



A Postphenomenological Inquiry of Cell Phones: Genealogies, Meanings, and Becoming (Postphenomenology and the Philosophy of Technology)

By Galit Wellner

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Why does the announcement of a new cellphone model ignite excitement and passion? Why do most people return home when they forget their cellphones, while only few would return for their wallets? How did the cellphone technology become so dominant for many of us? This book offers an analysis of the historical evolution and of the meanings of this technology in the lives of billions of people. The book offers a unique point of view on the cellphone that merges genealogical analysis of its development since the 1990s and philosophical insights into a coherent analytical framework. With new concepts like "histories of the future" and "memory prosthesis," the book aims to explain the excitement arising from new model announcements and the ever-growing dependency on the cellphone through the framing of these experiences in wide philosophical contexts. It is the first philosophical analysis of the important roles the cellphone plays in contemporary everydayness.

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Editorial Review

Review

A quick scan of the comprehensive bibliography points toward only six female authors who have made interventions into (post)phenomenology; evidence that Wellner's work is both a rarity and a necessity in such a burgeoning field. This book reflects and demonstrates an expanding reach in the philosophy of technology. Robust and layered, Wellner's *A Postphenomenological Inquiry of Cell Phones* could serve as a critical text for expanding the intersection of phenomenology and mobile media, highlighting a relationship between cell phones, users, and the environment. (*Mobile Media & Communication*)

How did the cell phone come to be the multitalented and indispensable object it is today? Galit Wellner, in a technologically well-informed account, has singled out three major steps taken in the development of this artifact.... Wellner's three-step development model gives a fine overview of a very recent history of technology. (*Icon*)

Do not be fooled by the name "cell phone," or by its modest size and weight. This device is a networked supercomputer, whose effect on the world's economy and culture is as great as that of the Personal Computer in the 1980s, the Mainframe computer in the 1960s, or broadcast television in the 1950s. It may even be more: a cybernetic appendage to the human body and mind, beyond the imaginings of even the most far-seeing science fiction writers. Galit Wellner's book tells us how this came to be, why this device is so game-changing, and into what strange new worlds it might be taking us. (Paul E. Ceruzzi, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum)

Galit Wellner has written a book that uses cell phones as an exemplary case for presenting a very clearly structured and excellently presented postphenomenological methodology of how to analyze technology. Through a well thought out use of Don Ihde's I-technology-world triad the author presents an analysis of four historical variations of cell phones and their impacts (concerning voice, texts, multimedia applications and perhaps most interesting how cell phones move into a future realm of sensory exploration). From these variations the author extracts three invariances which in an innovative way add to our general understanding of philosophy of technology (the cell phone as wall-window, quasi-face and memory prosthesis). This is a book I will recommend to all with an interest in postphenomenological methodology and philosophy of technology. (Cathrine Hasse, University of Aarhus)

About the Author

Galit Wellner is a post-doctoral researcher at Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alan Torrez:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children till adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important for us. The book *A Postphenomenological Inquiry of Cell Phones: Genealogies, Meanings, and Becoming (Postphenomenology and the Philosophy of Technology)* seemed to be making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It is extremely

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A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read the book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent all day every day to reading a book. The book *A Postphenomenological Inquiry of Cell Phones: Genealogies, Meanings, and Becoming (Postphenomenology and the Philosophy of Technology)* it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book provides high quality.

Douglas Ayer:

Precisely why? Because this *A Postphenomenological Inquiry of Cell Phones: Genealogies, Meanings, and Becoming (Postphenomenology and the Philosophy of Technology)* is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap that but latter it will shock you with the secret this inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who also write the book in such amazing way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book include such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking method. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I had been you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

Ann Macdonald:

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