

Queer STS Forum

Call for Contributions

Issue #4: Queer-feminist perspectives on sex robots



With the fourth issue of the *Queer-Feminist Science and Technology Studies Forum*, we seek to extend queer-feminist perspectives on sex robots. In both media and science, the discussion about sex robots is thriving. Oftentimes, sex robots are critically portrayed to further the sexual objectification of women and to reinforce patriarchal power relations of inequality and violence (Richardson, 2016). It is even assumed that sex robots might cultivate dehumanization within sexual encounters between humans (Gutiú, 2012; Sparrow, 2017). While acknowledging those concerns, we wonder whether those predictions are the only possible outcome. We wonder whether the development, propagation and use of sex robots might even entail positive outcomes, if the proper conditions are met. Or is there a third possibility that the discussion about sex robots is currently uncalled-for; because the development of humanoid robots is still in its infancy and won't result in widely marketable products for a long time...?

We invite contributions which investigate past, current and future developments of sex-robots and their impact on society. Contributions can range from the development, construction, marketing to the use and ethical implications of sex robots. We are looking for work that discusses either or both, potential hazards and queer potentials of sex-robots, humanoid or not. Recommendations for the future development of and queer utopias including sex robots are much welcomed.

We invite contributions in English that may take classical but also experimental forms. In addition to academic journal articles and interviews, we can accommodate video-contributions as well as other multimedia essays and visualizations, since this is an open access online journal. Please send us abstracts with 2000 to 2500 signs (blanks included) with an outline of your idea until January 11th, 2019: forum@queersts.com

Time Schedule

1. Call for abstracts: November 2018
2. Deadline for abstracts: January 11th, 2019
3. Feedback on abstracts until February 8th, 2019
4. Submission of first version of the full contribution: April 26th, 2019
5. Review feedback: May – June 2019
6. Submission of final version: August 30th, 2019
7. Layouting: September 2019
8. Planned publication: October 2019

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