
THE 99th TAOYAKA PROGRAM SEMINAR & HISENS Interdisciplinary Seminar

Date: Friday, February 17, 2017

Time: 16:00-17:30

Place: Room 204, IDEC

Speaker:

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Title:

Is the idea of the thing in the thing itself?: The ethics of technology transfer and “onsite reverse innovation”

Abstract:

It is often thought that transferring technology, particularly devices aimed at individual use, from developed nations to developing nations can only be a good thing. There are however unseen ethical issues – dangers even – lying behind such practices that need to be examined long before any transference actually takes place, and that then need to be followed up on after the transferal. In this regard the Taoyaka program wisely focuses on “onsite reverse innovation”; yet what are the ethical implications involved in a non-cultural native contributing to that innovation? How will the default power structure between the giver and the receiver of the technology develop and influence such cases? Our discussion will cover the often unnoticed cultural assumptions that lie behind much of our thought and actions, the intuitive and automatic nature of our decision-making, and the role of interpretation when facing an object and when facing another person. The importance of the terms we employ will be highlighted and some ideas that may be of practical use in multicultural ethical relations will be considered.

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