

## BOOK REVIEW

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### ARTICLE HISTORY

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### KEYWORDS

Applied Ethics; design; value sensitive design

**Designing in Ethics**, (eds.) Jeroen van den Hoven, Seumas Miller and Thomas Pogge, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2017, 240 pp., £75.00 (Hardback), ISBN 9780521119467

The disciplines that compose contemporary science and technology studies have long argued for the value-ladenness of technologies and their ability to affect, translate and mediate human interactions. Technology to this is co-constructive with human, rather than simple tools that are created for a specific task.

To this end, *Designing in Ethics* provides a compilation of well-curated essays that tackle the ethical issues that surround technological design and argue that ethics must form a constitutive part of the designing process and a foundation in our institutions and practices. The appropriation of a design approach to applied ethics is argued as a means by which ethical issues that implicate technological artifact may be achieved.

Van den Hoven, Miller and Pogge have assembled a set of papers that make persuasive arguments for this design approach. The essays, as expected from any edited collection, ranging from healthcare to security. However, the central theses are consistent in their design approach to ethics as an imperative. As such, the editors build upon over a decade's worth of research on the design-for-values approach to technologies by arguing for a methodology that ultimately aims to resolve ethical issues that do not resort to a priori absolutism or moral theorizing that is divorced from practice.

To do this, the chapter authors take case studies in ethics and technology as a means to show how design can greet pertinent real-world issues. In doing this, *Designing in Ethics* does this remarkably well, synthesizing the various author styles and aims towards a cohesive and surprisingly coherent collection; something unseen amongst curated collections of essays.

That being said, the ultimate strength of this text emerges from the introductory chapter by TU Delft Professor of Ethics and Technology Jeroen van den Hoven titled *The Design Turn in Applied Ethics*. Here, van den Hoven not only provides a chapter-by-chapter description and rationale but lays out a sober and philosophically rigorous *raison d'être* for design as a dangerous avenue for inquiry, both academically and worldly.

In sum, *Designing in Ethics* proves to be a solid primer to the history and necessity for a design approach to applied ethics that is accessible to both graduate students as well as seasoned scholars in the field. The employment of case studies by all chapter authors makes the applied ethics case for design in itself. Given the exponential advance in technology development and its increasing harmonization with human society makes this collection particularly timely and its endorsement without question.

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