Towards a Digital Hermeneutics. New Developments in the Philosophy of Technology

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Abstract

Nowadays, there is a new emerging interest for the potential role of hermeneutics in reflecting on the practices related to digital technologies and their consequences on our way of being-in-the-world. Considering the different fields of studies to which the authors belong, this article aims to connect the different approaches and contexts in which digital hermeneutics has arisen, paving the way, in the final instance, to the perspective of a renewed philosophy of technology proves capable to re-configure the relationship between humanity and technology.

In the first section, the authors analyse the various theorical approaches comparing the existing literature, especially that of the Ricoeurian scholars' renewal of hermeneutics. They hence outline Digital Hermeneutics as the study of how digital technologies mediate between humans and the world, and therefore as the ways in which these technologies reflect as well as change human experience and knowledge individually, socially and politically. Referring to the main distinctions between "methodological" and "ontological" digital hermeneutics, they finally attempt to focus on the status of personal identity in the digital milieu, briefly introducing the concepts of "digital agency" and "digital citizenship".

The second section goes on to explore the close interrelationship between digital coding and translation in the transfer of knowledges and in the construction of "cultural models".

Keywords: Digital Hermeneutics, Philosophy of Technology, digital coding, translation, digital agency, digital citizenship.