

SPT Launch Event

Political Philosophy of Engineering & Technology (PPET) – Special Interest Group



DATE

26 January 2026



TIME

16:00–17:30 CET

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PROF CARL
MITCHAM

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES



THE HARD PROBLEM IN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF TECHNOLOGY

The scope of political philosophy of technology can be contested. One approach would take a conventional suite of overlapping questions concerning authority, legitimacy, governance, justice, and representation – analyzed primarily within a domestic political context – and explore their encounters with engineering and technology: how they challenge engineering and technology and/or how engineering development and the public use of technologies challenge them. Often left as a kind of appendix in typical courses on political philosophy, including any that might exist on political philosophy of technology, are the consideration of relations between states or international relations, according IR a separate disciplinary discourse. This deferral suggests that, although all issues of political philosophy are hard, international relations are hardest. In exploration of this possibility, my talk argues, first, the fundamental importance and difficulty of governing technology within the state and then, second, that things get even more difficult between states or at the level of IR.

DR LUKAS FUCHS (RESEARCH FELLOW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING) & DR GIOVANNI FRIGO (KARLSRUHE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)

HOSTING 15-MIN NETWORKING DISCUSSION

TOWARD A POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY: A ROADMAP

A collaborative proposal to map key debates, technologies, and future research questions shaping PPET.

Regular
meetings on
the last
Monday every
month