

Assessment

Activity / discussion for Redeeming Technology Session 4.

7th April 2018

When writing a proposal, you come to the section on the ethical implications of your work. You fill it out with the ‘correct’ answers, like always:

Does the work involve human test subjects?	Y / <input checked="" type="radio"/> N
Does the work involve animal test subjects?	Y / <input checked="" type="radio"/> N
Does the work involve bio-hazardous substances?	Y / <input checked="" type="radio"/> N
Does the work involve radioactive substances?	Y / <input checked="" type="radio"/> N
Does the work have any ethical implications?	Y / <input checked="" type="radio"/> N

If Yes, please state:

None.

Good to go.

Except, now you have been to the Redeeming Technology series, you know better. There *are* ethical implications. Some are good. Some are bad.

In your group, pick a piece of technology. It might be something you are developing as part of your work, something you use as part of your work, or something you use in another context. (For example: a new satellite, a laser, an electric car, a laptop, PowerPoint, WhatsApp.) Discuss the following questions.¹

- What possibilities / opportunities does it create?
- What possibilities / opportunities does it destroy?
- What problems does it solve?
(and for whom does it solve those problems?)
- What problems does it create?
(and for whom does it create those problems?)
- Are there any ethical / moral / spiritual / theological implications?

¹ These questions are inspired by “Conflicting Visions of Technology,” Mary Tiles and Hans Oberdiek, Article #22 in Scharff and Dusek.