **Social Science Fiction** links and scenarios inc. forms of life emergent over the next 50 yrs
7. **TH and religion** via a two short pieces
8. **Transhumanism and its discontents**

Dear Readers and Surfers we may well be the last generation that has the space to worry about its tomorrow - today is dominated by 'presentism'. Change is now so rapid that our response time especially in social terms is so slow that in effect the world has gone quite to technologically induced social change – OTHER than present uncritical acceptance, as if there were no tomorrow just more gadgets and 'Google Now's'. Our parents had a narrative that at least gave some semblance of meaning to their lives now that narrative is broken in to scattered shards. Technological change is now so fast that all has gone silent in the social world and so in the Transhuman debate the social is lost and the focus is technological augmentation. This then is our focus in this issue of CRAFT the social dimensions of Transhumanism. Last century we were 'futurists', this century we are all 'presentists' i.e. from Future Shock el ar Toffler to Present Shock el ar Rushkoff.¹

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¹ Rushkoff, D. (2013). *Present Shock: When Everything Happens Now*. New York: Current. 300 pgs.