# Responsible Design by Philosophical Tools in Parallel Trajectory

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Philosophy of Technology has produced a substantive amount of theories and reflections about the impacts of technology and innovations on our daily lives and social behaviours. Combining this conceptual toolkit with design, with its capability of actually changing things, promises a powerful approach to developing critical future-making practices.

In this paper we explore some opportunities of the approach of the Practical Turn for Responsible Design, based on the experiences with a one-week Industrial Design Workshop at the University of Antwerp. Here, 18 students executed a conceptual design project for the improvement of public space. During the process they experienced and applied tools and theories from respectively Utopian Technology, the Product Impact Tool, and Open Script Design. The results ranged from an open electric bike-sharing system to a bus-stop that fosters ethical discussion. Apart from having interesting design results, the project shows how design can make tangible the inherent dilemmas and conflicts in designing for public space, where collective responsibilities and individual concerns often collide. This makes a strong case for the Practical Turn, that shows an inherent reciprocal effect; the materialization and visualization of ethical and social issues through design -based on the ethical reflection from the philosophical tools and theories- in its turn explicates the ethical reflection.

The accompaniment of design projects with philosophical tools for reflection has shown to be usable for enhancing responsibility in design. We therefore propose the concept of a parallel trajectory, with carefully timed philosophical exercises.

# Biographies

## Wouter Eggink

Wouter Eggink is a design professional and assistant professor of Industrial Design Engineering at the University of Twente. He is affiliated with the Department of Design, Production and Management, where his research centers around the relationships between design, technology and society. His approach is based on the collaboration between design research and philosophy of technology, for which he coined the term "the practical turn".

Wouter Eggink is coordinator of the Industrial Design Engineering master track "Human Technology Relations" and Research Fellow of the DesignLab of the University. He teaches Design Histories and also the course Create the Future, based on scenario development.

## Steven Dorrestijn

Dr. Steven Dorrestijn is head of the research group Ethics & Technology at Saxion University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands. In 2012 Dorrestijn completed his PhD thesis (*The design of our own lives: Technical mediation and subjectivation after Michel Foucault*) at the University of Twente, the Netherlands. Previously he studied Philosophy in Paris and Philosophy and Mechanical Engineering in Twente. Dorrestijn's research and publications focus on the philosophy and ethics of technology, Michel Foucault's work in relation to technology, and the integration into design of knowledge about the impact of technology (Product Impact Tool).
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