

Preface

Dear Readers,

it is with pleasure that we present to you the first issue of *AVANT* this year. As usual, it is one primarily consisting of translations,¹ and its thematic frame is “STS meets CS.” This is an open rather than an enclosing frame – meaning that our intention was not to present a collection of texts each of which fulfils the notion of a stimulating connection or a meaningful conclusion of the disagreement between Studies on Science, Technology and Society (STS) and Cognitive Sciences (CS). No, what mattered to us was to reveal certain important moments in the work of both researchers into human nature in its wide spectrum, from biology to phenomenology, as well as researchers into research practices of the former. These are moments of unlocking, opening or even dismantling the black boxes of our individual and social reality, up to the point of losing the very ground beneath our feet.

STS and Cognitive Sciences seem the most spectacular in this respect, although they are far from the only ones. The former has an opportunity to negate the appearing opinion of making reality less real (for instance through “sociology of artifacts”), whereas cognitive studies – to deal with the accusations of naïve scientism in research into human cognition.

This is excellently shown in Bruno Latour’s by now classic paper which refutes the opposition between society and technology. In this respect, Ewa Bińczyk touches on the phenomenon of technoscience together with its potential threats. Łukasz Afeltowicz and Michał Wróblewski, in turn, analyze the controversy surrounding ADHD in the context of actor-network theory. Evelyn Fox Keller, in spite of a different conceptual perspective, shares in astute dismantling of the field of genetics. The next two researchers may fit the eponymous meeting most closely: Morana Alač shows it on the example of the process of making a robot social, presenting it from an unexpected perspective, whereas Wolff-Michael Roth illustrates these possible connections between STS and CS with his own self through comments to his research biog-

¹ The editors ceases to designate translation issues with the letter “T” due to technical problems it posed in indexing the journal in scientific databases.

raphy. Finally – ostensibly on the opposite pole problem – and methodology-wise, Natalie Depraz undertakes a study of her own first person experience in a manner that could disorient the crowds of phenomenologically-oriented cognitive scientists as well.

The thematic frame encompasses also some of the reviews that round up the issue. We invite you to read the interview with the painter Anna Brudzińska, whose two paintings serve as covers for the issue. Finally, our English-language readers are encouraged to read the translation of Adam Fulara's article analyzing improvisation in popular music.²

We would like to use this opportunity to offer our special gratitude to professor Morana Alač of University of California (USA) for her fruitful help in bringing this issue to life.

Editorial Board

² Polish-language original of this article was published in 2/2012 issue.