WWW.UTWENTE.NL/MINOR

MINOR
PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

THIS MODULE IS PART OF THE HTHT-PACKAGE 'PHILOSOPHY AND GOVERNANCE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY'. THE PACKAGE CONSISTS OF TWO MODULES: 'PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY' (15 EC, QUARTILE 1) AND 'GOVERNANCE OF INNOVATION AND SOCIO-TECHNICAL CHANGE' (15 EC, QUARTILE 2). THE MODULES CAN EITHER BE CHOSEN SEPARATELY OR AS A PACKAGE

WHAT IS A HTHT MINOR?

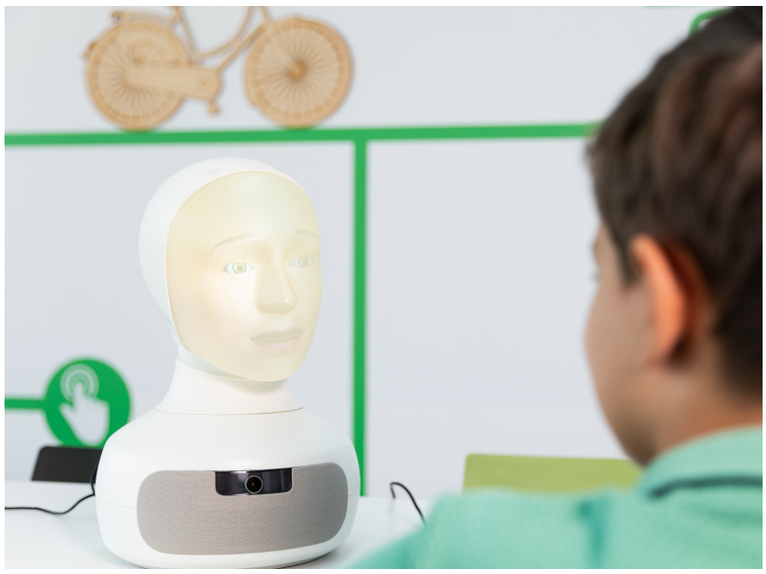
A HTHT-minor fits within the UT profile: High Tech, Human Touch. The minor is offered in English and accessible for both national and international students. The goal of the HTHT-minor is to illuminate specific societal themes for which the UT develops High Tech Human Touch solutions. These solutions are created by conducting high-quality research. Both the form and the content of the minors are High Tech Human Touch (multidisciplinary) and are profiling for the student.

The UT offers most HTHT-minors in a coherent package of 2 (30 EC). There are also HTHT minors of 15 EC that do not belong to a package. You can choose one of these minors and combine this with one minor of a package. If possible, you can even choose 2 minors from different packages.

Philosophy of Science and Technology

In this 15 EC module, you will analyse and evaluate the influence of science and technology on humans and society from a philosophical perspective. In the first weeks, you will be introduced to main approaches and theories from the history of philosophy. The minor not only aims to familiarize you with the basics of the philosophical tradition but also to develop your skills to systematically and critically reflect on science & technology and their social roles.
We offer philosophical tools to address questions like: Which view of science is underlying technological research that develops, for example, organs-on-a-chip or brain-computer interfaces? How will wearable technologies change and shape our social interactions? Will we be able to maintain traditional ideas about privacy in an age of exponential increase of information and communication technologies? Should society allow for new forms of genetic modification of human beings? How can our society and culture incorporate and shape those technologies?

UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.



My touch: "Making sense of technology in a social context"

The acquired perspectives and insights from philosophy set the stage for the final project.
In a so-called Philosophy of Technology Lab you will work in a multidisciplinary team to identify and answer philosophical and ethical questions concerning a specific technology in development.

The module consists of the following components:

- **Philosophical Theories and Methods** (5 EC) offers a high-speed introduction in the history of philosophy, while also training your reading, argumentation and writing skills.

- **Controversies and Uncertainties in Science and Engineering** (2 EC) discusses topics from philosophy of science and develops a critical perspective on science and technological development.

- **Cyborgs and other Human-technology Relations** (2 EC) focuses on how technology influences and constitutes human nature and human existence and on how emerging technologies blur the boundaries between humans and machines.

- **Technology, Ethics and Society** (2 EC) focuses on how to assess the ethical and societal desirability of new and emerging technologies and how to analyse ethical controversies.

- **Philosophy of Technology Lab** (4 EC).
In this project students work in groups to philosophically analyse technologies developed at the University of Twente. You will identify and analyse philosophical and ethical issues associated with these technologies, but also investigate how technologies impact certain philosophical assumptions.

What former students said about this module

- "Refreshingly disorienting, letting students question their beliefs and preconceptions."

- “Broadened my horizon.”

- “The technology and society aspects give the whole of philosophy a more practical and tangible experience; the everyday usefulness of philosophy becomes clear.”

- “Strengths: The organisation, the quality of the lectures, the topics that we focused on. The lecturers were all very motivating and engaged. The students were given enough guidelines and help, but also enough freedom in how they wanted to approach the assignments.”

- “The group-project showed us how different research projects are presented and realized. We saw how current science influences the future and what the pros and cons of this development are.”

- "Actually the most practical module I followed during my bachelor."

- “The best so far!”

MORE INFORMATION

Minor coordinator:
Dr. Bas de Boer
T: 053 489 6693
E: s.o.m.deboer@utwente.nl

For more information about this minor and for general information about minors:
www.utwente.nl/minor