<u>AI & Humanities: Ecology, Technology, and Culture</u>

Week 1
Jungwon Park (Kyung Hee University, Korea) (In-Person – Week 1 – July 2~July 8)

Sessions
1) Anthropocene in the Global North
2) Sustainable development, De-growth or Post-developement?
3) Wispers from the ecosystem: Animals, plants and Earth beings
4) Slow science, weak technologies in the Global South
5) Is another world possible?: Metaverse, Multiverse and Pluriverse

1) **Anthropocene in the Global North**
First session asks and discusses whether we are really living in the Anthropocene era, characterized by the significant impact of human activities on Earth's geology and ecosystems, with a focus on the Global North. We will examine how industrialization, urbanization, and consumer culture in more developed parts of the world have contributed to ecological imbalance and climate change.

2) **Sustainable Development, De-growh or Post-development?**
We engage in a critical analysis of different pasthways towards sustainable living on the planet. Sustainable development is contrasted with concepts like de-growth and post-development, which challenge the convestional wisdom of continuous economic growth and seek alternative models that prioritize ecological balance, social equity, and well-being over GDP growth. This session invites students to explore these paradimg's theoretical and practical implications, offering a comprehensive view of potential futures that re-envition progress and prosperity.

3) **Whispers from the Ecosystem: Animals, Plants, and Earch Beings**
This session encourages a deep listening to the non-human voices of our planet. It emphasizes the interdependence of all life forms, recognizing animals, plants and other Earth beings as crucial participants in the Earth's ecosystems. Thourgh exploring biosemiotics and other interdisciplinary approaches, students will learn to appreciate the complex communication networks and symbiotic relations that sustain life on Earth, fostering a deeper respect for the intrinsic value of all living beings beyond their utility to humans.

4) **Slow Science, Weak Technologies in the Global South**
Focusing on the Global South, this session explores the concept of Slow Science and weak technologies as frameworks for achiving sustainable and equitable development. This part of the cours showcases examples of how these approaches can lead to meaningful change by valuing local knowledge and priotizing the wll-being of communities and ecosystems.

5) **Is Another World Possible? Metavese, Multiverse, and Pluriverse**

Ths final session ventures into specultative realms to imagine alternative realities and futures. It examines the concepts of the Metaverse (Virtual reality spaces), Multuverse(a hypothetical set of multipe universes), and Pluriverse (a world in which many worlds coexist). By considering these concepts, students are encouraged to think creatively about solutions to ecological and social challenges.

Jungwon Park is a Professor of Spanish at Kyung Hee University, South Korea. He completed BA and MA programs at Seoul National Universtiy, and obtained his PhD at the University of Pittrburgh, USA. He taught at the University of Northen Colorado as an Assistant and Associated Professer, and now serves as the director of the Center for Cross-cultural Studies at Kyung Hee University. His research and teaching interests include Latin American Culture, US-Mexico Border Studies, Hemispheric American Studies, Anthropocene debate in Latin America.

Week 2
Alfie Bown (Royal Holloway Unif of London, England) (Online – Week 2 – July 9~July 15)

Sessions
1. Introduction: Lacan, Marx and the 'Origins' of 'Contradiction'
2. Technologies: Games, Memes, Social Media, AI in a divided society.
3. Cultures: Film, TV and Art in Platform Capitalism
4. Ecologies: Climate, Activism and Protest as symptoms of class division
5. Live debate and discussion + Q+A to reflect on the 4 lectures above.

6) **Lacan, Marx and Contradiction**
This session discusses the idea of subjectivity operating as a kind of lack (Lacan) contradiction (Hegel) or division (Marx). It argues that we are inherently divided as subjects, and that capitalism operates to cover over this with fantasies of completion and wholeness.

7) **Technologies: Games, Memes, Social Media, AI in a divided society.**
This session looks at the post-digital world since the start of the internet in the early 1900s. It argues that the digital platforms of today change how we operate as a community and work against the idea of a 'commons' in which we live as subjects togther. Instead, it pushes us toward a divided form of identity politics that serves individualism, neoliberalism and capitalism.

8) **Cultures: Film, TV and Art**
This session turns to how our culture deals with conteradiction. Looking at the film industry in particular, but also at TV and art, it explores how 'diversity' operates to divide as well as to unite. It considers the role of art in the moment of contemporary capital and whether it is

9) **Ecology: Activism and Protest**

Today, activism is everywhere we look. But does activism work with or against a theory of the subject as riven with and born from contradiction? Could activism in fact be an enemy of Marxism and class consciousness? This session will look at the role of activism in society today, in particular climate and ecology activism, and ask the dangerous question: what if this is precisely the logic of late capitalism?

10) Q+A
Ths final session will be a discussion – bring your questions to the live Zoom session.

Alfie Bown is Senior Lecturer in Digital Media at Royal Holloway University London. He is author of *The Playstation Dreamworld* (Polity), *In the Event of Laughter* (Bloomsbury), *Dream Lovers* (Pluto) and *Post-Memes* (Punctum), among other things.

Week 3
Joff P. N. Bradley (Teikyo University, Tokyo, Japan) (Pre-recorded – Week 3 - July 16~July 22)

1. Joy in dying: a pervert's guide to species extinction, eco-catastrophe aesthetics, utopia, melancholia
2. Bernard Stiegler, Technology and Digital Studies: Byung Chul Han, hikikomori, digital schizophrenia, Chiba Masaya, Asada Akira
3. Introduction to 1990s British philosophy: accelerationism and techno-fascism
4. From the fourth ecology to Society 5.0: Smart city-metaverse panacea: subjective city, eco-aesthetics, sculpture
5. Glitchaosophy: On the philosophy of glitch and chaos. Chatgbt and language

11) Joy in dying: a pervert's guide to species extinction, eco-catastrophe aesthetics, utopia, melancholia
In this talk, I'm going to examine the peculiar joy we find in dying, in thinking about ecological catstrophe, a phenomenon that appears to be widespread in cinema and TV. So, I'll explore some ideas about human species extinction and ecocatastrophe. I will be questioning the work of Timothy Morton and Grahama Harman.

12) Bernard Stiegler, Technology and Digital Studies: Byung Chul Han, hikikomori, d igital schizophrenia, Chiba Masaya, Asada Akira
I will scrutinize the work of Korean-German philosopher Byung Chul Han, offering critiques and discussing concepts like hikikomori syndrome and digital schizophrenia. I'll also consider contributions from contemporary philosophers to gain a better understanding of contemporary mental illness.

13) Introduction to 1990s British philosophy: accelerationism and techno-fascism
I'll discuss British philosophy in the 1990s, focusing on accelerationism and its reinterpretation as techno-fascism. I'll analyze the theories of thinkers such as Nick Land and Sadie Plant to apply them to our current context. I'll also examine cinema to comprehend evolving perceptions of humanity, drawing examples from films like "BladeRunner" and examining shifts in interpretations of narratives like "Westworld"

and "Brave New World." Thinkers to consider here are Deleuze, Guattari, Paul Virilio, Stiegler and so on.

14) **From the fourth ecology to Society 5.0: Smart city-metaverse panacea: subjective city, eco-aesthetics, sculpture** I will explore the notions of the smart city and metaverse as a proposed solution to ecological problems, contrasting it with the concept of the subjective city and discussing its implications in terms of eco-aesthetics and culture.

15) **Glitchaosophy: On the philosophy of glitch and chaos. Chatgbt and language** Drawing on Stiegler's philosophy, I'll introduce the concept of the glitch, or glitch-chaosophy, and reflect on its significance in terms of the loss of the exception, the incalculable, and the improbable. Finally, I'll discuss system dynamics and introduce the idea of the open system, reflecting on the loss of meaning in language. I will discussing my new research on spirals, glitch art aesthetics, and Francis Bacon

I will send to students my new books as background reading
1. On the Détournement of the Smart City: A Critical Post-Media Study of the Smart City in Korea, Japan, and India (in Korean and English)
2. On Critical Postmedia and Korea Philosophy, Technology, Literature
3. Critical Essays on Bernard Stiegler: Philosophy, Technology, Education
4. Schizoanalysis and Asia: Deleuze, Guattari and Postmedia