

Maltheseus University of the Americas

Department of Interdisciplinary Humanities

Doctoral Dissertation Proposal

Title: Societal Collapse in the Shadow of Technology

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Advisor: Dr. Javier Corona

Abstract

In a near-future society shaped by omnipresent algorithms, cognitive implants, and coercive enrichment systems, individual agency and authentic connection have become nearly impossible. This dissertation examines the collapse of human social structures and personal identity under the weight of technological determinism, with a particular focus on the interplay between state-controlled AI systems and the erosion of unmediated emotional life.

Through a critical analysis of state-sponsored technological interventions—such as “The Technology” and compulsory Enrichment implants—this work interrogates how late-capitalist bio-surveillance regimes disrupt traditional conceptions of intimacy, parenthood, sanity, and resistance. Drawing upon first-person narrative, social critique, and theoretical frameworks from posthumanism, this research contends that mechanisms marketed as tools of optimization are in fact accelerating psychological fragmentation and societal decay.

Research Questions

- How do corporatized technologies of identity and cognition affect individuals who exist outside normative bodily or psychological frameworks?
- In what ways do technological augmentations simultaneously facilitate and fracture authentic human connection?
- How can embodied resistance—emotional, physical, or artistic—interrupt or escape totalizing systems of control?
- What are the psychological and social consequences of mandatory AI-mediated surveillance within personal relationships and internal thought processes?

Methodology

- Primary Narrative Analysis: Based on the lived experiences of Mavis Hornbuckle, Raymond Niederhändler, and their extended network within a hyper-technologized society.
- Auto-theory & Reflexive Writing: Mavis's dual identity as both subject and scholar allows for layered narrative alongside philosophical inquiry.
- Critical Discourse Analysis: The rhetoric of propaganda (e.g., Agnes's televised content, The Children's Corner) will be analyzed as tools of narrative control.
- Theoretical Frameworks: Incorporating Michel Foucault (biopolitics), Donna Haraway (cyborg feminism), Franco "Bifo" Berardi (cognitive capitalism), and Byung-Chul Han (digital psychopolitics).

Significance

This project offers a critical warning against the unchecked integration of technology into the deepest structures of human identity, intimacy, and reproduction. By exploring the dystopian implications of AI-governed emotion and posthuman family structures, the research seeks to articulate a path toward de-enrichment, resistance, and the reclamation of emotional truth.

Working Chapter Titles

- The Grid and the Womb – Technological Regulation of the Body
- Enrichment and Erasure – The Manufactured Mind
- Love in the Age of Surveillance – Illusions of Connection
- Affect, Art, and Vomit – Resistance through the Grotesque
- Unplugged Futures – De-Enrichment as Political Praxis

Submitted by:

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