

***Technology as Founding Actor of the Social:  
A Critical Review***

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ABSTRACT

Even though technology, from the most primitive tools to complex digital technologies, has been a central component of human existence, its theoretical status within sociology is often neglected, or reduced to a secondary place. From classical sociology to the recent theories, the relationship that mainstream sociology has established with technology has mostly been to consider technology as a human product and not as an actor in the production of sociality and stabilization of the social structure, but as a tool within human-to-human relationship. The idea that technology can be a social actor has mostly remained on the fringes of sociology as a radical idea. However, in the contemporary world, especially with the development of new technologies such as internet, robotics, and artificial intelligence and so on, the idea that technology, besides being a social phenomenon, must also be considered as a social 'actor' has begun to move away from this attributed radicalism. Although studies on technology in the field of sociology have gained momentum recently, sociology's interest in technology has remained at a very limited level, at least within academic programs. This study aims to reveal theoretical and historical paths of sociology's relationship with technology and to make it visible that technology has actually played a central role since the foundation of sociology.

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