

NOMADIC, MIGRATING, COMMUTING, WEARABLE TECHNOLOGIES AND THEIR INFRASTRUCTURES

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One of the central issues of the present political agenda is the migration crisis. Apart from economic and environmental migration, we experienced in the latest years the exacerbation of some political conflicts and implicitly a political-based migration too. Tragic images of migrants' attempts to cross the Mediterranean Sea or traversing other migration corridors were doubled by welcomed or hostile reactions of authorities in the countries of destination. The press did not spare us details about the migration routes, infrastructures, migrants' pack-sacks, clothes and their smart technologies (see, for example, Meyer, 2015).

But even for those who are not obliged to migrate, the present work flexibility pushes them to a rather increased commute between their homes and their working places. New economies started to take roots and support such developments as Airbnb hosting models or low-cost flights.

The technological developments aim today towards the miniaturisation of electronic devices and their integration into the "fabric" of our lives (Weiser, 1995). The very expected revolution of wearable technologies promises to support us in our travels and commutes and to make us "equipped" individuals (Ghiu, 2010). Augmenting our bodies, the questions they raise is how and for what do they equip us? And in the perspective of an Internet of Things, to which networks do they integrate or restrict us?

Traveling for one reason or another, traveling short or long distances, settling or not settling to destinations are some of the aspects that make up the differences between nomadism, migration or commuting. Part of human existence, all these travels end up defining life styles. The present times transportation and communication systems play an important role and they challenge our understanding of place or home. Our perception of distance is also altered. Migration and commuting are redefining the notions of identity, neighbourhood or citizenship, while communication technologies are keeping alive family connections and older or newest imagined communities (Anderson, 1983).

The present special issue of *Studia Philosophia* questions the nomadic, migrating and commuting in light of wearable technologies and their infrastructures. We have tried to understand what supports roads, migrating corridors, travel and commuting itineraries. Who controls them and what technologies are in place for them? What are the critical aspects of these infrastructures?

We have also tried to have an insight into what kind of objects, wearables and devices we are carrying around and what kind of contents and data they contain. How are these contents and data going to be used and to whom are they important? How are these devices designed, based on which scenarios, using which technical systems? What would someone has liked to take with them, but had to leave aside? What kind of wearable technologies are today developed, and which ones are really used? And what kind of technologies should we develop for different travel purposes and on what principles? These are some of the questions we launched with our call.

Moreover, we also encouraged proposals that consider the relationships between traveling and communication infrastructures and the devices and equipment someone carries along in all these pilgrimages. In short, we were interested in what carries us and what we are carrying with us. More than just speculative approaches, we encouraged case-based studies and critical enquiries.

The papers gathered in this issue belong to two categories: the first one addresses self and identification in the movement; the second one is mainly concerned by architectures of mobility issues (living on trajectories, building for migration, travelling while working, know-how transfer, etc.). The approaches vary from an historical account related to the forms of identification to comments related to self-quantification and artistic interventions related to migration.

Nathanael Bassett's paper addresses the use of identification documents (IDs) as artefacts connected with archives. His media archaeology analysis claims not only that the modern times IDs are prefiguring the wearable, but as artefacts they have an essential role in establishing the social imaginary of the state.

Through auto-observation and analysis in relationship with self-tracking wearable devices, Maia Nichols studies our relationship with numbers. The aim of her paper is to raise questions about the philosophical and psychoanalytic causes that drive habits related to our data doubles. Having as starting point Lucy Orta's art work "Refuge Wear", Edith Lazar and Sabin Bors are examining the potential of wearable structures to provide effective social commentaries and address the political representation of refugees, migrants and nomads. Their paper criticises framing concepts such as relational aesthetics, heterotopias, nomadology or deterritorialization to propose a rethinking of wearables as critical habitats.

On the same critical vein, Tincuta Heinzl's paper analyses the fashion theories' discourses related to cloth and garments as form of self and collective social constructions. Her text shows how the integration of electronic components and digital devices into the structure of the fabrics creates the precedence for the transformation of cloth into a technology. Critically examining concepts like fashionable technologies, as well as wearables and embodiment, the text emphasises the importance of a political stance when it comes to the design of communicative cloths.

With a focus on the work and war-driven displacements in Europe, Augustin Ioan and Ciprian Mihali are proposing the concept of "living along trajectories". Never "leaving" their home countries and never "arriving" in the host countries, the concept of "living along trajectories" questions the all-powerful status of place after Heidegger, who envisioned dwelling and being at home as inseparable.

Two editorial notes are guiding the two groups of papers. Dana Diminescu presents an overview of the way in which the sociological research on migration has evolved and addressed the use of ICT technologies by migrants, while Clotilde Felix-Fromentin takes position related to the recent developments in architecture and design focusing on wearability issues.

Since the topic we have launched engages several disciplines, each with their agendas, our perspective was to facilitate a trans-disciplinary approach and connections between different axes and areas of research: from philosophical enquiry, to anthropological and experiential enquiry, and technical and media enquiry.

There were the design and engineering fields focus mostly on technologies' performances and users' feed-backs, our perspective was to encourage a critical inquiry related to the use of these nomadic technologies in divergent contexts, to understand the social and political realities they relate to and which they are modelling. Our aim was to encourage a much more critical perspective on the causes of migration and commuting, their realities, as well as to account for the transformational nature of nomadic and migrating technologies. We hope that the texts gathered here offer elements for new approaches related to the way we design and build technology.

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