

Re:wiring Bodies

Dr. Asha Achuthan

Re:Wiring Bodies is one of the first interventions from a feminist epistemology of Science standpoint, examining the relationship between body and technology in India. It initiates a historical research inquiry, beginning with the nationalist debates between Gandhi and Tagore, to the neo-liberal ICT4D perspectives produced by feminists like Martha Nussbaum, and offers a unique entry point into cybercultures discourse that traces new historical origins and ontologies for the debates around questions of bodies and technology. It locates the contemporary anxieties around body, gender, sexuality and the future of being human, within a larger history of science and technology, and the ways in which science policy, technology visions and development agendas have created legacies of experiencing, living, shaping and designing our bodies within a technological complex.

The monograph identifies a pre-history to the communication narratives that often imagine the digital as beginning only in the late 1990s. By charting four epochs in the political and cultural approaches to science and technology in India, and by re-introducing the biological body and its spheres of life into the debates around technology, the monograph creates a framework that unpacks 'attitudes to technology' to provide a strong critique, not only of the access and rights based approach to understanding digital technology, but also to the forced separation and construction of technology as discrete from the human body and subject. Re:Wiring Bodies introduces a new set of histories that need to be addressed even as we live in intimate contact with technologies, in a continuous process of being and becoming cyborgs.



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Dr. Asha Achuthan works with the Centre for Contemporary Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. She graduated in medicine (M.B.B.S.) in 1992 from Medical College, Calcutta and thereafter did a diploma in Ophthalmology in 1998 from the Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Medical College, Calcutta and MPhil (Women's Studies) in 2003 from the School of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University, Calcutta. She has a PhD from the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore, on Feminism and Science.

Researchers @ work

The Centre for Internet & Society's 'Researcher's At Work' is a series designed to build and explore the intellectual resources for mapping and understanding the complex interactions between the rise of digital and communication technologies and the spheres of living that they influence. The monographs in this series, explore embedded approaches, frameworks and historical trajectories to understand the ways in which new technologies shape the nature, form, and texture of life and living in contemporary times. The (CIS-RAW) series was designed to build local intellectual resources for mapping and understanding the complex interactions between the rise of digital and internal technologies and the spheres of living that they influence.