

(2024 September 11) E-Topia: Deep Dhillon and Rachel Donald (Planet: Critical)

<https://www.planetcritical.com/p/e-topia-deep-dhillon>

My comments to this podcast

Problem-solving, story-telling, tool-making or whathaveyou, the drive towards creativity would seem to be congenital. Whether it precedes, runs-parallel to or (as, for instance, Kenneth Burke thought) results from the fundamental tool-making that is language, the impulse involves some kind of very basic impulse to create in space-time, not just in mathematical what has been conceived.

KB argued that in that way the atomic bomb came to be not only conceptualized but built and deployed. As Heidegger and many others have noted, that is the way of technology in general. AI is no exception.

As the speakers here have noted, the problem with engineering is that the moral question, Should we? is often neglected, as is the post-construction question, How much is enough? We build it because we can. Restraint in engineering is first and foremost considered a matter of physics, not ethics.

Those ethical questions are certainly not new, and even Aristotle was upset with the way that monetization, the cash nexus, had taken over public thinking and social discourse, so that all values were increasingly understood not just in economic, but in monetary terms.

He had no solution to the problem and as today's dialogue makes clear, capitalist, socialist, communitarian, etc., we don't either. As Deep Dhillon said, the technological juggernaut is not likely to come to a good end unless globally we adopt a different moral outlook.

Ecological morality and moral economics are hardly on the radar in Tech Valley where dematerialization, post-humanism and money-power are in charge.

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