

## Book Review

**Ihde, D., *Heidegger's Technologies: Postphenomenological Perspectives (Perspectives in Continental Philosophy)*.**

New York, Fordham University Press, 2010

Both Don Ihde and his publications are popular. Students in diverse disciplines—such as management, engineering, and computer science—find in his works the bridge between their technical passions and the human concerns which philosophy reflects. Ihde makes the philosophy of technology accessible and popular. Consequently, we expect much from his new works and those of us who gain inspiration from Heidegger take an acute interest in Ihde's initiatives.

Ihde exemplifies Heidegger's provocative instruction to his students: you must think your own programme of thought and use what appears in the literature to advance that programme. You do not read heavy books to adopt—or even necessarily discover—the views of others. If this is how you approach Ihde's latest work, *Heidegger's Technologies*, you will find it worthwhile. The stories which illustrate Ihde's assertions and the references to historical texts can be amusing, informative and inspirational. They deserve to appear in lectures to students everywhere. He also maintains his straightforward way of explaining alternative views such as interpretations of Heidegger and the alleged stages in the development of Heidegger's thought. Within this easy book of 154 pages there are reprints of earlier influential papers, and this makes it a good course reader.

The new material in the latter part of the book takes stances that are problematic and which challenge our understanding of Heidegger. We may single out for attention two that are closely related: the notion of essence in Heidegger's phenomenology, and the claim that the new modern technology is distinct from the modern technology which Heidegger addressed. It is these which I understand to be the basis of Ihde's postphenomenology. The foundation for the discussion, Ihde's explication of Heidegger's famous 'The Question Concerning Technology', appears in the reprint of material in Ihde's 1979 paperback *Technics and Praxis: A philosophy of technology* (Reidel). It is the claim of the new book that attending to the essence of technology 'blinds Heidegger to the differing contexts and multidimensionalities of technologies that a pragmatic-phenomenological account can better bring forth' (p. 115).

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