

Ethical Perspectives on Implants

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Ethical Perspectives on Implants

How to go beyond ,slippery slope'-
arguments while avoiding
,transhumanism'

Ethical perspectives on implants

- Introduction
- Ethics
- Issues
 - Internet access via implants
 - ‚Transhumanism‘
 - Enabling technologies
 - Implants as part of the body
- Concluding remarks

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Introduction

‘If item-level tagging is a bad dream for privacy advocates, human RFID implanting is a nightmare’ (Lockton & Rosenberg 2005)

vs.

‘[T]he bioethicists for the *Wired* generation. They genuinely believe that we can build a better society by building better people.’ (Eliott 2005)

Ethics

„Ethik“



Moral
philosophy

„Moral“



Morality

Ethics

- Metaethics
- Normative Ethics
- Applied Ethics
- Descriptive Ethics

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- Normative Ethics
- **Applied Ethics**
- Descriptive Ethics

„Ethical Surveillance“

(Phillips & Cunningham 2007)

- To what degree do, can, and should, the systems permit individuals to claim a particular social identity in a particular context?
- To what degree do, or should, surveillance systems enable the subcultural generation of knowledge and publics?
- How do they access and reference common contexts, public spaces, from which to produce subcultural knowledge?

Issues

,Imagine being able to access the world's information resources anywhere, anytime, without having to carry external devices. You will be able to mentally scan a personal database stored on a remote machine to check on the name and circumstances of your previous meeting with someone you are meeting again. ... You will be able to Internet chat to a remote colleague about the right negotiating strategy to use with the person to whom you are talking face-to-face. Such capabilities will be powerful incentives to incorporate this technology into the body.' (Brooks 2002)

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Enabling Technologies

- Therapeutic technology
- Compensatory technology
- Assistive technology
- Universal technology

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Enabling Technologies

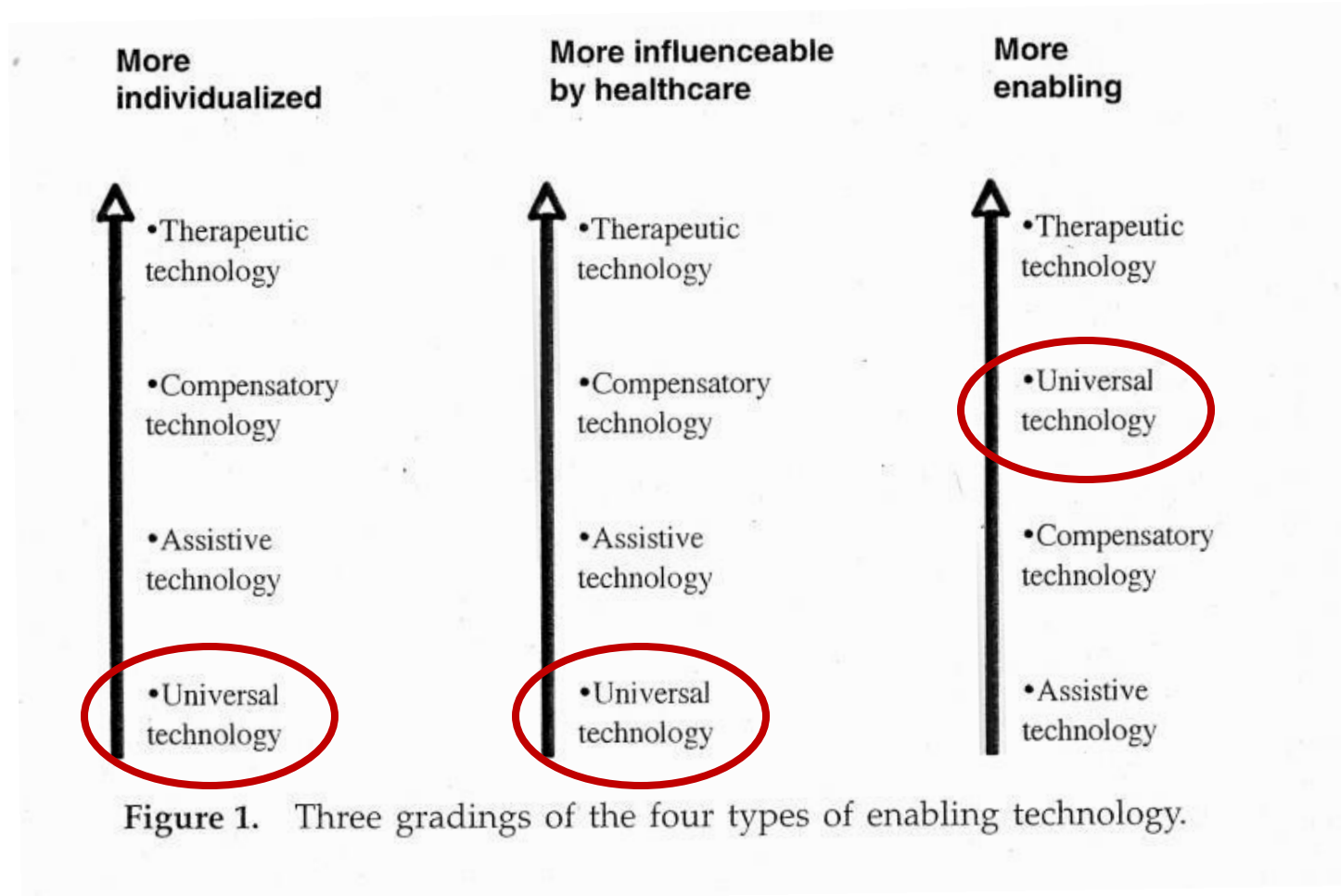


Figure 1. Three gradings of the four types of enabling technology.

Implants as part of the body

- Do implants become part of the human body?
- Or do they stay to be ,external devices‘ that happen to be placed inside your body?
- Implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillators
(England et al. 2007)

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- Implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillators (England et al. 2007): **integral devices**

Concluding remarks

- Let's go beyond ,slippery slope'-arguments. Think about categories for more or less ,evil' implants.
- Be critical on implants as enabling technology, look for alternatives.
- Study the body/implant-relationship.

Thanks.

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