

PHI 112.01 | Technology and Modern Life

Topic: The Technological Infrastructure: Animal, Vegetable, Mineral

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Modern life is embedded in technological infrastructures. Think of the complex of pipes, cables and electronics that deliver water, power, electricity, and communications as the ‘mineral’ infrastructure. The matrix in which we test and distribute food is a ‘vegetable’ infrastructure. The network of experts and expert institutions is an ‘animal’ infrastructure. We take these infrastructures for granted, but they shape our lives—from structures of power and authority to the music we hear—without our knowing. This course investigates how these infrastructures and the technologies in them impact our experience of the world. It requires regular Brightspace posts, group work, field trips, and lots and lots of reading and discussion.

Woman walking past blast furnaces, Grangetown, Teeside, 1976, printed 2012–13, Chris Killip. Tate, London, UK.
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